

Zara Ansari

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• <https://www.zaraansari.co/> Dubai Hills, Dubai, UAE

Education

Dubai College

A Levels: Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Economics, Chemistry, EPQ.

Dubai, UAE

2025-Present

GCSEs: (Achieved all A*-A across GCSE subjects, including A* in Further Mathematics)

2023-2024

Related Courses:

University of Cambridge - Land Economy

May 2025

University of Cambridge - Economics

Oct 2025

University of Chicago Pre-College Program - Emerging World Leaders

July 2025

Awards and Honors

- Awarded Best Research Paper for 'Time Series Forecasting of Poverty Reduction: Machine Learning in Development Economics' in 2025
- UK Mathematics Trust: Gold and Silver across Junior, Intermediate and Senior categories 2020-2024
- Pearson Edexcel GCSE High Achiever Award for outstanding GCSE grades 2024
- Received CASA award for active contribution towards Cancer Awareness in our communities 2022
- Duke of Edinburgh's International Bronze Award: Completed a series of service, physical, skill, and expedition/orienteering exercises in this British awards program. 2023
- KenKen International Championship: Gold Medalist, UAE National Level 2021

Project Experience

Founder of Baazarconnect.com

July 2024 - Present

Launched baazarconnect.com, a vibrant online marketplace connecting local farmers, artisans, and buyers to promote authentic products and community growth.

- Connected farmers directly with buyers for fresh and fairly priced products.
- Marketed traditional crafts to global audience to preserve local culture.

Researcher, Dubai Science & Economics Fair

Sept 2024 - June 2025

Time Series Forecasting of Poverty Reduction

- Applied machine learning models such as LSTM to capture long-term poverty reduction trends from key economic indicators obtained from World Bank and IMF data.
- Utilized Meta Prophet model to identify seasonality and overall patterns, enhancing forecasting accuracy for policy insights in development economics, and won the Best Research Paper award at the Dubai Science and Economics Fair.

Student Researcher

July 2025 - Present

How the size of microfinance loans: influence financial fragility in low-income communities

Supervised by Dr. John Fitz-Henley II, Princeton University

- Explored trade-offs between small loans that foster repayment discipline and larger loans that enable growth but heighten financial stress.

Student Intern

Feb 2025

Morgan Stanley, Step In, Step Up: Women In STEM Program, Dubai

- Participated in \$1 Million Case Study Challenge, applying quantitative skills to investment decisions.

Student Intern

Dec 2024- Jan2025

Averda Waste Management, Dubai

- Learned econometric and data analysis skills to contribute to waste and material management and sustainable practices in the UAE region.
- Worked with leading teams on recycling and circular economy initiatives.
- Gained exposure to regional environmental campaigns and corporate strategy.

Extracurricular and Leadership Activities

- Founder, Academic Enrichment Book Club (Pages and Perspectives Society): Shared and recommended books for personal and academic growth; enhanced critical thinking, analytical writing, and public speaking skills.
- Editor: Published articles on Sustainability and Financial Market at the Dubai College newspaper.
- Member, Dubai Keynes Society: Debated current global economic issues, including externalities, wealth, and asset advisement; participated in lectures by international business authors, students, and finance professionals.
- Member, Senior Mathematics Society: Pursued mathematical excellence through complex exercises and critical thinking problems across the curriculum.

- **Member, Microfinance Society:** Supported start-up businesses, analyzed strategies, and evaluated investment decisions, investigating multiple proposals and contributing to funded projects.
- **Choir Member:** Represented Dubai College in competitions and won awards.
- **Ambassador:** Addressed groups of up to 25 attendees about the Dubai College experience.
- **Writer:** Published two articles in the Dubai College newspaper.
- **CASA Participant:** Achieved 100% in two exams, actively contributed during Cancer Awareness Month, and delivered lunch to Dubai College's ancillary team.

Community Service:

- **Kawish Foundation Volunteer, Lahore, Pakistan (2018–2025):** Created long-term impact by providing training to women from underserved communities on making products and crafts that helped them generating additional income. Tutored local women on reading, writing, and skills to support future business opportunities.
- **Indus Hospital Volunteer, Dubai, UAE:** Led charity campaigns, represented Dubai College, featured in Khaleej Times, and successfully raised over 50,000 AED through two fundraising campaigns.
- **Dubai College Charity Committee:** Collected over 250kg of donations for schools supported in Bandipur, including SJS and Kalika.
- Co-led Dubai College's Beach Clean Up "Save the Butts" at Jumeirah Beach, coordinating with organisers and collecting 5,600 cigarette butts, plastics, and glass in 90 minutes as part of a wider sustainability campaign.
- **Dubai Center for Special Needs (DCSN) Volunteer:** Engaged children with autism and Down syndrome through creative and inclusive activities that encouraged joy and learning.
- Assisted in tutoring girls from primary to middle school levels, with an emphasis on English literacy.

Technical Skills

- **Back-end Development Tools:** Python, Java, PHP
- **Front-end Development Tools:** HTML5 & CSS3
- **Microsoft Office Suite:** Excel, Word, & PowerPoint