



# “We offer globally sought-after Bachelor’s and MASTER’S PROGRAMMES”

In conversation with Chan Joe Jim, Provost, UCSI University Bangladesh Branch Campus

**The Daily Star (TDS):** What sets your university apart from others? What would you consider your key strengths?

**Chan Joe Jim (CJJ):** UCSI University Bangladesh Branch Campus takes pride in being the first foreign university branch campus in Bangladesh, approved by both the Ministry of Education in Bangladesh and Malaysia. We have launched our educational programmes at a state-of-the-art 15-storey campus located in

Banani, Dhaka. Our university is ranked 265th globally in the QS World University Rankings 2025. Additionally, we are ranked 61st in Asia and 14th in Southeast Asia, leading the way among universities in Bangladesh. We are the first institution in

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network and partnerships with renowned institutions provide our students with exposure to diverse cultures, perspectives, and experiences. This enrichment prepares them for success in an increasingly globalised world.

**TDS:** Tell us about some of the exclusive facilities your university offers to students.

**CJJ:** UCSI University Bangladesh Branch Campus is strategically located in Banani, at the heart of Dhaka city. Our campus is equipped with modern classrooms and specialised facilities, including a Computer Lab, Fashion Design Lab, Graphics and Multimedia Lab, Electronics Engineering Lab, and a well-stocked Library.

Our students also benefit from career and employment counselling provided by experienced local and international faculty. Furthermore, the Main Campus’s Student Affairs and Alumni (SAA) Department supports our students in finding employment opportunities abroad.

**TDS:** What opportunities does your university provide to meritorious students?

**CJJ:** At UCSI University Bangladesh Branch Campus, we offer scholarships ranging from 20% to 100% for meritorious students. These

scholarships are awarded based on the students’ previous academic results and admission test performance. Each year, our university grants scholarships worth Tk 5 crore to outstanding students.

**TDS:** What steps are you taking to assist students as they enter their careers after graduation?

**CJJ:** Our experienced faculty members regularly emphasise the importance of research programmes to equip students with up-to-date education, helping them stay ahead in the modern workplace. Additionally, we organise seminars and workshops related to higher education and research on our campus to further support our students’ career development.

**TDS:** What kind of careers are your students most likely to pursue?

**CJJ:** Since the UCSI University Bangladesh Branch Campus is a recent addition to Bangladesh, I can share that students from UCSI University Malaysia have excelled in careers across various sectors, including Communication Technology, International Quality Hotels, Fashion Design Institutes, Insurance Companies, and Government, Private, and Multinational Companies. They are successfully employed in numerous multinational companies around the world, such as Accenture, Citibank, Deloitte, DHL, Ernst & Young, Hewlett-Packard, HSBC, Nestlé, Samsung, Standard Chartered, and many more.

**TDS:** How much emphasis do you place on helping students develop their co-curricular skills?

**CJJ:** We place a strong emphasis on developing students’ co-curricular skills, recognising their vital role in shaping well-rounded individuals. Our

university has introduced a variety of clubs, including the Business Club, Adventure Club, Cultural Club, Debate Club, Photography Club, Football Club, and more, to nurture the diverse interests of our students.

These clubs offer opportunities for students to explore their passions, develop leadership and social skills, and actively engage with their peers. Our aim is for students to graduate with not only academic knowledge but also the practical skills and experiences necessary for success in their future endeavours.

**TDS:** What is the vision for the future of UCSI University Bangladesh Branch Campus to improve educational opportunities and learning experiences for local students?

**CJJ:** Moving forward, we have several strategic plans for the university’s growth and development. One of our primary goals is to build a permanent campus in Bangladesh, modelled after our main campus in Malaysia. Additionally, we are continuously working on various initiatives to ensure our students have access to the latest facilities, making their learning experience truly innovative.

Our academic leadership includes a Malaysian Vice-Chancellor, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, and Provost, along with prominent local and international faculty members. We have established various clubs under Student Affairs & Alumni that engage students in workshops, seminars, events, industrial visits, domestic and international tours, and humanitarian activities, helping them develop leadership, social, and human qualities.

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## PAVING THE WAY TO WORLD-CLASS Education for Bangladeshi Students

SAUDIA AFRIN

Pursuing higher education is a pivotal moment in a student’s life, marked by decisions that can shape their future. While local universities remain popular, an increasing number of Bangladeshi students are looking beyond borders, drawn by the wealth of opportunities that studying abroad offers. Securing a place at prestigious international universities, however, requires expert guidance and access to the latest information. Recognising this need, MH Global Group’s sister concerns, AHZ and MIE Pathways, have positioned themselves as trusted mentors, dedicated to guiding Bangladeshi students through every step of their journey to global education.

“At AHZ and MIE Pathways, we pride ourselves on shaping academic journeys and go out of our way to ensure that our students have the best possible experience,” said Golam Mortuza, Chief



**Two international students from Bangladesh began the journey of AHZ in 2012 in London, recognising the opportunity to support their fellow countrymen and women in leveraging a UK education.**



Executive Officer of MH Global Group.

**AHZ – When UK is the Destination**  
According to the latest UNESCO data, 52,799 Bangladeshi students studied abroad in 2023, with 6,586 choosing the UK, making it the second most popular destination after the US. The UK consistently remains a top choice for Bangladeshi students pursuing higher education.

Two international students from Bangladesh began the journey of AHZ in 2012 in London, recognising the opportunity to support their fellow countrymen and women in leveraging a UK education. Their aspirations were not only to advance their own lives but also to uplift the communities around them. Their commitment to improving the world remains evident at AHZ to this day. Since its inception, the platform has assisted more than 25,000 students in enrolling at UK institutions.

“We support Bangladeshi students by providing them with a free platform to connect with UK institutions that are looking to recruit international students,” said Mortuza.

As AHZ focuses exclusively on

supporting students who wish to study at UK universities, it partners with over 130 universities and centres across the UK. The platform operates nine offices in Bangladesh and 50 more globally, offering a range of essential services for students planning to study abroad. To reach as many students as possible, AHZ, which has been shortlisted for the PIONEER Awards, is continuously expanding its global presence by establishing new offices to better cater to students’ needs.

Mahfuz Islam, currently pursuing an MSc in Infection and Immunity at the University of Chester as a January 2024 intake student, shared: “It was a sudden decision. Last August, I reached out to AHZ, and they provided me with a list of available options within a very short timeframe. The counsellor also helped me find a programme closely aligned with my current academic background and future plans.” Mahfuz also expressed his gratitude for the assistance he received in securing an annual scholarship of £2,500. He noted: “They are efficient, qualified, and know exactly what they are doing.”

Counselling is perhaps one of the most crucial services offered by AHZ. Mortuza explained that these sessions provide

a comprehensive overview of studying in the UK, including information on costs, available part-time jobs, career opportunities post-study, the climate, and, importantly, popular Bangladeshi food options.

“Most of our counselling team are UK graduates. They provide first-hand insight into their lives as students in the UK. Our counsellors play a crucial role in shaping study journeys. Our counselling services are designed to provide personalised guidance and support, ensuring that students make informed decisions and successfully navigate the complex process of applying to UK institutions,” said Mortuza.

In addition to students from English medium backgrounds, those from the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) also apply to UK-based universities. Mortuza highlighted that over the past few years, more UK university entry requirements now align with Bangladeshi national school and university qualifications. “This means that even more Bangladeshi students will have the chance to realise their dream of studying in the UK,” he added.

SEE PAGE J7