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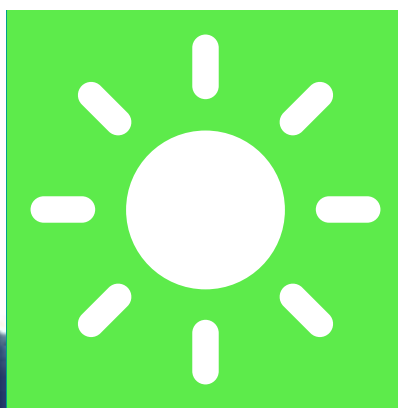
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# Green careers guide

Fahad Zafar  
Pakistan



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## Pakistan

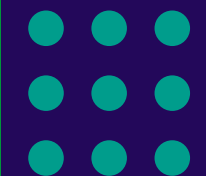


**I completed my BSc (Hons) Business IS & IT from Middlesex University London UK in 2003 and then completed my MBA with Finance majors in 2007 from Bradford University West Yorkshire UK.**

I wanted to learn more about advanced technologies and decided to move to London as an international student after my A-Levels. As quoted by American novelist Wendell Berry, “nobody can discover the world for somebody else; only when we discover it for ourselves does it become common ground and a common bond and we cease to be alone”. I stayed at University Halls and networked with other students from across the world. I actively participated in University Student Union activities and was runners up in elections as President of the Student Union. I completed my Honours degree and then worked full time for a few years. Then, I went to Bradford University for the prestigious Full Time MBA, which is highly ranked by Financial Times and has accreditations from AMBA, EQUIS, AACSB and BGA. The MBA changed my vision, inculcated critical thinking and equipped me with business tools & techniques to accomplish complex tasks. Even after passage of a decade, I still am in touch with my Bradford University Professors & mentors: Turalay Kenc, Mohammad Hudaib, Mark Freeman and Zahid Hussain. And, not to forget that I was always proud to have all inspiring Imran Khan (current PM Pakistan) as Chancellor of the Bradford University.

My undergrad degree allowed me in-depth know how into business information systems and technology. I was able to see the larger picture in terms of the various complex business processes involved in the operations of a company. My MBA allowed me to think out of box and devise strategies to sail the ship through turbulent times.

I not only learned the technical bits but also the skills to manage time wisely, delegate tasks, negotiations and ability to take ownership of work. My study in UK has contributed immensely in my career transformation and growth. It has developed me into a global citizen who not only thinks for his three kids or his community but for entire humanity. As rightfully said by HRH Prince Charles “on an increasingly crowded planet, humanity faces many threats but none is greater than climate change. It magnifies every hazard and tension of our existence”. Climate affects almost every aspect of the natural environment. Climate change causes temperatures to increase in many parts of the world. This results in milder winters in many regions and milder winters sometimes allow insect pests to survive in greater numbers and emerge earlier in the spring. This results in additional pressure on trees and other plants. Humans are facing an existential threat and if we continue our current path the consequences will be devastating. A 2°C increase could mean more heat waves and a complete wipe out of world’s coral reefs. Policy makers in developing countries should be encouraged to draft national plan to cut greenhouse gas emissions. As quoted by US Politician John Kerry, “Climate change, if unchecked, is an urgent threat to health, food supplies, biodiversity and livelihoods across the globe”. Investment companies should stop lending in sectors damaging the environment. On the professional side, I am a Management Consultant with over thirteen years of professional experience including Executive Manager Ernst & Young (EY) Transaction Advisory, Risk Manager/ Chief Risk Officer at commercial banks and currently Director of a boutique advisory firm. I am also the Former Chair Global Council of Professional Risk Managers International Association (PRMIA.org). I also have recently started teaching MBA Executive





modules at Bradford University Dubai campus as a visiting Lecturer. Dozens of my articles have been published in leading international newspapers, magazines and Journals. One of my academic articles on systemic risk in Islamic financing published in Journal of Islamic Accounting & Business Research (Emerald, UK) resulted in altering of Ijarah based financing structure across Islamic Financial Industry.

According to Pakistan Economic Survey 2019-20 the total installed electricity capacity is 37,000 MW and I have provided strategy & advisory services to almost 10% of total installed capacity i.e. three General Electric powered RLNG based power plants Quaid-e-Azam Thermal Power (Bhikki), Balloki and Haveli Bahadur Shah; with combined capacity of 3,600 MW. I was responsible for developing financial feasibility, financial model, transaction structuring, strategy development, achieving financial close and advising during the implementation phase. LNG is the cleanest fossil fuel as the combustion of natural gas does not emit soot, dust or fumes. It generates 30% less carbon dioxide than fuel oil and 45% less than coal and almost no environmentally damaging sulphur dioxide. I have also advised various other PE clients by developing new financial models to accelerate the transition to a green economy. Here, I would like to mention that I was offered a lucrative role at a coal power plant but I refused as I was not ready to be part of the project which might have brought damages to the environment (e.g. smog, haze, respiratory illnesses and lung diseases). As per 2017's data, Pakistan's CO2 emissions per capita are 1.02 tonnes as compared with UK's 5.81 tonnes and USA's is 16.21 tonnes. While, Pakistan's share of global CO2 emissions is 0.59% as compared with UK's 1.07% and USA's 14.58%. My wife has a Master's degree in environmental sciences and we are

convinced that saving environment is not only the responsibility of G8 countries but positive contributions are a must from all humans on this planet. On the other hand, I have also advised smart city / safe city Lahore project, environment friendly technology supported mass construction of affordable housing units, toll road projects in Lahore, proposed waste water treatment plants, infrastructure project in Afghanistan, conventional & Islamic banks, FinTech's, Technology startups, etc. Management Consultants support their clients in a multitude of ways, from helping them to formulate business models, strategy development, transaction structuring, cost cuts, predicting & managing various risks and staying compliant with regulations and international best practices. While the global economy seems to be slowing down due to COVID-19, Brexit and other geo-political uncertainties, the consulting industry continues to enjoy robust growth. PM Imran's government has recently approved Electric Vehicle (EV) policy whereby it has allowed handsome breaks in car import duties, taxes & registration fees. State Bank of Pakistan is also encouraging commercial banks to finance EV cars at discounted rates. Similarly, the government has plans to build five million housing units across the country under Naya Pakistan Housing Program, prudently utilize water resources under Recharge Pakistan initiative and generous startup loans under Kamyab Jawan program. PM Imran Khan has said at WEF "what I loved about Pakistan was its wilderness, its mountains. With age I saw this wilderness disappearing, the way we destroyed our forests cover. I always resolved that I would make sure that we preserve the God-given beauty of this country". He has initiated a massive campaign to plant 10 billion trees across Pakistan. Management Consultants can play their role (in developing business plans, financial models, risk analysis, transaction structuring, mergers & acquisitions etc.) for





environment friendly ventures, power plants, solar panels, water irrigation system, waste treatment plants, green mortgages, technology startups etc. The government has provided direction through policies and Management Consultants can facilitate in achieving results.

Studying abroad is about experiencing a foreign country and the most important part of a country's culture is its people. I have always enjoyed living in UK where everything is based on democracy and equality. British Council and British High Commission Islamabad have always facilitated Pakistani students intending to study in UK. British universities are on course to recruit record number of international student's even during global pandemic i.e. defying the earlier predictions of financial disaster. Over five thousand Pakistani students were granted UK visas and I expect this to increase tremendously after Brexit and COVID-19. I end here with an advice to aspiring Pakistani students to be ready for numerous challenges in their journey of life: financial, academic, social and personal. Here, I remember American author John Shedd's quote, "a ship in a harbour is safe, but that is not what ships are built for". Have a vision, do some homework, target top universities, target relevant courses, plan your entire stay in UK, budget accordingly, complete your degree, come back to Pakistan and contribute positively in growth of environment friendly economic sectors. Make it a better place, for you & for me and the entire human race!

