

# UNIVERSAL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024

## CHARTING NEW PATHS: HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON – LSE DEGREES ORIENTATION DAY AT UCB



On October 14th, 2024, Universal College Bangladesh proudly hosted the University of London's London School of Economics (LSE) Degrees Orientation for the Year 1, 2nd Batch, 2024-25. This event marked an exciting opportunity for the newly admitted students to gain insights into the prestigious programme structure for their Accounting & Finance and Business & Management degrees under the academic direction of the LSE.

The orientation commenced with opening remarks from Professor Hew Gill, President & Provost of UCB. Prof Hew emphasised the importance of academic integrity and community engagement, inspiring students to make the most of their time at UCB while studying for their UoL-LSE degrees.

Mr. Dewan Yazdani, Senior Lecturer and UoL Programme Coordinator at UCB, provided an in-depth overview of the degrees. He discussed the diverse curriculum, and the skills students will develop, preparing them for successful careers in various fields. Mr. Shafik Waes, Deputy Registrar, led a crucial session on attendance and academic integrity policies. He highlighted the importance of maintaining high ethical standards in academic work, ensuring students understood the expectations that will guide their studies.

Ms. Marzia Al-Hakeem, Student Support Head, and

Ms. Zebunessa Zeba from Student Services introduced the various counselling services available to students. They also highlighted the numerous student clubs and organisations that promote engagement and community building on campus. Mr. Biplab Paul, IT Executive, conducted a practical session on setting up and navigating UCB, UoL LSE websites and the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). His guidance ensured that students are well-prepared to utilise the digital tools essential for their studies. In addition to student-focused activities, Professor Hew Gill also conducted a Parents' Orientation session. This segment provided parents with insights into the academic journey their children will embark on, discussing program structure, progression, and support services available to students. Prof Hew was joined by Ms. Samia Salam, Parent Engagement Executive, who explained how UCB provides parents with information about students' progress, attendance, and so on.

The UoL-LSE Degrees Orientation at UCB was a comprehensive introduction for new students, fostering a sense of community and equipping them with essential knowledge for their academic careers. The event not only outlined key policies and resources but also provided a platform for students and parents to engage with faculty and staff. It was a great start to the new academic year.

## GETTING STARTED-MCD ORIENTATION INTAKE T3 2024



UCB welcomed one of its largest intakes of 2024 for the MCD T3 2024 orientation on 14 November. This diverse group, with students from science and business backgrounds, was accompanied by their parents, who participated in sessions led by UCB's President and Provost, Prof. Hew.

Following Prof. Hew's inaugural speech, the academic program team started highlighting essential academic policies, attendance requirements, and academic integrity. Mr. Abhishek and Mr. Shafik from the UCB Registry presented these topics to emphasize the importance of world-class academic standards upheld by UCB in accordance with Monash policies and requirements.

The Program Coordinators Ms. Sumaiya, MCD Business, and Dr. Sadia, MCD Engineering, then provided overviews of the many exciting courses offered within the MCD programs. Representatives from Monash University Malaysia and Melbourne,

Mr. Daniel and Ms. Azra conducted detailed sessions on Monash University application processes, requirements, and scholarship opportunities, providing students with insights into their future academic pathways.

Ms. Marzia, Student Support Head, and Ms. Zeba, Student Services Executive, introduced students to UCB's comprehensive support services for

students, covering counseling, student clubs, and additional resources. An interactive session between former/current and new students with the theme 'sharing is caring' was conducted by Ms. Shuprova Nora who is currently a final-trimester MCD Engineering student at UCB. Ms. Nora shared her academic journey at UCB and offered valuable advice to the new students on succeeding in the MCD programs.

Prof Hew and Ms Samia, Parent Engagement Executive, also held a special orientation session for parents. They explained to parents how students completing MCD would go directly into the second year of their chosen degree programs at Monash University Australia or Malaysia. Ms Samia also told parents that they would receive regular reports about their son or daughter's academic progress, attendance, etc.

The day concluded with a valuable take-home message for the new students that teamwork and a commitment to individual responsibilities are vital to a successful academic journey in the Monash MCD Program at UCB and to prepare them for further studies in Australia or Malaysia.

## CELEBRATING DEDICATION: UCB STUDENTS' HEARTFELT TRIBUTE TO LECTURERS ON WORLD TEACHER'S DAY

On October 5th, 2024, Universal College Bangladesh celebrated World Teacher's Day with great enthusiasm and appreciation for the invaluable contributions of educators. The event was organised by students, who actively participated in various activities to honour their lecturers.

As the celebration began, key representatives from UCB delivered opening remarks, highlighting the significance of teachers in shaping the future and inspiring generations of students. They provided brief introductions, setting a positive tone for the day's events.

Students had bought chocolates and pens as tokens of appreciation for their faculty. Additionally, they displayed their creativity by crafting heartfelt cards and preparing grade report cards for all faculty members, complete with personalised comments that expressed gratitude and admiration for their dedication and hard work.

One of the highlights of the celebration was a quiz game, where students and lecturers took part together, fostering a spirit of solidarity and friendly competition. The game was designed to test the teachers' knowledge on diverse topics, and students enthusiastically marked their answers, adding an element of excitement and laughter to the atmosphere.

The day was filled with joy, reflection, and laughter, as



both students and lecturers celebrated the vital role educators play in academic and personal development. The event not only strengthened the bond between students and teachers but also served as a reminder of the profound impact that dedicated educators have on their students' lives. Overall, the celebration was a wonderful tribute to the teaching profession, leaving everyone with lasting memories of appreciation and gratitude.

## WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2024



UCB celebrated World Mental Health Day 2024 on 9th October 2024. Students celebrated this occasion with great enthusiasm and passion. They decorated the event space with balloons. They also designed and distributed cards and badges for the participants.

The President and Provost of UCB, Professor Hew Gill gave an opening speech on the event, explaining the important of mental health for high academic performance.

A student the Monash University Foundation Year (MUFY) January 2024 batch gave a presentation on Mental Health and Mental Health Day. He highlighted the importance of Mental Health in our lives in general.

Marzia Al-Hakeem, the Student Support Head and Lecturer in Psychology, gave a presentation on the theme of the World Mental Health Day 2024. The theme of this year was - "It's time to prioritize mental health in the Workplace". Ms. Marzia highlighted the definition of mental health and why it is important to understand the concept of mental health. She also talked about why and how addressing mental health in workplaces is crucial, and illustrated some of the practical steps that people can take for happiness and health.

## HARVARD MANAGEMENTOR SESSIONS AT UCB CAMPUS

A very large contingent of students from St. Joseph International School attended an amazing, Harvard ManageMentor certified course session on Presentation Skills Development at the UCB campus. The Harvard ManageMentor courses are curated by Harvard Business Publishing Education and the session on 05th October 2024 at the UCB campus was attended by scores of St Joseph students keen to understand how they could take their presentational skills to the next level. The session was conducted by Mr. Dewan Muhammad Nur-A Yazdani, Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Management & Marketing at UCB. As a top notch presenter Mr. Yazdani was an excellent example of how to apply the world famous Harvard approach to communication. At the close of the session the students were delighted to receive a short speech Prof. Hew Gill, President and Provost of Universal College Bangladesh, who is also a Harvard graduate. Prof. Hew presented certificates to every student who attended and also posed for lots of selfies. If you would like UCB to organise an HMM session for your school or college, contact us now: [MarkTeam@ucbbd.org](mailto:MarkTeam@ucbbd.org)



## UCB EXPLORE UK EDUCATION EVENT IN CHITTAGONG



Universal College Bangladesh organized an event for the students of Chittagong entitled "Explore the Best of UK Education in Bangladesh with UCB". The event was held at the famous Radisson Blu Hotel, Chattogram Bay View on 21st & 22nd October 2024.

Prof. Hew Gill, President & Provost of UCB was present along with Mr. Kingshuk Gupta, Chief Operating Officer,

Mr Tanzil, Marketing Manager, and Miss Nazmina and Miss Mysha, Enrolment Counselors from UCB. It was a very busy day with students from various schools all over Chittagong coming with their parents and teachers for personalised advice on their higher education options and how to make their university dreams come true.

Professor Hew shared with the students that UCB could help them pursue international education options right here in Bangladesh at the UCB campus in Dhaka. He explained that students from National Curriculum and international schools could complete several full UK honours degrees in three years at UCB. Students were particularly interested in the degrees available from the University of London-London School of Economics, and the soon to be launched degrees from the University of Central Lancashire. Students were very happy to have one-to-one counseling sessions with Miss Nazmina and Miss Mysha, and to take some academic assessments to find out more about the many scholarships available from UCB.

Professor Hew said, "It has been a wonderful event, and I have been delighted to meet with so many talented students from Chittagong. I look forward to welcoming many of them to the UCB campus where our international programmes will enable them to study local and go global."

## BANGLADESH YOUTH LEADERSHIP CENTER (BYLC) EXPLORES COLLABORATION WITH UCB

On 8th October 2024, a fruitful meeting took place between Universal College Bangladesh and representatives from Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC), opening a new avenue for students' leadership development and community engagement. Professor Hew Gill, President & Provost, Professor Ismail Hossain, Dean of Academic Affairs, Marzia Al-Hakeem, Student Support Head and Lecturer in Psychology, and Sushama Mahmuda Ananna Executive Coordinator and Lecturer in Psychology represented UCB in the meeting. From BYLC, Ms. Kazria Kayas, Senior Manager of Communication, Marketing & Branding along with her colleagues Ms. Rimjhim Akter and Ms. Tasnia Sultana, presented an insightful overview of BYLC's mission and programmes. BYLC highlighted its impactful work with diverse student groups, including those from Bangla, English-medium, and Madrasa backgrounds. The BYLC team explained how their organisation is dedicated to building leadership skills and creating meaningful career opportunities for students through their many different programmes.

In discussions, UCB and BYLC explored potential avenues for collaboration that would bring BYLC's community and leadership programmes to UCB students across various disciplines. This partnership aims to give UCB students practical exposure to community work and an opportunity to develop and advance their leadership



qualities. By equipping students with these vital skills, UCB and BYLC hope to prepare them to excel in their careers and make impactful contributions to society. Furthermore, this collaboration with BYLC will allow students from diverse backgrounds to join educational programmes offered by UCB, providing them with the opportunity to earn international degrees while studying in Dhaka.

## PROF. HEW DESCRIBES "CAREERS OF THE FUTURE" AT GLENRICH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL UTTARA



Prof. Hew Gill, President and Provost of Universal College Bangladesh, visited Glenrich International School-Uttara branch for an exciting and interactive session with students on 21st October 2024. Professor Hew drew upon his many years of

experience as a global entrepreneur, international banker, and leading academic to explain how the world of work is changing. Prof. Hew showed how the big changes taking place in technology would open up many new career opportunities to young people with the qualifications matching the job market. He shared with the students how UCB could help students pursue world-class higher education options right here in Bangladesh at the UCB campus in Dhaka. He briefly touched on some of the programmes available at UCB, including full degrees from the University of London and University of Central Lancashire, a UK Foundation Programme, and foundation and associate degrees from Monash College, Australia. If you would like Prof. Hew to visit your school or college, please contact us: [MarkTeam@ucbbd.org](mailto:MarkTeam@ucbbd.org)

## HARMONIES FOR HUMANITY: CELEBRATING UNITED NATIONS DAY AT UCB



The students of Monash University Foundation Year at UCB on October 24, 2024, celebrated United Nations Day with a vibrant event showcasing their many talents, under the guidance of Mr. Dewan Md. Nur -A Yazdani of the Faculty of Management and Marketing Universal College Bangladesh. The celebration concert highlighted the significance of various UN themes through captivating musical performances and engaging narratives.

The celebration began with powerful speeches from Professor Hew Gill, President & Provost, and Professor Ismail Hossain, Dean of Academic Affairs of UCB. Professor Hew Gill emphasized the importance of the United Nations in promoting peace, human rights, and sustainable development across the globe.

Professor Ismail Hossain followed with remarks highlighting the significance of education in fostering international understanding and cooperation.

Talented students from Universal College Bangladesh took center stage, delivering a series of instrumental performances inspired by key themes of the United Nations. The performances included a diverse range of songs that resonated with the values of peace, human rights, sustainability, and global cooperation. Each piece was thoughtfully selected to reflect the essence of the UN's mission and its commitment to fostering a better world. In addition to the musical showcases, students provided narrations that illuminated the context and significance of each performance. These narrations offered insights into the UN themes being represented, enhancing the audience's understanding and appreciation of the issues at hand. The combination of music and storytelling created a powerful atmosphere, encouraging reflection on the UN's vital role in addressing global challenges.

The event attracted a diverse audience, including students, faculty, and officials, all coming together to celebrate the ideals of the United Nations. The atmosphere was one of unity and inspiration, emphasizing the importance of collaboration in tackling global issues.

The United Nations Day celebration at UCB was a resounding success, showcasing the remarkable talents of Universal College Bangladesh students while promoting awareness of crucial global themes. Through music and narrative, the event fostered a greater understanding of the UN's mission and its impact on our world.



## CELEBRATING HALLOWE'EN AT UCB

On October 31st, 2024, Universal College Bangladesh held a thrilling Halloween event at the Level 6 Student Common Room and Cafeteria. UCB students from all the UK and Australian higher education programmes, along with faculty and support staff, came together to celebrate this event.

From the eerie decoration to imaginative costumes, UCB students played an active role, displaying remarkable creativity and teamwork. Students showed up as witches, vampires, ghosts and other fictional characters, filling the room with an atmosphere that was in equal parts scary and fun. The Halloween event wasn't just about dressing up - it was also a unique opportunity for students to engage in teamwork, sharpen their organizational and artistic skills, and connect with their peers and mentors.

The event planning team, led by Ms. Zebunnessa Zeba, Student Services Executive, coordinated every detail, from poster printing to sending invitations. A special highlight was the intricately carved pumpkin created by Mr. Dewan Md. Yazdani, Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Management & Marketing. The organising team drawn



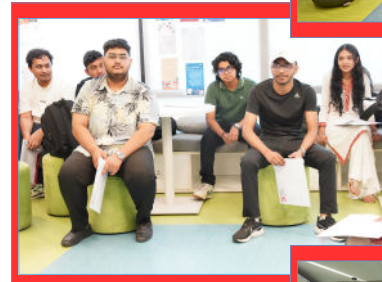
from students and faculty worked collaboratively, ensuring everything was perfectly in place for a spooky and enjoyable celebration.

UCB is committed to hosting such gatherings, creating an inclusive, vibrant campus life that extends beyond academics and helps students to develop in every aspect of their lives.

## MUFY PREDICTED GRADES DAY

UCB organized the Monash University Foundation Year (MUFY) Predicted Grades Day on 28th October 2024. This event's main aim was to offer students their predicted grades to help them strategize for their final semester performance. Students have also begun applying to their chosen universities, and their predicted grades play a key role in enabling them to apply early for degree programs at Monash University Melbourne or Malaysia. Moreover, this event provided an excellent opportunity for students to receive feedback from their faculties, giving them insights on how to excel in upcoming exams and plan for future academic pursuits.

The session also served as a valuable gathering for lecturers, the UCB Enrollment team, and students to think about next steps. Those intending to pursue their degrees at Monash University could consider whether to go direct to the Melbourne or Malaysia campus or, could engage with the Enrollment team to discuss completing the Monash Continuing Degree (MCD) programs in Business, Engineering, or IT at UCB before going direct into the second year of their degree program in Australia or Malaysia. Lecturers advised students on the requirements necessary for admittance into their desired programs and showed how best to prepare for the final assessments.



## Events in November

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

- »» **UCLan Business & Marketing degree launch**
- »» **MCD Industrial Tour**
- »» **MUFY Scholars Presentation**
- »» **MCD Feedback Session**
- »» **Admission Camps – Sylhet**
- »» **World Innovation Day with UCB Science Club**
- »» **Visit to Heritage School Narayanganj**
- »» **Visits to schools in Sylhet**

