

# UNIVERSAL NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2024

## LAUNCH OF UNIVERSAL COLLEGE BANGLADESH INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION YEAR

UCB officially launched the new UCB International Foundation Year (UIFY) with an orientation for the first batch of students and their parents.

UIFY is a new fast track programme that enables students to get direct entry to a large number of universities in the UK, Australia, Canada and the US without needing to complete AS, A2 or similar qualifications that take two years. The programme prepares students for university-level studies by equipping them with a range of important skills, and also the specific knowledge that they need to pursue degrees in their chosen disciplines. The first batch of UIFY students joined the Business stream and Information Technology stream. In the next intake Business and IT streams will be joined by Science and Engineering streams.

The orientation began with welcome addresses from Professor Ismail Hossain, Dean of Academic Affairs, and UCB's President and Provost, Professor Hew Gill. Then Mr Abhishek Chakravarty, Faculty of Management & Marketing, UIFY Programme Coordinator took over and explained the main points of the UIFY programme.



Prof Hew and Ms Samia Salam, Parent Engagement Executive, also held a special parent orientation session to explain the UIFY programme structure and timings. As part of this session, the President also set out the many future study opportunities available to UIFY students and went through how to apply to international universities through UCB's sister concern Eduko Pathways.

Students were briefed about the importance of coming to lectures and tutorials, and the UCB Attendance Policy which requires a minimum of 80% attendance. There were also briefings on avoiding any academic malpractice and how to submit assignments on time. All UCB students get access to a personal Microsoft Office 365 account with a full suite of powerful software and tools, so Mr Biplab, Senior Executive IT, took students through their first log-in to an account set up. Ms Marzia Al-Hakeem, Student Support Head, explained what counselling and support services are available to UCB students. Ms Zebunessa Zeba explained the many extra-curricular activities which take place on campus and encouraged the new students to join some of the many clubs and societies active across UCB.

## BANGLADESH YOUTH LEADERSHIP CENTER-UCB MENTAL HEALTH SESSION

Ms Sushama Mahmuda Ananna, Executive Coordinator to the President of UCB and Lecturer in Psychology, was recently invited to deliver a session on mental health at Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC). As the country's leading leadership institute for the leaders of tomorrow, BYLC invited Ms. Ananna to conduct a training session with their Campus Ambassadors who represent schools, colleges and universities across Bangladesh as part of a training programme aimed at equipping the Ambassadors with a range of essential leadership skills to help them fulfill their important roles in their educational institutions.

The session came at a crucial time when students are dealing with heightened anxiety and emotional distress due to recent events and devastating floods affecting many regions of Bangladesh. Recognizing the profound impact those events may have had on students; the session was focused on addressing negative emotions and building resilience. During the session Ms. Ananna spoke about anxiety, anger, grief, guilt, and other common emotions that the students may have experienced. She highlighted different practical interventions, along with various coping strategies that students could use to maintain a balanced mental state. The session was interactive, guiding students through different exercises like mindfulness for emotional regulation, journaling, and how those interventions can be applied in real life to build resilience. The session



helped students understand and address their negative emotions by learning new ways to deal with them effectively. After the session, the students were more confident in navigating the many complexities of student life and the challenges of their leadership roles. Students also recognized that taking good care of their own mental health can not only empower them to excel academically but can also help their personal growth and success as leaders.

## FRUIT FIESTA AT UCB: A CELEBRATION OF VARIETY

The students of the Monash University Foundation Year Global Studies unit at UCB recently hosted a vibrant Fruit Party, showcasing an impressive array of both local and international fruits. Under the guidance of Mr. Dewan Md. Nur -A Yazdani of the Faculty of Management and Marketing, the event aimed to celebrate a large number of fruits available in Bangladesh and promote food sustainability.

The party featured a colourful display of fruits, including familiar local favourites like pomelos, hog plum, mangoes, coconuts, guavas, bananas, jackfruit and papayas, as well as exotic imports such as strawberries, grapes, dragon fruit, kiwi, apple, oranges and pears. Each fruit was accompanied by informative labels giving the name and origins of the fruits on display. Attendees also had the opportunity to sample a variety of fruit-based treats, such as smoothies, and juices. The Fruit Party not only satisfied appetites but also nurtured friendships. Attendees left with full bellies and enriched minds, eager for future events that celebrate the many wonders of our world.

Laughter and chatter echoed as everyone mingled, sharing stories and experiences related



to the fruits they loved. Moreover, it was a testament to the creativity and enthusiasm of the Global Studies students and the supportive guidance of their faculty advisor.

## MONASH UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION YEAR AUGUST INTAKE



Universal College Bangladesh conducted the orientation for the fresh entrants of the Monash University Foundation Year (MUFY) on Wednesday, August 28, 2024. The orientation featured inaugural addresses by Professor Ismail Hossain, Dean of Academic Affairs, and UCB's President and Provost, Professor Hew Gill, Ms. Azra Karim and Mr. Daniel Lum, who represent the international student recruitment teams at Monash Australia and Monash Malaysia respectively, highlighted the variety of programs accessible to UCB MUFY

students and demonstrated the vibrant student life and activities at both the Australian and Malaysian campuses.

On the day-long occasion, the President and Provost of UCB, accompanied by Ms. Samia Salam, Parent Engagement Executive, conducted a parent orientation session to explain the MUFY program and to explain to parents future study opportunities at Monash University.

The MUFY Program Coordinator, Ms. Ambreen Zaman, Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of IT & Computing, provided an overview of the MUFY Program and presented the key policies and procedures for students. The Academic Coordinator introduced the attendance policy. The Deputy Registrar provided a brief summary explaining how students must always maintain academic integrity. The UCB IT department led a session on setting up UCB Office 365, Monash student accounts, and using IT resources. The Student Services Executive introduced the UCB student counseling services and encouraged students to engage in extra-curricular activities. The sessions concluded by capturing photos of the memorable moments of the newly admitted students.



## WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY

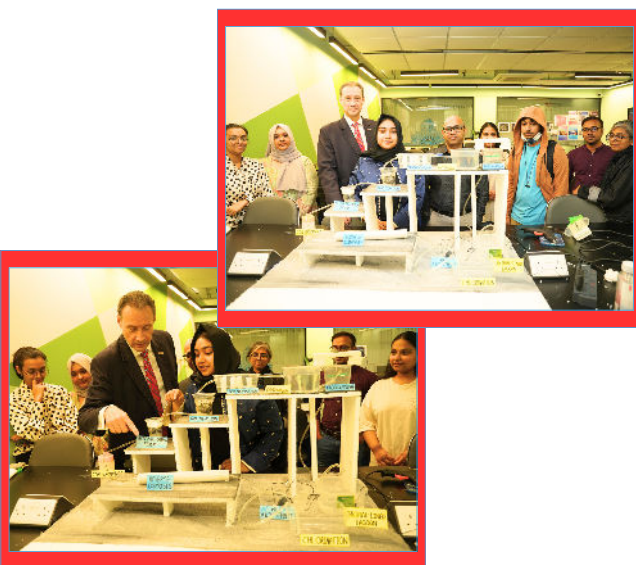
On August 19, 2024, Universal College Bangladesh celebrated World Photography Day with great enthusiasm. Our very own student Photography Club took centre stage, bringing together students who share a passion for capturing the world through their lenses. The highlight of the day was an exhibition featuring photos taken by our talented students across many locations and seasons. Monash students Anisuzzaman Khan, Syed Ishmum Zayyed, and Abtahi Anan, presented a stunning collection of their photographs, which captivated everyone present with images from Dhaka, Istanbul, Kashmir and Sylhet. Their creativity and skill were truly on display, making the exhibition a memorable experience for all.

The event was more than just an exhibition; it was a day of joy and togetherness. Students from all UCB programmes gathered to support their friends and appreciate the art of photography. The atmosphere was lively, with spontaneous photo sessions capturing the excitement and energy of the day.



World Photography Day at UCB was not only a celebration of photography, but also a testament to the creativity and solidarity among our students. It was a day filled with fun, learning, and the shared love for photography.

## MCD WATER PURIFICATION PROJECT (WPP)



*"Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink"—  
Samuel Taylor.*

Saibai Island, located in the north-west Torres Strait about 150 kilometers (about 93.21 mi) north of the Australian mainland and just 4 kilometers south of the International Maritime border with Papua New Guinea,

faces a significant challenge: a lack of pure drinking water. Despite being surrounded by the ocean, the island relies on rainwater for its potable water, which requires advanced purification processes. As part of their Engineering Design course, MCD engineering students, Sumira Zaman and Tafheem Huda Mafee, were tasked with designing a water treatment plant to address this issue. They developed a water treatment prototype model to demonstrate how a range of traditional and high technology techniques can be combined to produce clean water. Alongside gravel and sand filtration, the students' water purification system included ion exchange and reverse osmosis to ensure the highest quality of potable water would be provided to Saibai Island. The students explained how their proposed water purification process would work to Prof Hew, President of UCB, Prof Ismail Hossain, Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr Sadia Afreen, MCD Program Co-Ordinator, and engineering students from other Monash cohorts. Dr Sadia congratulated the students on their excellent design and said, "Throughout this project, students not only gained technical skills but also fostered teamwork and peer-supported learning, showing the many benefits that an international program like Monash can bring to Bangladesh."

## INTERNATIONAL CHESS DAY

International Chess Day was on 20th July 2024. To celebrate this special day, Universal College Bangladesh (UCB) organized an exciting chess championship. Many students joined the competition, eager to show their chess skills. After a tough series of knock-out rounds, the championship moved to the quarterfinals, semi-finals, and then the final match. Unfortunately, the recent disruption in Bangladesh meant that the final was postponed and took place on 29th August 2024.

The walls of UCB were beautifully decorated with colorful posters about chess. These posters had famous quotes from well-known chess players, explained the rules of the game for novices, and provided some tips on strategy for those more familiar with competitive chess. These decorations, beautifully prepared by Ms Zeba, Student Services Executive, added a festive touch to the event, making the atmosphere lively and exciting.

The final match was full of anticipation, and everyone was eager to see who would win. In the end, it was Md. Athar Mijbah, a student from the MCD program, who appeared as the champion. His smart moves and strategic thinking helped him secure the winning position. The day was filled with joy and excitement, and everyone celebrated Md. Athar Mijbah's well-deserved victory. The Chess Championship was a memorable event, bringing together students and creating more lasting memories at UCB.



## UNIVERSITY OF LONDON-LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS DEGREES ADMISSIONS



UCB is set to initiate the 2nd Batch of the UoL-LSE EMFSS program from October 14 2024. Students with HSC, AS and A Levels can complete full three-year degrees from the University of London under the academic direction of the London School of Economics & Political Science at the UCB's Dhaka campus.

The four degrees available are Accounting & Finance, Business & Management, Economics and Finance. After only three years' of study, UCB students can earn a full Bachelor of Science Honours degree from the world-famous University of London.

The deadline for submitting new applications to join the University of London degrees is October 1, 2024, with registration to be completed November 1, 2024. All prospective UoL-LSE students with HSC or any other qualification are encouraged to reach out to our expert UCB counselors and schedule a free counseling session as soon as possible. Only UCB offers students the opportunity to complete four top class BSc programmes from the London School of Economics in Bangladesh, so be sure to visit our Gulshan campus for more information soon or email us now:

[admission@ucbbd.org](mailto:admission@ucbbd.org)

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT UCB NATIONAL ONLINE QUIZ

UCB is excited to announce the return of its monthly Online Quiz for students from O to A levels and current HSC students, scheduled for 19th September 2024 at 3 PM (Bangladesh Standard Time). This quiz provides an excellent opportunity for students to showcase their knowledge and compete with peers in a fun, engaging environment.

Eligible students are encouraged to stay updated on registration details by following UCB's social media platforms and visiting our website, where the registration link will be made available soon. With a total prize pot of 40,000 BDT, the quiz not only rewards knowledge but also encourages a spirit of healthy competition.

Winners will be recognized during a prize distribution ceremony on 22nd September 2024. Participating in this quiz can enhance your understanding of various subjects and build camaraderie among fellow students. Don't miss this chance to challenge yourself—mark your calendars and prepare for an exciting event!



## UCB FEATURES IN THE DAILY STAR

Readers of The Daily Star, the leading English-language newspaper in Bangladesh, were treated to four pages of articles about UCB and its mission to unlock global opportunities for every student in Bangladesh. The richly illustrated articles included photos of UCB students and faculty taking part in many different events on and off campus, ranging from taking part in external competitions to recognizing academic excellence.

The leading article gave an overview of the many international study opportunities available at UCB, highlighting how it is possible for students to study for world-class pathway and degree programmes at the Dhaka campus. Information was provided about the University of London degrees delivered under the academic direction of the London School of Economics & Political Science, the Monash University foundation and first year degree programs, and the new UCB International Foundation Year. There was also a section announcing that new degrees from the University of Central Lancashire, UK, will be available later this year.

Prof Hew Gill, President of UCB, gave an extensive interview to The Daily Star setting out the many benefits of staying local and studying global. In particular, Prof Hew emphasized that Bangladeshi students who complete an international degree programme in Dhaka will be much

more employable and will earn higher salaries than students who take different routes. He also said, "SSC, HSC and O Level students can make many savings in terms of time and money by choosing UCB, so come to see us for a personal chat about your future success.". To read the full interview please follow this link [here](#).



**Secure a career for the next 40 years without leaving the country**

The Daily Star (TDS): Universal College Bangladesh (UCB) has garnered a reputation for itself over the years. What are your organisational missions, and how would you describe the institution?

The Daily Star | Aug 28

## WORLD DISTANCE LEARNING DAY

Universal College Bangladesh celebrated World Distance Learning Day with enormous interest On August 31st, 2024. Our students, who have also taken part in distance learning themselves, were especially excited about the event. They had the opportunity to share their experiences and insights through well-prepared presentations.

During the event, students talked about how distance learning has helped them in many ways. They explained how it allows them to study flexibly and access education from anywhere. However, they also discussed some of the challenges they face, such as staying motivated and managing their time effectively.

The day was not just about student presentations. It was also a chance for students to come together and discuss their thoughts on distance learning. Many students gathered to share their experiences, exchange ideas, and talk about how they handle the difficulties of studying remotely.



World Distance Learning Day at UCB highlighted the strengths and challenges of distance learning. It was a day for students to connect, learn from each other, and reflect on their own learning journeys. The event was filled with valuable discussions and a sense of shared experience.

## DR JAMES ABDEY VISIT TO UCB ON 22ND SEPTEMBER 2024



Dr. James Abdey of the London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE) will be visiting their UCB campus in Dhaka on September 22, 2024 from 11 am to 5 pm. Dr Abdey is the Associate Academic Director of the prestigious Economics, Management, Finance and Social Science (EMFSS) Programmes at the LSE. During his visit Dr. Abdey will address prospective students about the many opportunities available to UCB students who want to study for LSE EMFSS degrees from October 2024.

Aspiring students interested in meeting Dr. Abdey and getting personal advice are welcome to come to the UCB campus and benefit from his extensive knowledge about the career opportunities beyond the EMFSS programs offered by UoL-LSE. The registration link for joining the session will be shared on social media platforms and the website of UCB shortly. Dr James Abdey is an Associate Professor in Statistics at the London School of Economics & Political Science. He obtained his PhD in 2010 from LSE and teaches undergraduate courses in mathematical statistics and quantitative methods, as well as courses in market research.

## Events in September

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

»» **Student Ambassadors  
Graduation Convocation Helper  
Awards**

»» **MUFY Feedback Session**

»» **MUFY High Achievers Awards**

»» **United Nations Department of  
Safety and Security (UNDSS)  
Workshop**

»» **International Literacy Day**

»» **International Day of Democracy**

»» **World Peace Day**

»» **World Tourism Day**

