

MUHAMMAD BASHIR

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EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley Aug 2024 – Present
Ph.D. Student in Economics Berkeley, CA

University of Manchester Sep 2021 – Sep 2022
M.Sc. in Economics (Distinction) Manchester, UK

Honor: John Stewart Prize for outstanding performance across three Econometrics courses.

Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) Aug 2017 – Jun 2021
B.S. in Economics and Mathematics (Joint), High Distinction Lahore, Pakistan

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of California, Berkeley Spring 2026 – Present
Graduate Student Researcher (Prof. Danny Yagan) Berkeley, CA

University of California, Berkeley Fall 2025
Graduate Student Instructor, ECON 100B Berkeley, CA

Columbia University in the City of New York Sep 2022 – Jul 2024
Staff Associate I / Predoctoral Research Fellow in Economics New York, NY

- Worked with Prof. Michael Carlos Best and Prof. Jack J. Willis (Department of Economics), primarily on projects in Public Finance and Development Economics.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Public Economics; Labor Economics; State Capacity; Development Economics

WORKING PAPERS

Size-Based Policies and Firm Growth: Evidence from Pakistan (with Zehra Farooq (Tulane), Usama Jamal (Manchester), and Mazhar Waseem (Manchester, CEPR, IFS))

Intended and Unintended Consequences of Anti-avoidance Rules: Evidence from Uganda (with Usama Jamal (Manchester), Kyle McNabb (ODI), and Mazhar Waseem (CEPR, IFS, Manchester))

RESEARCH GRANTS

IGC: “Understanding Firms’ Behavioral Response to Increased Compliance Cost and Advance Taxes: Theory and Evidence from Pakistan” (with Shaheryar and Zehra Farooq), Dec 2024 – Dec 2026, £24,424

IGC: “Intended and Unintended Consequences of Anti-avoidance Rules: Evidence from Uganda” (with Usama Jamal, Kyle McNabb, Mazhar Waseem), Jan 2024 – Jan 2026, £29,000

ICTD: “Intended and Unintended Consequences of Anti-avoidance Rules: Evidence from Uganda” (with Usama Jamal, Kyle McNabb, Mazhar Waseem), Jan 2024 – Jan 2026, £25,000

UNU-WIDER: Grant for “Intended and Unintended Consequences of Anti-avoidance Rules: Evidence from Uganda” (with Usama Jamal, Kyle McNabb, Mazhar Waseem), Sep 2022 – Dec 2023, \$10,000

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

Feb 2026 NBER Digital Economics and AI Tutorial (

Jun 2025 IGC Summer PhD Fellowship, IGC Office Lahore (Pakistan), £5,000

Jun 2025 Stone Center Summer Institute on Inequality, UC Berkeley

Mar 2025 Fulcrum Project Fellowship for Future Economic Thinkers (with Heidi Williams and Paul Niehaus)

Dec 2022 John Stewart Prize for Econometrics, University of Manchester

Sep 2022 Weiss Fund for Development Economics (Kabir Banerjee Predoctoral Fellowship) Finalist, University of Chicago

Sep 2021 School of Social Sciences Scholarship, University of Manchester (tuition waiver + £15,600 stipend)

SKILLS

Programming Tools Python, R, Stata, Julia, SQL, Bash, C#
Git, Slurm, L^AT_EX, AWS, VSCode & Copilot

LANGUAGES

English (Fluent); Punjabi (Native); Urdu/Hindi (Fluent)