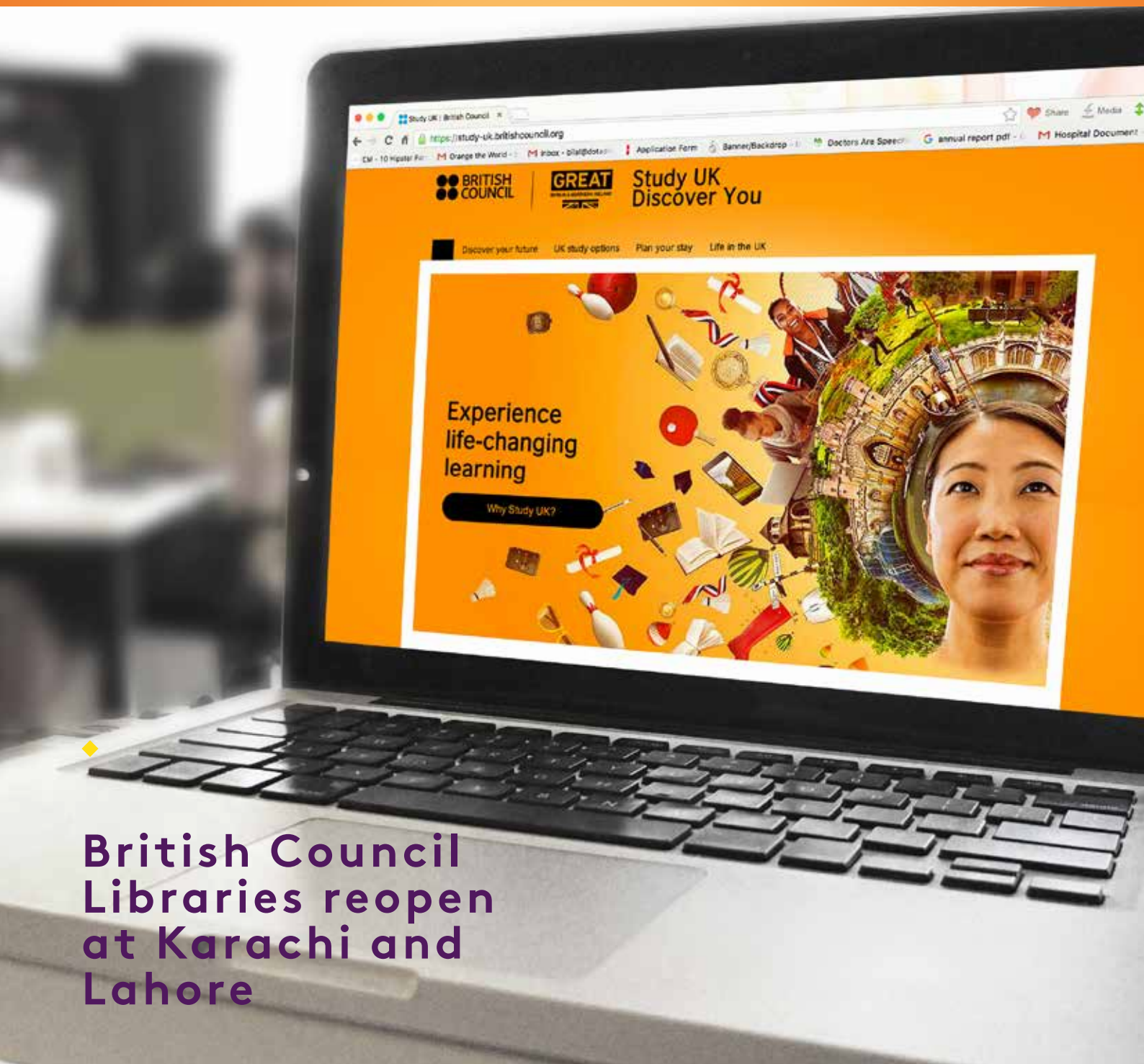


• STUDY UK • DISCOVER YOU

MARCH 2017



British Council
Libraries reopen
at Karachi and
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STUDY UK DISCOVER YOU



All the information you need about studying in the UK can be found on our Study UK website. Bringing together information and advice about all aspects of a UK education, this easy to use resource will give you the knowledge, skills and confidence to start your journey.

COUNTRY DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to this magazine on studying in the UK!

This is the right time to think about studying in the UK. With a wide choice of courses and institutions across the four parts of the UK, England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, I am sure you will be able to find the right place and course of study that suits you and which can help you develop your career successfully for the future. Making that choice and deciding to study overseas is a decision for you and your family. The information in this magazine has been prepared to help provide everything you may need to consider in making that choice together.

Every year around 10,000 Pakistani students study in the UK and, of these, at least half take post-graduate courses. Many thousands more young Pakistanis take transnational courses from UK institutions at undergraduate level here in Pakistan. Nearly all of the more than 180 universities in Pakistan have links with UK universities to support international collaboration and research. The most popular study subjects include business, accounting, finance, hotel management, engineering, information technology, STEM and English language while you can also find almost any subject you can think of!

Feedback from academics in the UK tells us that they welcome particularly students from Pakistan because they are hard-working, committed and make a positive contribution to the life of the University and the wider community. There are also over 1.2 million UK citizens of Pakistani origin living and working in the UK.

It is important for you and your family to do the research needed to make sure you find the right place and course of study for you. Ask for advice from many sources including careers staff, representatives from universities, education agents, friends and family who have already studied in the UK and, of course, from our team at British Council. Think carefully about what you really want to study and why. It is a big decision and can set you on a successful path in life. The UK has an international reputation as an excellent destination for study with strong academic traditions, excellent facilities, the very best teaching and research faculty, and good pastoral care for international students. Your investment will be excellent value for money in terms of quality of education, experience and future



connections. It is a fine opportunity to build the personal and professional international networks that will support you through your life and career.

The British Council supports a network of thousands of UK Alumni, young Pakistanis who have returned from successful study in the UK with their internationally-recognised qualifications and who are thriving in their careers. They are a very good source of information about what it is really like to live and study in different cities and towns in the UK. We also support annual UK Alumni Awards to recognise those who excel in their chosen fields, businesses and communities after they return home with their qualifications. They are "Ambassadors" for Pakistan, representing its people and culture, as you will be at your chosen place of study.

We wish you success in making your choices now and in making the most of your opportunity to study in the UK. Good luck!



ROSEMARY HILHORST OBE
Country Director - British Council Pakistan

SCOTTISH SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

The education of women is fundamental for the sustainable growth of Pakistan. Economists note that the single best investment that can be made is one more year of female education, leading to multiple benefits for the individual, the family and community, political participation, and creating better life opportunities – particularly across rural areas.

In light of this, the Pakistan Scottish Scholarship Scheme for Women in Higher Education was initiated by the Scottish Government in collaboration with British Council as an implementing partner in 2013. The scholarship, which recently completed its third cycle, caters to women from disadvantaged backgrounds pursuing their Masters and helps them to achieve their educational ambitions. The scholarship is offered to female students enrolled in Masters in the fields of education, agriculture and food security, sustainable energy and health sciences. These subject areas are relevant to Pakistan in terms of current challenges and future opportunities.

As of 2016, more than 400 scholarships have been awarded across 30 plus universities in Pakistan. These universities are spread across the entire country with representation from faraway regions in every province. The pool of applications has increased tremendously over the past year after increased awareness about the success stories of the beneficiaries.



One such story is of Zainab Tariq - a recipient from the first cycle of the scholarship scheme in 2013. She belongs to a small district called 'Kachi' in Baluchistan. Due to lack of resources and challenging environment in the area, her family moved to Lahore and spent their savings in search of a better future. Life after their move was not easy. Her parents were plagued by financial pressures; unable to afford basic living let alone her education. She had little hope left of pursuing her dream of a Master's in Educational and Leadership Management from Beaconhouse National University. She decided to follow through on her determination and applied for the Pakistan Scottish Scholarship Scheme. Receiving the Pakistan Scottish Scholarship that covered her complete tuition fees and provided her subsistence for daily expenses, completed changed the lives of her and her family for the better.

Zainab recently graduated with a distinction and has now become a source of pride and hope for her family.

Under this scheme many such lives have improved; and these opportunities will continue to provide further chances and hope to women to be able to pursue their dreams and make a change by taking up education.





- Ranked 31st in the world for Arts and Humanities (THE World University Rankings 2017)
- Ranked 77th in the world for Social Sciences (THE World University Rankings 2017)
- Ranked 79th in the world for Life Sciences (THE World University Rankings 2017)
- Almost 3,000 international students from over 170 countries
- Safe and green campus environment in a beautiful student-friendly city



My experience at the university has been fantastic. I can say that York has fulfilled my expectations in every way possible"

Mashrur

(PhD Economics)



PAKISTAN SKILLS SHOW 2016

SKILLED YOUTH COME OUT TO MAKE A POINT

On 29 March 2016 Pakistan held its first ever national skills show - bringing together students, industry leaders, experts and partners under the huge roof of the Lahore Expo Centre. The British Council in Pakistan partnered with National Vocational and Technical Training Commission (NAVTTTC), Technical Education and Vocational Training Authority, and the Government of Punjab to put together the two-day event.

Brilliant minds from the skills sector, chambers of commerce, and the federal and provincial governments spent two days generating suggested solutions to address challenges faced by youth in pursuing careers in skills. The

overall objective of arranging a nation-wide show was to encourage teenagers to break social barriers and to dispel misconceptions around technical and vocational training. Students were not just there to showcase their skills, but also to highlight their struggles in reaching this stage. Every student came with an inspiring story.

“Like any parent, my father wanted me to become a doctor or go into a profession that would be socially acceptable. I wasn’t great in studies. We think that college is the only logical choice for a good professional career but vocational education has been my lifeline,” said Muhammad Khalid, student of electrical works.

This is one example of a student who has taken up vocational education over the more popular academic path. For this reason, the Pakistan Skills Show 2016 has proved to be a ground breaking programme. Through competitions in more than 30 categories including cooking, plumbing, welding, dress making, computer applications and web development among others. Young





people were encouraged to become part of the country's rapidly emerging skills sector. This also presented an opportunity for entrepreneurs to raise awareness about inclusive business environments and build strong networks with key stakeholders, including industry and chambers. Moreover, technical institutions and training organisations participated in the show with an objective of improving the image of the country's skills sector.

"My family was sceptical when I told them I want to enrol in cooking classes. We cannot compete at an international level unless we change our attitudes towards technical and vocational education and skills," said one competitor.

Participation from women was a sign of good things to come with regards to their representation in the skills sector. The tenacity of these young girls carried them through the initiation stage to the list of high achievers.

One student shared her story, "I fell in love with pottery and I can't imagine doing anything else. I needed to do something in arts. I find it amazing that I found my passion and career at a vocational training institute," Iqra Bisma.

While most of us dream of good paying jobs, almost a quarter of the competitors aspired to become entrepreneurs. They will further train more teenagers and provide jobs, starting a cycle of economic development.

The hope is that the "Pakistan Skills 2016" leaves a long lasting legacy and transforms into a skills movement which inspires students and parents everywhere.

As for facts and figures, there have been so many highlights over the two-day event; it is hard to single a few out, but in no particular order:

- ◆ 10,000 youth participated in the two day skills competition
- ◆ 36 leading employers of the sector showed support
- ◆ More than 20,000 jobs identified
- ◆ Winners awarded prize money for their skill
- ◆ Approximately 2,000 people attended the closing ceremony

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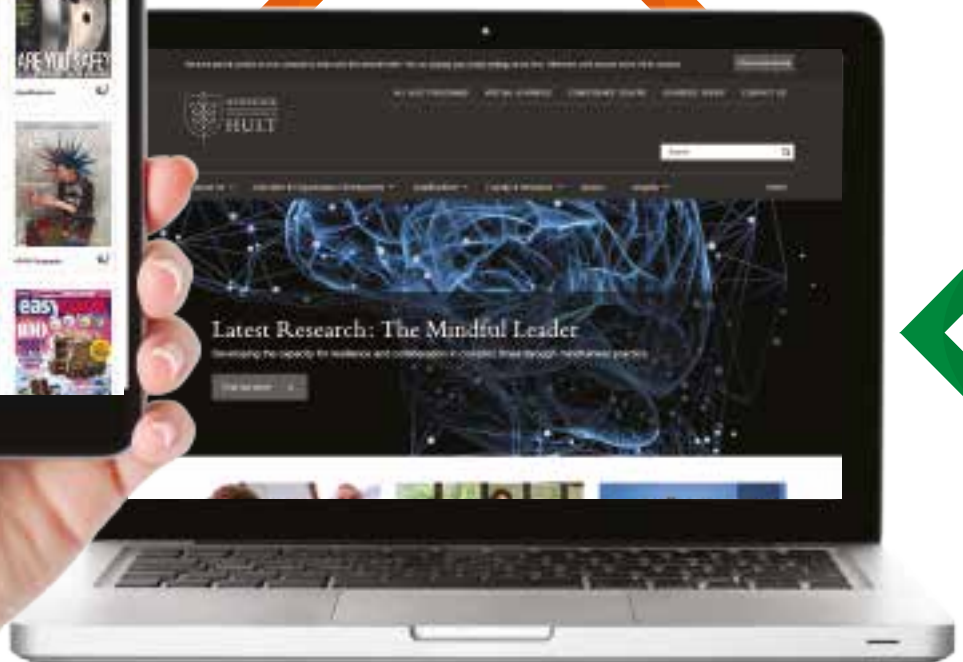
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STUDY UK DISCOVER YOU



Find out why over 90 per cent of international students rate their UK education so highly.

UK STUDY OPTIONS

THE UK EDUCATION SYSTEM

The UK's higher education system is world famous. Universities in the UK have a role in every aspect of UK life – from shaping government policy to working with artists and scientists. UK qualifications are highly respected by employers and academics worldwide.

Quality assured

The UK has a global reputation for quality assured education. All universities and colleges in the UK are held to strict standards by the UK government so you know you are getting the best teaching, support and resources available.

The UK government publishes lists of officially recognised universities and colleges so you can be sure that the one you choose has passed all the tests for quality assurance.

Some universities or colleges are called 'listed bodies'. These can offer courses that can lead to a degree from a recognised body. This means you can study here, but a recognised body will set and examine your final examinations or coursework.

The UK style of teaching

The UK teaching system is designed to encourage you to ask questions, debate and come up with your own ideas.

UK universities and colleges combine practical learning with lectures and seminars and embrace innovative teaching methods and high-tech learning environments.

There is a wide range of opportunities to gain practical experience. Many courses have options for work placements and internships that count towards your degree. Many offer the chance to gain professional accreditation too.

Choice and flexibility

One of the best things about UK higher education is the chance to really pursue your interests.

There are a wide range of courses on offer, from the traditional to the cutting-edge, from Computer Games Development to Entrepreneurship.

Many courses also include 'modules'. These are different options that allow you to choose from a range of subjects within your course to build a programme that suits you.

UK Qualifications

On the UK government website (<https://www.gov.uk>), you can see a summary of the UK's qualification levels, and what they mean.

The Register of Regulated Qualifications (<http://register.ofqual.gov.uk>) contains details of Recognised Awarding Organisations and Regulated Qualifications in England (Ofqual), Wales (Welsh Government) and Northern Ireland (Ofqual for vocational qualifications and CCEA Accreditation for all other qualifications). For Scottish qualifications, please visit the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework website (<http://www.sqcf.org.uk>).


UK NARIC (<http://www.naric.org.uk>) offers a paid service giving information on how overseas qualifications compare to UK qualifications.

Education in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland

The education system differs slightly in the four countries that make up the UK.

Scottish higher education degrees tend to last four years rather than three years (more common in England, Wales and Northern Ireland). Many students in Scotland also move into higher education at the age of 17, rather than 18, as in other parts of the UK.

Source: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/options/education-system>

A man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a grey and white vertically striped button-down shirt, stands in front of a large screen displaying a presentation. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background is slightly blurred, showing a person's head and shoulders in the foreground on the right.

◆

THE UK GOVERNMENT
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QUALITY ASSURANCE.

◆

HOW TO APPLY

HOW TO APPLY – UNDERGRADUATE

Applying for an undergraduate degree in the UK is very simple. You don't need to get in touch with lots of universities - you can apply for up to five courses at once through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) for a small administration fee and UCAS handles everything else.

Here's how it works:

1. Register with UCAS

First, go to the UCAS website (<https://www.ucas.com/>) where you can fill in your application form.

Then write your personal statement. This is your chance to stand out from the crowd by explaining why you are interested in the course, the skills you have that make you suitable, and your life experiences and achievements.

You also need to include a written reference from someone who can confirm your ability to do the course, such as a tutor or one of your school teachers. Make sure you contact your referees early so they have enough time to write this for you.

Application deadlines

There are three application deadlines throughout the year:

October - for courses at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, or for most courses in medicine, veterinary medicine/science and dentistry

January - for most undergraduate courses

March - for some art and design courses

Some universities and colleges will continue to accept applications for international students after the January deadline. Check with the university or college if in doubt. It is much better, however, to apply early. You will still need to arrange your visa if you need one, as well as things like accommodation and flights.

2. Receiving an offer

UCAS will contact you with any offers from your chosen universities or colleges. If your offer is 'unconditional', you can relax as your place on the course is confirmed. Some offers are conditional - usually this means your offer is



confirmed as long as you achieve certain results in your current studies or in English language tests.

Once you have decided to accept an offer then you can respond to it through the UCAS website - then you're on your way to becoming a UK student.

Source: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/options/apply/undergraduate>

HOW TO APPLY

HOW TO APPLY – POSTGRADUATE



To register and apply for postgraduate courses, you will need to provide:

- Your personal details including your qualifications.
- A reference or contact details for a referee (someone, such as a lecturer or tutor, who can confirm your ability to do the course).
- A personal statement – where you explain why you want to do this course – and the skills, life experiences and achievements that make you suitable.

Different postgraduate courses in the UK have different entry requirements, so check the individual course websites for instructions on how to apply.

Many postgraduate courses do not have a fixed application deadline, so you can apply as soon as you decide that you want to study on a UK course. However, it is always best to apply early to make sure you have the best chance of being accepted.

Direct applications

Many UK universities handle their own postgraduate applications and you can often apply directly through

their website. You can check the course information for instructions on how to apply.

UKPASS

Some courses now use the UK Postgraduate Application and Statistical Service (UKPASS) scheme. This makes the process very easy, as you can apply for up to ten postgraduate courses through one simple application. You can apply using the UKPASS service at any time as there are no deadlines. However, your preferred universities and colleges may have their own closing dates, so you'll need to check with them before you apply.

Conservatoires

UCAS Conservatoires is a separate application system for some music, dance and drama courses, at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Teacher training

UCAS also operates an application system for graduates who want to take postgraduate teacher training courses.

Source: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/options/apply/postgraduate>

UK STUDY OPTIONS

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

If you choose the UK you can enjoy the life-changing benefits of international study, knowing that you are getting great value for money. If you need extra help, there are many financial support options out there, including scholarships, grants, bursaries, fellowships, financial awards and loans.

Course fees

Fees for UK courses vary, depending on:

- Whether you are from the European Union (EU) or European Economic Area (EEA), or another country
- Where in the UK you are studying (there are different rules for England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales)
- Your study level

Scholarships and financial support

There are hundreds of scholarships, bursaries and grant schemes on offer for students who need extra support to pay for their UK course.

Depending on your nationality, you may be eligible for a loan or financial support from the UK government. Visit the UKCISA (UK Council for International Student Affairs) website (<http://www.ukcisa.org.uk>) for more details.

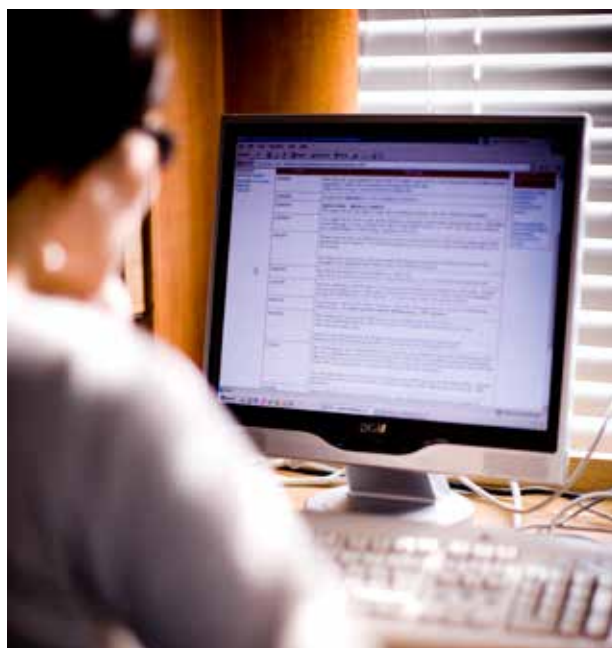
Postgraduate studentships can be found via a number of websites, including Postgraduate Studentships and Prospects.

Individual universities may also offer financial assistance, check their websites for more details.

Global scholarships

You can apply for any of the following scholarships, provided they are appropriate for their course.

- Chevening Award: Postgraduate scholarships from the UK government aimed at students with potential as future leaders
- Erasmus Programme: Undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral research funding
- Euraxess UK: Research placements in the UK
- Royal Society grants: Postdoctoral science research



Scholarships for students from certain countries

The British Council can help you with a number of scholarship and funding opportunities. These include:

SCHEME	FUNDING OPPORTUNITY	OPEN TO STUDENTS OR RESEARCHERS FROM
Scotland's Saltire Scholarships	Undergraduate, Master's and Ph.D. courses	Canada, China, India, Pakistan and USA
Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan	Master's and doctoral courses (for study in the UK and distance learning), plus academic, professional and medical fellowships	Commonwealth countries
Charles Wallace Pakistan Trust Scholarships	Doctoral studies, research, visiting fellows and Scottish summer school	Pakistan

Other sources of funding

There are many other sources of funding for students in certain countries. Contact your local British Council office to find out what is available.

Source: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/options/scholarships-financial-support>

PLAN YOUR STAY

STUDENT VISAS

Most international students need a student visa to study in the UK. Finding out whether you need a visa to study is easy - simply check here on GOV.UK .

Your student visa will allow you to live and study in the UK throughout your course. If you attend a pre-departure briefing in your home country, you will pick up more handy tips on your visa application.

TYPES OF STUDENT VISA

Tier 4 (General) student visas

If you are 16 or over and want to study at higher education level, you'll need to apply for a Tier 4 (General) student visa. You need to wait until you have an offer from a university before applying for your Tier 4 (General) student visa. Your university will then be able to give you a document called a Confirmation of Acceptance of Studies (CAS). To do this, your university needs to be approved by the UK government as a 'licenced Tier 4 sponsor'.

Short-term study visas

Short term study visas are available to students who want to join courses that are up to six months long or English language courses up to 11 months long.

Can I work in the UK on a study visa?

Many international students in the UK take a part-time job, work placement or internship alongside their studies. The hours and type of work you do will depend on the type of visa and your sponsoring university or college.

<https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/planning/visas>

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 (Times Higher Education World University Rankings, 2015-16)



UK STUDY OPTIONS

WHY STUDY UK?

The UK OFFERS the perfect combination of world leading education and life enhancing experience.

The UK welcomes over 400,000 international higher education students each year, and it's easy to see why.

Sitting at the top of the world rankings, UK universities have a reputation for developing the skills that employers are looking for. It's not only about attending lectures - you will actively engage with your tutors through lively seminars, discussions and practical projects. This will help you develop critical thinking, creativity and confidence.

Alongside benefiting from the academic tradition of some of the world's most famous universities, you will have access to the latest facilities due to the UK's reputation for world-class research. UK higher education will also help you develop your English skills and confidence in speaking the language, an attribute that is highly valued by employers worldwide.

Whatever aspirations bring you here, and whether you study at undergraduate or postgraduate level, you will learn in a safe, multicultural environment. You will be supported while you study, as all UK universities all have extensive student support and welfare services you can call on. There's also a cultural adventure on offer, from music festivals and football matches to ancient castles and vibrant nightlife.

With costs lower than in Australia and the USA and courses starting from three years, you can enjoy a life-changing student experience safe in the knowledge that you are getting good value for money.

1. Three of the ten top universities in the world are in the UK, including the university ranked first in the world. (Times Higher Education world university rankings 2016)
2. 1,000 years of extraordinary academic innovation - currently the UK ranks third in the world for innovation (Global Innovation Index 2016)
3. World class teaching that nurtures creative thinkers - the UK has 19 universities with a 5-star Teaching rating, more than any other country (QS Stars university ratings 2016)
4. The UK leads the world in quality research - the UK has overtaken the US to rank first by field-weighted citation impact (an indicator of research quality) (International Comparative Performance of the UK Research Base, Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, 2013)



5. 91 per cent of international undergraduates are happy with their experience in the UK (International Undergraduate Students, the UK's Competitive Advantage, International Unit, 2015)
6. A safe, multicultural country - the UK is home to over 400,000 international higher education students each year (UKCISA/HESA 2014-15)
7. 38 per cent of Nobel prize winners who studied abroad did so in the UK (British Council 2015)
8. Students in the UK enjoy a great lifestyle: beautiful countryside, historic sites, city life and music and culture. Find out more on the Visit Britain website.

Source: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/options/why>

UK STUDY OPTIONS

EDUCATION AGENTS



Education agents can help you find the right university, college or school in the UK and assist you with applying for a course.

Why use an education agent

Not only can education agents assist with the application process, they can also advise you on other matters such as visas, accommodation, travel and more.

Before looking for an agent

Some agents have formal working relationships with particular schools, colleges and universities. This means they know the application processes well, and should be able to help you effectively. If you already know where you want to study, choosing an agent who represents this education centre may be ideal for you.

However, if you are interested in exploring lots of different education centres and evaluating which one is best suited to you – make sure the agent is able to present you with the full range of options, rather than just the particular schools, colleges or universities they represent.

How to find an agent

If you have already identified a university, college or school where you would like to study find out if they have agents in your country that they regularly work with.

Alternatively, you can use the British Council's Global Agents List (<http://www.bcagent.info/gal/>) to find a list of certified agents in your country. All of these agents have passed the British Council's Agents Training Certificate within the last two years, meaning they have a good knowledge of the UK's education system.

Safety

As well using the British Council's Global Agents List, you can also check whether the institution you are interested in is in compliance with the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). The QAA issues guidance to all UK institutions to ensure that they properly support and train their agents, and encourage them to incorporate the British Council Code of Ethics into their agents' contracts.

Source: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/education-agents>

UK STUDY OPTIONS

CHOOSING A UNIVERSITY

With over 160 universities and colleges and limitless courses and study options on offer, you can make your UK higher education experience as unique as you are.

There are specialist universities, world-renowned historic institutions, modern innovative facilities and pioneering and progressive research centres in locations all over the country, offering you the chance to tailor your learning to your aspirations and career goals.

Specialist universities

Many UK universities are world renowned for their subjects, courses, professors and tutors. There are also universities and colleges that have a very strong focus upon a specific subject area, such as business, art and design, music or engineering.

These institutions offer highly specialised education in your chosen field and you will be surrounded by like-minded students – great for focused development, future contacts as well as making friends.

How to research

To help you decide make sure you look at universities own websites, professional UK and worldwide rankings, newspaper and online articles.

As well as listing the top universities overall, you can also find subject-specific rankings and rankings for other areas like student satisfaction and how environmentally friendly the university is. Some organisations that publish rankings include QS World Universities , Times Higher Education , The Guardian , UCAS and universities own websites.

University websites and prospectuses have full listings of courses on offer, details of course content and modules, and success stories of previous graduates.

Many students also find it helpful to look online for blogs or videos. Many universities have student blogs and promotional films, and there is also lots of 'homemade' material created by current students about their UK experience.

Things to consider

- Does the university offer the right course options and flexibility for you?
- How does it rank for student satisfaction and care?



- What are your career prospects? What percentages of its students go straight into employment or further study after graduating?
- What are the teaching standards like?
- How does it perform in terms of research activity?
- What level of facilities are on offer? Consider things such as libraries, lecture halls and study spaces
- Are there extra-curricular opportunities such as student unions, societies and sports teams?
- Is the university based on campus or spread out over a city?
- Where in the UK? Studying in a city centre London University will be a different experience to a smaller university in Wales that is close to the countryside.
- What are the course fees and accommodation costs and standards like?
- Is the institution recognised by UK authorities as having UK degree awarding powers?

Source: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/options/universities>

PLAN YOUR STAY

MONEY AND COSTS



Try out the International Student Calculator - it's there to help you plan your budget.

<https://international.studentcalculator.org/>

Studying in the UK is good value for money – costs here are lower than in both the USA and Australia. According to research by HSBC, the average annual costs for international students were:

\$30,325 in the UK

\$35,705 in the USA

\$38,516 in Australia.

Additionally, since this research was published exchange rate fluctuations have made the UK even better value for many international students.

Budgeting

Budgeting is part of student life! Before you come to the UK, make sure you know how you will pay for:

travel to the UK
accommodation
food

day-to-day living costs
travel and sightseeing in the UK
health and travel insurance.

If you have a scholarship or financial support, make sure you know what is and isn't covered.

Discounts

The National Union of Students card and the International Student Identity Card offer great student discounts in many shops, restaurants and businesses. Have a look to see if you could save money with one of these cards.

Source: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/planning/money-costs>

PLAN YOUR STAY

ACCOMMODATION

There's a wide variety of safe and modern accommodation on offer for students in the UK and universities have dedicated accommodation teams that will help you find the right type of living environment to suit your needs.

Many universities and colleges have halls of residence that are on-site or nearby. If you prefer to rent your own accommodation, your university and college accommodation office can usually help you.

Even in shared living accommodation, students usually have a bedroom to themselves, often with an en-suite bathroom.

To help you start planning, the main options are outlined below.

University owned accommodation

Most UK universities offer places for new students in their halls of residence. Halls can vary from single rooms with shared kitchen and living areas, to self-contained studios.

You can often choose from catered halls (with a dining room where you can buy cheap meals) or self-catered halls (with kitchens where you can cook your own food), depending on your preference.

Halls provide a safe and comfortable home-away-from-home that is good value for money, with services like wifi and contents insurance included in the cost of your rent.

Most halls welcome both female and male students, but there are usually single sex halls available too.

Private accommodation

Many students in the UK live in private, rented accommodation in the second year of their studies and onward, giving a taste of life beyond the campus.

Most private student accommodation is already furnished, but you may need to provide your own items such as kitchen utensils and bedding. You'll also need to factor in the costs for utilities.

Rented accommodation is strictly regulated in the UK, so if you do have any issues you will always be able to get them dealt with.



Luxury student accommodation

Many UK cities now have private luxury developments built for students. Accommodation ranges from private self-contained studios to apartments. Fully furnished and equipped with designer fixtures and fittings, residents can expect cinema rooms, 24 hour security, on-site gyms and round-the-clock concierge services.

Homestay accommodation

A homestay - where you live with a UK family in their home - can be a great opportunity to experience UK culture first-hand. Your university may be able to help you arrange this, or you can contact one of the homestay agencies registered with the British Council. (<https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/accreditation/information-centres/registered-accommodation-agencies>)

Source: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/planning/accommodation>

PLAN YOUR STAY



DISABILITY



UK universities are inclusive places that are equally welcoming to disabled and non-disabled students. They are legally required not to discriminate against disabled students and to make all facilities on campus accessible to all.

These laws apply to international students in the same way as they do to students who are UK citizens.

Getting advice and support

Before you enrol on a UK course, we strongly recommend you contact your chosen university to tell them about your needs and to ask them the following questions:

Physically disabled students

How accessible is the campus? Most universities have wheelchair-friendly routes around their buildings but some old buildings may pose a challenge.

What exams and learning support is available? You may qualify for extra time during examinations and support for classes.

Sight-impaired students

What exams and learning support is available? You may be entitled to access support such as Braille text, tutor recordings, text-to-speech technology, transcription services and magnification software. You may also be able to request extra time during exams.

Deaf students

What are the sign language options? Signers in the UK generally use British Sign Language but you may want to check if other options are available too.

Can I get help during lectures and seminars? You may be able to request help from note-takers or get print-outs of lectures. Many lecture theatres and classrooms will have audio induction loop systems, so it's worth asking if these facilities are available.

Dyslexic students

Will I have to complete a dyslexia assessment? Even if you have already been told that you are dyslexic you may be asked to complete a dyslexia assessment. This will help the university determine what support you need and how they can best help you. You can also request an assessment if you suspect you have dyslexia but have not been tested before.

What exams and learning support is available? You may qualify for sessions with specialist tutors, additional learning resources and extra time in tests and exams.

Your university may also be able to arrange regular meetings with a disability adviser, or even a local doctor if needed.

Scholarships and financial support

There are a number of UK scholarships and financial support schemes for international students with disabilities and special educational needs. These schemes may be run by UK or international governments, charities or businesses – or by the UK universities, colleges and schools themselves.

Ask your local British Council office, which you can find via <http://www.britishcouncil.org> or your teachers if they know of any such schemes you, could apply for. You could also contact the institution you wish to apply to directly, to ask about scholarships and other financial assistance available for international students.

Disabled Students' Allowance

Some international higher education students in England are entitled to the Disabled Students' Allowance. It is open to:

EU (European Union) students who have been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands for three years immediately before the first day of their first academic year.

EEA (European Economic Area) and Swiss migrant workers who have been ordinarily resident in the EEA for three years immediately before the first day of their first academic year, and who are assessed as meeting the criteria of 'worker'.

Source: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/planning/disability>

WHAT IS IT?

The International Postgraduate Scholarship is offered to all self-funded international students applying for a full-time master's degree programme at LJMU who meet the full conditions of their offer.

WHAT COULD I RECEIVE?

The scholarship is worth £2,000 which will be awarded in the form of a tuition fee reduction on all taught master's programmes.

AM I ELIGIBLE?

In order to qualify for this award, you must:

- Be a self-funded international student
- Meet the conditions stated in your course offer letter
- Not already benefit from an existing scholarship award or sponsorship

DO I NEED TO APPLY?

If you successfully meet the conditions of your offer, the fee reduction will be automatically applied, without the need for a separate application.

DO YOU ACCEPT EXTERNAL FUNDING?

The University accepts government funded UK scholarships from the Chevening Sponsorship Programme and the Commonwealth Shared Scholarship Scheme. Other external and non governmental UK sponsorship funds will also be accepted as payment of tuition fees.

SOME USEFUL LINKS



Rail travel in the UK

<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>



Nation-wide coach travel, National Express

<http://www.nationalexpress.com/home.aspx>



London – getting around using public transport

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/>



National Union of Students (NUS) – Discount card to apply for, but also lots of useful information for students

<http://www.nus.org.uk/>



Working in the UK (visas and immigration information), UK Border Agency

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/work-visas>



A great website covering all aspects of studying in the UK from the perspective of international students. UKCISA – UK Council for International Student Affairs

<http://www.ukcisa.org.uk>



Universities and Colleges Admissions Services (UCAS) provides information about undergraduate study for international students

<http://www.ucas.com/how-it-all-works/international>



UK University Guide

<http://www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide>



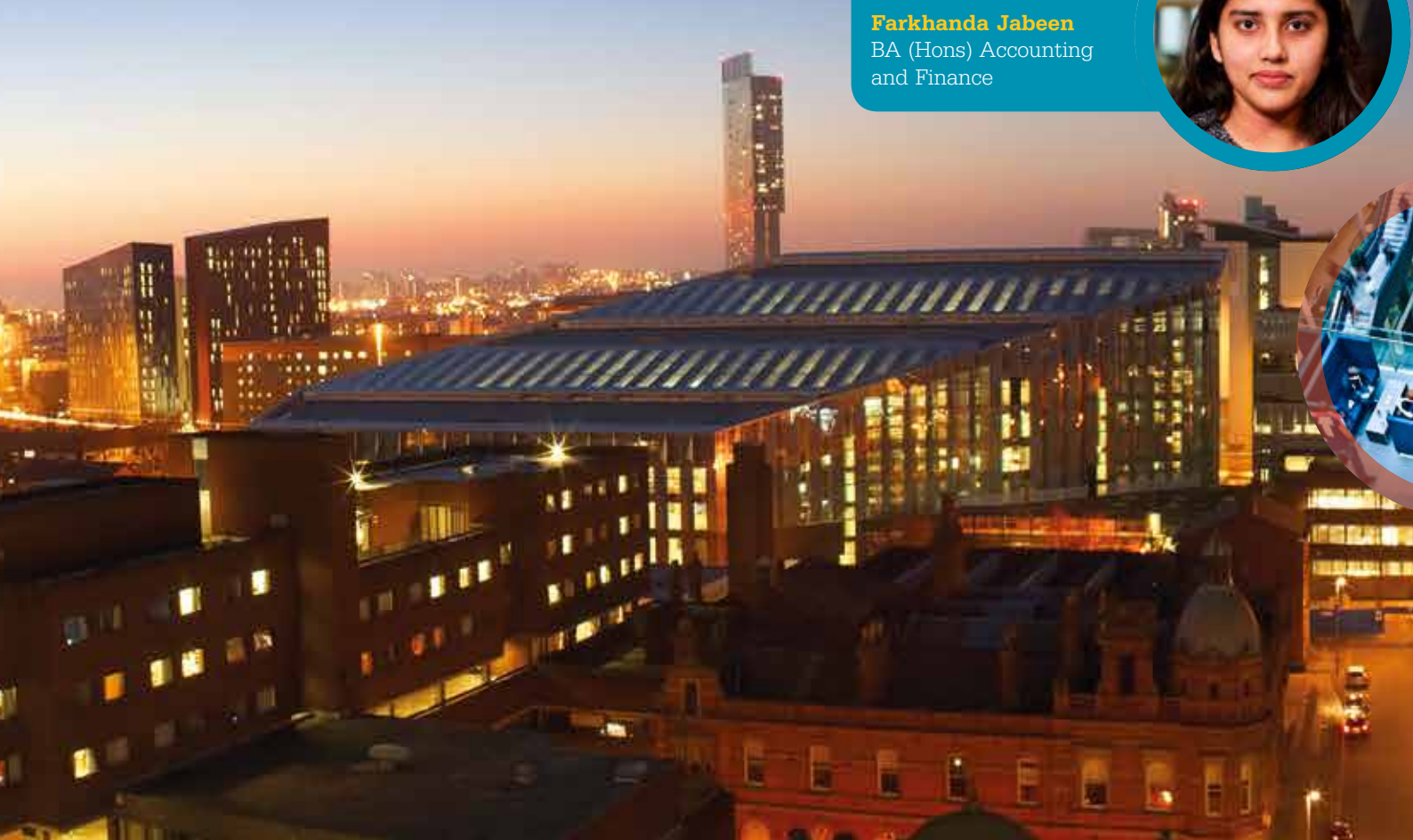
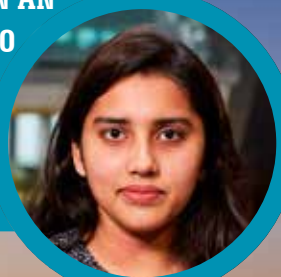
Explore. Create. Succeed.

With a history of innovation dating back to 1824, Manchester Metropolitan University is one of the largest and most popular universities in the UK, with over 36,000 students, including 3,000 international students from 120 countries.

Our Manchester campus located in the heart of Manchester, one of the world's most creative, energetic and inventive cities. Recent investment has created a learning environment with some of the best teaching, learning and sports facilities in the UK.

“ THERE IS AN EMPLOYABILITY HUB WHERE YOU CAN GET HELP WITH CV WRITING, INTERVIEW PREPARATION AND JOB RECOMMENDATIONS, WHETHER IT IS AN INTERNSHIP, PLACEMENT OR GRADUATE JOB YOU ARE LOOKING FOR. THEY ALSO RUN WORKSHOPS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR WITH MANY DIFFERENT EMPLOYERS, WHICH IS VERY INSPIRING. IT HAS BEEN AN ABSOLUTE PLEASURE TO STUDY HERE.”

Farkhanda Jabeen
BA (Hons) Accounting
and Finance





**Manchester
Metropolitan
University**

We provide over 1,000 courses in a wide range of subject areas, including Business, Science, Engineering Law, Sport, Arts, Humanities, Health and Education, and have links with over 70 professional bodies and associations, including prestigious AACSB accreditation – the international hallmark of excellence in business education.

The principal aim of the University is to create work-ready graduates able to meet the challenges and opportunities of a career in the global economy. We have partnerships with leading companies including IBM, Siemens, Adidas and Nissan, enabling industry input into teaching and excellent work placement opportunities.

**SCHOLARSHIPS UP TO
£5,000 ARE AVAILABLE
FOR STUDENTS JOINING
FROM PAKISTAN IN 2017**

Visit our website or contact one of our local advisers for further details on how to apply.

mmu.ac.uk/international



Enhance Your Career Opportunities



Alongside academic quality and cultural experience, one of the most popular reasons for investing in a British education is to enhance your career opportunities. Whichever UK university you choose you can expect world-class careers services.

Manchester Metropolitan University is one of the leading modern universities in the UK and is situated in the heart of Manchester. Students gain advantage through the University's close links to companies and organisations in one of Europe's most vibrant economies. For many courses, such as business management, enterprise is a core part of the curriculum. This creates a demand from employers for the University's graduates, which is reflected in higher graduate employment rates and starting salaries. In addition, Manchester Met students can participate in one of the most extensive and innovative career and employability development packages in the world.

Manchester Met's Careers and Employability website (www.mmu.ac.uk/careers) is an excellent source of information on finding work, preparing applications and interviews, and making the most of the skills you have gained during your study. The site also describes some of the services provided to Manchester Met students including:

Future Skills Award

The Futures Skills Award scheme offers recognition for additional work and activity you undertake such as part-time jobs, studying abroad, placements and volunteering. You gain access to a wide range of fun and interesting extra-curricular opportunities to develop your skills. The Futures Skills Award can be personalised to suit your own interests, and has been designed to help you develop and showcase your skills to future employers. Details available at: www.mmu.ac.uk/futures



Careers Events

The Careers & Employability Service organises a variety of events each term to give you the opportunity to meet employers and enhance your employability. Events include careers fairs, networking and interview guidance workshops, and events aimed at improving your ability to succeed in a career overseas. Details are available at: www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/events



Top Tips for Developing your Career through Employment or Self-Employment

David Taylor, Management and Enterprise Programme Coordinator, Business School, Manchester Metropolitan University

- Have purpose in life both inside and outside the University, and demonstrate an ethos which encapsulates this purpose.
- Learn to trust others in order to refine and test out your thinking, develop your networks in light of your personal and business needs, and seek out a mentor who can help guide you.

- Learn from failure and be resilient.
- Be concise when communicating with others and always be able to justify the points you make.
- Understand the market and industry you are looking to work in, clearly outline who your key customer is, and always put this customer at the centre of everything you do.

BRITISH COUNCIL



STUDY UK DISCOVER YOU



38 per cent of Nobel Laureates who studied abroad studied in the UK. Discover your future.

study-uk.britishcouncil.org

TOUR - 2017

BRITISH COUNCIL SCHOOL MISSION

The School Mission Tour is an opportunity for students to meet with university representatives from different international offices. As students prepare to complete high school and begin a university career an event like the British Council School Mission Tour provides students with easy access on their own campuses to direct first hand accurate information about different universities. The tour also helps UK higher education institutions to visit and meet with the brilliant students across Pakistan. They visit schools, meet with students to counsel, guide and advise students interested in applying to international higher education institutes around the world.

Mr. Nabeel Vehra, representative of Queen Mary University of London said about the tour, "The quality of students in all the schools was exceptional. It was a very effective selection of schools by British Council."

ISLAMABAD

- 1) Froebel's International School
- 2) Supernova School
- 3) Roots Millennium School
- 4) Westminster School and College

LAHORE

- 5) Roots International School
- 6) International School of Choueifat
- 7) Learning Alliance
- 8) Lahore Grammar School

KARACHI

- 9) D.A. Public School
- 10) The City School PAF Chapter
- 11) Cedar College
- 12) St. Michael's Convent School

Mr. Akif Khan, the representative of University of Hertfordshire said, "The students we met were very focused on what they want to do for their higher education and were quite interested in choosing UK as their destination for undergraduate degrees".

Mr. Waleed Khan, representative of University of Leeds was pleased with the arrangements and in his feedback, commented, "The British Council team did an excellent job in managing this tour and pulling it through in all the three cities without a glitch".



The institutions met with approximately 1400 students across 12 A Level schools in three cities. The students were excited and prepared with a range of questions relating to possible subject options, courses, different career paths, life in UK, living arrangements and financial assistance among other areas.

We also spoke with students from the host schools; the majority of them thought that the session with UK institutions was exciting and beneficial as they wanted to apply to universities during the summer break. They received accurate first-hand information which will help them in applying for admissions. Several students appreciated that they had learnt more about student life in UK and about how to adapt to the cultural change that they will face after moving to UK for higher studies.



◆

THE SCHOOL MISSION TOUR IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS TO ENGAGE WITH STUDENTS AS THEY PREPARE TO COMPLETE HIGH SCHOOL AND BEGIN A UNIVERSITY CAREER.

◆

The British Council School Mission Tour provides a platform to UK institutions to highlight their academic excellence and their undergraduate offers across schools in Pakistan. During these visits, the participating UK institutions meet with school counsellors and faculty members to exchange information about their institution, courses and student support facilities in UK. The programme is also designed to cater to maximum networking opportunities with school counsellors, faculty and senior management of educational institutions in order to facilitate exploration of possible collaborations.

International Postgraduate Funding 2017

INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS



EDUCATION UK EXHIBITION 2016

SETTING NEW MILESTONES

The Education UK Exhibition 2016 returned to Pakistan in October/November 2016. This time, however, the exhibition not only went bigger but better as well. The exhibition tour visited four cities: Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad and Faisalabad with a delegation of 19 UK universities. This was the first time that the exhibition opened its doors in the port city of Karachi and the industrial hub of Faisalabad after a gap of several years.

The tour kicked-off from Karachi, moving on to Islamabad followed by Faisalabad and concluded at Lahore. In addition to the day long exhibitions, the universities also undertook British Council arranged Campus Counselling visits to A Level schools and universities in Islamabad and Lahore. They were warmly welcomed by career counsellors and prospective international students at each campus. The British Council team had also arranged several networking events to facilitate connections between the participating UK institutions and key contacts from the public and private education sectors. The university



The participating universities for this year were:

- University of Leeds
- University of Surrey
- Cranfield University
- Robert Gordon University
- Queen Mary University of London
- University of Strathclyde
- The University of Manchester
- University of Dundee
- The University of Nottingham
- University of Warwick
- The University of York
- University of Kent
- University of Glasgow
- Newcastle University
- Kings College London
- Sheffield Hallam University
- University of Law
- University of Hertfordshire
- University of Edinburgh



delegates enjoyed networking dinners and evenings hosted by the provincial British Council Area Directors, the Country Director and dinner receptions hosted by the British High Commissioner, the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan and the concluding dinner at Lahore hosted by the Minister for School Education for the government of Punjab.

Over 5,000 people participated in the exhibition tour across four cities in 2016. The exhibition as always proved to be extremely popular amongst students who wish to pursue higher education in the UK; the event also attracted parents, training managers, prospective employers and representatives of the Pakistan tertiary institutions seeking transnational partnerships.







BUILDING CONNECTIONS

FACILITATING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR ALUMNI

The British Council Corporate Initiative - Employers' Fair 2016 took place at Lahore and Karachi with brilliant participation from 14 leading corporate employers of Pakistan and more than 1200 Pakistani UK alumni.

British Council Pakistan has been successfully running the Corporate Initiative - Employers' Fair since 2012 with an aim to connect Pakistani employers with Pakistani UK alumni along with international offices and careers offices at higher education institutions in the United Kingdom. This provides opportunities for Pakistani employers to establish long term links with universities in the UK in order to facilitate employment opportunities for graduates returning to Pakistan.

Employability remains a major concern for international students from Pakistan. UK institutes have one of the highest numbers of Pakistani students enrolled with them and both students and institutions welcome this opportunity that facilitates employment. The Corporate Initiative - Employers' Fair takes place alternatively in the UK and in Pakistan, providing opportunities to both fresh graduates and experienced professional alumni of UK institutions to explore possible employment opportunities; the fairs have resulted in successful job placements, internships and trainee programme placements.

In 2016 the following organisations participated in the event:

- The Hub Power Company
- TCS
- Hashoo Group
- Allied Bank Limited



- Nestle Pakistan
- Telenor Pakistan
- Sidat Hyder Morshed Associates Pvt Ltd
- ICI
- PepsiCo International
- University of Warwick
- Habib Oil Mills
- Dawn Media Group





The organisations came on board as partners to meet with Pakistani UK alumni, interview them and guide them about the local job market and professional development. British Council had also arranged for a series of sessions and talks on a range of topics focussing on enhancing employability and professional profiles. These included sessions on topics such as, "How to be creative" and "Building your personal brand" among others.

The attending UK alumni were a part of each session and took back valuable advice, guidance and tips shared by industry HR experts.



AWARDS 2017

STUDY UK ALUMNI AWARDS



Following the successful launch of the UK Alumni Awards in Pakistan last year, British Council Pakistan hosted the second Study UK Alumni Awards in Islamabad on 3 March 2017. The prestigious award ceremony was hosted by His Excellency Mr Thomas Drew CMG British High Commissioner to Pakistan and Rosemary Hillhorst OBE, Country Director British Council Pakistan. The evening not only recognised the outstanding achievements made by UK alumni but also provided a networking opportunity to alumni and partners. The awards celebrated the achievements of UK alumni and UK higher education under the following three categories:

- Professional Achievement Award
- Entrepreneurial Award
- Social Impact Award

This is the third year of the Study UK Alumni Awards globally, following a successful pilot year in India, China and the USA in 2015 and an expansion into ten countries last year. In Pakistan, the awards were piloted last year. The aspiration is for this to be an annual event, organised in collaboration with the UK government and the UK

higher education sector.

The awards honour UK university alumni who have made a significant contribution to the societies, professions and countries they now live in.

This year, Pakistan was among the top five countries in terms of the number of applications received. All applications went through a rigorous screening process. Shortlisted applications were then assessed and reviewed against judging criteria. Applicants were shortlisted and finalists were selected by a carefully selected external panel comprising of experts in various fields.

The award ceremony began with an address by Rosemary Hillhorst, Country Director British Council Pakistan. She spoke about the importance of alumni engagement and emphasised the value of UK education and the popularity of UK higher education institutions amongst young Pakistanis. The ceremony was hosted by renowned media personality Khalid Malik and was attended by many noteworthy guests including HI (M) Maj General Asghar Nawaz, Chairman National Disaster Management Authority, Dr Arshad Ali, Executive Director



Higher Education Commission and Mr Zulfiqar Cheema, Executive Director National Vocational and Technical Training Commission among other distinguished guests. The ceremony was followed by dinner and a live music performance.

Study UK Alumni Awards 2017 - Finalists

The finalists for the Study UK Alumni Awards 2017 are as follows:

Dr Usman Qamar, University of Manchester, Professional Achievement Award Category Finalist 2017

After successfully completing his Post-Doc, PhD and MPhil in Data Engineering from the University of Manchester and his MSc in Computer System Design with distinction from UMIST, Dr Usman Qamar established the first of its kind Knowledge and Data Engineering Research Centre (KDRC) at National University of Science and Technology (NUST), Islamabad. This research centre was set up in 2011 to meet the challenges of data driven and knowledge driven large scale intelligent systems for real world applications. Since its inception, the centre has made significant impact

in health sciences and has also created an application called Intellihealth to assist doctors in diagnosing several diseases. Passionate about bringing a change to the medical set up in Pakistan, Dr Qamar's application is currently being tested in two leading hospitals of Pakistan and helping doctors in diagnosing diseases and medical issues. The application works on a clinical decision support system and aims to reduce the burden of doctors and medical specialists at Government hospitals.

Currently working at NUST as an Assistant Professor, Dr. Qamar believes that his time at UMIST and University of Manchester was instrumental in defining his career in research and teaching. Dr Qamar believes that being involved in cutting-edge discussions on clinical decision support system allowed him to develop a sharp analytical capacity.

Amna Zamir, University of Leicester, Professional Achievement Award Category Finalist 2017

Following her LLM in Human Rights Law from the University of Leicester under the prestigious Chevening Scholarship, Amna Zamir returned to Gilgit-Baltistan (GB), one of the remote areas of Northern Pakistan. Very recently, Amna was promoted as a Senior Civil Judge for the Pakistan Judiciary of Gilgit-Baltistan and holds the honour of being the first ever female to serve as a Civil Judge in the GB region.



Amna Zamir has also been associated with various civil society organisations offering free legal aid and advice to those who can't afford to seek quality legal services. Amna has previously been associated with the Aga Khan Conciliation and Arbitration Board as a local chair and has mainly dealt with alternate dispute resolution.

She believes that the year she spent studying in the UK played a vital role in her success today. She feels that her UK education further strengthened her learning and gave her additional insight into her work and professional development. Amna Zamir feels that her experience at University of Leicester working with her tutors there provided her with valuable growth and additional understanding of her demanding field.

Dr Nousheen Zakaria, University of Leeds and University of Sheffield, Entrepreneurial Award Category Finalist 2017

Nousheen earned her PhD in Strategic Human Resource Management from the University of Leeds in 2014, and her MSc in Human Resource Management from the University of Sheffield in 2007. She is the CEO and co-founder of Out Of Box Ltd, UK and The Code It Company, Pakistan, which provides IT and software solutions to clients all over the world. Nousheen is responsible for conceptualising and releasing over seven mobile apps and fifteen websites offering new and intuitive services to clients globally.

Nousheen has worked with some of the most prestigious global clients and has launched over 30 new and intuitive websites and over seven mobile apps both globally and locally. Some of her intuitive websites include Homework.pk - Pakistan's first and only platform for freelancers, BeKarachi.com, a platform for budding entrepreneurs and Shaditayari.pk, Pakistan's first wedding suppliers' directory. She has emerged as a leader in her field of work and is actively involved in endeavours of social welfare and community building. She also extends support to people with special needs by creating equal-employment opportunities for them to work within her firm.

Nousheen believes that her experience of studying in the UK has changed the way she sees the world, adopts new approaches and develops new ideas. It has not only enhanced her critical thinking skills, and transformed



her world view but has also provided her with a global perspective. She says that her time at Leeds and Sheffield inspired her and helped her become the successful entrepreneur that she is today. She attributes her current practices of employing diverse staff and people with special needs and introducing policies to support them in her organisation to the training she received in the UK.

Sibtain Jiwani, Manchester Metropolitan University, Entrepreneurial Award Category Finalist 2017

Muhammad Sibtain Jiwani completed his Bachelors in Business Information Technology from Manchester Metropolitan University, UK in 2007. Sibtain left a successful career at a top fintech company in Pakistan to launch a start-up, building Pakistan's first personal finance e-commerce platform. Sibtain's venture, smartchoice.pk was selected as one of the top 50 start-ups in Start-up Istanbul, Turkey. Smartchoice.pk, which allows consumers to compare insurance, broadband and financial products online, is the first free comparison service in Pakistan. Sibtain now plans to scale up his start-up and make it one of the most dynamic and vibrant organisations in Pakistan.



Sibtain takes pride in his start-up venture being selected as one of the top 50 startups at Startup Istanbul in Turkey. His venture was selected from over 100 applications for a 4 month programme run by Nest I/O, a tech incubator backed by Google for Entrepreneurs.

Sibtain believes that his time in the UK evolved his approach to life. He believes that it was because of the immense opportunities he received in the UK that helped him in developing resilience, leadership and discipline required to be a successful entrepreneur. As a president of the Student Union at his university, Sibtain was able to understand what it takes to manage a diverse team, build relationships and communicate with a range of people belonging to various backgrounds.

Muhammad Kamran Siddiqui, Queen Mary University of London, Social Impact Award Category Finalist 2017

Muhammad Kamran Siddiqui earned his Master's in Sustainable Energy Systems from Queen Mary University of

London in 2015 under the Commonwealth Scholarships. He is now working as a Senior Analyst at Élan – a consultancy firm providing engineering solutions in energy and environment.

Kamran is passionate about playing his part in community empowerment and growth through clean and cheap energy solutions. Electrification of 2900 houses through Solar Home Systems in rural Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and Pakistan's first glass solar power system at Sukkur IBA are the highlights of his work in sustainable development sector. During his tenure at his current organisation, Kamran has led on projects to provide electricity to around 18,000 people in rural and remote areas of KP, provide electricity to 50 government schools in Sukkur and to train and provide awareness to the young generation of Pakistan.



Kamran attributes his passion for community empowerment to his time studying in the UK which not only honed his practical skills in the areas of clean energy and sustainable development but also transformed his outlook towards life, his community and his thirst to give back to his country.

Moneeza Burney, Sheffield Hallam University, Social Impact Award Category Finalist 2017

After earning her Bachelors in Business Economics from Sheffield Hallam University, UK in 2013, Moneeza returned to Pakistan with a desire to help her community and mobilise youth for social causes. With a passion for community awareness and community empowerment, Moneeza joined the Lahore Students Union LSU as a Programme Director. She launched LSU Community Service Initiative in April 2015, and to date has placed over 600 youth volunteers at 50+ partner NGOs, social projects, and civil society organisations across a wide range of social causes, from Gender Empowerment to Poverty Alleviation.

LSU CSI is a structured 6 week social internship programme for young individuals, predominantly students. It solicits applicants for volunteer opportunities across



10 development segments and then conducts their selection and placement across its 50+ partner NGOs and social projects in Lahore. It is a unique programme which aims to create awareness among young students about the various issues that prevail in the society today. It encourages them to work with NGOs who are dedicated to deal with those issues in various categories including education, cultural and environmental conservation, gender empowerment, peace and non-violence and poverty alleviation among others.

Moneeza volunteered at the Sheffield Hallam University's student union and was exposed to many creative ideas of how to mobilise the youth to work for social causes through fundraising and other campaigns. She is now working to expand her community service programme into youth social entrepreneurship, youth social impact projects, and formal school service learning programmes. She believes that studying at a UK university was a unique experience for her. During her time at the Sheffield Hallam University, she volunteered as part of the university's student union and learned about prospects of mobilising youth to work for a social cause through fundraising and other campaigns.

Study UK Alumni Awards 2017 – Winners

Dr Umar Saif, University of Cambridge, Winner Professional Achievement Award Category 2017

The Professional Achievement award went to Dr Umar Saif, Chairman Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB) and Founding Vice Chancellor Information Technology University (ITU) Lahore. The award was presented by Mr Zulfqar Cheema, Executive Director National Vocational and Technical Training Commission.

Dr Umar Saif completed his BSc in Computer Science from Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and then went to the UK to pursue his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Cambridge in 1998. Dr Saif also holds a post doctorate in Computer Science from



the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Dr Saif holds extensive experience in academia, management, consulting and entrepreneurship in the IT sector. He has worked as a full time faculty member at LUMS between 2006 and 2013 and in 2009 became one of the few professors who have been awarded permanent tenure by LUMS.

Dr Saif is currently the Chairman of the Punjab Information Technology Board (PITB), heading all public sector IT projects in the Government of Punjab since Nov 2011. In 2013, he was appointed the founding Vice Chancellor of the Information Technology University (ITU), where he established a new University with programs in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering.

Dr Saif was the first Pakistani to be named as one of the top 35 young innovators in the world in 2011 by MIT Technology Review. He was the first Pakistani to receive the prestigious Google Faculty Research Award in 2011. He was selected as a Young Global Leader (YGL) by the World Economic Forum in 2010 and is also a recipient of the MIT Technovator Award in 2008, Mark Weiser Award in 2008, IDG CIO Technology Pioneer Award in 2008 and Digital Inclusion Award from Microsoft Research in 2006. His papers have received best paper awards in ACM CHI 2013 and IEEE Percom 2008. During his doctorate studies, Dr Saif was a Trinity College Overseas Scholar and Commonwealth Scholar at University of Cambridge. Dr. Saif received his PhD at the age of 22 years.

Dr. Saif has widely consulted for Asian Development Bank, USAID, World Bank and DFID on e-governance projects with the Government of Pakistan. He has consulted for ADB for the civil service reform program with Punjab Public Service Commission (PPSC); DFID for evaluating the MIS developed for the Faisalabad Devolution Program; USAID for the Rural Tubewell Energy Efficiency Program; and the World Bank for the Punjab Land Record MIS (LRMIS). A successful technology entrepreneur, Dr. Saif has founded several technology start-ups: BumpIn.com, Additback.com, SeeNreport.com, SMSall.pk and TicketMy.com.

Dr Saif's entire body of work has been specifically focused around innovative technology with the ability to impact lives of large numbers of people. He takes pride in the fact that he introduced the start-up culture in Pakistan

by setting up its first incubator in 2007 to assist talented young innovators achieve the potential of their ideas and followed it up by founding Pakistan's largest start-up incubator. Over the past nine years they have incubated over 20 successful start-ups. Realizing the large scale impact simplest of technological interventions can create, he ventured to improve the governance in Pakistan through IT interventions aimed at process automation and digitization. These interventions have had a direct impact on improving transparency, accountability and citizen experience. As chairman PITB, Dr Saif has so far headed over 270 governance improvement interventions in fields as diverse as education, police, health, agriculture that have directly affected the lives of over 100 million people.

Dr Saif chose University of Cambridge for its history, contribution to a diverse range of disciplines and the surreal gothic magnificence that serves as the ideal setting for research and flights of human imagination. He could not have imagined a better place for his doctorate. He believes that the level of professionalism he encountered at the university and the British society in general was truly inspirational and something that he could not have encountered elsewhere in the world. Pursuing a Computer Science degree at one of the world's oldest institutions, he was amazed to see an old world code of ethics merge harmoniously with cutting edge technology.

Ahmed Daniyal Siddiqui, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Winner Entrepreneurial Award Category 2017

The award for Entrepreneurial category was awarded to Daniyal Siddiqui, CEO Premier Energy. The award was presented by our honoured guest Dr Arshad Ali, Executive Director Higher Education Commission Pakistan.

Daniyal Siddiqui is an electrical engineer by profession and an entrepreneur, corporate trainer, public speaker, writer and Radio and TV anchor by passion. As an entrepreneur he has established various companies including Premier Energy which has been rated as Pakistan's fastest growing renewable energy company in Pakistan. His entrepreneurial venture has impacted more than 27 cities across the country by entitling them to a resilient energy system. Premier Energy today employs more than 100 people within 2.5 years of operation, creating



employment opportunities for at least 100 families. The solar installations have led to over 500 tons of CO2 reduction, hence, playing its role in environment protection and promotion of clean energy. Premier Energy has also managed to impact lives in the underprivileged areas. The company has converted more than 150 agriculture sites on solar through the provision of solar water pumps impacting more than five million lives.

As an enthusiastic youth activist keen to empower the youth, Daniyal Siddiqui has long been inspiring the youngsters through his motivational speeches, blogs, radio shows as well as success coaching. Coming from an educational background, he holds double Masters Degrees in Engineering from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow Scotland UK & Engineering Management from UET Lahore.

He is an internationally renowned radio broadcaster and has hosted shows in Pakistan and Scotland. He is a certified NLP practitioner excelling in public speaking and corporate trainings which has earned him respect and credibility internationally. He is one of the youngest Pakistanis to be awarded the prestigious NLP. Daniyal Siddiqui has numerous international achievements and recognitions to his credit including prestigious Bahauddin Zakariya University Roll of Honour Award, Aizaz-e-Multan Award, scholarships by Governments of Pakistan, Romania, Scotland, Saudi Arabia and South Korea.

Daniyal Siddiqui also runs one of largest youth groups of Pakistan "Jaago Naujawan" which has organized numerous International conferences and youth based projects. He is an author of three books and has led 38-member youth delegation to New Delhi, India for which he received international recognition at various platforms.

He believes that the liberty to think big and the provision of an environment that encouraged exchange of ideas is UK's most prominent contribution to his success. The University's Centre for Entrepreneurship provided him with a platform where he could shape his ideas practically. The university not only provided him with technical skills but also helped him groom his overall personality.

Abia Akram, University of Warwick, Winner Social Impact Award Category 2017

The award for the Social Impact category was awarded to Abia Akram, a social enthusiast who works for the facilitation and betterment of people with disabilities. The award was presented by HI (M) Maj General Asghar Nawaz, Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority Pakistan.

Having completed her post-graduation in Gender and International Development from the University of Warwick, Abia Akram returned to Pakistan with a passion to give voice to disabled people of Pakistan and started engaging herself in various activities to support her passion. With a personal experience of having had a physical disability since childhood, she has been working with a group of persons with disabilities since 1997 with the mission of breaking barriers of social exclusion and developing role models for society. As part of the group, she helped develop the Special Talent Exchange Programme (STEP), a self-help in Pakistan. In 2006, Abia Akram represented Pakistan in UNESCAP South-to-South Conference held in



Thailand and became a part of the Asia Pacific Network of Independent Living (APNIL) which provided her with an opportunity to understand international trends.

In following years, she established Capital Independent Living Center and developed relationships with global partners for training and capacity building. Since then, Abia has been engaged in organizing leadership trainings and seminars for disabled persons and activities for creating awareness among masses. She has published a hand book, 'Disability Framework in Pakistan', and has translated the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities for the benefit of people with disabilities in Pakistan.

Abia Akram has been a strong advocate of the inclusion of women and girls with disabilities not only at the grass root level but also at a national and international level. Abia is also a member of Beijing +20 Review Committee member and has been highlighting the concerns of women with disabilities in global agenda and as well as participating in the United Nations Conference of the State Parties, High-Level Stakeholders Conference on Sustainable Development Goals and UNICEF Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities held in UN New York.

Abia now dreams to do something meaningful for the higher education of persons with disabilities in Pakistan and envisions a just and inclusive society, where people with disabilities live with dignity, respect, and equality.

She believes that her education in the UK enhanced her capabilities to bridge a substantial gap in the area of research and academic publications on disability and development in the country.

COUNSELLORS' SYMPOSIUM – 2017

BRINGING TOGETHER PROFESSIONALS FROM ACROSS CITIES



The 7th British Council Counsellors' Symposium was held at Beaconhouse National University, Lahore, on Thursday, 16th February 2017. The one day event catered to the professional development of individuals working with students: career advisors, student counsellors, educational leaders, educational managers and teachers who manage vital co-curricular student profile building.

The Counsellors' Symposium featured plenary and parallel sessions on a range of contemporary topics focussing on international education trends and international education. The speakers and presenters comprised of leading professionals, trainers and representatives from UK institutions.

The symposium was attended by more than 140 professionals.

The event started off with a panel discussion on the topic of "Student counselling in Pakistan – expectations and limitations". The panel consisted of leading professionals from the industry. Mr. Syed Abidi, the Chief Executive of the Falcon Education and Consultancy Services, Mr. Zeeshan Riaz, Country Representative for the University of Warwick and Dr. Gulnaz Zahid, Assistant Professor at NUST were the distinguished panellists. The session was moderated by Ms. Saman Imtiaz, Head of Study UK for British Council Pakistan.

The panel discussion was followed by a plenary session

conducted by Mr. Zeeshan Riaz. The topic of the session was, "Core skills and competencies for effective student counselling". The one hour session proved to be extremely popular with a healthy exchange and discussion between the participants and the honoured presenter.

The Symposium proceedings continued with three parallel sessions, giving participants a choice to attend a session



on their particular area of interest. The three parallel sessions were:

'Digital research skills for effective counselling', by Mr. Sannan Wastani, Manager Digital Media, British Council.

'Counselling post graduate and research students', by Mr. Zaeem Yaqoob Khan, Director Student Affairs and External Relations, Beaconhouse National University.

'Active student engagement in the counselling process', by Mr. Ahad Gul, Head of Access Centre (North), Beaconhouse School System.

The parallel sessions were followed by a plenary session by Mr Dan Herman, International Officer at University of Manchester on, "Subject selection and what to expect from higher education in the UK" via webinar. The final plenary session for the day was conducted by Mr. Syed Abidi on the topic of "Career counsellors of the 21st century – facts and myths". It was followed by the closing note delivered by Ms. Nishat Riaz, Director Education, British Council.

The popular annual Counsellors' Symposium concluded on a high note with feedback shared by the participants in which they requested areas and subjects that they would like British Council to cover in the next Symposium. The event is a unique platform for the professional development and training of advisors and counsellors and also provides opportunities to share best practices among professional counsellors from across cities.



BRITISH COUNCIL LIBRARIES

BRINGING
LIBRARIES BACK!



On a Sunday morning, children and parents lounge in a brightly-lit room with colourful beanbags and happily sing along. A group of theatre artists re-enact an adaptation of Shakespeare's King Lear in front of an entranced audience. A bunch of medical school students take a break from their thick books to play a game of ice-hockey on a giant touchscreen tablet.

The British Council Pakistan libraries don't shush; they roar.

In the digital age, Pakistan's metropolises stride to keep up with global trends of community centres that cater to young professionals, families with children, older citizens, artists and intellectuals – all at the same time. The British Council libraries in Karachi and Lahore have made a comeback at a time when the rise of libraries as vibrant and attractive community hubs begins to make sense, and the need to create digital literacy is more vital than ever. Our libraries don't just lend books, they lend safe spaces to think, talk, create, and share. They also let you sip your coffee and enjoy a book in the afternoon sun!

Space: Natural light, innovative architecture, cutting edge technology and bean bags!

In many ways, our spaces defy traditional expectations of a typical library setting. While boasting of several features of a conventional library – rows upon rows of books, quiet rooms, and work-stations, they also boast of central spaces that are not quiet; a bustling café, game-stations, in-house printing and photocopying facilities, Wi-Fi access, and all the power outlets your heart desires. Members often come in with their own devices, plug in, and get their work done. As an ideal collaborative learning setting, members bring their own reading and writing material, have work meetings, students huddle together for group project discussion, or simply hang out with friends. If solitary living is more their style, they are happy to lounge with a cup of tea from our in-house cafe and their thoughts, or book a quiet room in the library for the day and work on that overdue article or academic paper, or in some glorious cases, the novel they had always been meaning to start.

Collection: We have that indie comic book you couldn't find in any bookstore in the city

Our collection mirrors across both sites. We have leading international magazines, such as *Granta* or *New Yorker*, available in our libraries, as well as iPads available for borrowing within the library premises. As a general interest library, our collection best serves people who enjoy reading recreationally as well as for self-improvement. Our library stock is a diverse and well-curated collection of prize-winning literature and best-sellers from around the world, and is updated several times a year. We are especially proud of our graphic novels collection, the largest in Pakistan. Our most popular collection though, is our children's section; books fly off the shelves so quickly that we have to constantly replenish lest the shelves look woefully empty.

Events: A Geek, an Artist, and a Hipster walk into a Library...

Our events reflect the needs and likes of our diverse audiences while keeping an eye on local, regional and global trends and developments. Each month has its own distinct theme. From Science & Technology to Music, Children's Literature and Entrepreneurship, we have something for everyone.



Crisp, breezy Lahore evenings come alive with the strains of guitar and the beat of the drum, our large well-lit library garden studded with people grooving to a famous pop artist's live popular tunes. Karachi's breezy evenings lure people into the spacious outdoor courtyard for an open-air screening of star-studded cinema productions.

In addition to entertainment based events, we offer our members the opportunity to connect with a thriving community of like-minded individuals through activities they enjoy, such as our monthly book club, children's storytelling hour, and writing groups.

Digital Library: Transcending Boundaries

Not only do you have a great place to hang out, but you carry the library everywhere you go with you – or at least everywhere your smartphone goes with you. Our digital library offers entertainment on the go. It gives members access to magazines like *The Economist* and *Elle UK* to make long waits at the doctor's office worthwhile, brings award-winning films from around the globe for lazy Sundays in, provides audiobooks to brighten up your long commutes, and learning games for children so you can finally let your child play with your phone guilt-free. For students, teachers and all lovers of learning, we have invaluable resources including academic journal articles from JSTOR, the best of international theatre available for viewing in HD, and thousands of top academic textbooks. Our online business school gives library members a chance to brush up on skills essential to jobs and businesses, such as finance and marketing.

Access to our digital library can also be acquired through an exclusively digital membership, ideal for people who are located in areas without a physical British Council Pakistan library.

Join us!

To find out more about our membership packages, log on to www.library.britishcouncil.pk. You can also book a tour to our library in Lahore or Karachi and visit us to become a member, or sign up for a Digital membership from anywhere in Pakistan by visiting www.library.britishcouncil.pk/join.



SCHOOLS' PROGRAMME

THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL AWARD



The International School Award (ISA) is a prestigious badge award for schools that can bring an international dimension to teaching and learning. The framework helps teachers and head teachers to introduce or develop their school's international dimension through:

- a framework for international partnerships and global learning
- recognition for teachers and their school
- opportunities to raise the school's profile

The ISA is designed to work alongside every school's existing curriculum. It's based around the idea that a partnership will flourish if the international work is integrated with everyday classroom activity. Work that tackles global themes does not necessarily require extra effort. The ISA encourages a truly embedded approach. Experience shows that this makes it much easier to engage the whole school, particularly other educators and the senior management team

Benefits school, pupils and teachers

- Opens a window to other countries and cultures, giving teachers and pupils a new outlook on the world.
- Prepares pupils with skills for life and work in a global economy, opening their eyes to new opportunities.
- Prepares young people for life in a global society by increasing their understanding of other countries and cultures
- Gives your school a fresh and attractive identity, and a new globally conscious ethos
- Recognises a school's commitment to developing global citizenship in young people, and gives opportunities to raise the schools' profile through local and national media

Key takeaways:

- International School Award is a leadership challenge and fosters team-building, innovation, and project management.



- Working on the Action Plan and the Portfolio encourages collaboration and critical thinking. The staff is motivated to improve teaching standards in their respective schools.
- Pupils are taught using a methodology that embeds global themes in the curriculum.
- International School Award gives context to practice new skills in Information & Communications Technology (ICT) and pedagogy in a safe and structured manner.
- After registering for the International School Award, you can attend briefings and workshops; join an online community that provides a platform to all for exchange of ideas.
- Once the school receives the award, the head teacher and the International School Award teams receive certificates that acknowledge their outstanding contribution as educational professionals.

For further information, call at British Council Information Centre (0800-22000), Monday to Friday 0900 – 1800 or email us at info@britishcouncil.org.pk. Visit our website www.britishcouncil.pk

ALUMNI STORY

FAZEELA KHAN THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

I am currently doing my Master's degree in International Finance and Economics from the University of Sheffield, and I did my undergraduate from Sheffield as well.

I first came to know about University of Sheffield through an educational consultant and then I did my own research where I found out that it's one of the Russell Group universities and has been ranked amongst the top universities of UK for research. They also offer merit scholarships to Pakistani students, and I was one of the only two students to have been awarded a scholarship for my Master's degree in that year.

It was a natural choice for me to study in UK as since I had done my undergraduate degree there and was familiar with the system. An added incentive for me was that the Master's degree is only one-year long in UK. My preferred career path is to eventually work in research or consultancy; based on that I am currently studying International Finance and Economics.

Applying for a Master's at the University of Sheffield is really easy. It is just an online form that takes you on a step-by-step procedure to complete all the requirements. I had to write a statement of purpose and submit two letters of recommendations along with my academic documents as part of the application.

My experience at Sheffield University has been great as it attracts top talent from around the world. This creates a highly competitive environment, which makes studying here even more interesting. The course is structured into main lectures and tutorials which makes understanding the modules easier. The libraries are open 24/7 and the professors are friendly and always available through the online forum.

The best part of coming to the United Kingdom and especially to University of Sheffield is that there is a diverse group of students in the university from all around the world. The benefit of having international friends is that I get to know about different cultures and get introduced to so many tasty cuisines. A good way to make friends at university is to attend events and activities arranged by students; I believe it is a good way to make new friends from across the university.

The Students' Union is one of the best things about University of Sheffield. It is where you can find answers to all your concerns, get a train or bus ticket, post your mail, enjoy a lovely meal or just hang out with friends. The ambience is great and always welcoming, and you get the real sense of belonging which is why Sheffield Students' Union is number one in the UK.

I was very excited to be coming to the UK and starting a new chapter of my life. The culture, the British accent and food were very new to me. The university organised many events in the fresher's week to help the new students socialise, discover new places and be comfortable.

Halal food was one of my main concerns; however, I was pleasantly surprised to find a lot of Halal shops and Pakistani/Indian restaurants near the university area. The university cafes also offer Halal food which made life so much easier but ultimately I learned to cook for myself.

I am currently working part-time with the International Office at university as an International Office Ambassador. This job has not only enhanced my communications skills but has also taught me how to manage my time and be more organised.

Each semester timetable is structured in a way that I get enough time during the week for self-study and participate in extra co-curricular activities. Christmas and Easter breaks are the best times to travel around the UK with my friends. Meanwhile, during the term, the Students' Union organises day trips which are not only fun but also a great way to enjoy a break from studies.

After finishing my degree, I plan to get a job and start working on my career path. I would very much like to gain some work experience from the UK and then to go back to Pakistan.

University of Sheffield has an excellent career service that helps students in searching and applying for part-time and graduate jobs. The staff members are very friendly and help you with building your CV and online applications. The career service website is a very resourceful tool as you can find all job related material and advice on it, and students can utilise this benefit from this service even after they graduate. What more could one ask for.





STUDY UK DISCOVER YOU



A UK education can open the door to opportunity.
Find out what's possible for you.

ALUMNI STORY

HENNA SAEED MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY

I completed my Master's degree in Film Making from Manchester Metropolitan University in the United Kingdom in 2012.

Being a high-achiever throughout my educational career, I first did my Master's in Media Studies from Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, and won a gold medal. Following this, I worked in the Pakistan media industry for five years, but felt that something was missing. I felt stagnant and started to lose interest in my work. Instead of progressing I was losing interest in my field. Seeing all this, my mentor suggested that it was time I stepped out of my comfort zone and explored my inner talent in a more competitive environment.

I wanted to specialize in film/documentary making so I started searching for the best opportunities. I had the choice of studying in Canada, America, Australia and UK.

I chose United Kingdom – my first choice - the reason for this decision was the country's remarkable education system and the value of a British degree. Secondly, Pakistan and UK enjoy extremely good diplomatic relations. Moreover, cultural and educational activities between the two countries are productive and encouraging. Being an avid follower of the British Council in Pakistan, I had kept a close eye on the available opportunities and applied for the Chevening Scholarship in and secured it for the year 2011. I am so glad I made this decision; it is probably the best decision of my life.

Manchester is famous as the city of students. I always wanted to live and study in a place like Manchester, with a multi-cultural environment, stress-free lifestyle and

breath-taking scenery. When I decided to study in the UK, Manchester was my first choice. Having decided the city, I surveyed the universities and available courses. Finally I chose Manchester Met University, mainly due to its degree title, course instructors and market feedback. Moreover, some of my cousins in the U.K. had studied at MMU and told me what a fantastic experience it had been. On the whole, the city, my choice of course and personal feedback helped me decide on MMU as my choice of educational institution.

My dream job at BBC is my biggest achievement to date and for that I have to thank British Council, Manchester Metropolitan University and the Chevening Scholarship Program.

It's a long journey that has led me to the fulfilment of my dream. As soon as I finished my Master's degree at MMU with a distinction, I won the prestigious O2 North-West Media Award in the category of EMERGING TALENT OF THE YEAR 2012, in UK. Highly motivated by this honour and my recent degree, I returned to Pakistan and joined a Pakistani news agency, ETN, to produce live beepers and reports/documentaries for international news channels like, ABC News-USA, Arise News-USA, MTA TV-UK, ABP News-India, Times Now-India, IBN-7 India, Channel News Asia-Singapore, Al-Jazeera and CNN.

I also worked with the local media and launched the Pakistani media outlet, Channel 24, as the head of International Desk, producing and anchoring a daily international news show titled, "World 24".

In 2016, I was honoured by the British Council, for being selected as a finalist in the Professional Excellence Category of the Education UK Alumni Awards 2016, in Pakistan.

Currently, I am in my last year of completing my PhD in Mass Communication from the University of Punjab, Lahore.

Studying in the United Kingdom was a remarkable experience. Living and studying with people from across the globe, diverse lifestyles and a story of their own, I had a lot to learn and take inspiration from.

The multi-cultural environment of UK, transformed me into a more open-minded, creative, confident, pleasant, talkative and a more aware person. This exposure made me a leader in the true sense. With the degree and an award under my belt, I returned to Pakistan and started teaching at the largest South-Asian university, Punjab University in Lahore. Later in 2013, I joined the PhD Mass Communication program at the same university.





Professionally, I was equipped and trained to take over the local market but I chose to work with the international media because I had the experience and profile to take up this exclusive job. At Eastern News Television, I worked for international clients including ABC News-USA, Arise News-USA, MTA TV-UK, ABP News-India, Times Now-India, IBN-7 India, Channel News Asia-Singapore, Al-Jazeera and CNN.

I also worked with the local media and launched the Pakistani media outlet, Channel 24, as Head of International Desk, producing and anchoring a daily international news show titled "World 24".

In 2016, I was honoured by the British Council, for being a finalist in the Professional Excellence category, Education UK Awards 2016, in Pakistan.

Recently, I have joined the BBC Urdu Service in Lahore as a Multimedia Reporter. I believe that I have started to achieve all my dreams, educational or professional, all thanks to the British Council and Manchester Metropolitan University.

I am a member of the Manchester Metropolitan University Alumni Network, Chevening Alumni Network, British Alumni Association of Pakistan and PUAN-American Journalist Exchange Program at East-West Center.

I came to the United Kingdom for the first time in 2011, when I joined Manchester Metropolitan University as a Chevening Scholar to study masters in Filmmaking. I had been to America and the Middle East for journalist training programs but it was my first trip to Europe. My one year in United Kingdom was like a roller-coaster ride, too much to do and less time.

The filmmaking course was a tough one because we were shooting in the field, editing in the studio or taking lectures, and we hardly got any free time. Besides, I was working on-campus. Manchester Metropolitan University had many activities for international students, mainly clubs of their respective countries and sports groups. I was a member of the Arts Club and we had occasional dinners, film screenings and talks that I attended.

This has been a life-changing experience indeed. The list of unforgettable moments in the UK is so long that I don't know where to start. Manchester has a special place in my heart and since I completed my degree, I have been to UK multiple times, to meet all the friends and teachers I spent time with.

Attending the Olympics 2012 in UK was an amazing experience. The ambiance was phenomenal; it seemed as if the entire world had shrunk into that small stadium, with people from across the globe.

Working for the British Council's Celebrating Connections campaign, I was honoured and felt I had an important responsibility on my shoulders, to inspire the youth and strengthen the strong bond between Pakistan and UK.

Winning the O2 North-West Media Award, held in Manchester, UK. I not only represented Manchester Metropolitan University but also my home country Pakistan. Such recognition and encouragement is rare, especially for international students. Throughout my student life in the UK, I felt I was welcomed and respected like a celebrity. I loved the attention.

Living in Manchester, going to university on the free bus, having lunch at Nando's at Oxford Road, going to the university church with friends, shopping at Arndale Center, hanging out at the Albert Square Christmas market, Odeon films, wearing long boots, splashing in the rain, shivering in the cold, taking the local bus to Trafford Center, taking the train to London for a holiday, going to the Liverpool Art Gallery for a study trip and much more. Life in the UK is happening and happy, for those who want to make the most of it.

While studying at MMU, I applied at the university job center and secured a place as a student ambassador at JOB4STUDENTS. It was truly a fun experience. Arranging open days, hosting events, giving feedback on university projects and the amazing magazine photo-shoots were the best of all activities.

As a student ambassador, I remember once I was leading a parents' group to see the arts campus at MMU. I was making announcements and giving directions on a loud speaker, when one of my tutors and a guest said, "She is an amazing girl with good self-confidence." This line, though just a sentence, had an extreme effect on my work life. I felt humbled, happy and encouraged.

The experience of working with students of the same university but in different programs and with backgrounds helped me become friendly, tolerant, it taught me how to work as a team and to understand different approaches. On-campus employment is the best opportunity for international students to connect with the staff, other students and prospective students.

I would advise students to first unlearn in order to learn and be themselves. Creativity comes to people with an open mind, so anyone who wants to come to UK to study should shed their inhibitions, connect with people from all backgrounds and be bold. This is a life-time opportunity that only lucky people get. For me, it became a life-changing opportunity because I chose to explore myself and this country with an open mind and heart.

ALUMNI STORY

MAKHDOOM FAKHAR ZAMAN

REGENT'S UNIVERSITY LONDON

1 **Less than three years ago, you were studying Global Business Management at Regent's. Now, you are Pakistan's youngest-ever District Chairman. How does it feel to have been awarded this position at such a young age?**

I was always into politics; from the age of 16, I assisted my father in his political campaigns, so it wasn't new to me. I was familiar with the political system. I knew that I wanted to help people – seeing people's passion, their commitment to bettering the district, it really motivated me to help them further.

It is a lot of responsibility, being given this position at my age. I feel very blessed but at the same time I feel

that there is a lot of pressure on my shoulders. Being the youngest, I have a lot of eyes on me, a lot of people looking at me and looking at what my policies are. But I'm confident in myself and I think people have elected me for a reason. There is definitely pressure to prove to people that they were right to elect me, but I think that pressure just gives me more motivation, it makes me hungrier to do better. It's only been a month and a half since I was elected, so let's see how it goes. I have the trust and cooperation of my Party, and I will definitely repay their trust by doing something substantial for my district.

2 **What do you hope to achieve as District Chairman?**

I plan on focusing on healthcare and education, particularly education for women. I want women in the district to receive a high level of education and to have completely equal rights and freedom. I would also like to introduce reverse-osmosis plants to the district, to provide everyone with access to pure drinking water. Those are my main agendas. It's a four-year term and it's only been a month and a half now so it's relatively new, but I have my plans in place. But we can't just start passing laws; I need to take time to understand what is best for the district as a whole, not just for one or two groups of people.

3 **How does it feel being back at Regent's for the first time since graduating?**

Very nostalgic! It still feels that I'm a part of it. I was very lucky to be part of the University, to study at such a beautiful place.

4 **Did your time at Regent's have an impact on where you are now?**

Certainly. It paved the way for my journey. Regent's gave me so much; it was the place I called home for four years. The opportunity to be here was amazing. The best part of it was that there is so much diversity here, which really helped me to understand people. I had the chance to interact with people from all over the world, from China, to America, to Australia. The way people think can be completely different; when we had group meetings, group presentations, there were so many different ways of thinking, of working, communicating, approaching things. That helped me learn how to understand people – and politics is all about understanding people.





5

What was the best aspect of being a student at Regent's?

The facilities and the staff; our teachers were exceptional. I liked the way that we studied – there wasn't the same pressure that other universities have, where they just have exams at the end of the year. At Regent's, we had more projects and group presentations, so we got to interact more with students and our professors. It was more about innovation, creativity, entrepreneurship, what you can bring to the new world – the world today is so challenging, it demands uniqueness, and that's what Regent's helped us develop.

6

What sums up the Spirit of Regent's for you?

Hardwork and dedication!

7

What advice would you give to those who are looking to develop or change their career?

Well, it's not long since I was a student myself. The only advice I would give would be to never give up; there's a lot of hard work involved, a lot of persistence, you have to be patient. You might fail again and again, but if you know what your goals are, it will come, one day or the other. Patience, persistence and dedication!

8

How do you see your career progressing – what are your plans for the future?

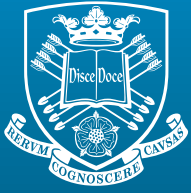
To be honest, I don't want to think about the future yet – I want to be here in the present and focus on my work now. My future plans will be based on what I do as District Chairman over the next few years. If I do progress, perhaps I could go on to be an MPA (Member of the Provincial Assembly), a Minister; you never know. But that is something that my Party and I would decide. Everyone has ambitions, and so do I, but right now, my focus is on doing everything I can for the people of my district.



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