

Education UK Alumni Awards 2016 – first time in Pakistan

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 30th January 2016. The evening enhanced the global profile of outstanding UK Alumni and also provided valuable networking opportunity. The awards highlighted the work of Pakistani UK Alumni in three different categories including:

1. Social Impact
2. Professional Achievement
3. Entrepreneurship

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 10 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. 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 networking events.



Robin Davies, Director Sindh and Baluchistan, British Council

The awards ceremony began with an address by Robin Davies, Director Sindh and Baluchistan, British Council Pakistan. Mr. Davies highlighted the importance and value of the UK education, emphasizing the popularity of UK as the number one destination in the world for higher education, particularly with Pakistanis.

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 Pakistan media personalities, Anoushey Ashraf and Faizan Haq.



The awards were followed by dinner and a live performance by renowned local artist, Zoe Viccaji.



Education UK Alumni Awards 2016 – finalists

Finalists for Professional Achievement Award

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



Abdul Matin receiving participation certificate from Robin Davies and Hammad Amjad Sheikh

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 30 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***



Henna Saeed receiving participation certificate from Robin Davies and Hammad Amjad Sheikh

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***



Maria Saiffudin Effendi receiving participation certificate from Robin Davies and Hammad Amjad Sheikh

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.

Finalists for Social Impact Category

Shazia Qureshi, Lancaster University – Social Impact 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.



Left to right: Shazia Qureshi, Robin Davies, Area Director Sindh and Baluchistan, Hammad Sheikh, Manager HE, Skills and EducationUK

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 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.



Left to Right: Naveed Khan, Robin Davies, Area Director Sindh and Baluchistan, Hammad Sheikh, Manager HE, Skills and EducationUK

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.

Finalists for Entrepreneurship Award Category

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.



Left to Right: Qurat ul ain Ansari, Robin Davies, Area Director Sindh and Baluchistan, Hammad Sheikh, Manager HE, Skills and EducationUK

Qurat ul ain says that, being female, 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.

Nousheen Zakaria, University of Leeds – Entrepreneurship Award Category Finalist

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.



Left to Right: Nousheen Zakaria, Robin Davies, Area Director Sindh and Baluchistan, Hammad Sheikh, Manager HE, Skills and EducationUK

Nousheen is responsible for conceptualising and releasing over seven mobile apps and 15 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 have inspired her and helped her become the successful entrepreneur that she is today.

Ifran Weldon, University of Manchester – Entrepreneurship Award Category Finalist

Ifran Weldon completed his Master's in Corporate Communications and Reputation Management at the University of Manchester in 2008. Ifran 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. Ifran's work has been published in marketing textbooks used by universities across Australasia. Ifran 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.