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# Country Director's Message

I am delighted to welcome you to this issue on studying in the UK.

With a rich culture, a vibrant academic environment and home to many of the world's top universities, there isn't a better time to consider studying in the UK. Making a choice to study overseas is a family decision, finding the right course, the right school, college or university requires research – which is why this information has been carefully prepared to meet your needs.

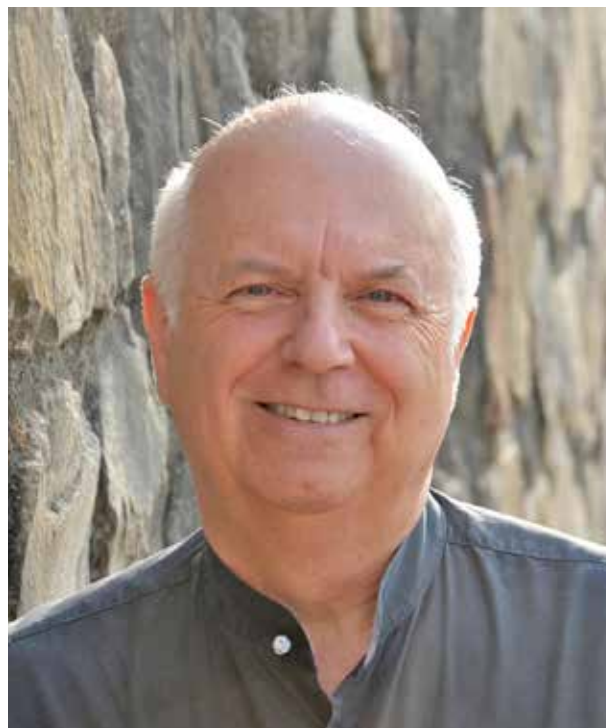
Each year over 10,000 Pakistani students study in the UK and nearly 6,000 take postgraduate courses. A further 35,000 students undertake transnational courses from the UK mainly at undergraduate level here in Pakistan. There are extensive student, academic and research links between both countries from joint degrees to collaboration on bio-diversity. The academic links between the UK and Pakistan are deep and continuing to expand. We are seeing a further expansion of transnational education with more courses on offer, more research links and an increase in postgraduate numbers. At the same time we are also promoting more links from the UK to Pakistan including student mobility.

Students from Pakistan are welcomed by higher education institutions across the UK. They regularly feature in feedback from departments and tutors as some of the most industrious and committed students enriching the wider academic community. This is a reflection of the commitment of students from Pakistan to study.

Choosing the right course is as important as choosing the right university, so it is important to do your research and seek advice from careers staff, representatives from universities, and of course the Education UK team. There are excellent courses beyond London, Edinburgh, Cambridge and Oxford so look widely at the opportunities. The UK has a reputation as an excellent destination for study with an emphasis on strong academic traditions, excellent facilities and good pastoral care for overseas students. Studying overseas or taking a transnational course in Pakistan is about a commitment to professional and academic development and your own career.

Two of the most common concerns for prospective students center on cost and visas.

Undergraduate courses in England, Northern Ireland and Wales are three years and are very cost effective compared to normal four year courses and a one year taught Masters Course is in contrast to the norm



of two year Masters courses elsewhere. So whilst the UK may not be the cheapest, it is excellent value for money in terms of quality, experience and future connections. There is no better way to build extended networks and achieve employment success or further an academic career than through overseas study. It is a life enhancing experience.

The other anxiety often raised is the issue of visas. The UK welcomes all eligible students and the changes to the visa regime have been designed to protect overseas students and to ensure only genuine students visit the UK. We are always delighted to welcome genuine students from Pakistan and the large numbers of Pakistani students studying in the UK is a reflection of this.

Studying overseas means that you leave as an ambassador for Pakistan, representing its people and culture at your place of study. All the evidence we have is that Pakistani students have done this very well and, when you return, we hope that you will be ambassadors both for the UK and Pakistan – enhancing the links between our nations. We wish you every success.

**Peter Upton CMG**  
Country Director - British Council Pakistan

# PAKISTAN

## Student Insight Survey – 2015

*“With its young demographic profile and a progressively increasing working-age population, Pakistan has a potentially powerful human resource which can provide a competitive advantage in the race for growth and prosperity in the age of globalisation. However, there are challenges, including securing the necessary financial support to move the education agenda forward.”*

The British Council is interested in understanding what draws high-calibre students from across the world to higher education in the UK. Student Insight provides a general snapshot of students who hold aspirations for foreign study.

This report focuses on prospective students from Pakistan, using data gathered from an ongoing study of 10,186 respondents living in-country at the time they were surveyed. From 1 January 2014 to 15 May 2015, 984 students participated, of which 739 were interested in higher education courses abroad. In the 2013-2014 academic year, 7,205 students from Pakistan travelled to the UK for higher education.

The questionnaire-based survey, administered through international education exhibitions, online education portals, and email invitations, is conducted annually.

The British Council has been conducting this survey since 2007 and has collected over 190,000 respondents globally to date.

All data used in this report was collected from 1 January 2014 to



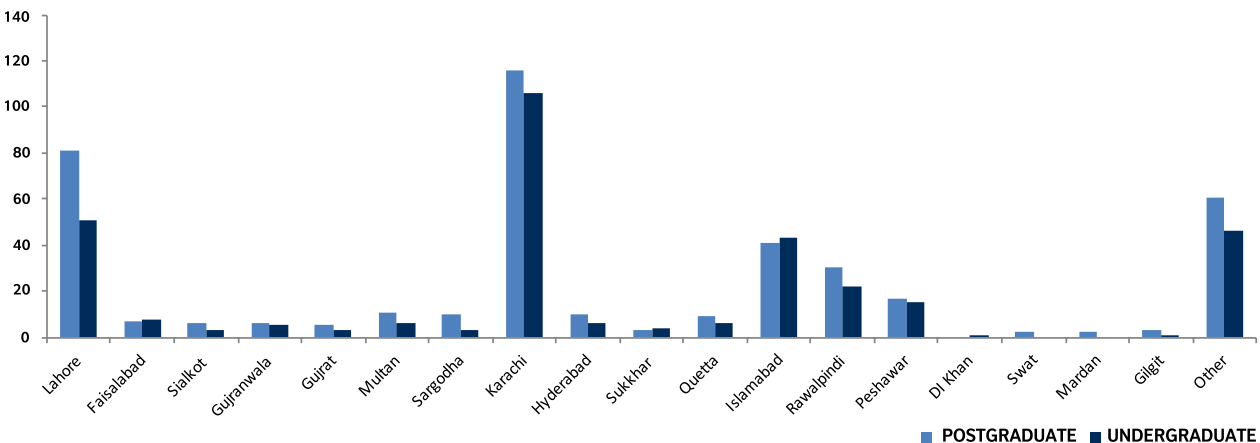
15 May 2015, unless otherwise noted.

Pakistan currently sends 37,962 students abroad to study according to the latest UNESCO figures. Those students overwhelmingly choose the UK (8,784) as the most

preferred study destination, with the US (4,455), Australia (3,762), Saudi Arabia (3,651) and United Arab Emirates (3,263) as the next most popular.

With its young demographic profile and a progressively increasing

### Where are undergraduate and postgraduate students from in Pakistan?



working-age population, Pakistan has a potentially powerful human resource which can provide a competitive advantage in the race for growth and prosperity in the age of globalisation. The ICEF Monitor reports modernising the country's education system, promoting literacy and promoting higher education have been recognised by the government as important priorities that must be addressed to ensure progress for Pakistan. However, there are challenges, including securing the necessary financial support to move the education agenda forward. In addition, security remains a pressing concern in Pakistan, as the country continues to work to improve its education system and governance.

In the meantime, studying abroad may provide a feasible alternative to students wishing to pursue quality education internationally.

### Where are undergraduate and postgraduate students from in Pakistan?

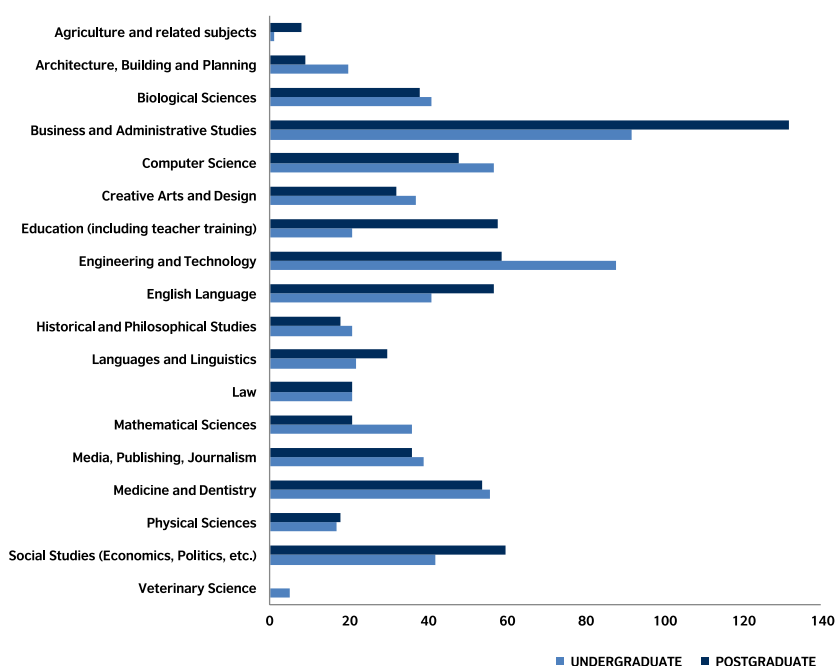
At most thirty per cent of the prospective students surveyed come from Karachi, Pakistan's largest city. Eighteen per cent of those surveyed come from Lahore, the country's second-largest city. Islamabad, the capital and Pakistan's tenth most populous city, is home to 12 per cent of those surveyed. Rawalpindi, located 14 kilometres from the capital and the fourth most populous city in Pakistan, is home to 7.3 per cent of survey respondents.

The city of Peshawar, Pakistan's eighth largest city and a major educational, political, and business centre for the province in which it is located, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (one of four in the country), is home to four per cent of the survey respondents.

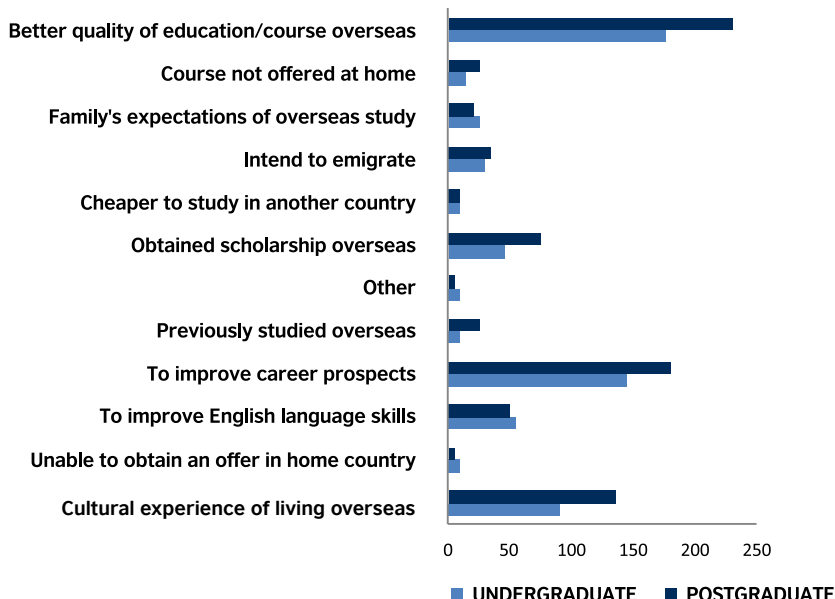
Overall most respondents were most interested in business and administrative studies (17%), and engineering and technology (12%), followed by medicine and dentistry (7.8%), with social studies (economics, politics etc., 7.6%), computer science (7.5%) and English language studies (7.2%)



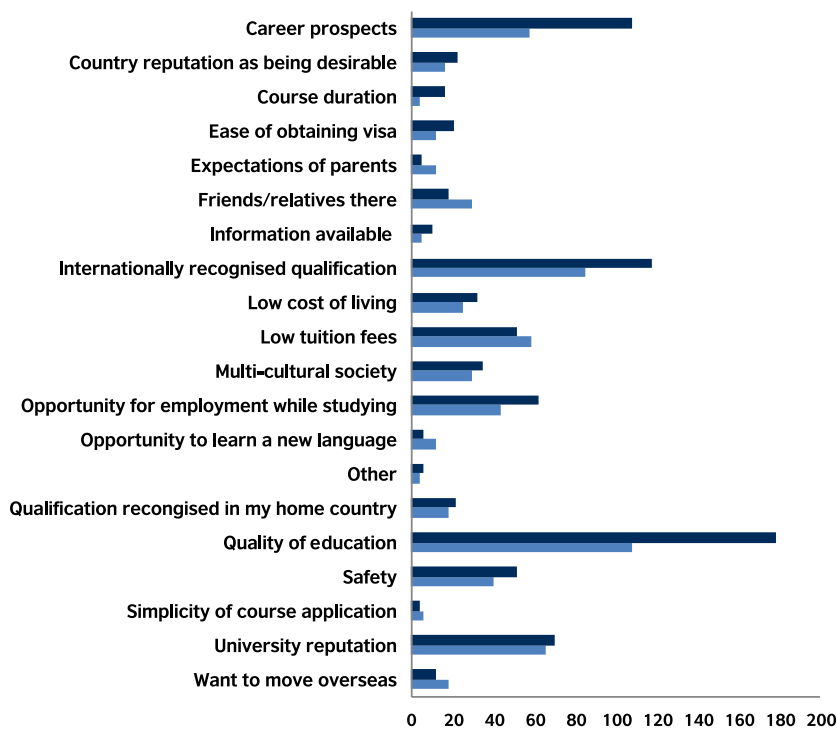
### Major subjects in demand



### What influences their decisions to study overseas?



## Influences on deciding which country to study in



as the next most preferred study programmes.

Among prospective postgraduates, business and administrative studies was by far the most popular (19%), followed by social studies (economics, politics etc., 8.7%), and engineering and technology (8.5%). Education, and English language studies were the next most preferred subjects (8.4 and 8.1% respectively). In contrast, potential undergraduates were more interested in engineering and technology (14.7%), followed by business and administrative studies (14%), computer science (8.3%), medicine and dentistry (8.2%), and social studies (6.5%).

Overall, the principal factor influencing a prospective student's decision to study abroad was access to better quality education (30%), and this was consistent with both postgraduates and undergraduates separately (selected by 30% of respondents within each group). Among potential postgraduates, 25% considered improving career prospects as the next most important factor influencing their decision to study abroad, followed by the cultural experience of living abroad (18%) and obtaining a

scholarship to study abroad (11%). For prospective undergraduates, improving career prospects was also the second most important influence in the decision to study abroad (25%), followed by the cultural experience of living abroad (15.8%), with improving English-language skills and obtaining a scholarship to study abroad, as equally important influences (both 8.2%).

In terms of the factors influencing the decision on study destination

(respondents could make multiple choices), the quality of education was considered to be the most influential factor (19.2%) overall. This was followed by internationally-recognised qualification (13.6%), career prospects (11.1%), university reputation (9.2%), low fees (7.6%) and the opportunity to work while studying (7.3%). Among prospective postgraduate students, quality of education was most important (21%); followed by international recognition of qualification (13.9%), career prospects (12.7%) and university reputation (8.4%). Opportunity to work while studying (7.5%) and low fees, which was equally influential as safety (both 5.3%), trailed close behind. Potential undergraduates considered quality of education a high priority (17%), with international recognition of qualification (13.3%) and university reputation (10.2%) as the next most important factors influencing the study destination decision. Low fees (9.2%) and career prospects (9%) were considered the next most important factors influencing the study destination decision.

While survey results indicate that there are various important sources of information when researching study abroad options, prospective students can consult their local British Council office for more information.





# Firm foundations for new ideas

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# UK student visa stories: **Syed from Pakistan**

**Syed Ghazi, from Pakistan, is studying Computer Network Management at The Manchester College. Having first studied in further education and now working toward a higher education degree, this is his second UK course – and his second successful UK visa.**

Source: <http://www.educationuk.org/pakistan/articles/uk-student-visa-stories-syed-pakistan/>

'My first visa was for my one-year foundation course, and I applied for it from Pakistan. After successfully completing my foundation course I moved onto a higher education foundation degree, and applied for my second visa in the UK. I just gave the forms to the college's international office, they sent them off for me, and literally five days later I had my biometric ID to stay for another year!

'When I first came to the UK in 2013, it was my first time studying abroad, and I was a bit nervous about everything, including the visa process. But as soon as I got my offer from the college, the international officer sent everything to me online. She sent it all to my dad too because he was really supportive and wanted me to go to the UK as well.

'I paid the fees to the college and they sent me my CAS letter – the Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies, which is the basic thing you need for your visa application.'

'Booking an appointment at the embassy was easy; my dad and I just went to the embassy website and chose a date that worked for me, and then I was on my way to Islamabad to make my application. It was exciting. Every second I was thinking, "This is a big life step for me."

'My dad waited for me outside the embassy, and I sat with 15 or so other people applying for visas until

I was called up to the desk with all my forms – the CAS, the visa application and a bank statement from the past 28 days showing I had the funds to live in the UK during my studies.

'After that I had the teleconference interview with a UK border officer. That was the bit I was really nervous about – I was expecting loads of maths questions and I was worried that the officer wouldn't understand my English – but it was more like a five-minute conversation than an interview. They asked me about the course, about my interests, even things like what sports I like. They were really friendly and I was relaxed after two questions.

'After about 15 days, I got an email from the embassy to say I could pick up my passport again. I couldn't sleep, I was so nervous – and so excited! When I opened my passport and saw the visa, I was really happy.

'I'm really glad I'm studying here. I love my course – we do everything online with the latest networks, and even the exams are done online, so it's really up-to-date with the real world and top international firms. 'I'd like to do a top-up course at the end of this year so I can have a full Bachelor's degree. The Manchester College has a partnership with Salford University, so I can choose either to stay here or relocate there. After that, I might go on to postgraduate study or apply for a graduate scheme.

'I don't understand why some people think you can't get a visa to

study in the UK. Neither of my visas were a problem for me. You just have to have the right pieces of paper – and be confident!'

**'My number one tip for anyone applying to study in the UK? Be confident!'**





# Learning how to live on a student budget

It can be hard to plan a budget for your first few weeks in a new country – there will be many one-off expenses, social events, activities and societies to join, and things you'll want to buy for your new home.

Many people will tell you to watch out and avoid 'splurging' (spending too much) at the beginning of term. The important thing is to be sensible and make savings where you can. Fortunately, there are many student discount schemes, second-hand stores and even free goodies on campus!

Source: <http://www.educationuk.org/pakistan/articles/learning-to-live-on-a-budget/>

These guidelines will help – plus, if you're starting your studies in September or October (the start of the academic year in the UK); you'll find many special deals, sales in shops and 'freebies' to look out for.

## SOME GENERAL TIPS TO FOLLOW

- Weigh up how much money you have vs. what you need to buy. Make a list and decide which items you need straight away – and which are not essential. You can buy these items later in the year if you still need them. The International Student Calculator (<http://international.studentcalculator.org/>) is a handy tool to help work out your budget.
- Decide on a weekly limit for overall expenses, especially on spending like entertainment, eating out and takeaway food. Put money aside for bills you know will be coming up during the term (rent, electricity, heating, gas, etc.)
- Find the best deals! If your college or university has a students' union building, hang out there and read the noticeboard and flyers. Students often advertise things they want to sell (like course textbooks) there.





- Always allow a little bit of a 'safety net' in your budget in case things end up costing more than you expected.
- When you're going out for the day or evening, bring only the amount of cash you want to spend.
- If you can, pay for things in cash. Studies have shown people are likely to spend less if they pay using cash rather than credit or debit cards (it's not nice to see all that money leaving your pockets).

It's likely you will have a bit of quiet time in between events, when you might be tempted to head straight to the shops and get all those things you need, but first:

### THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU REALLY NEED

- Always make a shopping list: it helps you focus instead of buying impulsively.
- Organise group shopping trips: It's nice to have your own cooking utensils but the fact is, if you buy things with people you live with, you can share the costs and make sure you don't end up with three toasters and five saucepans but no forks!
- Your school, college or university will have some computer equipment you can use. You may not need your own printer, for example, but if you think you'll be using one daily then share it with some other students and split the costs

of ink and paper. You can find basic printers that are not too expensive in some large stores.

- Some people enjoy colour-coding all their lecture notes and take great care with presentation, but fancy stationery can be expensive. Think about what you need to organise your notes effectively (folders, binders, note paper, etc.) before going shopping! Look out for 'pound stores', where almost everything costs £1 – these shops are increasingly popular across the UK.

### DON'T BUY BRAND NEW THINGS... IF YOU CAN FIND SECOND-HAND OR FREE STUFF!

- At the beginning of term, you'll often find people on campus giving out various 'freebies' – particularly at the societies fair, if your institution has one. From pens to notepads and mugs, you can stock up on essentials without spending a penny.
- For larger purchases like a bicycle, kitchenware or furniture, you can save a lot of money by buying from charity shops or vintage markets.
- Other items you could buy second-hand are folders, pencil cases and books (plus, you never know, a previous student might have left some funny notes or doodles). Libraries often clear out books to make space for new arrivals, so keep an eye out at the

beginning of the year, and give an old library book a loving new home!

### KEEP INFORMED AND GET ORGANISED

- Spend your time online productively! Email newsletters and Facebook groups are great ways of finding out what the latest offers are – many organisations write free newsletters about student deals, healthy and cheap cooking, fun student events and more.
- If you plan to get a UK phone, do lots of research online and ask in-store for a deal that fits your budget.
- Ask your teachers or lecturers what online resources are available for students, and as often as possible, borrow books from the library instead of buying your own (but be quick – if your course requires you to read certain books, it's likely these will quickly disappear from the library!)
- Do lots of research before making a big purchase. If you're looking at ads in a newspaper or online, look through the whole section – people who pay more tend to get the more prominent ads, so scroll all the way to the bottom as you might find some great things for sale that just aren't being advertised effectively.
- Some stores and restaurants have loyalty schemes, meaning



you can collect points for rewards, such as getting the 10th purchase for free. You should always be careful and read the small print with this type of deal, however, and never sign up for anything you don't want!

- There are lots of ways to save money on food shopping, such as shopping at the end of the day (when prices on many items are reduced) and cooking in bulk.

### RE-USE, REDUCE, RECYCLE

Getting into the 'recycling' mindset is good for the environment as well as your wallet! Buy a metal or good quality plastic water bottle that you can refill instead of buying drinks on campus, and buy plastic food containers to keep leftovers – always think of how you could use leftover food instead of throwing it out.

You could even get creative with old flyers, magazines and craft materials to make greeting cards, wrapping paper or even small gifts for your friends' birthdays!



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- 4th in the UK for employability\*\*
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\*Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2014-15

\*\*Higher Education Statistics Agency 2014





# HOW TO WRITE A SUCCESSFUL CV FOR THE UK

## 10 TIPS FROM THE NATIONAL CAREERS SERVICE

Are you getting ready to graduate and look for a job?

The National Careers Service provides information and advice to help you make decisions on training and work opportunities. The service offers confidential and impartial advice to teenagers and adults in England. Visit the website (<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>) to talk to an adviser via web chat, or access information and online tools to help you improve your job prospects and take control of your career.

A 'curriculum vitae' (CV) is a document that sets out your work experience, qualifications and other key points. In some English-speaking countries people may refer to it as a *résumé*, but in the UK, people prefer to say 'CV'.

Here, National Careers Service adviser Victoria Matthews shares her tips on how to write a winning CV!

**1 Pick the right CV format.** When writing your CV, the first step is to choose the right format. For example, should you start off with your education or your work history? Should you include your hobbies and interests?

If you're applying for jobs in the UK, you might need to use a different style than you would in your home country.

Source: <http://www.educationuk.org/pakistan/articles/how-to-write-a-successful-cv/>

**2 Be concise.** In the UK it is customary for your CV to be at most two pages long. Two pages might not seem like a lot of space to fit everything in, but you can free up space by keeping less important details brief, such as jobs you held a long time ago. You can even leave some things out entirely – for example, you don't need to put 'CV' or 'Curriculum Vitae' at the top, and you don't need to list your nationality or date of birth.

**3 Present your CV well.** If you want to print your CV, use good quality white A4 paper. Use a consistent, professional font (such as Arial) all the way through, with bold and bigger font sizes for headings. The layout should be simple and clear. Make use of white space – rather than lines or graphics – to separate sections.

**4 Do I include a photo?** While it may be standard to include a photograph on your CV in some countries, it is not usual to do so in the UK – unless you are applying for work as a model or actor.

**5 Watch your writing style.** Make sure you write in fluent, clear English - and avoid words or jargon that UK employers may not be familiar with. If in doubt, ask a tutor, friend or your university or college careers adviser to check your CV and ensure that it reads well.

Your CV should be concise and easy to read. The words you use can make a big difference to how you come across. Try to make your words 'active', especially when describing what you achieved in previous jobs. You could try using powerful words like 'managed', 'led' and 'achieved'.

**6 Avoid spelling mistakes!** Check your final CV for spelling and grammar mistakes. Attention to detail is prized highly by UK employers. You can use a computer spelling and grammar check, but it's also a good idea to ask someone you trust to read it. Many employers will not consider applications which include spelling mistakes.

**7 Tailor your CV to a specific job.** Your CV should be tailored for the job you're applying for, meaning it matches the requirements of the job. If you're replying to a job advert, look at the skills and experience it asks for, and mention these in your CV. If you're applying speculatively (this means you are sending in your CV for future reference, if a company does not have a current vacancy), think about what the job might involve and what the employer would want to see. It's also a good idea to take some time to find out about the main activities of the company.

**8** **Be honest.** There's a difference between selling yourself and inventing things! Selling yourself is putting your skills and experience in the best light. Never be tempted to invent qualifications or previous jobs. You might be asked for more information about them at the interview stage.

**9** **Sleep on it!** When you are working on your CV, try saving it, and coming back to it another day or after a break. This will make it easier for you to spot potential gaps or mistakes and will help improve your CV.

**10** **Little changes make a big difference.** Each time you come back to your CV, take time to get the wording just right. Updating and improving your CV on a regular basis will save you work and time. It will also ensure that you're ready when the right job advert comes up.



# Alumni from the University of Sheffield

## It brings out the real talent in you: **Sikandar Ayub**

I chose Sheffield University Management School as it is one of the most efficient and hard-working departments at the University of Sheffield. The department grew in strength rapidly because it continuously invested in the welfare and learning opportunities of its students. This was evident from the massive infrastructure development that had taken place over four years. I reckon that this is one of the reasons I chose to stay at Sheffield for my postgraduate degree as well; because I knew it will be worth it. I knew that I will keep on learning things which will benefit me for the rest of my life.

Above all, SUMS widened my scope in understanding persisting and contemporary real world problems such as sustainable development and growth. I was alien to the concept before joining Sheffield. I was so inspired with the approach taught to me that I applied it to our family-owned Coca-Cola beverages distribution company in my local city. The results were financial and managerial benefits. Moreover, SUMS broadened my way of thinking and always challenged me to develop and use creative methodology; this may seem risky but proved to be beneficial after a while. In addition to this, in order to fully utilise my learning and capability, I joined a renowned school in my city in Pakistan and now I am also the Head of IGCSE Economics and Business Studies subjects at the campus. This part-time job keeps me up-to-date with the real world and I feel I am contributing to latest knowledge

and learning of the deserving young generation of my country.

Before I started university I was not a huge fan of theoretical courses, I thought that they are low scoring and affect your overall score. With time and experience I realised that these purely theoretical modules such as Contemporary Issues in Financial Management (BA Accounting and Finance) and Brand Management (MSc Marketing Management Practice) are critical as they require extensive knowledge and understanding of basic and underlying concepts. That challenged me to research more and understand what is happening in the world. Contemporary Issues in Financial Management has an extensive scope of improving executive managerial issues and that helped me to rethink my approach towards business management. The real application of the concepts into my own business is still forcing me to make a lot of changes towards improvement. Brand Management is the most interesting subject I have studied till date. It requires students to use their own creativity to help develop a brand and this kept me excited with possibilities throughout the duration of the module. Today, I am using the concepts learned in Brand Management in my trading business and I believe the time is near when my company logo will be recognized globally.

I live in one of the biggest industrial cities of Pakistan called Gujranwala. The city is home to hundreds of SMEs and a few notable large scale industries including textile,



baking machinery, transport vehicle industry, furniture factories and industrial scale electric equipment. I came back to Pakistan in January 2014 after receiving my postgraduate degree. The first thing I did after coming back was to check the local industry and market conditions which in all fairness were weak and there was no innovation. That gave me the opportunity to penetrate into the market with a newer approach. I visited China to look for latest raw materials which could be used in the production of our prayer rugs. With the help of our Chinese supplier, we developed a new kind of polyester yarn which is much cheaper than what the market is using at the moment but much better in quality and appearance. With that, I launched



an initiative that the market was keen to receive. That did the trick. I am one of the very few distributors of that newly developed yarn in my city and the consequent market for prayer rugs has taken a new life. Keeping that aside, I also took a decision to sit for the Pakistan Civil Service Examinations which are regarded as one of the most difficult examinations in our country. I took a three month break from my business and prepared for the exams which were held in February 2015. It will be an honour for me to serve Pakistan at the highest level of civil service and I believe my learning at Sheffield University will be most useful in that area.

Currently, I am running my own prayer rug business and am also a part of teacher; I am teaching IGCSE Economics and Business Studies. Though this job is part-time, I enjoy my early morning hours at school working for a noble

cause and I will continue to do so for as long as I can. For the future, I plan to continue with my prayer rugs business and hopefully further expand it by investing into newer machinery. Teaching has brought a new scope into my future and I personally enjoy it more than my own business. Sheffield University taught me to be flexible and adaptable and accept challenges because only then can you stand out. For this reason, I also plan to look for ventures in the services sector primarily food chains as they are really profitable in Pakistan.

One of my finest memories of Sheffield is when I witnessed the Tramlines Festival for the first time. It was held right in the heart of the city and my accommodation was nearby. The best thing about the University was its spread across the city centre area which made us to get to know the city and culture. The community was extremely

friendly and helpful which made it feel like home. The Sheffield train station also brings back many fond and emotional memories. Last but not least, Meadow Hall which provided with all students with a world class shopping experience.

My alumni network includes almost every Pakistani who has attended University of Sheffield during my stay there. Apart from that, I have very close friends in Chile, UAE, China, Africa and the UK. Having a close network keeps you in the loop of what your friends are doing and I believe in the next ten years it will reap its true benefits in terms of business prospects and cultural attachment.

To sum up, my experience of studying at Sheffield University Management School is that it brings out the real talent in you; it is a place to test yourself and is a truly global school.

## It enables you to have the experience and skill of coping: **Ali**

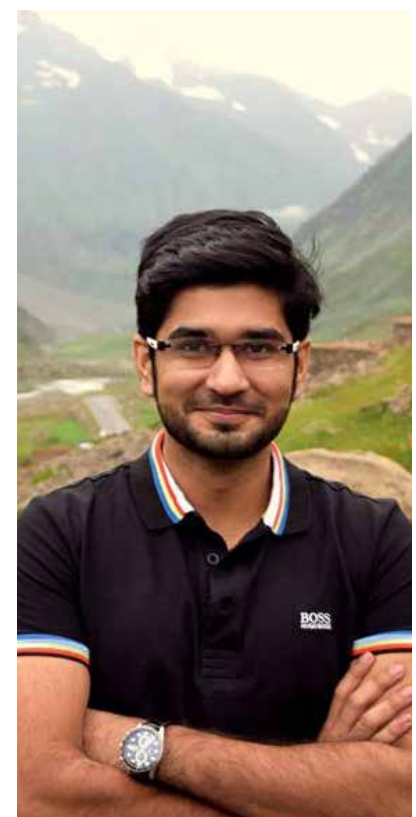
The inspiration one gets from friends and relatives who enrolled in top universities is very important in determining the future course of one's studies. Accordingly, I decided to get myself admitted into one of the world's top hundred institutions.

I spent hours researching top engineering institutions and my top priority was the University of Sheffield as it is part of Russell Group and is in the top three best mechanical engineering institutes in UK. What else could one ask for? The reason for studying at a good university is to secure a sound future - and a university like Sheffield enjoys employer satisfaction both in the UK as well as in Pakistan and indeed globally.

I believe that if you are studying your desired courses then you enjoy each and every moment of your studies. The good thing about

the University of Sheffield is that they focus on the practicality of the subject which not only gives you the experience of working in a laboratory but also strengthens your concepts of the subject. In addition, the university enables you to have the experience and skill of coping with the upcoming industrial demands and this will help me in securing a good job. The University of Sheffield requires you to use the willing support of faculty to plan and undertake self-study, making students more responsible for themselves. However, tutors and lecturers are always willing to help you at any point which is a great support.

I also benefitted from working while at Sheffield and firmly believe that I have gained valuable experience and developed skills that employers require. The University of Sheffield has a Student Job Shop and



Career Service department which helps with writing your CV, cover letters and also assists students in searching for jobs and placements. These are facilities that can avail and learn life-long skills from.

# HOW TO APPLY FOR A UK COURSE

Confused about which course to do, where to study, and how to apply? Have a look at our handy guide.

Source: <http://www.educationuk.org/pakistan/articles/how-to-apply/>

## 01. What do you want to study?

The first step in planning your UK education is to figure out what stage you are at, and what you want to achieve from your course – to gain skills and qualifications for a particular career? To improve your English? To build your knowledge of a subject you're interested in?

Here are the key stages of the UK's education system:

- Students aged 16 and under attend primary and secondary education. At this level you can study a wide range of subjects, such as maths, English literature, IT, languages, physics, biology, chemistry, geography and history.
- From the age of 16, students in the UK can go on to further education. You can choose between academic

courses (such as A-levels, the International Baccalaureate or Scottish Highers), which enable you to enter university, or vocational courses, which give you the skills, training and qualifications you need for a particular career. At this level you specialise in a few subjects.

- With further education qualifications, you can then go on to higher education – undergraduate (e.g. Bachelor's degree, HND, Foundation degree, etc.), and then if you wish, on to postgraduate (e.g. Master's degree, PhD, MBA). At this level you normally specialise in one or two subjects. You can also take professional qualifications to help you in your career.

At any age and study level, you can join an English language course. There are thousands of courses across the UK, of varying lengths – days, weeks, months, or part-time to improve your English alongside your main studies.

## 02. Search for courses, institutions and scholarships

Once you've decided what you want to study, you can look for the right course with the Education UK search tool. This draws from a database of over 80,000 higher education and further education courses, 1,000 boarding schools and 6,000 English language courses, as well as over 4,000 scholarships to help fund your studies.

- First, go to the Search menu at the top of this page <http://www.educationuk.org/pakistan/sub/subject-profiles/>. Click Courses and you can select your study level and subject, or click Uni/college/school to search boarding schools or find any institution by name.

Click Go and you'll be taken to the search results page.

- Next, you can further personalise your search using the options

on the left – you can select particular types of qualification, for example, choose whether you want to study full-time or part-time, or choose where in the UK you want to study.

- In the search results, either click on a course name to see full details of the course, or the name of the institution to read more about it. On the institution pages, you can read about the scholarships and accommodation it offers, its location, fees and entry requirements.
- When you have found some courses, scholarships or institutions you are interested in, you can add them to a shortlist to compare them.

### 03. Contact your chosen school, college or university

Once you've decided which courses you're interested in, on the course information page you can click:

- Visit website to go to the course provider's website for more information. Read more about the institution, its courses and departments, its campus, town or city, and what its students have to say.
- Download prospectus to download a full brochure of information on courses, costs and the application process.
- Send an email to contact the institution. You can select which level of study and subject you're interested in, and send an enquiry to the institution directly – for example, you could ask about entry requirements, scholarships, accommodation or how to apply.

Even better, attending an exhibition and meeting education representatives face-to-face could help to make your decision. Each year, Education UK organises exhibitions in over 50 countries, where you can meet representatives from hundreds of UK schools, colleges and universities. Ask your local British Council office about events near

you, and keep an eye on the News and events page for Education UK in your country.

If you are able to travel to the UK before you decide, look out for 'open days' at the institutions you're interested in – these are an opportunity to visit and get a feel for the campus, meet staff and students, and ask any questions you still have. The school or university's website will list details of upcoming open days.

Keep in mind what's most important to you – academic reputation? Sports, arts or social facilities? The number of other international students? Language and study support?

### 04. Apply for your chosen course

The application process varies greatly between different levels of education and types of institution, so make sure you find out all the details for your chosen course. If you have any questions, contact the institution directly and they will be happy to help.

First, ensure you meet the entry requirements – don't waste time applying for a course that you're not eligible for! These requirements will relate to your qualifications, your English language skills, and whether you will be able to secure a visa.

Next, give yourself enough time. Many English language courses and shorter further education courses have start dates throughout the year, but most other courses start in September or October, and the deadline for applications can be up to a year in advance (or even more for some boarding schools). Find out what your deadline is, and what's required – if you need a reference, for example, you'll need to give your referee enough time to write it.

### 5. Finally, stay positive!

The application process can be nerve-wracking, but if you complete everything you're asked for – and ask for help if you need it! – then this is just the beginning of your UK education.

## Where to apply

For schools, English language centres and most further education and postgraduate courses, you need to apply directly to the provider. These institutions manage their own admissions, so there is no national application system. Most have application forms on their website.

For undergraduate courses and some postgraduate courses, you can apply through a central admissions system, allowing you to apply to multiple institutions quickly and easily.

- All undergraduate applications are handled by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).
- The UCAS website also has a guide for international students on tracking your application, arranging your visa, student finance and more.
- Some institutions also use a central admissions system for postgraduate courses, the UK Postgraduate Application and Statistical Service (UKPASS).
- UCAS operates an application system for graduates who want to take postgraduate teacher training courses.
- UCAS Conservatoires is a separate application system for practice-based music courses, some dance and drama courses, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.



# YOUR UCAS APPLICATION: ESSENTIAL ADVICE

If you're applying to an undergraduate course in the UK (and for some postgraduate courses) you'll need to fill out an online application from the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

The UCAS system allows you to track your applications. You can apply independently or through your school, college, university or an education agent.

We asked UCAS, admissions officers and international officers from UK universities and colleges what they look for – what makes the 'perfect' application, and what are their tips for writing that all-important personal statement?

## BEFORE YOU APPLY

For most undergraduate courses, the deadline is 15 January, although there are variations. Undergraduate courses usually start in September or October – so for example, if you plan to start your studies in Sept/Oct 2016, the deadline for applications is on 15 January 2016.

You can apply after 15 January, but more competitive courses may be full after this time, so you can't guarantee that your application will be considered. So leave yourself plenty of time to apply – and if you do miss a deadline, contact the university or college you're applying to.

Make sure you meet the entry requirements – some courses require a certain level of English, for example. You might also need a visa to study in the UK.

You might like to get in touch with the university or college international office or admissions office to register your interest as an international student. They might have more advice to help with your application, and can answer any questions you have about the process.

Source: <http://www.educationuk.org/pakistan/articles/your-ucas-application-essential-advice/>

### STEP 1: REGISTERING ON UCAS

Log on to UCAS Apply (<http://www.ucas.com/apply>) and select the type of course you're applying for.

You'll be asked to add personal details, create a username, password and security questions and, if you're applying through a school, college, centre or agent, fill in the buzzword they gave you. After this, you can log in to fill in the rest of your personal details, including funding options and special needs.

### STEP 2: CHOOSING YOUR COURSES

You can apply for up to five courses (four for medicine, dentistry or veterinary science/medicine). There's no order of preference and the universities and colleges won't know where else you've applied.

To find courses, use the Education UK search tool (<http://www.educationuk.org/educ/pakistan/course/search-landing.html>) to find out more about what they have to offer.

Usually you can only apply to either the University of Oxford or the University of Cambridge, but not both. Contact the universities for more details.

### STEP 3: EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

In the education section of your application form, enter your full education history right up to your current school, college or university (if applicable).

Enter all qualifications you have a result for, including those in your own language and education system. Also enter any exams for which you are awaiting results and any you have left to take – if you get an offer from an institution, you can let them know the results later.

UK NARIC offers a paid service that compares UK qualifications with qualifications from other countries. You can also get in touch with your local British Council office for more information.

In your employment history, you can put the details of up to five paid jobs that you've done (full-time or part-time). Don't include unpaid or voluntary work – this goes in your personal statement. If you haven't done any jobs, leave this section blank.

### STEP 4: PERSONAL STATEMENT

The personal statement is your chance to shine! Here's where you tell the university or college in your own words why you're applying for the course, why your skills and interests make you suitable – and why they should want to teach you!

#### How to write your personal statement

- Write in English (or if you are applying to study in Wales, you can apply in either English or Welsh).
- Use complete sentences.
- You can write a maximum of 4,000 characters or 47 lines of text (including spaces).
- Check your spelling, grammar and punctuation to ensure there are no mistakes. If you can, find a native English speaker or a teacher to proofread your form for you.
- Make sure this is your statement and don't copy! Plagiarism is a serious offence in the UK and UCAS has software that can identify copied statements.

#### What to write

- Explain why you're applying for the course and why you're interested in the subject – this will be the most important point and should come at the start.
- Mention any wider work you've done on the subject outside your studies (books you've read in your own time, competitions you've entered, etc.)
- Talk about your future ambitions and why this course will help you achieve your goals.
- Mention extracurricular activities, past experience (e.g. courses you've taken) and work experience (either paid or voluntary) that will also help you on the course. For example, if you want to study politics, and you've run for class president, here's the place to put that down!
- Briefly mention activities, experience or interests you have that will make you an interesting person to teach – such as playing in an orchestra, doing a first aid course or captaining your local football team.

Check out UCAS's advice on personal statements for more tips.

### STEP 5: DECLARATION, REFERENCES, FEES... SUBMIT!

Once you're happy with your application, mark it as 'complete', save it and agree to the declaration (UCAS's terms and conditions).

Ask a tutor, adviser or professional, who knows you to act as your referee and add their email and phone number to the reference page, or select the option that allows you to ask your school, college or centre to write your reference.

Pay the application fee online: £12 for one course, £23 for multiple courses (2016 entry). If you're applying through a school, college or centre, find out whether they are paying this fee for you.

...and you're done!

#### Tracking your application

Once you've submitted the application, you can log into your UCAS profile, called Track, at any time to see the progress of your application. You'll get an email alert whenever there's an update to your application.

If you get an offer, it could be unconditional (which means your place on the course is secure) or conditional (your place is secure provided you meet certain requirements, usually getting certain grades in your final exams).

You might also get an invitation – this means the university or college would like to meet you for an interview or audition.

#### Replying to offers

You can only reply to your offers once you've received all of your decisions – or withdraw your application from universities or colleges you're still waiting to hear from.

You are allowed to make one firm acceptance and one insurance acceptance with lower entry requirements, in case you don't meet the grades for your first choice. If you have unconditional offers you wish to accept (i.e. you've already met the academic requirements) you can only select one to confirm your place – you can't make an insurance choice.



# Education UK Exhibition Tour 2015

The Education UK Exhibition Tour 2015 proved to be a great success with the help of all UK institutions and their delegates.



## Selected feedback from visitors

- It was great - please host these types of events more frequently and in other cities too
- Very informative
- This was a great event – thanks for arranging
- I am happy
- Very informative event, please bring more universities from UK
- This event is actually good – the consultants were all helpful
- British Council should arrange this event in other cities also
- It was a great event – they advised us about courses

**LOCATION**  
**ISLAMABAD 05**  
Oct. 2015  
**LAHORE 08**  
Oct. 2015



On analysis for both cities, the visitor profile was interest for

**55%** post graduate

**45%** for under graduate

showing quite a balanced interest for Pakistan.

## LIST OF EXHIBITORS

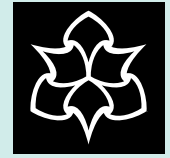
1. Cranfield University
2. Edinburgh Napier University
3. Middlesex University London
4. Newcastle University
5. Queen Mary University of London
6. Sheffield Hallam University
7. University of Bradford
8. University of Dundee
9. University of Edinburgh
10. University of Essex
11. University of Exeter
12. University of Glasgow
13. University of Hertfordshire
14. University of Kent
15. University of Law - De Broc
16. University of Lincoln
17. University of Manchester
18. University of Nottingham
19. University of Southampton
20. University of Strathclyde
21. University of Warwick
22. University of York











# 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, known as the “University for World-Class Professionals”. 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](http://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 unique services provided to Manchester Met students including:

## MMU Futures

MMU Futures is a great way for students to get more out of their university experience, whilst developing new skills and networks. MMU Futures recognises and rewards your university based extra-curricular activities. The scheme has awards at Bronze, Silver and Gold, and the skills and insights you develop as you progress will enhance your employability and job seeking during and beyond university. Details available at:

[www.mmu.ac.uk/students/futures](http://www.mmu.ac.uk/students/futures)

## Work Ready

Work Ready is a course delivered by MMU Careers & Employability Service that looks at how you can apply key employability skills in your future graduate and/or placements jobs. The course covers the key work-based skills of Team Work, Communication & Influencing, Project Management and Leadership. Details are available at: [www.mmu.ac.uk/careers/events](http://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.

# UK EDUCATION: VALUE FOR MONEY

## COSTS AND FEES

Before you begin your course, think carefully about the costs and how you will finance your studies.

Source: <http://www.educationuk.org/global/articles/costs-and-tuition-fees-for-international-students/>

The cost of courses in the UK compares favourably with other major education destinations. The rate of international undergraduate student satisfaction with the cost of living in the UK is also higher than that of other top countries for studying abroad (UK HE International Unit, December 2015).

In **higher education**, UK courses are generally shorter than in other countries. Most full-time undergraduate courses take three years to complete, while full-time postgraduate courses take one year or more. This helps to keep tuition fees and living expenses down.

**Further education** courses vary in length. You may have the option of doing a foundation course and deciding later whether you want to carry on studying and 'top up' to a full degree. This means you can take a break from your studies to return home, or alternate between periods of work and study.



This section will outline what you can expect to pay for higher education (undergraduate and postgraduate) and further education courses in the UK.

Fees vary greatly for **English language** courses, so it's best to contact the individual institutions.

## COURSE FEES

Tuition fees for UK higher education and further education 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.

**Undergraduate students from the EU/EEA pay 'home fees'** – the same fees as UK students pay. These are the maximum tuition fees (many institutions charge less):

- In England and Wales, up to £9,000 per year
- In Northern Ireland, up to £3,575 per year
- In Scotland, tuition is free.

If you're from another country **outside the EU/EEA**, tuition fees range from £3,500 a year to about £18,000 per year, depending on the course and the institution.

**For all postgraduate students**, tuition fees vary by course provider.

You may also be eligible for home fees if you fall into one of a number of categories, including if you have refugee status, or if your college or university is able to make you a special case.

Please contact your chosen institution to ask about provisions for exceptional circumstances.

Please also visit the UKCISA (UK Council for International Student Affairs) website for more information.

## VISAS: FEES AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

If you need a visa to study in the UK, you'll need to factor in this cost too.

The cost of your visa will depend on your nationality, the type of visa you're getting and the course you're studying.

To apply for a visa, you may need to provide proof that you can afford to cover your course fees and living costs while you're in the UK. This is called 'maintenance funds (requirements)' by the UK government. This can be:

- Personal bank or building society statements
- A building society passbook
- A letter from your bank, or a regulated financial institution, confirming your funds
- A letter from a regulated financial institution confirming that you have a loan that is provided by the national government, the state or regional government or a government-sponsored student loan company, or that is part of an academic or educational loans scheme.

Any loan from another source, such as a personal bank loan, would need to be shown as funds held in your name (or a parent's name) using one of the other forms of evidence listed above.

If you are applying for a visa to come to the UK for more than six months on or after 6 April 2015, you will need to pay an additional NHS health surcharge of £150 per year. This includes students applying from within the UK or from outside the UK.

## BUDGETING

When comparing tuition costs, look at what is included – and what is not included – in each fee. For example, some institutions may charge you extra for books, study materials, examinations, etc. You should be able to find out what the course fees cover on each course provider's website, but if not, don't hesitate to ask them.

When budgeting, think about additional costs for:

- Travel to the UK
- Accommodation
- Food

- Day-to-day living costs
- Travel and sightseeing in the UK
- Health and travel insurance.

## STUDENT SUPPORT AND STUDENT LOANS

Students from the EU/EEA and Switzerland may be able to apply for financial support from the UK government, and in some cases from the government in your home country. This can include a low-interest loan that you only need to pay back once you start earning a certain amount of money, after you graduate. The loan may cover some living costs as well as tuition fees.

The level and type of support on offer depends on whether you study in England, Wales, Northern Ireland or Scotland, and also on your personal and family circumstances. In exceptional circumstances, non-EU/EEA students can also apply for funding.

Some medical courses – such as nursing or midwifery – are only available to students who qualify for an NHS bursary.

If you think you qualify for student support, you usually have to apply within nine months of the start of the academic year – so make sure you leave enough time to prepare!

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER SUPPORT

There are a number of scholarship options and financial support schemes for international students in the UK. Demand can be high, but it is worth taking a look at what is available.

Scholarships are offered by a number of providers including:

- UK institutions
- Awards and scholarship programmes
- Companies/entrepreneurship schemes.

Go to Scholarships and financial support (<http://www.educationuk.org/global/articles/scholarships-financial-support/>) for more information.



# STUDY IN THE HEART OF LONDON /

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- Top-rated university in the UK for research strength<sup>3</sup>
- Students from 150 countries

<sup>1</sup> QS World University Rankings 2015/16

<sup>2</sup> The *Times* Good University Guide 2016

<sup>3</sup> Research Excellence Framework 2014





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[www.sheffield.ac.uk/pakistan](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/pakistan)



## Why Sheffield?

- We are a Russell Group university
- Students voted us number 1 in the Times Higher Student Experience Awards 2014-2015
- The University is rated 69th in world in the 2014 QS World University Rankings
- Sheffield is the greenest and safest large city in the UK
- We are rated in the top 10 per cent of all UK universities for research in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework
- Our international reputation for academic excellence attracts students and staff from around the world
- The University of Sheffield Management School has Triple Crown accreditation which places them in the top 1% of business Schools in the world

[www.sheffield.ac.uk](http://www.sheffield.ac.uk)





## The University of Sheffield

- Our Students' Union is consistently voted as best in the UK
- The Diamond – our newest and largest ever investment in teaching and learning (£81 million) features Engineering Labs, University teaching space and IC-like student-led learning spaces. Delivering 24 hour access to student materials, The Diamond provides a platform for developing innovative learning and teaching techniques
- No. 1 for accommodation: Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey 2015, 2014

For more information  
please contact the International Office:

Jessica Bream  
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# UK STUDENT FINANCE: HOW TO MAP YOUR BUDGET



**Cost is likely to be a top concern for anyone thinking of studying abroad – so it's great to know that studying in the UK can be excellent value for money.**

Source: <http://www.educationuk.org/global/articles/uk-student-finance-map-your-budget/>

But how can you get the best value for money from your UK course? And what's the best way to prepare for the cost of UK student life?

We spoke to Eri Mountbatten, a Student Adviser, freelance writer, trainer and member of the Financial Capability & Research Board of NASMA (the National Association of Student Money Advisers), who works with international students on a daily basis. We asked him for his top financing tips for international students thinking of coming to the UK.

Eri says: 'I meet many international students, from China to the Czech Republic, who believe that the UK will be the best place to kickstart their career. Research shows us time and time again that they are probably right. However, problems can happen if you don't plan adequately; as people say, "failing to plan is planning to fail".

'The good news is that you don't need a Master's in financial planning to increase your chances of success. All you need are some

simple common-sense principles. It all comes down to making a plan – or rather, a MAP! This stands for:

1. **MAP:** Map your current financial state and consider your range of options.
2. **AFFORD:** Make informed decisions based on what you can afford and stick to the plan.
3. **PREPARE:** Prepare for the unexpected.

## 1. MAP

'Draw up your current and prospective financial snapshot. It seems so obvious, but in order to know how to get to where you want to be, you need to know where you are first!

'How much do you already have to spend on your studies from savings, money from your parents, etc.? How much can you get from other funding sources, for example from grants, loans, scholarships?

'There is a wealth of information out there – so much that it can feel a little bewildering.

'Education UK has made this process easier for you by pulling all of the most important information together. Find out about course

costs and fees and about scholarship options.

## 2. AFFORD

'Once you've looked at course fees, you can now begin to consider all other possible costs. For example, you may have one-off expenses such as travel, insurance, deposits or visa expenses.

'You will also have regular expenses, such as student accommodation, food, bills and social life. One online tool to help you work these issues out and balance your finances is the International Student Calculator (<http://international.studentcalculator.org/>) – give it a try.

'Alongside all these, remember there are different options in the UK – and some are more expensive than others. Life in London, for example, is likely to cost a bit more than other parts of the country.

Whatever happens, plan your budget and stick to it!

## 3. PREPARE

'It is said that the one thing in life that is certain is change, and this is very true of our current economic,





social and political climate. Therefore preparing for the unexpected is by far the most important tip I can give you.

'You could meet anything from unforeseen course fees to travel or emergency accommodation costs to healthcare expenses. Your initial "plan" could change because you have an unexpected drop in income, such as a drop in wages or in money from home.

'These things can and often do happen and they can have devastating consequences – but they don't have to. If you think ahead you can be empowered.

'As a back-up, I'd suggest having between two and three months' savings in a separate bank account – call this your safety net. This will give you time to source alternative funds during any major crisis and will also give you a degree of financial flexibility and resilience to cope with smaller unanticipated outlays or drops in cash flow. This is your own personal lifeline – but it only works as long as you don't spend it!'

## REMEMBER...

'To sum up, remember: map your current financial state and consider your range of options; make informed decisions based on what you can afford and stick to the plan; and finally, prepare for the unexpected. Follow these simple steps and you will be right on course to weather any storm ahead – anticipated or otherwise.

'Finally, be aware that most universities and colleges have some form of advice service available to students which is totally free! Just ask your students' union or international office.

**NCUK**  
THE UNIVERSITY CONSORTIUM

Shaping your Future

## Undergraduate UK Degree Programmes

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- ▶ Based at Manchester University with 30 Global Centers including Pakistan
- ▶ NCUK – IFY (Foundation Year) is recognized in UK and accepted Globally
- ▶ Study 2 Years in Islamabad campus and save 40% of UK Degree Cost
- ▶ NCUK quality assurance operates in line with the UK quality code for higher education



Start your Degree in Pakistan and Complete in UK



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- Artificial Intelligence & Robotics
- Civil & Architectural
- Electrical & Electronics
- Mechatronics
- Petro-Chemical
- Renewable Energy

900 Degree Courses

### BUSINESS STUDIES

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- Air Transport and Logistics Management
- Business Management with Finance
- Business and Human Resource Management
- Economics with International Relations
- Events Management
- International Business & Marketing
- Law with Business Studies

970 Degree Courses

### COMPUTING

- Computer Science with Distributed Systems
- Computer Science with Artificial Intelligence
- Digital Media
- Forensics & Network Security
- Graphics for Games
- Intelligent Systems and Robotics
- Software Engineering
- Web Design and Technology

600 Degree Courses

NCUK Owner



NCUK Partner

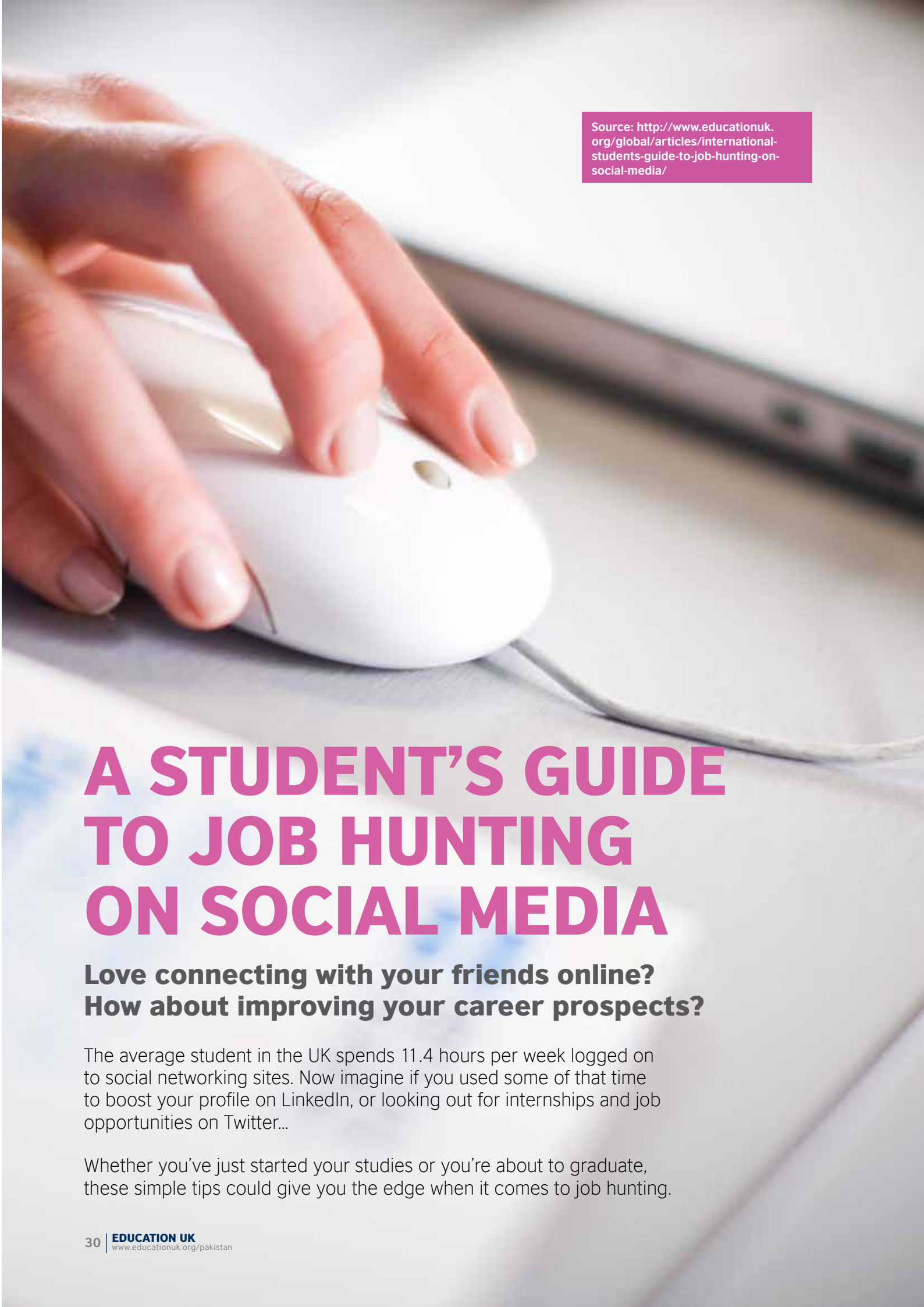


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Source: <http://www.educationuk.org/global/articles/international-students-guide-to-job-hunting-on-social-media/>

# A STUDENT'S GUIDE TO JOB HUNTING ON SOCIAL MEDIA

**Love connecting with your friends online?  
How about improving your career prospects?**

The average student in the UK spends 11.4 hours per week logged on to social networking sites. Now imagine if you used some of that time to boost your profile on LinkedIn, or looking out for internships and job opportunities on Twitter...

Whether you've just started your studies or you're about to graduate, these simple tips could give you the edge when it comes to job hunting.

## Step 1: Analyse your online presence

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Google yourself! This is likely to be the first thing employers do, too.

Google has a handy feature which allows you to keep up-to-date with what is published on the internet about you, called Me on the Web, the link is: <https://support.google.com/accounts/answer/1228138?hl=en>

The next thing you should check is Facebook. Make sure you keep your privacy settings high and that your profile and cover picture are appropriate in a professional context. It can also be good to add information to your 'About me' section – this is a chance to show off how many languages you speak, the subject you study and what your interests are.

## Step 2: Create an account on LinkedIn

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1. To get noticed on LinkedIn, follow these five steps:
2. Create a profile, with a professional-looking photo
3. Build a solid network of contacts
4. Join relevant groups
5. Gather recommendations and endorsements
6. Keep your profile up-to-date – add any new skills you've learned and work experience you've gained.

## Step 3: Get tweeting

---

If you're not familiar with Twitter, it's a good idea to keep your profile simple.

Start with the basics: you might want to put your job pitch in your bio (for example: 'Highly-skilled engineering graduate looking for new opportunities'), and you should have a good, clear photo. You can also include a link to an online CV or your LinkedIn profile.

Some people like to have several separate profiles on Twitter: for example, a more serious 'professional' account as well as a personal account with a pseudonym (a pen name) which you use to chat with friends. This



can be a good way of controlling your image online.

Once your profile looks good, start following others: companies you might be interested in working for, people in those companies, recruitment agencies, job websites and people who inspire you. Twitter is about conversations, so don't be afraid to engage people and share your thoughts about trends and developments in your industry.

You can even tweet about your job search by asking, 'any graduate openings coming up?' or 'any internships on offer at the moment?'. The idea of 'following' people and 'being followed' is to build a network which you can use to help you locate opportunities.

## Step 4: Have a passion? Blog about it!

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Blogs can be a fantastic way to show off your personality, interests and skills. If you post regularly, employers will see that you're dedicated and that you have good communication skills. Just make sure the content on your blog is polished and coherent – always proofread, or ask a trusted friend to proofread, to check your spelling and grammar.

Blogs can be used to talk about pretty much any subject and can also be a good way of showing employers that you keep up-to-date with innovations and changes in your fields of interest – for example, if you write about technology, the media, economics, the environment or the arts.

## Step 5: The web is your oyster

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If you don't enjoy writing but you're good at design, photography, art, crafts or filmmaking, there are dozens of websites you can use to demonstrate your skills: Pinterest, Instagram, Flickr, YouTube or Vimeo are some of the better-known sites. But be selective! Don't clutter your account with anything and everything you find interesting – always think about what message or impression you want to give to people landing on your profile.

Even if you're not 'artsy', it's still a good idea to document what you do. Having photographs of group projects, your student life, travels or extracurricular activities online will show employers that you're active, sociable and hard-working. You know what they say... a picture is worth a thousand words!





# EDUCATION UK ALUMNI AWARDS - 2016

The year 2016 kicked-off at the British Council with the prestigious Education UK Alumni Awards held at the British Deputy High Commission Karachi on 30 January 2016. The evening enhanced the global profile of outstanding UK Alumni and also provided a valuable networking opportunity to our alumni, partners and stakeholders. The awards highlighted the work of Pakistani UK Alumni in three different categories:

1. Social Impact
2. Professional Achievement
3. Entrepreneurship

The Education UK Alumni Awards were launched globally in 2015 by the British Council. In 2016 ten countries won the bid to highlight the success of the UK Alumni including: Brazil, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the USA. The awards had strict criterion - to be eligible the Alumni must have attended a recognised UK institution for a minimum of one semester within the last ten years. Each of the three categories had

three judging areas which included: fitting with the award category, demonstration of a UK influence and impact of success. The British Council in Pakistan received applications from across the country and diverse backgrounds. These applications were then shortlisted by a carefully selected panel. The finalists were then flown into Karachi to attend the grand award ceremony and the wrap around networking events.

The awards ceremony began with an address by Robin Davies, Director Sindh and Baluchistan, British Council Pakistan. Robin

highlighted the importance and value of the UK education, emphasising the popularity of UK as a hotspot destination in the world for higher education. The awards were attended by many notable guests including the distinguished award presenters Urooj Mumtaz, Aitizaz Ahsan and Saleem Ghauri. The evening was hosted by popular Pakistani media personalities Anoushey Ashraf and Faizan Haq.

The awards were followed by dinner and a live performance by renowned local artist, Zoe Viccaji – who had the audience dancing and singing in their seats.



Robin Davies, Director Sindh and Baluchistan, British Council Pakistan

## EDUCATION UK AWARDS 2016 – FINALISTS

### Dr. Abdul Matin, Birkbeck, University of London Professional Achievement Award Category Finalist



After successfully completing his PhD in Medical Microbiology at Birkbeck, Dr. Abdul Matin established the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Haripur, Pakistan. Later, he was assigned two departments (Medical Lab Technology and Public Health) to chair, and worked as Associate Professor. Under his leadership the departments extended national and international collaborations for research and student exchange

programmes. Dr. Matin is also actively involved in biomedical research on the human brain, and more than thirty of his articles have been published in reputed journals. He has set up Pakistan's first public sector cord blood bank in collaboration with the UK's National Health Service. Dr. Abdul says he is indebted to Birkbeck for providing him with real insights into conducting research using state-of-the-art technologies in the field of infectious diseases.

### Henna Saeed, Manchester Metropolitan University Professional Achievement Award Category Finalist



Following her Master's in Film-making at Manchester Metropolitan University in 2012, Henna was awarded the prestigious Emerging Talent Award 2012 by the O2 Media Awards North West, in the UK. Henna returned to Pakistan and became the Pakistan Correspondent for Channel News Asia, Singapore. She went on to launch Channel 24 as Head of the International News Desk, producing a daily one-hour news

round-up show. Henna teaches television production at a leading university. As a freelance producer she has worked with international news channels including CNN and Al-Jazeera. Henna believes her UK education at the Manchester Metropolitan University has been a life-changing experience. It has supported her to become a role model for her students and aspiring media practitioners, and to make an impact within international media.

### Maria Saiffudin Effendi, Bradford University Professional Achievement Award Category Finalist



After graduating from the University of Bradford with a Master's degree in Conflict Resolution in 2009, Maria joined National Defence University, Islamabad. As Assistant Professor, Peace and Conflict Studies, Maria helped the university to pioneer the Department of Peace Studies in Pakistan. She was invited to work with the US Department of Defence as an International Fellow where she taught high profile diplomats and army officers. Maria's experience of studying in the UK's multicultural environment helped her to become more forward-looking and open to innovative ideas. She says that through the academic resource pool at Bradford University she developed networks with peace practitioners all over the world.

#### PHOTO CAPTIONS

1. Abdul Matin receiving his certificate from Robin Davies and Hammad Amjad Sheikh
2. Henna Saeed receiving her certificate from Robin Davies and Hammad Amjad Sheikh
3. Maria Saiffudin Effendi receiving her certificate from Robin Davies and Hammad Amjad Sheikh



**Shazia Qureshi, Lancaster University  
Social Impact Award Category Finalist**



Shazia Qureshi completed a PhD in Human Rights Law from Lancaster University in 2013. Appointed as the first ever female lecturer in Punjab University Law College (PULC) in 1990, Shazia later became the first ever female Principal of the College.

Shazia's PhD has supported her to continue advocating for the

rights of women, employee rights and minority groups in Punjab University. Following her PhD, Shazia started a PhD programme in Human Rights Law and in 2014 she ended gender segregation in PULC. Shazia describes the intellectual atmosphere created by the community of outstanding researchers during her PhD as very stimulating and exciting.

**Naveed Khan, Cardiff University  
Social Impact Award Category Finalist**



Naveed Khan gained a Master's degree in Law from Cardiff University and is a barrister of the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. Through his consistent advocacy and lobbying, Naveed has promoted the idea and need for legislative intervention in Pakistan to combat surging acid violence. For this purpose, he drafted comprehensive acid burn and crime legislation to effectively prosecute acid violence perpetrators and,

after national consultation, the bill was finally approved by the national assembly of Pakistan.

It is his mission to bring about civil and criminal justice reforms to Pakistan's justice system. Naveed believes the exceptional quality education he received in the UK has earned him considerable respect in Pakistan, equipping him with the knowledge and strength to push for reforms in the developmental sector.

**Qurat ul ain Ansari,  
University of Manchester  
Entrepreneurship Award  
Category Finalist**



Qurat ul ain completed her Master's in International Business and Management at the University of Manchester in 2011. She is now the founder and CEO of CHAPTER 13, a successful women's footwear brand employing local artisans to create highstreet footwear.

Qurat ul ain says that it was not easy for her to act upon her decision to go to the UK for her postgraduate studies. However, she wanted to make the most of the opportunity to broaden her vision, and the success of CHAPTER 13 over the past three years is testament to this. Studying in the UK gave her the self-confidence that she needed to establish her own company, giving a new lease of life to an art form and creating a sustainable and successful business.

**PHOTO CAPTIONS**

1. Shazia Qureshi, Robin Davies, Hammad Sheikh
2. Naveed Khan, Robin Davies, Hammad Sheikh
3. Qurat ul ain Ansari
4. The three winners for 2016 in Pakistan - Jahanzeb Awan, Fiza Farhan and Bilal Majeed
5. Nousheen Zakaria, Robin Davies Hammad Sheikh



4

**Nousheen Zakaria, University of Leeds Entrepreneurship Award Category Finalist**



5

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's experience of studying in the UK enhanced her critical thinking skills, and transformed her world view, providing 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.

**Ifraan Weldon, University of Manchester Entrepreneurship Award Category Finalist**

Ifraan Weldon completed his Master's in Corporate Communications and Reputation Management at the University of Manchester in 2008. Ifraan is now Digital Account Director at digital marketing agency, Brand Stallion. His agency now has operations in Karachi and Dubai, and works with major international clients in the UK and USA including Adidas Group, the University of London, and Nestlé. His agency has helped more than 60 clients to transition to digital marketing, supporting them to establish their brands in a competitive global marketplace. Ifraan's work has been published in marketing textbooks used by universities across Australasia. Ifraan says that the University of Manchester's philosophy of learning by doing gave him the confidence he needed to build a global agency from scratch.



## EDUCATION UK ALUMNI AWARDS 2016 – SUCCESS STORY

# JAHANZEB AWAN, UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD WINNER OF PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The first award for the Professional Achievement category was presented to Jahanzeb Awan LLB (Hons.), University of Sheffield. The award was presented by our honorary guest and also a Sheffield Alumnus, Urooj Mumtaz. Ms. Mumtaz is a professional cricketer and is currently the selector for the Pakistan National Women's Cricket Team under the Pakistan Cricket Board. She was nominated in the top ten Women Cricketers of the Year Award in 2008. Ms. Mumtaz completed her Masters in Medical Science of Restorative Dentistry from the University of Sheffield

Mr. Awan's father dreamt of his son becoming a successful Barrister after graduation. Following his passion and his father's dream, Jahanzeb went on to continue his higher education in the UK. He selected Sheffield University due to its high ranking and also the overall student experience. His time at Sheffield helped him in developing professional skills and also enabled him to be independent. Following completion of his degree at Sheffield in 2004, Jahanzeb was called upon to Bar the Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn. At present Jahanzeb is a partner at Khalid Anwer & Co where he provides litigation and

### Honorary Guests' Profile

**Ms. Urooj Mumtaz, Sheffield Alumnus**, is a professional cricketer and is currently the selector for the Pakistan National Women's Cricket Team under the Pakistan Cricket Board. She was nominated in the top 10 Women Cricketers of the Year Award in 2008. Ms. Mumtaz completed her Masters in Medical Science of Restorative Dentistry from the University of Sheffield.



**Jahanzeb Awan receiving Professional Achievement Award from Urooj Mumtaz**

advisory services to high profile clients including the State Bank of Pakistan. Jahanzeb serves as the Convener of the Enhanced Democratic Accountability and Civic Engagement project funded by the UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The project aims to strengthen Pakistani citizen rights and democratic processes, empowering citizens to know and exercise their rights. He has also initiated a lecture series on democracy, human rights and the rule of law, connecting local lawyers and civil society members to international experts and scholars in legal systems and law.

The impact of the four years that he spent in the UK as a student were undoubtedly the most defining period of his life. Jahanzeb made friends while in the UK from all over the world and learnt to appreciate and embrace the UK culture. Jahanzeb also found the Sheffield

Student Union to be one of the best in the UK. He was very active as a student and participated in the moot society, the debate society and the travelling society. Jahanzeb has fond memories of all-nighter study sessions with friends and the Scotland Camping tour - and of course the economical meals such as the delicious doner kebab!

Jahanzeb's experience at Sheffield University was full of learning via experience. He took part in mini-pupillages which are two to five days of shadowing a barrister and a great opportunity to ascertain first-hand the activities in courts and chambers. Jahanzeb's advice to students planning to study in the UK is to focus on their studies and also to enjoy its rich heritage and culture. He strongly encourages prospective students to engage with fellow classmates from other parts of the world.

# FIZA FARHAN, UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK WINNER OF SOCIAL IMPACT AWARD CATEGORY

The Social Impact Award was won by Ms. Fiza Farhan, CEO of Buksh Foundation. The award was presented by our distinguished guest Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan, a senior advocate in the Supreme Court.

Fiza completed her undergraduate studies at Lahore University of Management and Sciences (LUMS) and then went on to complete her Master's in Management at the University of Warwick in 2008. Currently she is the CEO of Buksh Foundation, Director of Buksh Energy Pvt. Ltd, and Pakistan's representative on a high-level UN Panel. Fiza featured in Forbes' magazine, 30 Under 30 Social Entrepreneurs list in 2015. A young and dynamic social entrepreneur, Fiza strives to provide solutions to numerous challenges including the economic enhancement of poverty-ridden communities, empowering women and targeting untapped markets of renewable energy solutions. She has represented Pakistan on several development and energy sector platforms at regional and global levels. These include the UN Foundation – Practitioners' Network, Global CSR Summit, World Energy Council and ADB-Asia Clean Energy Forum.

Fiza said that her Master's degree in Management from the University of Warwick taught her

## Honorary Guests' Profile

Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan is a senior advocate for the Supreme Court in Pakistan. Mr Ahsan is one of the most respected lawyers in Pakistan, who completed his early education in Lahore and later studied Law at Cambridge University. He is also a Human Rights Activist, Politician and former Federal Minister.



Fiza Farhan receiving Social Impact Award from Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan

how to practically apply business knowledge. It also activated the entrepreneurial spirit, confidence and persistence in her that made her the young leader she has become. She chose to study at Warwick due to its internationally ranked Business School and its scenic country setting. After completing her studies at Warwick, she returned to Pakistan to help create a new platform to serve the un-served. Fiza says she was fortunate to have met with Mr. Asim Buksh in 2008. Mr Asim, an exceptional entrepreneur is always

looking to tap into un-tapped market segments and create business models that are unique and innovative. Both founded two companies together in 2009, the Buksh Foundation and the Buksh Energy Pvt. Ltd.

Fiza has continued on the path of success by pushing for causes she is most passionate about including Women Empowerment and Renewable Energy. She is often invited as a trainer and motivational speaker at local and international platforms, where she continues to inspire people from all walks of life.



## EDUCATION UK ALUMNI AWARDS 2016 – SUCCESS STORY

# BILAL MAJEED, UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER WINNER OF THE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AWARD

The award for the Entrepreneurship category was awarded to Bilal Majeed, a design enthusiast, always on the lookout for innovative product design development. The award was presented by our honoured guest Mr. Salim Ghauri, founder and CEO of Netsol Technologies Ltd.

After graduating from University of Manchester in MSc. Mechanical Engineering and Design in 2009, Bilal had the opportunity of working with some of the top names in the industry including Porsche, Audi and BMW. He has had a vast experience working for industries ranging from automotive, fashion, medical instruments and gaming. Currently, Bilal runs his own product design company as the 'Product Architect' (CEO) of BMK Consultants - providing him with an independent creative space.

Bilal's time spent at University of Manchester opened for him great learning opportunities in a diverse environment. The multi-cultural environment provided a novel academic and cultural experience. There were state-of-art labs and testing facilities

### Honorary Guests' Profile

**Mr. Saleem Ghauri** is one of the most successful entrepreneurs in Pakistan and is credited with founding and managing one of the very few companies listed on NASDAQ and the only Pakistani company to achieve CMMI level 5 certification. An outstanding entrepreneur, Mr. Ghauri takes immense pride in his country and his roots and is a role model for many Pakistanis around the world.



**Bilal Majeed receiving Entrepreneurship Award from Mr. Salim Ghauri**

at the teaching campus, the academics were balanced with on-campus accommodation and recreational activities including sports and community centres. Bilal spent his vacations in the UK visiting the English countryside and other urban destinations including London, Birmingham and Cambridge. Through his time spent in the UK, Bilal was able to meet people with diverse backgrounds. Speaking about his experience he said, "Imagine four people from four corners of the world on a 2x2 table tennis matchup - you get the picture."

One of Bilal's most memorable times whilst studying in the UK was being part of the Street Cricket Tournament held across the UK. One of the valued players on Bilal's team got an injury and was unable to take part in the match. Despite

this the team was able to win the prize and the injured player also got free treatment for his injuries and access to hospital facilities free of cost for a month. Bilal vouches for the health system in the UK to this day.

Bilal continues to be a member of Manchester Alumni Network and is also active in the local Manchester Alumni chapter in Pakistan. He is not only a respected name in the product design sector but is also respected within the academic community. He has been a visiting faculty at the leading product design and engineering schools including National University of Science and Technology. Bilal continues his learning experience at BMK Consultants, honing his skills and on the lookout for new exciting projects.

- A world top 110 university (QS World University Rankings 2015)
- Ranked 14th in the UK and 10th for the impact of our research (REF 2014)
- 25th in the world for Arts and Humanities (THE World University Rankings 2015)
- 55th in the world for Life Sciences (THE World University Rankings 2015)
- Safe, beautiful parkland campus
- Located just outside the city of York – one of Europe's most beautiful cities

“Every day in York left me with memories. These were my best days and I enjoyed every single minute.”

*Rabia*

*(MSc Engineering Management)*



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# ALUMNI SUCCESS STORIES



**FARAN RAFI**  
The City School - 2008  
University of Strathclyde - 2015

Faran Rafi while studying at the City School served as the President of Broadcasting

Unit, founding member and Secretary General of Model UN and Head Prefect of the student body. In addition to extra-curricular activities, Faran had been prominent in academics and holds an O Levels distinction in Statistics. For his Bachelors, Faran joined Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS) and during his time at LUMS, he represented Pakistan in Turkey and India in different competitions and won top prizes. Also to his credit is a nationwide campaign under the name of "Project Cleanup for Peace" which was covered by national and international media. Faran was named as 'Top 12 Positive People of 2012' by Express Tribune and had been the brand ambassador for Coca-Cola's "Crazy for Good" campaign in 2013. While

working for the Government of Pakistan, he published the first ever research on democratic process and history of elections in Pakistan, in collaboration with NADRA and ECP.

He says that, "The reason why I chose to study in the UK was because of opportunities in journalism over there. Also, the presence of a large South Asian diaspora in UK, assured me that I won't find it hard to get integrated in the society. University of Strathclyde had a unique programme in Digital Journalism, which is modern and in line with industry requirements of the modern world. The faculty and my colleagues at the university added a lot of value to the learning process, and helped me at every step. Before Strathclyde, I did my undergraduate degree from LUMS and then worked in multiple media positions in Pakistan. Now I'm teaching at NUST while also working as a freelance journalist."



**AHMED QAHAFA**  
Roots International Schools - 2011  
University of London, University of London  
International Programmes - 2014  
BPP Business School - 2016

Ahmed is an aspiring individual who has led by his actions and

versatility. According to his school counsellors, they found Ahmed distinctive from the rest of his peers and with an approach which has helped him to excel and to show the best of his abilities and skills in his endeavours. Ahmed coolly carries academic brilliance on his shoulders and has secured 3 distinctions at MSc Level and is the recipient of High Achievers' Award for three consecutive years. After completing his Bachelor's degree from University of London, Ahmed is currently pursuing MSc

in Management with Finance from BPP Business School.

Statement from UK alumni: Pursuing an MSc was transformative in many ways. The best thing about the degree is having the freedom to think of a research idea and test a prediction. I feel tremendously lucky to be in an environment that allows me to conduct research on my own. Thus combining a personal feel with a stringent curriculum the college helped me grow beyond words I can say. To all students, I would say this: Throw yourself at every chance. These chances will provide you with a definite career path and can make the difference between what you want and having to settle for second best."

## MEHRAN BHATTI

Westminster School & College - 2010  
University College London (UCL) - 2013  
University of Cambridge - 2014



Mehran Bhatti went to University College London after completing A Levels from Westminster School & College. He was awarded

Commendable Academic Performance Award (2008 to 2010) at Westminster. At University College London, he won the Union Novice Fencing Cup and was elected as International Student Officer. From University College London, Mehran completed his Chemical Engineering with First Class Honours. After this he joined University of Cambridge in 2013 to pursue MPhil in Advanced Chemical Engineering. He conducted research in Immunity to HIV induced by candidate vaccines during his study in University of Cambridge.

Mehran has worked in multiple industries since completing his MPhil from University of Cambridge. Currently, he is the Project Leader for development and implementation of IT system for Johnson and Johnson, EMEA Headquarter in Switzerland.

Sharing his thoughts, Mehran said that, "Success may mean something different individually. But all successes require perseverance. It may not come with the first try or the second, but that's just a setback, unless you give up. My success is having this amazing work of improving lives and the time to spend with my family each day. In the words of Maya Angelou, "You can only become truly accomplished at something you love. Don't make money your goal. Instead pursue the things you love doing and then do them so well that people can't take their eyes off of you."



### SHAISTA MADAD

Beaconhouse School System - 2014  
University of Cambridge - started in 2014

Along with an impeccable academic record to boast, Shaista Madad

has an impressive profile in terms of being an accomplished public speaker, experienced Student Council member and award winning budding journalist. She secured 8A\*s in her O levels and 4A\*s in her A levels and is the recipient of High Achievers' Awards for three consecutive years. After completing her A levels, she won the prestigious 800th Anniversary Scholarship at Cambridge University. Currently, she is enrolled at Cambridge University where she is studying biological sciences on a 100% scholarship. Hailing from Gilgit-Baltistan, she has been actively engaged in educational

development projects of her own community and wants to contribute further by addressing issues in early childhood development and care.

Shaista says, "The opportunity to study at Cambridge University has been a life transforming experience. It has given me the space to think critically and develop an awareness of global issues. Studying here has also helped me appreciate the value of pluralism and the importance of cosmopolitan values. I am very grateful to my school for helping me get this opportunity. I would not have been here if it were not for the support and encouragement that I received throughout the application process given to me by my career advisor."



### AMMAR SHAUKAT RESHI

Roots IVY International - 2012  
King's College London - 2015

Being an exceptional student at Roots IVY International, Ammar Shoukat

Reshi was the President of the Student Council. He also founded the first student publication of the school titled, "The Student Voice" and a Film Club where he wrote and directed short films including "Zombies" which won first place in the School Filmmaking Competition. After completing his A levels with outstanding results, Ammar got accepted at the King's College London (KCL) for undergraduate studies in Computer Science. In his second year, Ammar co-founded a student society called KCL Tech which became one of the largest and the most influential student societies in the UK, winning multiple awards. The counsellor at Roots School System vouches for his enthusiasm and a strong sense of commitment and ability to motivate his peers.

In his own words, "I was surrounded by a lot of great opportunities in the tech sector. In my second year,

I co-founded a student society called KCL Tech. At the time, this was meant to help grow the student tech community at King's. In a matter of months, KCL Tech became probably not only one of the largest but also the most influential student societies in the UK, winning multiple awards by the end of the year. We ran events that brought students from Oxford and all the way from St. Andrews in Scotland to our campus. The faculty at King's was also very supportive of the initiative and that was even more encouragement for us to be really ambitious with what we wanted to achieve. The student community's drive and passion was equally as important as the academics. It was constant learning both inside and outside the classroom that ultimately helped prepare us for life after University as well. Fresh out of King's, I was offered a position at several of the most prestigious tech companies in the world. I chose to work at Palantir Technologies, a Silicon Valley based tech company at the cutting edge of innovation that creates products and solutions for the most critical government, commercial, and non-profit institutions in the world."

### MAHAM FAISAL KHAN

Headstart School - 2011  
University of Oxford - 2015



Maham Faisal is an outstanding alumnus of Headstart School. Her academic and professional career revolves around "learning to learn".

Maham was

the first student in her schools to achieve 11 A\*s in her O Levels exams. Following her results she was awarded 100% Scholarship for her A Levels. Following her A Levels, Maham went on to attend the University of Oxford, where she attended St. John's College and received a degree in Experimental Psychology and Philosophy. Some of Maham's major achievements include establishing Oxford University's first ever student-run six week course for students with mild depression. She was awarded 'Campaign of the Year' at OUSU Awards. Currently, Maham is working with RIZ Consulting where she manages a team for advocacy and networking of issues related to gender, population and reproductive health. She believes loss of an inquisitive spirit in children leads to stifling of growth in society universally. This suppression of inquiry is widespread and is pervading academic and professional trajectories through the imposition of gender norms. As an educator, she wishes to challenge this apathy.

She says, "My academic and professional career has really just focused on "learning to learn". Fundamentally, I believe that the one thing that stifles growth in society is the loss of an inquisitive spirit that is universally seen in children, even prenatally. The suppression of inquiry is widespread, pervading academic and professional trajectories through the imposition of gender norms, narratives constructed around emotional diversity as weakness, and a lack of due diligence when verifying information. As an educator, it is this apathy that I wish to challenge."





# REALISING AN APTITUDE FOR LAW WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Nisar Ahmed Sidhu on his journey from a village in rural Punjab to becoming an Associate at one of Pakistan's top Commercial Law firms

I am essentially from a rural background from Punjab in Pakistan, from a village called Nankana Sahib, where I began my earlier education. After gaining an FSc (Intermediate Pre-Engineering), I began searching for a suitable advanced professional course in local universities. I came across information about the LLB (Hons) programme offered by the University of London being taught in Pakistan College of Law. I visited the College and was informed that my local qualifications were not sufficient to enrol into the LLB directly. However, access to the degree could be gained through the Diploma in Law.

After being tested, my College administration identified that I wrote well and gave me admission to study for the Diploma in Law as an international student of the University of London. Upon obtaining admission I met with many new adventures, such as living in the big city of Lahore away from my family. Life in the area of Punjab where I came from was also too remote to acquaint me with basic technology, that all my classmates took for granted. I actually created my first ever email address upon obtaining admission into the Diploma in Law so that I could correspond with the University directly. Before studying for the Diploma in Law, my earlier education had also not equipped me with skills such as analytical reasoning and research techniques.

Considering my background, I faced many difficulties at the

start of the course, including not understanding lectures quickly in class as these were mostly conducted in English. On top of it all I always felt shy in discussing these things with my classmates and teachers. However, the College administration supported me throughout the first year. The College guided me in pursuing the Diploma in Law in two stages, which helped me to divide my burden and get used to the demands of a system of learning I was previously not accustomed to. I was also encouraged to take language classes to improve my English and advised to work on assignments, which I submitted more of than any other student in my class. While working on assignments, I was guided to use the material made available online by the University of London.

I was able to acquire the Diploma in Law and then went on to study for the LLB (Hons). I improved with regard to the use of information technology and research skills, to the extent that I completed research essays and obtained a QLD which markedly improved my communication skills. I came to discover that the LLB and the University exam system develops individual analysis in order for a student to obtain respectable grades, rather than the rote learning.

My prior quality of education did not really make me a suitable candidate for studying the LLB, let alone from the University of London. No one in my family (nor

*“The University of London International Programmes provided me with access to the LLB (Hons) through the Diploma in Law, which then opened up a whole new way for me into the legal profession.”*

I) originally thought that I would succeed, but through sheer hard work and perseverance I overcame many hurdles and came through as a graduate of the University of London. I was constantly encouraged by my teaching institution and I also had the flexibility to study at my pace.

I came from a village in rural Punjab and through a visit to Pakistan College of Law I came to know that I could study Law from one of the best universities in the world whilst being in Pakistan. The University of London International Programmes provided me with access to the LLB (Hons) through the Diploma in Law, which then opened up a whole new way for me into the legal profession. After graduating from the University of London I began my legal practice with Cornelius, Lane & Mufti (Advocates & Solicitors), one of the top commercial law firms in Pakistan where I am currently an Associate. I look forward to further developing my professional skills on the foundation that was laid whilst completing the LLB (Hons) of the University of London International Programmes.

# Scholarship Guide for 2016–17

A guide to available scholarships at UK Universities and Institutions for 2016 entry for students in South Asia

## PAKISTAN



To download the guide please visit  
[www.britishcouncil.pk/study-uk/scholarships-funding](http://www.britishcouncil.pk/study-uk/scholarships-funding)



# SUSTAINING COMMITMENT TO ANY TASK



Saad Ali Baloch's achievements speak for themselves. As a student at Roots Millennium College, Islamabad, Saad Ali Baloch scored 12As in CIE O levels and 4 A grades in CIE AS levels with a Regional Distinction in AS levels General paper (Top in Islamabad).

One remarkable quality of Saad is his sustained commitment to any task. For example, last year, he initiated a No-Shave November programme to raise awareness about Prostate Cancer. During the campaign he organised seminars and invited well-known personalities to share their views and raise awareness on the matter. This programme attracted state-wide attention and drew students from other schools as well. Saad decided to continue the programme this year too; a successful second edition concluded in November 2015. His sustained commitment and sense of responsibility is the reason he was promoted from Vice President of the Welfare Society at school to the Society's President. His subject teachers unanimously agree to the fact that he is one of the most distinguished students from class of 2016. His volleyball

coach ranks him as one of the finest players he has ever coached.

Saad helped establish a partnership between the International Distinguished Scholars Society and his own school. As a result, his school fellows have an opportunity to get recognition at an international level for their academic achievements. Besides listing IDS membership on college applications, students can utilise Résumé Review service at no cost. In the summer of 2015, Saad was selected for the Oxford Summer Programme on full scholarship. He was the only student from Pakistan and one of the five students from the world who were awarded this prestigious merit scholarship. Due to Saad's efforts, the founder of Oxbridge Academic Summer Programmes, Mr. James Basker sent a personalised invitation to his school to encourage other students to apply for these programmes and promised that students from his school will be given special consideration during the application process.

Some of the highlights of Saad's achievements include getting the first position in Chemistry,

Economics and Urdu Language. He was recognised for achieving the best score across five A levels subjects in his school. He has developed excellent analytical skills due to his interest in Philosophy and Sociology.

Saad has continued the process of re-evaluating his understanding of life. His counsellor says, "He admits that he hasn't solved the puzzle yet; he is constantly thinking about life, and we deeply admire that."



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of digital devices, products and services. The ipads, laptops, and smartphones transported the public to a world of contemporary UK cultural information and entertainment. We showcased UK videos and documentaries on large screens. We sampled a few events and activities to show the new libraries as convening spaces for people of all ages. Children, teenagers, adults, and families turned up in droves, attracted by the welcoming and vibrant affair.

A number of visitors at the pop-ups fondly reminisced about the British Council libraries they had visited or were members of fifteen years ago. There was a mix of nostalgia about the closing of the libraries, and enthusiasm and anticipation about the opening of the new.

thousands of e-books, e-journals, popular online magazines from The Economist to Vogue, and UK and international movies and documentaries at their fingertips. We will bring the best of UK content and curate that content to create and provide a digital resource to meet the needs of our users across the country. We will provide access to UK research and academic texts that are not readily available in Pakistan, and work with our UK partners to bring the very best of cutting edge digital content right to our members' mobiles, tablets and computer screens. We will provide a complete digital knowledge experience to our members.

have been setup at various locations in both cities. Pop-ups were installed at Dolmen Mall in Karachi, and Lahore festivals including Lahore Literary Festival, Khayal Festival and more, where they promoted the library offerings to around 200,000 visitors. More pop-up libraries are being setup before the launch of the libraries.

Our pop-up libraries served as a preview of what the libraries would offer, creating a temporary space which generated excitement and anticipation ahead of the grand openings. We provided a rich collection of books for all ages, a 'digibar' with a diverse range

The people recognise the desire to have a cultural community space which encourages and inculcates learning, sharing of ideas and knowledge, a range of diverse events, but more so, the access to instant contemporary information readily available from all over the globe.

We hope to provide all this and more. We want to be your favourite cafe, gig-venue and bookstore all-in-one. We aim to a model that challenges libraries and cultural centres across the country. We are more than books – we are about an experience.

The idea is to cater to a generation that is very digital savvy yet are starved for social spaces in our cities to socialise with their friends, discuss ideas, be creative, to stay informed, be provocative, and be challenged – to simply be themselves.

In the first phase, there are three membership packages on offer to our patrons: digital, individual, and family. Our aim is to offer our products and services to approximately 6,000 members in both cities in the first year.

As a precursor to the British Council Pakistan libraries in Lahore and Karachi, and to promote the offer, a series of 'pop-up' libraries





KARACHI AND ISLAMABAD

# Education UK Counsellors' Symposium – 2015



The Education UK Counsellors' Symposium is an annual event that is held in the three cities of Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad. In 2015, on popular demand, the Counsellors' Symposium was held in both, Karachi and Islamabad. The fifth Counsellors' Symposium was held in partnership with Karachi School of Business and Leadership (KSBL) and the sixth symposium was held in partnership with National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST) in Karachi and Islamabad respectively.

Both the events drew participation from leading educational institutions from across cities. They were attended by student counsellors, career advisers, heads of educational institutions, educational agents and consultants along with education managers. The symposiums were packed with productive and exciting opportunities for professional development through interactive and innovative sessions on a variety of topics including counselling, career guidance and education.





## Partner institutions in Karachi and Islamabad included:

- National University of Sciences and Technology – NUST
- Karachi School of Business and Leadership - KSBL
- Study in Scotland
- Durham University
- University of London - International Programmes
- British Council IELTS
- British Alumni Association of Pakistan (BAAP)

## The sessions delivered at the symposiums included the following topics:

- ‘Scottish Education System’, by Stuart Easter, University of Edinburgh
- ‘Transnational Education (TNE) programmes – by Saad Wasim, University of London International Programmes
- ‘Effective planning and subject selection for higher education in the UK’, by Sharne Proctor, Durham University
- ‘Counselling for employability and life skills in today’s changing educational landscape’, by Fahd Ali Asif, University of Dundee
- ‘Self-discovery for better career selection’, by Rahila Narejo

## COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS

*“It was really informative and I definitely want to be a part of such events in the future.”*

*“Such sessions should be organised more frequently.”*

*“The British Council came up with an innovative event where career counsellors visited a leading university of Pakistan. This visit itself was beneficial for our exposure, information and networking. Regarding this event, it was great overall.”*



# KARACHI

SCHOOL MISSION 2015

12 October 2015 – 15 October 2015

The British Council Pakistan launched the Karachi School Mission in 2015 bringing leading UK higher education institutions to Karachi, Pakistan, to meet with prospective students and student counsellors at leading schools in the city. The School Mission will be an annual feature and will be taken to cities across Pakistan in 2016.



**06 UK**  
Universities

Bangor University  
Coventry University  
Portsmouth University  
Sussex University  
University of Cardiff  
University Nottingham



**4 A level**  
Schools

Beaconhouse School System  
The City School  
DA Public School  
Nixor College



**1,000+**  
Students

The tour was a fantastic series of visits and face-to-face interaction between students, student counsellors and visiting representatives from UK universities.

The students, counsellors and schools enthusiastically welcomed the opportunity to meet the university delegates and had a detailed discussion about applying to the UK for their under graduate qualifications. It was great to experience the fun and quick rapport between the students and the visiting university representatives!

**In addition to the school visits and interaction with students, the visiting UK universities also enjoyed networking with the school managements and student counsellors along with the British Council teams.**







## 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/>



**Working in the UK (visas and immigration information), UK Border Agency**  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/uk-visas-and-immigration>



**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>



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- Accounting and Finance
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- Economics • Engineering (Civil, Mechanical, Petroleum, Electronic and Computer) • Fashion and Textiles • International Relations • Pharmacy



'Studying in another country was challenging at the beginning, but my new friends helped me a lot and I have become more independent since living in Portsmouth.'

**Kosar Akram**  
BEng (Hons)  
Civil Engineering

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