

## Independent Presbyterian Church Foundation Student Testimonials 2017-18



**Mahnoor Ijaz**  
Class of 2019  
Major: Psychology

Education is definitely one of the most important assets one can possess. It enables us to develop the skills we need in order to become successful and seek our goals and dreams in life. My goal has always been to be of use in any way possible, to make a difference that can bring positive change. I chose to study at FCCU because I wanted to pursue my bachelor's in psychology and the Psychology department and faculty here is very superior and well known.

I have been living in Lahore for 7 years now. I was born here but we had to move to Faisalabad because of my father's job and then we came back because he found another job here. Until recently, we have

been financially well off my entire life. Even if it was difficult, my father always tried to give us the very best. Currently, no one is earning in my family. I have two siblings and the youngest one has recently given her matric exams. We're the only two currently studying. My elder sister had to stop her studies due to some complications, financial strain being one of them.

After my father was diagnosed with brain cancer, I was hopeful that he would survive. I was told to apply for financial aid but it just felt so weird because I never thought my life would turn around so much so that I'll have to ask for financial assistance. My father has always been giving and kind so it just felt so wrong that his children would be in need of aid. I thought I could freeze my semester and then rejoin when my father recovers but it was wishful thinking. All our assets were used in his treatment. We are only left with our house and we are grateful for it.

I am grateful to FCCU for providing me with financial assistance consecutively for two years. I am hoping that I will be able to complete my degree in Psychology and Education on time with the aid that I am provided with and pursue a career in counseling and/or teaching. I look forward to landing a stable job that pays well because my goal is to support the lifestyles of my family members and make our family financially stable again. I am grateful to FCCU and all its donors who made it possible for me to continue with my education.



**Martina Philip**

Class of 2020

Majors: Environmental Sciences/  
Christian Studies

I belong to a family where freedom is important but it is only possible through education. My family itself is well-educated and understands the importance of education. For us it is not just a formality but real higher education. My education means the freedom for me to pursue my dreams and ambitions and be an independent individual who does not have to depend on anyone.

I have been very fascinated with FCCU since a very young age. The faculty and especially the international standards which are practiced in FCCU were well known to me. It was my elder brother's dream to study at FCCU and so he did. He graduated last December in 2017 but as was the will of God, he passed away three months ago. Following in his

footsteps, studying at FCCU became my dream as well which my parents also supported.

Both my parents work in a religious organization. My father is the Director of Sunday School Ministry and an Evangelist while my mother works part time with the ministry. Higher studies in private university is not financially affordable and especially since all of us siblings were pursuing higher studies at the same time. My parents work with a religious organization and their salary is not sufficient to pay for our education and living expenses at the same time so I had to apply for financial aid. I am grateful to FCCU for providing me with the Financial Aid I direly needed in order to continue my studies here.

FCCU has not only helped me in my financial issues but it also helped me in gaining a lot of confidence in every way possible. It started with giving presentations and later making friends with different backgrounds and regions of Pakistan. I learned boxing at FCCU in 2016 and it was another amazing experience. It is not just a character building institute but it also helped me in acquiring the skills which I had never even imagined. Recently I got trained for Rescue 1122 through my course of Environmental Sciences. On the other hand, Christian Studies are helping me to look at things from a different level and question the things I've been listening to throughout my life.

As I was bought up in a pure missionary environment, I always looked at life being precious in the work of God. Nature made me think about the existence of God more closely. I took this amazing combination of majors to become a missionary and work for the environment at the same time. Environmental issues are global which is my passion while spreading the word of God is a global need as well. I would love to work with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in future as a Pakistani representative.



**Komal Nida Salamat**

Class of 2020

Major: Environmental Sciences

I think education knows no boundaries and everyone must get education to compete with the modernization in today's world. Moreover, in my family I am the eldest sister and I will have to support my family with my father after completing my studies. I did not know much about FCCU personally but I had heard its good reputation from a family friend and the idea of liberal arts education along with the possibility of scholarships and financial assistance for competent students urged me to get enrolled here.

I have one younger sister and she is also studying. My father is the only earning head of our family and we don't have any other earning hand. He works as a peon

and does not earn enough to bear all the expenses of running the household and our education himself. Moreover, my mother is a kidney patient and she is on regular dialysis so her medical expenses are also to be met by my father. After applying for financial aid at FCCU, I was able to continue with my studies without fear of financial constraints. For this, I will always be indebted to Forman Christian College. It has given me confidence to believe in myself.

In the future, I have planned to pursue my master's or MPhil in Environmental Sciences. Furthermore, I will apply for teaching assistance program along with my studies during MPhil and would like to become a part of the teaching profession afterwards.