



**Mojza Scholar
Program 2026**
in collaboration with Pine Admissions

**RESULTS
& REPORT**

We asked students what they think they need most; almost everyone said guidance.

We understand the significance of this guidance. Capable students that do everything that their circumstances allow often are unable to fulfill their dream. More often than not, the only barrier is guidance.

This Mojza Scholar Program was an effort to remove that barrier for a few students. We're proud to be able to contribute to the journey of the ones selected, but we don't feel accomplished. We turned away hundreds of amazing students with a very heavy heart that deserve the opportunity too. Mojza will keep fighting for you.

Hussain Ahmed Moghal
Founder Mojza

724
applicants

STATS

The turnout far exceeded our expectations with hundreds of incredible students that all deserve guidance to achieve their dreams.

16
countries

53
cities of
Pakistan

216
school
systems

Top O Level Grades

Grades	No. of Students
10+ A/A*	13
9 A/A*	40
8 A/A*	45
7 A/A*	28

10

Distinctions

The Review Process

Stage 1

In our first round of review, due to the amazing turnout of high achieving students, a strong academic background became a basic cutoff. This is similar to how universities treat your grades; even if there isn't a specific requirement, the applicant pool turns it into a bare minimum. However, we did not just discard applicants with weaker grades.

The second priority in our review was your profile of activities. We did not expect a perfect portfolio since this is an aspect that can be worked on, but we looked for applicants that provided the strongest foundation to start from. The top scholars did have very strong portfolios.

Overall, the process was holistic. In cases where grades were weaker or not available due to just starting out high school, we placed more emphasis on the activities and essay questions. Where activities were weak, we looked for very strong academic backgrounds. We referred to the essays for any additional information or context they provide.

Stage 2

52 of the top applicants were shortlisted. These candidates were asked for some additional information and context, as well as official transcripts to verify their academic background.

The candidates were asked to list their preference for what level of partial scholarship they wish to be considered for. We adhered to the preferences as well as we could. A significant number of candidates did not want to be considered other than for the fully covered spots. For this reason, the winners of the partial spots may not necessarily represent the very best applicants of the pool.

Keeping in mind the new factors, we reviewed the shortlisted applicants in great detail. Since all of the candidates at this stage did have strong grades and profiles, we prioritized the essay responses and more specific details. Candidates were not differentiated on the basis of one or two grades. We looked for students whose portfolio had some structure, whose activities aligned with their interest, dreams and intended majors.

Key Insights for Students

1.

Many applicants' activities portfolio were very weak. We saw this in candidates regardless of the strength of their academics; students with world distinctions but little to no extracurriculars. Your grades form the bare minimum; most of the applicants at top universities have incredible grades. The rest of your application is what forms the differentiating factor and you can not stand out if your activities are not strong.

2.

The majority of applicants had a different issue in their portfolio. They had a lot of extracurricular involvement where they clearly had put in a lot of effort but the activities were not supporting their profile. Many students fall into the trap of generic activities such as MUNs, debating competitions, essay competitions, starting or volunteering at an NGO, low-impact internships. The extent to which we saw these types of activities was almost frustrating, they look almost the exact same on hundreds of profiles. The issue with these activities is firstly the sheer amount of people that do them, unless you have something exceptional to show, they don't help you stand out. The bigger problem is that they are generally unrelated to your intended major. For example, MUNs show nothing about your interest or aptitude in STEM fields. These activities can be good as supporting ones at the bottom of the list to diversify your application, but if they are unrelated to your major they should not be your top activities. It's a different story if you are planning to do something like International Relations or Politics.

Key Insights for Students

3.

The most important aspect that determines if an activity is strong or weak is impact. Whatever the activity is, if there's a significant impact to show, it's good. Otherwise, it's weak. Starting an NGO with a few hundred followers on Instagram is low impact. An NGO that has projects which directly impact hundreds of people has a strong impact. Participating in several competitions is low impact, winning an award at one is high impact.

4.

Top universities look for students with a 'spike'. In simple words, depth over breadth. Instead of students who do surface level activities in many diverse areas, students who show exceptional strength in one specific field are much stronger. This 'spike' should be the center of focus of your application especially through your activities, and should ideally relate to your intended major.

5.

We asked candidates about their interests and dreams. These are not questions you'll often get in the university applications, but universities look for the answers to these questions in your profile. Instead of telling, you should be able to show your interests and dreams through your activities. It's one thing to claim you have big dreams, but showing that you're already doing what you can to achieve them is what makes a top candidate. If you have the opportunity to answer these questions directly, your answers should align with your profile.

Key Insights for Students

6.

Most applicants did well in their short essay questions, with some very creative and engaging answers. Some applicants, however, simply repeated things that they've already told us in other sections of the application. Others provided very generic answers to the extent that we saw certain statements repeat word for word across different students' applications, indicating that AI may have been used.

7.

We did not penalize the use of AI in most applications since we focused more on the information communicated rather than the written expression. However, in a select few cases we noticed applicants going overboard. For example, one applicant filled out the activities section by putting their CV into AI, and in the process, the AI hallucinated and included activities and descriptions that the candidate had not done. The AI's response was clearly not even read by the applicant as clear traces of the AI usage were also present. We saw this other answers too; students copy-pasted the AI prompt alongside the response. It becomes very hard to take the response seriously in these cases.

The Scholars

Here are the **winners** of Mojza Scholar Program 2026!

Please do not be discouraged if you weren't selected, and also do not compare yourselves with these students. We are sharing brief info about them to inspire you rather than demotivate you. Every student has talents of their own. Build an identity for yourself that is uniquely yours, work hard and you'll fulfill your dreams. We believe in you!

25% Scholarship

we congratulate the following scholars on being awarded a 25% counselling scholarship from the Mojza Scholar Program 2026

Eshaal Adil Akram

O Level Grades: 5A* 4A

Eshaal impressed us through her essay responses showcasing her passions and interests. She's authored a research paper of her own and participated in several competitions with awards!

Syed Muhammad Mustafa

Expected O Level Grades: 9A*

Mustafa has won a bronze medal in the Iranian Geometry Olympiad among many other Math and Computer Science Olympiads.

Syed Muhammad Zain Abbas

Matric: 998/1100 FSc 993/1100 SAT: 1500 superscore

Zain made the IPhO national team top 15 for two years and now trains students as a member of Pakistan's International Olympiad Alumni Network. He also works as question maker for the National Science Bowl Pakistan and has tutored 20+ students in STEM subjects. He really caught our attention through his engaging essays.

Hiba Waheed Chaudhry

Expected O Level grades: 7A* 2A

Hiba has done research on artificial intelligence under a LUMS supervisor. She was a regional winner of World Robotics Olympiad 2023. Her whole profile showed her passion towards her fields such as serving as Vice President of School's IT and CS Society. Her goals for the future are setting her up for success.

35% Scholarship

we congratulate the following scholars on being awarded a 35% counselling scholarship from the Mojza Scholar Program 2026

Syed Muhammad Haseeb Shah

O Level Grades: 8A* 1A, Expected AS Grades: 4A

We are inspired by Haseeb's journey from struggling with stuttering to competing at Harvard MUN and other top local MUNs. He also took part in the Aga Khan Summer Camp among several competitions and internships.

Alina Irfan Khokhar

O Level Grades: 9A*, World Distinction in Mathematics, Expected AS Grades: 5A

Alina started a passion project for making science accessible for underprivileged girls, founded school's STEM club, tutored peers for science and math, shadowed a doctor in an emergency ward, volunteered at a blood bank, interning at a hospital and the list goes on.

Eman Amir

O Level grades: 9A*, 2 world distinctions and 1 regional distinction, Expected AS Grades: 4A

Hailing from Saudi Arabia, Eman has worked on multiple research and practical projects, winning first for a Chemistry Industrial application project. She serves as the Vice-Head Girl of her school and has participated in MUNS and Math Competitions including IMO.

Taha Mahmood Bin Ayyaz

O Level grades: 8A* 1A, Expected AS Grades: 3A (2 additional subjects in A2)

Taha has 160+ community service hours under his name. He's interned at the Pakistan senate and shadowed a University CS Professor. He raised 200k for children in Gaza through one bakesale. His essays about his interests in game development and 3D modelling caught our interest too.

50% Scholarship

we congratulate the following scholars on being awarded a 50% counselling scholarship from the Mojza Scholar Program 2026

Wania Saqib

O Level Grades: 4A* 8A, Expected A Level Grades: 3A* 1A

Wania led STEM computer literacy programs for underprivileged students as a project head under an NGO. The project secured grants for computer installations from Princeton and NYU backed programs. She ranked 1st in Asia for first round of Global Future Space Settlement Competition. She's also conducting research on AI in cybersecurity.

Yeasin Ibn Aurangzeb

O Level Grades: 7A* 1A, World Distinction in Mathematics, Expected AS Grades: 1A* 2A

Coming from Bangladesh, he placed 4th regionally in BDPHO, was BDRO finalist, won the ALOHA national competition once and runner up another time. He is a Karate Brown Belt alongside multiple leadership roles at Science and Robotics clubs. He has also built a robosoccer and liner follower robot. He did all this while suffering from dengue fever three years in a row.

Muhammad Arhum Shahid

Expected O Level grades: 6A* 3A

Arhum overwhelmed us with his list of 15+ Math competitions and olympiads that he has participated in with awards such as a HM in PMO and 3rd rank nationally in Iranian Combinatorial Olympiad. He was also a winner of the STAR Program 2025. His story of securing a full merit scholarship for O Level really inspired us too.

Rifat Ahmed

Bangladesh SSC: 92% (Equivalent of 9A*), 7 subjects in HSC

Rifat brought a passion we don't see much of: anthropology. Rifat has built an archive website for anthropology research papers, worked as a chemical engineer for rocket propulsion at a rocketry lab, won 10 national, 1 international presentation competitions of business case studies and pitches. Rifat is also the VP of the school's Debating Club. Rifat has organized sessions regarding period sanitation, focused on adaptability in school's washrooms. The energy in Rifat's essays was remarkable.

Special Mention

Rabi ul Awal

Recently appeared in O2 examinations, no official grades available

Just a few highlights:

Rabi ul Awal has written 3 impressive research papers at just the age of 15 along with several publications on topics such as artificial intelligence and international relations.

He has held several research roles such as International Relations Analyst at Logos Research Centre (Team of highly qualified team from top US universities), S.Y.A.L.I.S, plus Lead Researcher and Associate at the National Student Research Institution.

He's also held editorial roles such as Head of Student Editors at The Youth Research Review, Editor at the International Youth Science Journal, Editorial Team Member at the International Collegiate Journal of Science, and Director of Research at Binary Archives Magazine.

Comments

While reading this application we asked many questions. Is this legit? Is this kid seriously in O2? He did all that at the age I played roblox? Rabi ul Awal was a close contestant for our top spots due to his brilliance; however, since he still has several years before university applications come up, we chose students who are in more urgent need of this opportunity. Although, Rabi ul Awal impressed us so much that **Pine Admissions has committed to providing special sessions to guide him** for a future roadmap to make the most of his potential. We hope to be able to provide more opportunities to Rabi ul Awal and students of his caliber in the future. This kid is definitely going places.

100% Scholarship

Zayan Shahid

O Level Grades

10A*

AS Level Grades

5A, 1B

SAT Score

1500

Just a few highlights:

Zayan co-founded an international 501(c)(3) organization which makes research accessible for high school students, impacting 1700+ students.

He also initiated a school based STEM journal, leading a cohort of 60+ students by mentoring and supervising their research projects.

He's worked on a research project under the supervision of an ISEF winner and written a research paper peer reviewed by an RIT graduate.

Comments

There isn't one specific thing about Zayan that earned him his spot; his entire application was extremely strong with stellar grades, activities that exceed expectations and captivating essays. He's a gap year student that has had his set of struggles, being severely affected by urban flooding. But he's someone that has put in an incredible amount of work and only needs a final push to cross the finish line which would be provided to him with access to the right guidance.

100% Scholarship

Muhammad Faiq Quraishi

O Level Grades

9A*2A

Expected AS Grades

5A

SAT Superscore

1530

Just a few highlights:

Faiq is an ISEF 2026 Finalist: one the most selective and highest regarded achievements for college admissions.

Faiq secured multiple NSEF awards across several years such as Most Outstanding Exhibit in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in National Science and Engineering Fair Pakistan by Yale Science & Engineering Association in 2026.

His other achievements include ranking 1st provincially in ICAT Science and 1st nationally in English. He also placed 55th in Pakistan Math Olympiad out of 4948 contestants.

Comments

Faiq is someone that's on a mission to solve real problems through science and technology. He isn't just dreaming about, he's already on it. He comes from a smaller city of Pakistan, Daharki, so he wasn't gifted opportunities he earned them through his resilience. His enormous potential is obvious, and that's why he's selected as a Mojza Scholar. If he has the guidance, he can be among those making a great impact in the world.

100% Scholarship

Irsa Farooq

O Level Grades

9A*

AS Level Grades

4A

SAT Score

1500

**World
Distinction in
Mathematics**

Just a few highlights:

She's founded 6 initiatives to help the people of Kashmir including registering 80+ people in rural Kashmir with NADRA, teaching the Santoor to 100+ kids, a STEM-focused radio broadcast series featuring 15+ artisans and farmers and much more.

Irsa is also worked as a student researcher at the Institute of Space Technology (IST) and presented her work at a Maths Conference with professors.

She's taught German to a 100+ students, from which 30+ even got into German universities or jobs.

Comments

Irsa applied to universities in the previous admissions cycle, but that didn't work out because she lacked the right guidance, but she's not ready to give up on her dream so she's taking a gap year. She's extremely proud of her identity as a Kashmiri, and she doesn't just say it but shows it through her work. Irsa's application was one that we read at random before starting our detailed review, and she impressed us so much that after 724 reviews she still held on to a top slot. We hope to help Irsa achieve what she deserved the first time she applied to universities.



We thank all our applicants and supporters. We are especially grateful to Pine Admissions for making this opportunity possible.

Students can avail a **15% discount** from Pine Admissions with the code "MOJZA26". Mojza will not be taking commission through this.

