

UNIVERSAL NEWSLETTER

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UCBD LAUNCHES UK CYBERSECURITY DEGREE

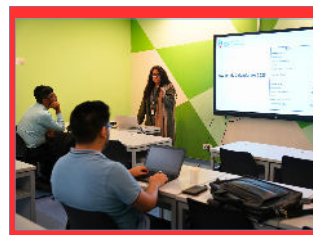


Universal College Bangladesh held the orientation for the first batch of students to join the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) BSc (Honours) Cybersecurity degree.

The day started with the opening remarks of Professor Hew Gill, President & Provost of UCBD, and Professor Muhammad Ismail Hossain, Dean of Academic Affairs at UCBD. Prof Hew said that the Cybersecurity degree is very innovative and designed to prepare students for top-paying jobs. He said that students do not take many exams and are assessed during the whole programme, with the emphasis being on assignments and practical tasks which allow students to demonstrate the skills that they have learned throughout the course.

Then Cybersecurity Programme Coordinator, Ms Ambreen Zaman, further explained about the content of the Cybersecurity degree, and the opportunities for students to study in the UK. Students can choose to

study in the UK for their second year and return to Bangladesh, or study for both the second and third year in the UK. Prof Hew and Ms Samia Salam, Parent Engagement Executive, conducted a special session for the parents in attendance at the orientation. Prof Hew said, "We welcome students from HSC, A Level and other educational backgrounds direct into our UK degrees. The degrees we offer in Dhaka are exactly the same as the degrees offered in the UK, and students will receive the same degree certificate whether they study in Bangladesh or Britain."



MONASH FACULTY VISITS UCBD



UCBD hosted a wonderful visit for Mr Sadiqr Rahman on Thursday 9 January 2025. Mr Sadiqr is a faculty member from the Clayton campus of Monash College who teaches accounting and finance. The UCBD partner teacher Mr Sharif Hossain initiated this impactful visit of Mr Sadiqr and established a remarkable rapport between UCBD Monash and Monash College teams. Mr. Sadiqr expressed his happiness that UCBD has shown such promising progress in the Monash programs, with the UCBD faculty achieving the same standard in teaching and learning practice, and with students benefiting from well-equipped campus facilities.

Mr Sadiqr had a vivid discussion with the UCBD President Prof Hew, the Dean Prof Ismail, the MCD Program Coordinator Dr Sadia, and the UCBD faculty Mr Sharif Hossain who teaches the MCD unit Principles of Financial Accounting. The team discussed the potential of Monash programs worldwide and how the rapid changes in current technology can enhance our learning experience, and build a better future through collaborative education.

UCBD FACULTY IN THE HANDBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY



Ms. Marzia Al-Hakeem, UCBD Student Support Head and Lecturer in Psychology, has recently published a chapter titled "Psychology in Bangladesh", in the prestigious Handbook of International Psychology. The first edition of the book was published in 2004 and included the history and status of Psychology in only 27 countries whereas this second edition incorporated 100 countries. The second edition surveyed the emergence of psychology across the world, alongside the education and training practices, service domains, and future prospects of psychology in the countries featured.

Professor Dr. MD. Mahmudur Rahman, the Pro Vice chancellor of the International University of Bangladesh Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT)

co-authored the chapter with Ms. Marzia. The chapter highlights how Psychology started its journey in Bangladesh as a subject in the British period, and has grown into multiple applied fields in recent times. Ms. Marzia discussed how psychology is becoming a flourishing discipline in Bangladesh, with numerous fields of service are developing across the country, especially in the capital, Dhaka. However, the chapter also points out that while applied psychology and clinical practice are quite well developed, pure research in this field is yet to thrive.

The concluding remarks of the chapter suggest that Bangladesh needs indigenous research as well as international collaboration in research to have a greater impact globally. The expansion of practice will also require an increased number of well-trained psychologists, quality services and an institute of applied psychology, to further consolidate the field – Psychology in Bangladesh.

Book Reference: Al-Hakeem, M. & Rahman, M. M. (2025) Psychology in Bangladesh. In Bullock, M., Stevens, M., Wedding, D., & Clinton, A. (Eds.). Handbook of International Psychology (2nd ed.), Chap. 36, London: Routledge.

UNIVERSAL COLLEGE BANGLADESH INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION YEAR ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

UCB conducted its second orientation for Batch B of the UCBD International Foundation Year (UIFY) programme. UIFY is a fast-track programme that enables students to get direct entry to a large number of universities in the UK, Australia, Canada and the US direct from SSC and O Levels. This means that students can save a year. The programme equips students with essential skills and specialized knowledge, preparing them for university-level studies and enabling them to pursue degrees in their chosen fields of Business, Engineering, Information Technology, and Science.

The orientation began with welcome addresses from Professor Ismail Hossain, Dean of Academic Affairs, and then Professor Hew Gill, President & Provost, of UCBD. This was followed by a session with the UIFY Programme Coordinator, Ms Pikasha Imam, Senior Lecturer in English from the Faculty of Humanities & Life Sciences, Ms Pikasha introduced the students and parents to the UIFY programme, explaining the content and key policies. Prof Hew and Ms Samia Salam, Parent Engagement Executive, also held a special parent orientation session to explain the UIFY Programme structure and key dates. As part of this session, the President also set out the



many future study opportunities available to UIFY students and discussed methods to apply to international universities.

The orientation ended on a high note, with students looking forward to start classes the next day.

BANGLADESH WOMEN'S COLLECTIVE WORKSHOP



From January 10 to 12, Ms Sushama Mahmuda Ananna, Executive Coordinator to the President and Lecturer in Psychology, participated in a residential training program organized by the Bangladesh Womxn's Collective. The event focused on the theme "Feminism and the Transformative Power of Feminism," and Ms. Ananna conducted a session titled "Self-Care and Mental Health for Feminists."

The Bangladesh Womxn's Collective is a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing women's rights and feminist praxis through informal dialogues and artistic expression. The residential training program aimed to explore the power of feminism, equality, and positive change by encouraging participants to reflect on their experiences, challenge outdated beliefs, and envision a future of equal progress for all.

Ms. Ananna's session on mental health and self-care was a highlight of the program. She began by debunking common myths about mental health, followed by several engaging and interactive activities focused on self-awareness. Participants explored their strengths, celebrated their achievements, and practiced gratitude, fostering a deeper connection with themselves and others.

As the sun set on the picturesque training venue, the group gathered around a bonfire in the evening chill. Under Ms. Ananna's supervision, each participant shared a significant story from their life. After each story, the group offered validation, highlighting one unique ability or strength of the storyteller. This exercise created a powerful sense of connection and mutual support among the participants.

The combination of feminist discourse, self-exploration, mindfulness exercises, and mental health awareness made the training program both meaningful and impactful. The tranquil setting of the resort further enhanced the experience, allowing participants to fully immerse themselves in the journey of reflection and growth. This residential training not only deepened the participants' understanding of feminism but also emphasized the importance of mental health and self-care in sustaining the fight for equality.

A GATEWAY TO GLOBAL EXCELLENCE: UCLAN ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR BUSINESS & MARKETING DEGREE (BSC HONS)



On 13th January the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan) BSc (Hons) Business & Marketing programme for the January 2025 intake was officially launched at Universal College Bangladesh, reinforcing the institution's commitment to delivering world-class education in Bangladesh.

The event began at 2:30 PM with opening remarks from Professor Muhammad Ismail Hossain, Dean of Academic Affairs, and Professor Hew Gill, President & Provost. They emphasized the programme's ability to provide students with a globally recognized British degree, enabling international academic exposure from Bangladesh while fostering personal and professional growth.

At 2:45 PM, Mr. Abhishek Chakravarty, Program Coordinator, presented an overview of the programme's structure, core modules, assessment criteria, and academic policies, highlighting its emphasis on global business trends, practical application, and adaptability. Joining remotely, Mr. Shabaz Ali Mahmood, Lecturer in Digital Marketing at UCLan, reinforced the program's international relevance, addressing student and parent queries.

After a tea break at 3:30 PM, students attended an interactive session led by Ms. Marzia Al-Hakeem, Head of Student Support, and Mr. Shafik Waes, Deputy Registrar, covering student support services, academic integrity, and extracurricular activities. Simultaneously, Professor Hew Gill led a parent orientation session, discussing the long-term career benefits and entrepreneurial opportunities available to graduates.

The event concluded with networking opportunities, allowing students and parents to connect with faculty and peers, fostering a strong UCLan-UCBD community. This successful launch underscores UCBD's dedication to academic excellence, setting the stage for a promising journey ahead for the January 2025 cohort.



MONASH UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION YEAR JANUARY INTAKE



Universal College Bangladesh conducted the orientation session for the latest intake of the Monash University Foundation Year (MUFY) on Monday, January 27, 2025. The new students were familiarized with the MUFY program's structure, rules, and processes, while also highlighting pathways for international education. Opening speeches were delivered by Professor Ismail Hossain, the Dean of Academic Affairs, and UCBD's President & Provost, Professor Hew Gill. The excitement of the event was further enhanced by the participation of Ms. S. Azra Karim and Mr. Daniel Lum from the Monash Australia and Monash Malaysia international student recruitment teams. They both highlighted the variety of programs available to UCBD MUFY students and illustrated the vibrant student life and activities on the Australian and Malaysian campuses. In the full-day event, UCBD's President & Provost, together with Ms. Samia Salam, Parent Engagement Executive, conducted a session aimed at parents to

discuss study options at Monash University. The MUFY Program Coordinator, Ms. Ambreen Zaman, Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of IT & Computing, provided a summary of the MUFY Program along with key student policies and procedures. The Deputy Registrar gave a concise overview detailing the importance of maintaining academic integrity and adherence to the attendance policy at UCBD. The UCBD IT department facilitated a session on setting up Microsoft Office 365, Monash student accounts, and accessing IT resources. The Student Support team presented the UCBD student counseling services, and encouraged students to participate in extracurricular activities. The sessions concluded with the capturing of memorable moments for the newly enrolled students.

PROF HEW VISITS NOTRE DAME COLLEGE



Prof. Hew Gill, President & Provost of UCBD visited Notre Dame College, Dhaka on 29th January 2025. Prof Hew was invited by the Notre Dame Career & Skill Development Club, which organised a Student Workshop Session for its members and other students. More than 200 students attended, and it was literally standing room only at the back and sides of the hall, to hear Prof. Hew Gill speak about "Careers of the Future".

Prof Hew explained how the world of work is changing,

and how transferrable skills will be the key to success in the future. He also shared with the students how UCBD could help them pursue international education options right here in Bangladesh at the UCBD campus in Dhaka.

Prof Hew showed how all the international programmes offered at UCBD equip students with the important work skills that they need, and prepare them for career success. There was a lively question and answer session, and many students also spoke to Prof Hew after the session had concluded. Mr Tanzil, Marketing Manager, provided information to the students about the UK degrees available at UCBD, and students were particularly interested in the degrees available in Business and IT from the University of Central Lancashire.

While at Notre Dame Prof. Hew also dropped in to see the Principal, Dr. Fr. Hemanto Pius Rozario, CSC along with Mr. Safiul Alam, Lecturer & Moderator, Notre Dame Career & Skill Development Club.

UCBD CELEBRATES AUSTRALIA DAY



In honour of UCBD's Australian partner universities, UCBD celebrated Australia Day, with a vibrant tribute to Australia's rich culture, heritage, and diversity. Although Australia Day is officially observed on January 26, UCBD marked the occasion on the 28th so that the new students joining the Monash University Foundation Year program could take part. Australia Day commemorates the landing of the First Fleet from the UK in 1788 and the raising of the Union Flag at Sydney Cove.

UCBD seized the opportunity to immerse students in the values, traditions, and cultural essence of Australia. The event was a delightful blend of education, entertainment, and engagement, bringing the spirit of Australia to life on campus. The Library & Resource Centre was decorated in an Australian theme, featuring the flags of Bangladesh and Australia, colorful balloons, and digital banner displays.

The celebration began with a warm welcome, followed by a short video showcasing knowledge regarding Australia's landscapes, diverse culture, and rich history. After that, students competed in an interactive online quiz based on the video, conducted using a digital platform. Participants enthusiastically answered questions about Australia, with their progress displayed in real-time on a large screen. The top three performers were awarded exciting prizes, presented by UCBD's President & Provost, Professor Hew Gill.

The festivities continued with a lively game of "Pin the Tail," where blindfolded students attempted to pin a paper tail onto a kangaroo. The game sparked laughter and joy, creating a lighthearted atmosphere. Prizes were awarded not only for the most accurate pin but also for the funniest attempt, adding an extra layer of amusement to the event.

The celebration concluded on a high note, with participants gathering for a group photo alongside Professor Hew Gill, proudly holding their gifts and radiating happiness. UCBD's Australia Day celebration was a resounding success, blending education and entertainment to create a memorable experience for all.



UCBD AND MENTORS' EDUCATION FORGE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

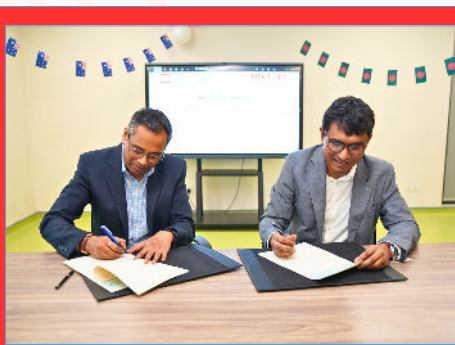


Universal College Bangladesh (UCBD) is pleased to announce the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mentors' Education Limited on January 28, 2025, at UCBD's Gulshan-1 campus. This partnership reinforces a shared commitment to enhancing education through collaboration.

The agreement was formalized by Kingshuk Gupta, COO of UCBD, and Anindya Chowdhury, Director & CEO of Mentors' Education, in the presence of key representatives from both institutions, including MD Raisul Islam Ratul, Program Coordinator; and Sabrina Tasneem, PR & Business Development from Mentors' end and Manas Singh, CEO, STS Capital Limited; Tanzil Chowdhury, Manager - Marketing, and S M Risalat Rahman Assistant Manager - Marketing from UCBD were present during the fruitful discussion on enhancing the education journey of Bangladeshi students.

This collaboration aims to create meaningful academic opportunities, provide professional training, and bridge the gap between education and industry needs. By combining resources and expertise, both institutions strive to offer students access to enhanced learning experiences and career-focused initiatives. This will surely enhance the education journey through enabling pathways for international standard education.

UCBD looks forward to rolling out practical, student-centric programs through this partnership. More updates on upcoming initiatives will follow soon!



Events in February

As usual, the UCB Student Club and campus will be very busy with lots of events in February

- »» **Spring Festival-2025**
- »» **Harvard Session with Notre Dame College Students**
- »» **MCD Orientation**
- »» **Celebrating International Women in Science Day**
- »» **Harvard Session with Birshreshtha Noor Mohammad Public College & Oxford International School**
- »» **Honoring International Mother Language Day**
- »» **MoU Signing with Dhaka Bank PLC.**
- »» **Acknowledging World Cancer Day**
- »» **Student Workshop in Mentors'**

