



C-Global Newsletter



21st Edition Fall 2024

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Message from the Editorial Chair



It is with great excitement that I present the 21st edition of C-Global, the International Office's highly anticipated biannual newsletter (Fall 2024). This marks a significant milestone, showcasing our thriving international activities and we couldn't be more delighted to share this moment with you. The overwhelming appreciation for our 20th edition has fueled our passion to deliver something even more exceptional this time around.

In this issue, we've curated an engaging collection of highlights depicting impactful international events and groundbreaking research activities from January to June 2024. We aim to offer you an inspiring glimpse into the strides COMSATS University Islamabad is making to foster global collaborations and seamless learning across borders.

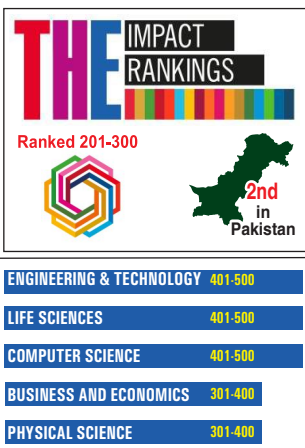
We hope this newsletter not only informs but also inspires you. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us improve and evolve, so please do share your thoughts. Together, let's make this edition another resounding success!

Warm regards,

Dr. Hammad Omer T.I.
Head International Office

CUI's Rankings & Reputation

COMSATS University Islamabad - International Rankings



MATH	140
ELECT & ELECTRONIC, ECO	201-250
AGRI, PHY, ASTRON, CHEM	251-300
CHEM ENG, PHARM	301-350
BIO LOGICAL SCIENCES	351-400
MECH, AERO, SOC SCI, MNGMT SCI, BUSI	401-450



What's Ahead



CUI Strengthens Collaboration with CERN



COMSATS University Islamabad and University of Regina, Canada Formalize Collaboration



German Ambassador Celebrates Achievements of German Alumni at COMSATS University Islamabad



UK Higher Education Leaders Visit COMSATS University Islamabad



COMSATS University Islamabad and D-8 International University Iran Sign a Memorandum of Understanding

Spotlight News

CUI Strengthens Collaboration with CERN

COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) welcomed a delegation from the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) to its Islamabad campus on June 25, 2024. The delegation, led by Dr. Luciano Musa, Project Leader of the ALICE experiment at CERN, and Dr. Luca Malgeri, Senior Researcher, was accompanied by Dr. Zafar Yasin, Director of the CERN Secretariat at the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), and Dr. Altaf Ur Rahman, CERN's Director for Switzerland.



Since joining the ALICE collaboration in 2008 and becoming a full member in 2012, CUI has been an active partner in advancing scientific research with CERN. To further strengthen this relationship, the university recently formed a dedicated CERN Liaison Group, headed by Dr. Tahir Naeem, Director of Planning, Development and Human Resource Development at CUI.

The discussions focused on broadening CUI's collaboration with CERN beyond physics, exploring opportunities in faculty fellowships, joint research projects, PhD supervision, student exchanges, and financial support for visiting researchers. The university aims to promote interdisciplinary research across its seven campuses, creating new avenues for academic and scientific engagement.

CERN representatives expressed strong support for CUI's initiatives, endorsing the university's plans to deepen and diversify its collaborative efforts with CERN, fostering global partnerships in science and innovation.

COMSATS University Islamabad and University of Regina, Canada Formalize Collaboration

COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) and the University of Regina, Canada, have formalized a five year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to bolster academic and research collaboration. The agreement, endorsed by the Government of Pakistan, was signed on February 23, 2024, at a ceremony held at CUI's Islamabad campus.

Prof. Dr. Sajjad A. Madani, Registrar of CUI, and Mr. Haroon Chaudhary, Associate Vice-President (International) & Chief International Officer University of Regina, signed the MoU. The event was attended by Mr. Michael Lazaruk, Head of the Commercial Program & Senior Trade Commissioner of the Canadian High Commission in Islamabad. Joining virtually from Vancouver were H.E. Janbaz Khan, Consul General of Pakistan, and Mr. Ghulam Hussain, Vice Consul General.

Dr. Hammad Omer, T.I., Head International Office, highlighted CUI's existing ties with Canada, established since 2004, and proposed avenues for deeper engagement.

The MoU outlines future plans for fostering educational and research partnerships, including student and faculty exchanges, collaborative science and technology projects, and capacity-building programs. This partnership is expected to pave the way for joint publications, enhanced academic cooperation, and strengthened institutional ties, marking a milestone in International academic collaboration.



German Ambassador Celebrates Achievements of German Alumni at COMSATS University Islamabad

COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) hosted a special gathering to honor its ties with Germany. H.E. Mr. Alfred Grannas, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Islamabad added distinction to a special meeting with German alumni here at COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) on January 17, 2024. The event was also graced by the presence of Ms. Yasmin Paracha, Interim Director of the DAAD Information Centre, Islamabad. Achievements of German alumni and the enduring partnership between CUI and German institutions were celebrated in the event.



Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar, Rector, CUI, warmly welcomed the guests and highlighted the university's collaborations with Germany, which began in 2005 under the founding Rector Dr. S. M. Junaid Zaidi. Dr. Qamar emphasized that these initiatives have strengthened academic, research, and cultural ties between the two nations, making CUI one of the leading institutions in Pakistan with extensive global partnerships.

Dr. Hammad Omer, T.I., Head International Office, outlined the university's milestones over its 25-year history. Operating across seven campuses, CUI boasts over 1,100 PhD faculty members, 100+ degree programs, and a student population exceeding 34,500, including international students. With over 93,000 graduates, CUI ranks among the top universities globally and second in

Pakistan, according to THE World University Rankings 2024.

Prof. Dr. Jamshed Iqbal further detailed collaborations with Germany and acknowledged DAAD's pivotal role.



Ambassador Grannas commended CUI's achievements and assured support in fostering deeper ties with German institutions. He emphasized bilateral communication through DAAD to facilitate research collaborations, student and faculty exchanges, and cultural programs. He encouraged CUI to continue its proactive approach, stating, "The more you know what you want and who you need, the easier it is for us to help you."

The event reaffirmed the transformative impact of international academic collaborations and the shared commitment.



UK Higher Education Leaders Visit COMSATS University Islamabad

A high profile delegation of UK higher education leaders and British Council officials visited COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) to foster collaborations and explore new academic opportunities on April 23, 2024. The visit was part of the Pak-UK Education Gateway, a joint initiative by Pakistan's Higher Education Commission (HEC) and the British Council aimed at enhancing institutional and academic partnerships between the two nations.

The delegation included representatives from renowned

UK universities such as the University of Glasgow, Cardiff University, Queen Mary University of London, and the University of Exeter, alongside officials from the UK's Department for Business and Trade and Department for Education.

Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar, Rector, CUI, welcomed the guests, highlighting CUI's historic ties with UK universities. He mentioned that 20 collaborative agreements have been signed between CUI and UK institutions, with over 300

reciprocal visits by officials from both sides since CUI's inception. Dr. Qamar also emphasized the presence of 150 UK alumni among CUI's faculty and staff, which reflects the enduring strength of these partnerships. During the visit, the University of Glasgow and CUI signed a Memorandum of Understanding to boost research collaboration. Delegates engaged with faculty and students, discussing avenues for joint research, faculty exchange, and academic programs. A special ceremony honored female CUI students who received Scottish scholarships, reinforcing the UK's commitment to educational development in Pakistan.



Prof. Moyra Boland, representing the UK delegation, expressed enthusiasm for building impactful partnerships, stating, "We look forward to achieving mutual growth and beneficial collaborations." Ms. Sarah Parvez, Head of Education at British Council Pakistan, announced the launch of the second phase of the Pak-UK Education Gateway in May 2024, which will expand opportunities for research and academic exchanges between the two nations. The visit reaffirmed the deep-rooted academic ties between Pakistan and the UK, setting the stage for future collaborations that promise to drive innovation and strengthen mutual relations.

Research Highlights

A total of 49 research projects were submitted to various funding agencies and the following projects amounting to a total of Pak Rs 93.56 million were approved. This achievement highlights the university's commitment to advancing global research collaborations and promoting innovative scientific work.

Funding Agency	Faculty	Title
Higher Education Commission (CPEC)	Prof. Dr. Jamshed Iqbal	Development of GPR120 Agonist-A Drug to Promote Insulin Secretion and Improves chronic Inflation
Pakistan Science Foundation & China	Dr. Muhammad Nasir	Developing a coupled strategy for synthesis of highly efficient photocatalysts for overall water splitting to produce hydrogen fuel
Higher Education Commission & PERIDOT	Prof. Dr. Saqib Gulzar	Pak-France: Potential of ESG Investing for the Prosperity of Pakistani Equity Markets
The Degrees Initiative UK Based	Prof. Dr. Athar Hussain	Understanding the socio-political dimensions of climate change and solar radiation modification in health sector of global south: A pilot demonstration in Pakistan
National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC)	Dr. Muhammad Aamir Razaq	Regulating electrode-electrolyte interfaces through cellulose graft chemistry toward sustainable, durable and practical paper-based aqueous zinc ion batteries
Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst German Academic Exchange service Germany	Dr. Rao Aamir Ali Khan	Sustainable Project management for Development Projects (Susprolab)
Cannenta Pty. Ltd, Australia (Industry)	Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yar	2dDR-NexGel Dressings Prepared by Cannenta's collaborating Industries
Cannenta Pty. Ltd, Australia (Industry)	Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yar	2dDR-release, Stability and Biological Investigations on 2dDR-Alginate and 2dDR-NexGel Dressings Prepared by Cannenta collaborating Industries

Major Research Breakthroughs

Dr. Aamir Razaq Secures Rs. 8.91 million Funding for Innovative Research



Dr. Aamir Razaq, Associate Professor at the Department of Physics, COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) Lahore Campus secured funding of Rs. 8.91 million under the joint call of the Pakistan Science Foundation (PSF) and the National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC).

The funded project, titled “Regulating Electrode Electrolyte Interfaces Through Cellulose Graft Chemistry

Toward Sustainable, Durable, and Practical Paper Based Aqueous Zinc Ion Batteries,” aims to advance green energy storage technologies. By focusing on cellulose graft chemistry, the research seeks to enhance the performance and durability of zinc-ion batteries, paving the way for sustainable and practical energy solutions.

This achievement highlights Dr. Razaq's dedication to cutting-edge research and CUI's commitment to fostering innovation. The collaboration reflects the growing partnership between Pakistan and China in addressing global challenges through scientific advancements.

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yar, T.I., Achieves Breakthrough in Hair Growth Research

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yar, T.I., along with collaborators from the University of Sheffield, has discovered that 2-deoxy-D-ribose (2dDR), a naturally occurring sugar, can stimulate hair growth by promoting blood vessel formation. Initially studied for its role in wound healing over eight years, the team observed a link between enhanced healing and hair growth.

To confirm 2dDR's impact on hair loss, the researchers developed a testosterone-driven hair loss mouse model, replicating male pattern baldness (androgenic alopecia), which affects up to 50% of men globally. 2dDR sugar promotes hair regrowth by enhancing the synthesis of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), which stimulates new blood vessel formation.

This groundbreaking discovery, offering hope for a potential cure for male pattern baldness, is a patented collaboration between COMSATS University Islamabad and the University of Sheffield. The research has been published in *Frontiers in Pharmacology*.

Dr. Yar's work has also received widespread international media attention, highlighting its global significance in biomedical innovation.



Prof. Dr. Ather Farooq Khan Awarded CAS PIFI Fellowship

Prof. Dr. Ather Farooq Khan has been awarded the prestigious Chinese Academy of Sciences President's International Fellowship Initiative (CAS PIFI) fellowship by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Zhejiang province, China. As a foreign expert, Dr. Khan will collaborate with

Professor Wu Chengtie's biomaterials and tissue engineering group. This recognition highlights Dr. Khan's significant contributions to the field and strengthens international collaboration in biomaterials research.



UKRI Research Project Accepted for Initial Phase

A UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) research project was submitted in 2024 under the UK Research grant in collaboration with Nottingham Trent University, Imperial College London, Belfast University, and Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS).

The project focuses on microgrids, rural electrification,

and demand management. The initial phase of the project has been accepted. Prof. Dr. Sobia Baig, Head of the Energy Research Centre (ERC), CUI Lahore Campus, is the Principal Investigator (PI) from Pakistan for this project, marking a significant step in international collaboration for sustainable energy solutions.



CUI's Worldwide Visitors

Strengthening Cultural and Educational Ties with China

A distinguished delegation from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China visited COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) on June 13, 2024. The delegation included Mr. Yin Sheng Xin, Science Commissioner; Mr. Liu Chang, Third Secretary; and Mr. Wang Sita, Attaché. They were joined by Mr. Irfan Haye, Additional Director, and Mr. Farhan Ansari, Deputy Director of Programs from COMSATS HQ.



The delegation was warmly received by Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar, Rector of CUI, and senior officials from CUI, including Dr. Tahir Naeem, Director of Planning, Development & HRD; Prof. Dr. Sohail Asghar, Incharge of Islamabad Campus; Prof. Dr. Saqib Gulzar, Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration; Prof. Dr. Shahida Mansoor, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture & Design; Prof. Dr. Shahzad A. Malik, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering; Dr. Hammad Omer T.I., Head International Office; and Ms. Sadia Haider, Incharge of the China Study Center.



The primary aim of the visit was to explore avenues for enhancing collaborative relations, particularly in the fields of education, research, and cultural exchange. During the meeting, Prof. Dr. Qamar extended his warm appreciation to the Chinese Embassy for its ongoing support to CUI and its initiatives.

Prof. Dr. Sohail Asghar, Incharge Islamabad Campus, shared the university's achievements, emphasizing that CUI holds a unique position as one of the most China centric institutions in Pakistan. He highlighted that over 150 CUI faculty members have earned their PhDs from China and are contributing to the university's diverse academic environment. Prof. Asghar also proposed several new initiatives, including the establishment of a CPEC library at CUI, along with further collaborations in faculty and student exchanges, technology and ICT education, and joint research focusing on science and technology.

The visit marked a significant step in deepening the ties between CUI and China, promising a future of fruitful collaboration in education, research, and cultural diplomacy.

Cardiff Metropolitan University to Strengthen Partnership with COMSATS University

Dr. Fiaz Hussain, Associate Dean (International) at Cardiff School of Art & Design, Cardiff Metropolitan University (Cardiff Met), visited COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) on May 17, 2024, to discuss enhancing their partnership. This collaboration, initiated with the signing of a Declaration of Understanding (DoU) on January 31, 2023, aimed to foster joint research, staff and student exchanges, capacity-building initiatives, and post-doctoral fellowships.



The meeting was attended by CUI officials, including Prof. Dr. Shahida Mansoor, Dean Faculty of Architecture and Design, and Dr. Hammad Omer T.I., Head International

Office, among others. They discussed various strategies to implement collaborative activities, including workshops, faculty exchanges, and projects in art and design, computer science, artificial intelligence, engineering, management, and health sciences. It was decided to prioritize online meetings to facilitate quicker progress in these initiatives.



Dr. Hussain also delivered an interactive session for CUI students, showcasing opportunities at the Cardiff School of Art & Design. The session attracted over 50 students, who engaged with Dr. Hussain and asked questions regarding educational opportunities in the UK. He provided valuable insights into studying and working in the UK, addressing the students' queries with detailed responses.

COMSATS University Hosts Ambassador Akua Sekyiwa Ahenkora from Ghana

Ambassador Akua Sekyiwa Ahenkora, Coordinating Director of Ghana's Foreign Service Institute (FSI), visited COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) on May 16, 2024, and met with Rector Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar. She was accompanied by Ms. Bridget Suglo Nambah and Ms. Iram Batoool from Pakistan's Foreign Service Academy. CUI officials in attendance included Prof. Dr. Sajjad A. Madani, Registrar; Prof. Dr. Sohail Asghar, In-charge Islamabad Campus; Prof. Dr. Saqib Gulzar, Dean of the Faculty of Business Administration; and Prof. Dr. Shahida Mansoor, Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Design.



Dr. Hammad Omer, T.I., Head International Office, discussed past collaborations and highlighted opportunities for Ghanaian students through CUI's postgraduate scholarship programs. Ambassador Ahenkora praised CUI's achievements and discussed potential areas for cooperation, including academic partnerships, faculty training, and research in artificial intelligence, biomedical materials, and infrastructure development.



The Rector invited Ghanaian students to join CUI on a funded program, noting the value of diversity in the university, particularly among African students in natural sciences and engineering. Ambassador Ahenkora emphasized the importance of university-to-university collaboration and South-South cooperation, requesting CUI to share proposals for strengthening academic ties between Ghana and Pakistan.



University of Gloucestershire Explores Collaborative Opportunities with CUI

Dr. Mathews Andrews, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Governance and Students Affairs at the University of Gloucestershire (UoG), UK, visited COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) to discuss potential collaborations on January 31, 2024. He was accompanied by officials from Global University Systems (GUS), including Professor Ashraf Jawaaid OBE, CEO of International Partnerships, Mr. Faisal Azeem, Managing Director of International Business, and Ms. Sabahat Khan, CEO Pakistan.



The meeting, attended by CUI officials including Prof. Sohail Asghar, In-charge Islamabad Campus, Dr. Tahir Naeem, Director P.D & HRD, and others, explored the opportunities for academic Collaboration. Dr. Hammad Omer, T.I., Head International Office, presented a detailed overview of CUI and proposed collaborations, including student and faculty exchange

programs, dual/joint degree programs, and post-doctoral fellowships for CUI faculty.

Dr. Mathews expressed strong interest in collaborating with CUI, particularly in arts and design programs, and discussed the possibility of launching short term training programs similar to the past initiatives with the University of Bedfordshire. The two institutions also considered 3+1 and 2+2 academic models, with UoG offering a £5,000 fee concession for CUI students in the 3+1 program, subject to HEC approval.

The delegation also met with Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar, Rector, CUI, and toured the campus. Both institutions expressed a preference for direct collaboration and concluded the meeting with a shared vision for future academic partnerships.



COMSATS University Islamabad Explores Collaborations with Syrian Universities

A high-level delegation from the Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and the Ministry of Education of the Syrian Arab Republic visited COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) to explore collaboration opportunities. The delegation was led by Dr. Rami Waheed Al-Dhulli, Syrian Deputy Minister of Education and Educational Affairs, and Ramez Alraee, Syrian Ambassador to Pakistan. Other notable members included Dr. Manal Sulaiman Saqr, IT Director, and Dr. Aqil Saeed Mahfoud, Director of International Cooperation from the Syrian Ministry of Higher Education, along with officials from the Ministry of Education.



CUI Rector Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar warmly welcomed the delegates, while Dr. Hammad Omer T.I., Head of the International Office, highlighted CUI's achievements and its engagement with Syrian students. The delegates were informed that so far 11 Syrian students have studied at CUI. During the meeting, potential areas of collaboration were proposed, including academic exchange programs,



faculty development, cultural exchange, ICT education in hybrid mode, and collaborative research for innovation. The Syrian delegation expressed keen interest in strengthening collaboration with CUI in areas such as virtual learning, ICT skills development, and enhancing the scientific and technological proficiency of students and faculty.

Prof. Dr. Qamar assured the delegation that CUI would provide postgraduate scholarships and initiate training programs after formalities were completed. The meeting was attended by several CUI officials, including Prof. Dr. Sajjad A. Madani, Registrar; Dr. Tahir Naeem, Director, P,D & HRD; Prof. Dr. Sohail Asghar, In-charge of Islamabad Campus; Prof. Dr. Saqib Gulzar, Dean, Faculty of Business Administration; Prof. Dr. Shamsul Qamar, In-Charge ORIC; and Mr. Ali Tawab Baloch, Senior Manager, International Office.

International Collaborations

COMSATS University Islamabad and D-8 International University Iran Sign a Memorandum of Understanding

COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) and D-8 International University (D-8 IU), Iran, formalized their academic collaboration through an MoU authorized by Pakistan's Federal Cabinet on February 27, 2024. The agreement aims to promote joint academic and research activities, including faculty and student exchanges, scholarships, training programs, conferences, and other collaborative initiatives.



The signing ceremony took place at CUI's Islamabad Campus and was attended by H.E. Dr. Reza Amiri Moghadam, Ambassador of Iran to Pakistan, and

Mr. Masoud Haghighi, First Counsellor. Prof. Abbas Afkhami, Chancellor of D-8 IU, and Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar, Rector of CUI, signed the accord. Other attendees included senior officials from both institutions, including Dr. Hammad Omer, T.I., Head International Office, and Mr. Milad Saki, Head D-8 IU's International Office.

During the event, CUI's International Office highlighted the university's milestones and existing engagements with Iran. Ambassador Moghadam emphasized the strong political, economic, and cultural ties between Iran and Pakistan, expressing optimism about extending these bonds into the academic and scientific realms.

Chancellor Afkhami proposed reciprocal PhD scholarships to strengthen cooperation, while Rector Prof. Qamar welcomed Iranian students and highlighted the importance of researcher and student exchanges as a key focus of the partnership.

This MoU marks a significant step in enhancing the academic ties between the two universities and fostering collaborative growth in education and research.

University of Leicester Offers Exchange Program to COMSATS University Islamabad

Mr. Anthony Braybrooke, Associate Head, International Recruitment, University of Leicester, UK visited COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) on February 21, 2024, to discuss potential collaborations. Accompanied by Mr. Shiraz Rasheed, Operation Manager, International

Development Program (IDP), Pakistan, the duo met with Dr. Hammad Omer, T.I., Head, International Office and Mr. Ali Tawab Baloch, Senior Manager, International Office. During the meeting, both parties discussed various collaboration options, including 3+1 program, joint degree

programs, writing joint proposals, aiming to increase people-to-people interactions, semester exchange initiatives and progression arrangements. The Head IO highlighted CUI's overview, achievements and strengths and expressed interest in exploring partnerships once the HEC Pakistan approves a transnational education policy. Mr. Braybrooke highlighted Leicester's expertise in computer science and engineering. While discussing specifics such as fee waivers and semester exchange programs for CUI students, both sides expressed enthusiasm for future collaborations in 3+1 programs. Mr. Braybrooke outlined plans for a 3+1 program and emphasized the importance of establishing relations through smaller collaborations initially. Looking ahead, CUI's International Office will develop a proposal for the 3+1 program with support from the

University of Leicester and subject to the fulfillment of HEC policy requirements. The meeting symbolizes a positive step towards future collaborations between the two institutions.



In Focus

CUI Faculty Members Honoured with the Prestigious Civil Awards for Excellence in Science, Engineering and Arts

Four distinguished faculty members from COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) were honored with the prestigious civil awards at Pakistan's Independence Day celebrations in the President House, recognizing their exceptional contributions to Science, Engineering and Arts.



Ms. Farrah Mahmood Rana, Associate Professor in the Department of Arts and Design, received the Pride of Performance award in Arts. A graduate of the National College of Arts, Lahore, Ms. Farrah is known for her expertise in Asian Miniature Painting, having exhibited internationally in over 160 group exhibitions. She has also received several prestigious awards, including the Charles Wallace Visiting Fellowship Award (UK) and the Artist in Residence (UK).

At a prestigious ceremony in Lahore on 23rd March 2024, the three CUI faculty members were recognised by Governor of Punjab, Muhammad Balighur Rehman. Dr. Jamshed Iqbal, Professor and Head of the Center for Advanced Drug Research at CUI Abbottabad, was awarded the Sitara-i-Imtiaz in Science for his extensive contributions in drug research, including over 400 publications and international patents. Dr. Hammad Omer, Associate Professor in Electrical and Computer Engineering at CUI Islamabad Campus, received the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz for his outstanding work in Medical Image Processing and MRI research. Dr. Muhammad Yar, Associate Professor in Biomedical Engineering at CUI Lahore, also received the Tamgha-e-Imtiaz for his pioneering work in skin tissue engineering and wound care technologies.

Prof. Dr. Sajid Qamar, Rector COMSATS University Islamabad while acknowledging the hard work of these faculty members said that these awards accentuate university's dedication to academic excellence, research, and innovation, reinforcing its standing as a leading institution of higher education in Pakistan.

Dr. Akhtar Hayat Honored with the Prestigious Thousand Talents Accolade

Dr. Akhtar Hayat, Associate Professor at IRCBM, CUI Lahore Campus has been recognized as a high-level foreign biomedical expert under China's prestigious Thousand Talents Plan. This honor, awarded by the State Council of China, is equivalent to the top accolade conferred by the Ministry of Education, P.R. China.

The program identifies elite international experts, often recipients of major awards like the Nobel Prize or Fields Medal, who have made globally renowned contributions to technology and innovation. Dr. Hayat will collaborate with



COMA Intelligent Co., Ltd., Taizhou, China, under this initiative, furthering advancements in the biomedical field.

This recognition accentuates Dr. Hayat's significant impact and highlights the international value of his expertise.



Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid Meets with HEU Faculty to Discuss Collaboration

哈尔滨工程大学智能科学与工程
of Intelligent Systems Science and



During a visit to Harbin Engineering University (HEU), China, Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid, T.I., Director CUI Wah Campus, held a meeting with Prof. Xu He from the Department of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering, HEU on June 1, 2024. The meeting was attended by Dr. Song, Dr. Chen, Fazle Haseeb, and their graduate students. Prof. Xu provided an overview of the ongoing projects at HEU, followed by a guided tour of the

Intelligent Robots and Advanced Fluid System Laboratory. Discussions focused on fostering mutual cooperation in

areas such as intelligent robots, advanced fluid systems, artificial intelligence, augmented reality, digital twins, and CFD (Computational Fluid Dynamics) experimental and simulation research.



The collaboration aims to address real-world challenges and deliver socio-economic benefits for both countries through innovative solutions in these cutting-edge fields.

Prof. Dr. M. Ashfaq Ahmed and Prof. Dr. Rizwan Raza Visit Six Chinese Universities under One Belt, One Road (OBOR) Initiative

Prof. Dr. M. Ashfaq Ahmed and Prof. Dr. Rizwan Raza, from Department of Physics, CUI Lahore Campus, visited six leading universities in China under the "One Belt, One Road" initiative. Their visit aimed to explore academic strengths and collaboration opportunities, enhancing CUI's global presence. During the visit, the professors introduced COMSATS University Islamabad, highlighting its rankings, research projects, academic programs, and commitment to sustainable development. They engaged in insightful discussions with professors, deans, and administrative leaders, focusing on potential areas of cooperation. The visit included campus tours, meetings with key academic departments, and presentations on CUI's ongoing research initiatives.

The universities included:

- Shandong University, Jinan
- University of Science and Technology, Beijing
- Xian Jiao Tong University
- Xian University of Architecture and Technology
- Southeast University, Nanjing
- Nanjing Xiazhuang University

International Conferences

Participation in the 13th International Conference on Business and Economic Development in New York, USA

Dr. Tahira Nazir, Assistant Professor, Department of Management Sciences, CUI Wah Campus participated in the 13th International Conference on Business and Economic Development (ICBED) in New York, USA, held from April 15 to 16, 2024. Supported by an HEC travel grant, she presented her research paper, "Servant Leadership and Employee Innovative Behaviour: Unpacking the Role of Support for Innovative and Creative

Self-Efficacy in Knowledge-Intensive Service Contexts." The conference offered a platform for sharing research, fostering dialogue, and encouraging cross-cultural understanding. It also provided valuable insights into global policymaking and business practices, reflecting Dr. Nazir's dedication to advancing knowledge and promoting international collaboration for sustainable economic development.

Director CUI Wah Campus – Keynote Speaker at IEEE/OES China Ocean Acoustics Conference (COA 2024) held in Harbin, China

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Abid, T.I., Director CUI Wah Campus and UNESCO Chair on IWRM, attended the IEEE/OES China Ocean Acoustics Conference (COA 2024) in Harbin, China, from May 28 to June 2, 2024. As an invited keynote speaker, he delivered an address titled "A Framework

Approach to Strengthen Higher Education in the Field of Marine Information and Engineering." His presentation highlighted Pakistan's potential in marine information and engineering, emphasizing its ocean resources, blue economy, and strategic position for trade and defense.

The conference, held from May 29 to 31, brought together global experts in marine and underwater acoustics to share research findings and discuss advancements.

Attendees explored innovative topics through keynote speeches, research paper presentations, and collaborative discussions.



CUI Lahore at DS01 International Design Summit 2024

The Department of Art and Design (DoAD) at COMSATS Lahore participated in the DS01 International Design Summit, held from March 7-9, 2024, at the Historic Walled City and Beacon House National University (BNU). This vibrant event served as a fusion for professionals, researchers, and industry leaders, offering a platform for dialogue and collaboration across diverse creative disciplines.



Over three days, the summit featured conferences, hackathons, and workshops, fostering discussions on themes like "Simultaneity and AI," "Planetary Geographies," and "Design as Translation." Esteemed local and international speakers shared insights into the evolving landscape of design and technology. Interactive hackathons allowed participants to explore ideas through hands-on experimentation.

Mr. Zain ul Abidin, Head of DoAD at CUI Lahore Campus represented the university as a panelist alongside experts from leading institutions. He highlighted some of the impactful academic projects that reflect COMSATS' commitment to innovation and excellence in design education.

8th International Symposium in Biomedical Materials (ISBM 2024) Focuses on Biomedical Innovation in Pakistan

The Interdisciplinary Research Centre in Biomedical Materials (IRCBM) organized the 8th International Symposium on Biomedical Materials (ISBM) on March 4-5, 2024, at CUI, Lahore Campus. The event, themed "Developing Commercialization Capacity in Innovative Ecosystems," aimed to promote interdisciplinary R&D, assess Pakistan's biomaterials landscape, and identify global relevance for local research.

ISBM 2024 featured sub-events such as:

1. National Symposium on Cartilage and Soft Tissue Engineering
2. Symposium on Advanced Diagnostics Research in Pakistan
3. Symposium & Workshop on Bone Repair and Regeneration
4. Symposium on Nanomedicine

These sessions provided a platform to address advanced biomedical challenges, share innovative research, and explore commercialization opportunities, strengthening Pakistan's position in biomedical material sciences.

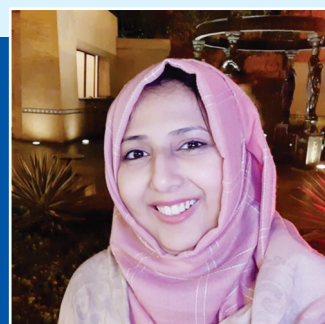


Star Faculty

Congratulations to Engr. Summera Fahmi Khan

Engr. Summera Fahmi Khan, Lecturer at the Department of Civil Engineering, CUI Wah Campus who is a member of the UNESCO Chair on Knowledge Systems for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM), has been featured by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) as part of their International Women's Day celebrations.

This recognition highlights her dedication to empowering women, influencing career paths, and supporting them in achieving their aspirations.



Ar. Maira Khan Appointed Regional Vice President for Asia on CAA Council

In a proud moment for Pakistan, Ar. Maira Khan, esteemed faculty member of Department of Architecture at CUI Lahore Campus, has been appointed Regional Vice President for Asia on the Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) Council for 2024-2026.

This milestone highlights Pakistan's growing influence in global architecture and reaffirms a commitment to excellence and innovation in the field. Congratulations to Ar. Maira Khan on this remarkable achievement!



Celebrating CUI Students

Raising Pakistan's Flag High

We are thrilled to share a moment of immense pride for Pakistan from CUI Lahore Campus. Two of our exceptional students have been honored with the prestigious Commonwealth Association of Architects (CAA) Presidential Award:

- **Muhammed Waleed Ashfaq** from CUI Lahore Campus
- **Abdul Qadir** from CUI Islamabad Campus

This remarkable achievement not only highlights their talent and dedication but also highpoints Pakistan's growing prominence in the global architectural community.

Congratulations to our students for this well-deserved recognition!

Events, Seminars, Workshops & Talks

COMSATS University and DAAD Collaborate to Guide Students on German Educational Opportunities

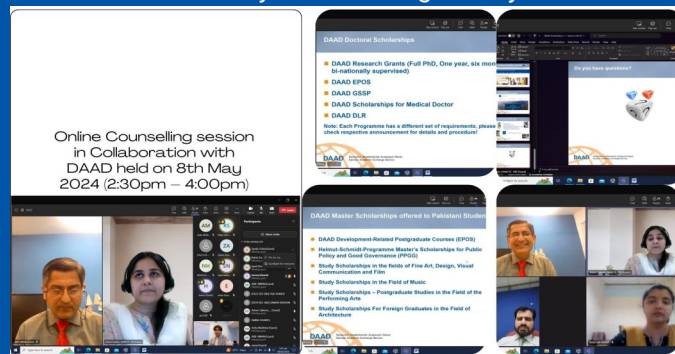
COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) partnered with the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Information Centre, Islamabad, to host an online student counseling session on May 8, 2024. Organized by CUI's International Office, the event aimed to inform students about the diverse educational and research opportunities in Germany. Over 50 participants from CUI's seven campuses and beyond attended the session.

Ms. Aimen Saleem, Program Manager at DAAD Islamabad, delivered an in-depth presentation covering the eligibility criteria for various academic programs, including foundation year, bachelor's, master's, PhD, and postdoctoral studies in Germany. She also highlighted available funding opportunities other than DAAD scholarships, such as programs offered by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Erasmus Mundus, and EURAXESS for postdoctoral research positions.

Ms. Saleem clarified key language requirements, emphasizing that a TOEFL/IELTS score is mandatory for

all Pakistani applicants. However, German language proficiency is only required for the programs taught in German.

The session provided valuable insights for aspiring students, empowering them to navigate the path to higher education in Germany effectively. Further queries may be addressed to <https://www.daad.de/en/the-daad/contact/contact-study-research-in-germany/>



Awareness Session on "Study in France" Held at COMSATS University Islamabad

The International Office of COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), in collaboration with the French Embassy in Islamabad, organized an awareness session titled "Study in France" on April 30, 2024, at the university's International Centre. The event attracted a large audience of third and fourth-year students and faculty members from various departments.

Representatives from the French Embassy, Ms. Mathilde Loustalniau, Coordinator of Campus France Pakistan, and Ms. Arifa Sultana, Manager of Cultural and Cooperation Services, led the session. They provided a detailed overview of the educational and scholarship opportunities in France, highlighting study programs, grants, and the cultural experiences available to international students.

Dr. Hammad Omer T.I., Head International Office, delivered the closing remarks, thanking the French Embassy for their support and the speakers for their informative presentations. Shields were presented to the delegates in appreciation.



The event concluded with a meeting between CUI's International Office team and the French delegates, followed by a visit to the Junaid Zaidi Library. A group photo commemorated the successful session. Further queries may be addressed to <https://www.campusfrance.org/en/contact>

Celebrations of World Water Day 2024 at CUI Wah Campus

CUI Wah Campus marked World Water Day (WWD) under the UNESCO Chair on Knowledge Systems for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) on March 14, 2024. This year's theme, "Water for Peace," focused on raising awareness about Pakistan's water challenges and promoting resilience while advancing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6: Water and Sanitation for All.

The event featured two distinguished speakers. Mr. M. Dilshad Arshad, Director of Hydrology at PCRWR, delivered a compelling talk on Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD), emphasizing its role in reducing wastewater, fostering sustainable livelihoods, and enhancing community resilience.

Engr. Waleed Tariq, Lecturer and UNESCO Chair member, presented insights from a survey titled "Exploring Perspectives on Water for Peace," which explored public awareness and attitudes towards water conservation and peacebuilding. He highlighted the survey's role in

advancing dialogue on sustainable water management as a pathway to peace.

Both presentations enriched understanding and inspired actionable steps towards sustainable water practices and peacebuilding.



International Workshop on Knowledge Management in Ambient Intelligent Systems

Dr. Furkh Zeshan and Dr. Adnan Ahmad, Associate Professors in the Department of Computer Science, COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI), Lahore Campus, organized an international workshop on Knowledge Management in Ambient Intelligent Systems (KnowMAIS-24). The workshop was a collaboration with Acadia University, Canada, and Hasselt University, Belgium.



Held on April 23-25, 2024, at Hasselt, Belgium, KnowMAIS-24 took place alongside the 15th International Conference on Ambient Systems, Networks, and Technologies (ANT 2024). The workshop featured comprehensive tracks exploring cutting-edge topics such as knowledge-based

Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi Represents CUI Lahore at WOMANi Award Rendezvous



Dr. Abdus Sattar Abbasi, Head, Center of Islamic Finance (CIF) at CUI Lahore, delivered the Welcome Address at the WOMANi Award Rendezvous. Organized by the Cambridge Institute of Islamic Finance UK, the event took place at Nishat Hotel Gulberg, Lahore, on January 26, 2024, celebrating women's achievements in Islamic finance.

intelligent systems in Industry 4.0, IoT and knowledge sharing, AI-driven knowledge management, secure distributed systems, and healthcare knowledge management.

The event brought together global experts, fostering discussion and innovation in managing knowledge within smart environments and pervasive systems. KnowMAIS-24 highlighted the critical role of interdisciplinary collaboration in advancing ambient intelligence and knowledge management technologies.

CUI Hosts Workshop on "CERN @ 70: Inspiring the Future"

The Department of Physics and the Office of Planning, Development & Human Resource Development (PD & HRD) at COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) organized a one-day workshop titled "CERN @ 70: Inspiring the Future" on May 7, 2024, at the Video Conference Room, Junaid Zaidi Library. The workshop aimed to celebrate CERN's 70th anniversary and explore its influence on scientific research.

Dr. Uzma Tabassam, Associate Professor, served as the focal person for the event. The workshop featured speakers from renowned universities and institutes, who shared their department's contributions to

CERN related research and activities. Dr. Masood Iqbal, Member of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC), was invited as the chief guest and addressed the attendees, providing valuable insights into CERN's global impact. Senior officials from CUI, along with the faculty participated in the workshop.



Highlights of COMSATS Secretariat

29th Anniversary Celebrations of COMSATS

The Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South (COMSATS) marked its 29th anniversary with a ceremony on January 16, 2024, at Aiwan-e-Sadr, Islamabad. The event presided over by the then President of Pakistan, Dr. M. Arif Alvi highlighted COMSATS' legacy of promoting sustainable development through science and technology.



Dignitaries, including Pakistan's Foreign Secretary, ambassadors from COMSATS member states, scientists, and academicians, attended the event. President Alvi praised COMSATS' contributions to science and technology, emphasizing the need for global collaboration in scientific advancements for humanity's benefit. He assured Pakistan's continued support for COMSATS and congratulated its Executive Director, Ambassador Zakaria, for the organization's progress.

International Forum on Biological Sciences Held at Kazakhstan National University (KazNU), Kazakhstan

An International Forum titled "Modern Trends in the Sustainable Development of Biological Sciences" was held on March 27-28, 2024, at Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU), Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The event organized by COMSATS, and the Institute of Dendrology of Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, celebrated the 90th anniversary of KazNU and its Department of Biology and Biotechnology.

The forum aimed to discuss advancements in biology, address critical challenges, and foster global scientific collaboration. Over 200 participants from 104 institutions across 14 countries, including Germany, China, and Turkey attended the event. The technical sessions covered

diverse topics such as biophysics, biomedicine, neuroscience, biotechnology, genetics, molecular biology, and biodiversity conservation.

COMSATS facilitated the participation of four experts from Tianjin Institute of Industrial Biotechnology, China, and Dr. Huma Balouch, Deputy Director at COMSATS Secretariat, spoke at the event. The forum featured over 100 research articles, which will be published in the BIO Web of Conferences proceedings.

This platform underscored the importance of interdisciplinary research and international collaboration in advancing biological sciences and sustainable development.

International Mobility

From Pakistan to Ajman: A Year of Learning and Adventure"

My name is Malaika Junaid, and I am currently pursuing a BS in Artificial Intelligence at COMSATS University Islamabad. I am also participating in a semester exchange program at Ajman University (AU) in the UAE.

Ajman University has provided an inspiring academic environment that fosters curiosity and hands-on learning. During my 4th semester, I engaged in dynamic classes, practical projects, and earned additional Coursera certifications, which helped me expand my technical skills in Artificial Intelligence. A significant achievement was winning 1st place in AU's Coding Battle, which felt like a major academic and personal milestone. AU's focus on collaboration has also allowed me to develop important soft skills, such as communication and teamwork, which I know will benefit my future career.

The multicultural environment at AU has been one of the most enriching aspects of my time here. With students from over 17 partner universities, I've had the chance to exchange cultural insights through events like Global Day

and the Club Fair.

Living in the UAE has been an incredible adventure, with visits to landmarks like the Burj Khalifa, Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, Ferrari World, and the Louvre Abu Dhabi. These experiences, alongside exploring places like the Dubai Frame and Ajman Corniche, have deepened my appreciation for the UAE's blend of modernity and tradition.

Studying abroad at Ajman University has truly been a life-changing experience, and I highly recommend it to everyone!



CUI International Students (News Scoop)

- Thirteen (13) international students joined CUI in graduate and undergraduate programs from five (5) different countries.
- Mr. Kayode Raheem, a CUI-Commonwealth Scholar, won a PhD scholarship for Biosciences program in the US.
- Mr. Kayode Raheem, a CUI-Commonwealth Scholar, attended the International Conference on “Current Trends, Prospects, and Opportunities in Vaccine Research” at the Center of Excellence in Molecular Biology, Punjab University Lahore, Pakistan.
- Three (3) Afghan female students joined CUI under the “HEC DAAD-EFFAL Pakistan Track Scholarship Program” (EFFAL: Empower Future Female Afghan Leaders).
- CUI announced MS and PhD scholarships for bright students from Uganda and Rwanda.
- CUI announced undergraduate scholarships for students from Palestine.
- Considering the Israel–Palestine conflict, CUI provided extended financial support to Palestinian students.



International Student's Reflection

My Journey at COMSATS University as a Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholar

My name is Adam Husaini Isah, a Nigerian currently pursuing an MS in Mathematics at COMSATS University, Islamabad, under the Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarship. This scholarship has been an incredible opportunity, allowing me to pursue my passion for mathematics in an international setting, where I have access to invaluable academic resources and global connections. COMSATS University has gone above and beyond to create a welcoming environment for scholarship recipients, offering additional support to help us maximize our academic and personal growth.

The MS Mathematics program at COMSATS has exceeded my expectations in both quality and rigor. As a Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholar, I feel a strong sense of motivation to maintain high academic standards, thanks to the guidance and excellence provided by the faculty.

In addition to academics, my time at CUI has also been a rich cultural experience. I have had the opportunity to interact with a diverse student body and engage in extracurricular activities, which has broadened my understanding of different cultures and perspectives.

This scholarship has been much more than just financial support, it has served as a platform for academic and cultural exchange, allowing me to grow both as a scholar and as a global citizen. The campus life at COMSATS, with its multicultural environment, has been a highlight, and I've made lasting friendships that have enriched my journey. I highly recommend COMSATS University to all prospective students, both locally and internationally.

Kind regards,
Adam Husaini Isah

Foreign Faculty @ CUI

Visit of Professor Francesco Polizzi to CUI Lahore Campus

Professor Dr. Francesco Polizzi from the University of Naples Federico II, Italy, visited the Department of Mathematics at the CUI Lahore Campus, from February 12 to 24, 2024, as part of the Faculty Exchange Program sponsored by the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan.

During his visit, Professor Polizzi conducted a series of highly productive sessions with both students and faculty members. The sessions were met with strong enthusiasm, with participants actively engaging in discussions, asking insightful questions, and diligently completing assigned tasks. The two-week visit proved to be a valuable and enriching experience for all involved. Professor Polizzi expressed his satisfaction with the interactions and

conveyed his intention to return in two years, further strengthening academic ties between the institutions.



Spanish Mathematician Visits CUI as part of HEC's Faculty Exchange Program

Professor Juan Enrique Martinez Legaz from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain, visited the Department of Mathematics at COMSATS University Islamabad (CUI) Lahore Campus from March 8 to 23, 2024, under the Faculty Exchange Program of the Higher Education Commission of Pakistan.

During his visit, Professor Martinez Legaz delivered a course titled "Convexity and Duality in Optimization Problems Arising in Microeconomic Theory." This topic was novel for the students, as they had no prior background in convex analysis or mathematical economics. Despite the challenge, the students

demonstrated remarkable enthusiasm and were actively engaged throughout the course, contributing to a successful and intellectually stimulating experience.



**Admission Fall
2025**

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 - ✓ Full and partial scholarships
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Last date for submission of application: **June 30, 2025**

Classes Starting from: **September 2025**

For admission /scholarship details, eligibility criteria and submission of application, please visit
<http://ww2.comsats.edu.pk/internationalstudents>



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