# Zeeshan Ali

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## Profile

Economics graduate (CGPA 3.68/4.00; Best Diploma Thesis Award, 2026) with hands-on experience in economic and financial research, data analysis and policy writing. Interned in the State Bank of Pakistan's Financial Stability Department and the Aga Khan Development Network's climate-resilience programme, and worked as a university research assistant. Author of two SSRN working papers on market volatility and crashes (440+ downloads). Co-founded and ran a digital-services business for five years. Seeking research, analyst or development-finance roles in Pakistan or abroad.

## Core Competencies

- Economic and financial research
- Data analysis in Excel, Python and R
- Policy briefs and report writing
- Risk assessment and econometrics
- Dashboards and data visualisation (Power BI)
- Client and stakeholder relationships

## Education

**University of Central Asia** — Khorog, Tajikistan
*Bachelor of Arts in Global Economics* — *Sep 2022 – May 2026*

- CGPA 3.68/4.00; final-semester GPA 3.93; Best Diploma Thesis Award in Global Economics (2026).
- **Relevant coursework:** Financial Economics (A), Statistics (A), Econometrics I & II, Applied Microeconomics: From Correlation to Causation (A), Development Economics, Impact Evaluation, Python Programming.
- **Thesis:** *Climate Change Shocks and Credit Risk in Pakistan: A Satellite-Enhanced ARDL Approach* (Grade A). Modelled how climate shocks affect banks' non-performing loans across sectors, using 41,801 district-month observations and time-series econometrics.

**Aga Khan Higher Secondary School** — Gilgit, Pakistan
*Secondary and Higher Secondary School Certificate* — *2017 – 2021*

## Professional Experience

**State Bank of Pakistan** — Karachi
*Intern, Financial Stability Department* — *Jun – Aug 2025*

- Analysed credit risk in Pakistan's banking sector by building R-based stress-testing models; identified three high-carbon industries as the most exposed and presented results to senior department economists.
- Tracked 12 systemic-risk indicators from national Financial Stability Reports in a structured dataset, replacing a manual quarterly compilation step and improving the accuracy of monitoring.
- Wrote a comparative policy memo on international financial-regulation frameworks (EU, Singapore, UAE, US), whose recommendations informed departmental briefing materials.
- Gained first-hand understanding of how the central bank monitors banks, financial markets and systemic risk.

**University of Central Asia** — Khorog, Tajikistan
*Research Assistant* — *Oct – Dec 2025*

- Built and maintained a database of 1,000+ records, checking every entry for accuracy and consistency.
- Wrote Python scripts to extract and standardise data from 500+ PDF pages, cutting manual processing time by about 70% and making the dataset fully reproducible.
- Ran exploratory statistical analysis that identified three significant trends, shaping the project's research questions.

**Aga Khan Development Network** — Remote / Nairobi, Kenya
*Climate Resilience Intern* — *Feb – Aug 2024*

- Cleaned, merged and validated five datasets from different sources to produce risk scores for six countries.
- Built three Power BI dashboards for recurring reporting, used by 10+ program teams in place of static spreadsheets.
- Briefed senior program officers on findings for a multi-country initiative serving 200,000+ beneficiaries, translating technical analysis into clear recommendations.

**Zconnect Technologies (Pvt.) Ltd.** Gahkuch, Pakistan
*Co-Founder* *Oct 2020 – 2025*

- Founded a digital-services business at age 17 and grew it to profitability by building long-term relationships with local business clients.
- Managed client accounts end to end: understanding needs, proposing services, pricing, invoicing and follow-up.
- Handled budgeting, cost-benefit analysis and reinvestment decisions across multiple revenue streams.

**Zconnect Digital Literacy Initiative** Gahkuch, Pakistan
*Trainer and Program Designer* *May – Aug 2022*

- Designed and delivered a three-month training programme on computer skills and introductory coding for 50+ secondary-school students.

## Financial Markets Research

- Ali, Z. (2025). *Volatility Effects of Fake News on Global Stock Markets: Evidence from Event Studies.* SSRN Working Paper. Measured how false news moves stock prices and volatility across global markets.
- Ali, Z. (2025). *Anatomy of the Oct 10–11, 2025 Crypto Liquidation Cascade: Macroeconomic Triggers, Market Microstructure, and Systemic Risk Lessons.* SSRN Working Paper. Analysed how leverage and liquidity drove a major market crash.
- Ali, Z. (2026). *Climate Change Shocks and Credit Risk in Pakistan.* BA thesis, University of Central Asia. Best Diploma Thesis Award.
- SSRN author page: 440+ downloads and 13,000+ abstract views.

## Skills & Certification

**Excel & Office:** formulas, lookups, pivot tables, charts, financial analysis; Word, PowerPoint, Outlook
**Data & analytics:** Python (pandas, NumPy), R (tidyverse, ggplot2), Power BI dashboards
**Finance & economics:** financial-market analysis, credit and risk assessment, macroeconomic data, time-series and panel econometrics
**Certificate:** Financial Analysis Using Excel — International Centre for Asset Recovery, Basel Institute on Governance (2025)
**Languages:** English (fluent), Urdu (fluent), Shina (native)

## Awards & Activities

- Best Diploma Thesis Award in Global Economics, University of Central Asia (2026).
- NASA Space Apps Challenge (2022): globally shortlisted among 900+ teams for a satellite-data project.
- OIC Youth Scientific Congress, Kazan, Russia (2022): Pakistan delegate and presenter.
- Intel Science Fair award for independent research (2019–2020).

## References

Available on request.