



Alumni UK Symposium

Connect, learn, share and grow

28 September 2024
Bengaluru



Welcome to the British Council's Alumni UK Symposium



Welcome to the British Council's Alumni UK Symposium – a first in Bengaluru! This symposium brings together a diverse and accomplished community of UK alumni, from and around Bengaluru to share their professional expertise and experiences through discussions, debates, and dialogue.

This year's symposium has been designed to address key Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on skills and employability, technology and climate, and access to public health. Whether it's exploring the competencies employers seek, examining how AI can sustain climate action, or showcasing innovations that make public

health more accessible, we aim to delve into the ideas that engage us daily—and sometimes keep us up at night.

Throughout the evening, we will engage in insightful and interactive discussions, with ample opportunities to network with peers and leaders from industry and government. We will also introduce you to the Alumni UK platform, which offers a range of professional trainings, awards, and more.

This symposium comes at an exciting time: The British Council and the Government of Karnataka's Higher Education Department have recently launched four flagship programmes in the state, under a Memorandum of Understanding signed earlier this year.

These include:

- The GREAT Scholars for Outstanding Undergraduate Talent (SCOUT) programme, which will send 30 students from Karnataka to the University of East London for a certified course on sustainability in the context of business and entrepreneurship.
- The English Skills for Youth programme with Microsoft, benefiting over 5,700 students from 16 engineering colleges across the state, to enhance their English language and communication skills for better employability.
- A capacity-building programme for 56 international officers across 28 public universities in the state, supporting the Government of Karnataka's internationalisation goals.
- The first digital wall from the British Council digital library, housed at Bengaluru City University's campus, providing students across Karnataka with access to high-quality content.

Our work with you, the UK alumni, extends across all of these programmes and more. I am eager to tap into the deep expertise and experience you bring, which can inspire young people and strengthen our communities.

Thank you for joining us for an evening of meaningful discussions, shared experiences, and renewed connections. I look forward to an enriching evening with all of you.

Janaka Pushpanathan

Director South India
British Council

What is Alumni UK?

Alumni UK is the global network for people from around the world who have studied in or with the UK as an overseas student.

Reasons to join Alumni UK

Join us as we build the largest UK alumni community, connecting people who studied at any UK university and find out how Alumni UK can help you achieve your goals.

- Attend exclusive industry events and masterclasses.
- Keep learning to advance your career.
- Find new opportunities.
- Showcase your skills on a global stage.
- Connect with other UK alumni and build your network.

Eligibility to join Alumni UK

All international UK alumni from any UK university, on any course, in any year are encouraged to join. You need to have spent at least one term at a UK higher education institution enrolled on a credit-bearing course. This includes transnational or online education.

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find out more about
Alumni UK**



Programme

3.00 p.m.	Welcome address by Janaka Pushpanathan, Director South India, British Council
3.10 p.m.	Opening Plenary - Keynote address on Global Prosperity: Skills and Employability
3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.	Session 1 - Skills and Employability: Creating a Path to Global Prosperity
4.30 p.m. to 4.45 p.m.	Tea and Networking break
4.45 p.m. to 5.45 p.m.	Session 2 - Innovative Technologies for Climate Action: Sustainable Solutions
5.45 p.m. to 6.45 pm	Session 3 – Transforming Public Health: Innovation and Access for Healthier Communities
6.45 p.m. to 7.00 pm	Closing remarks
7.00 pm onwards	Drinks and dinner reception

Session and speaker details

Keynote speech

Keynote address on **Global Prosperity: Skills and Employability**



Uma Mahadevan will deliver the keynote speech on how the Karnataka Government and institutions are addressing the challenges and opportunities in Skills and Employability. Uma will also focus on her journey as a Chevening Scholar and how her UK education has helped chart an extraordinary career in public service.

Ms Uma Mahadevan. IAS

Additional Chief Secretary &
Development Commissioner,
Rural Development & Panchayat Raj,
Govt of Karnataka

Session 1

Skills and Employability: Creating a Path to Global Prosperity

In our fast-evolving global economy, the relation between skills and employability for sustainable prosperity has never been more evident – it is no surprise that 85% Indian professionals are set to invest in their upskilling in FY 25. What competencies does today's workforce need to thrive in the job market?



Janaka Pushpanathan
Director South India
British Council
(Session Chair)



Christo Joseph, FRSA
Director-Strategy and Planning,
Garden City University
Alumnus of King's College London



Ashish Jaiswar
General Manager (India),
University of Reading
Alumnus of University of Hertfordshire



Pavan Kumar Sriram
Founder/Passion project,
Kohort
Alumnus of Swansea University



Vaishnavee Maanay
Head of Media,
BNM Institute of Technology
Alumnus of Manchester Metropolitan University

Session 2

Innovative Technologies for Climate Action: Sustainable Solutions

Even as alarm turns to acceptance, using cutting-edge technology to combat climate change, and focusing on their potential to drive scalable climate action has become the order of the day. How can innovative technology help us create and sustain solutions to address climate change?



James Godber
Deputy Chief of Mission,
British Deputy High Commission
Bangalore
(Session Chair)



Dr Geetanjali Kaushik
Senior Cities Consultant,
under NCAP (National Clean Air Programme), GOI
Alumnus of Swansea University



Dr Shanmugam Palaniyandi
Chief Scientist Group Leader
Environmental Engineering and Sciences,
CSIR - Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai
Alumnus of University of Leeds



Ashiq Shibin
Co-founder,
Kaliru Design Studio
Alumnus of Brunel University

Session 3

Transforming Public Health: Innovation and Access for Healthier Communities

Can innovation in public health play a transformative role in providing access to healthcare in communities? With pandemics becoming the norm, an expanding elderly population, mental health issues on the rise – the list of challenges are growing, and innovative solutions are essential to ensure equitable wellness.



Aatreyee Guha Thakurta
Head of Higher Education Mobility
British Council
(Session Chair)



Mayank B Nagori
Co-Founder & CEO,
Gud Gum
Alumnus of University of Nottingham



Dr Thanga Prabhu Arokiaswamy
Medical doctor & Clinical informatics expert
Alumnus of Swansea University



Dr Priya T Nandimath
Principal,
Padmashree School of Public Health
Alumnus of University of Stirling



Dr Sai Pillarisetti
BIDA PG Chairman & Head
of International Partnerships (Medicine),
University of Bolton,
Alumnus of University of Central Lancashire

Scan the QR
Learn more about
the panelists



What's coming up for UK Alumni?

Alumni Awards: Study UK Alumni Awards recognise the outstanding achievements of international UK alumni worldwide. Award categories include business and innovation, culture and creativity, science and sustainability, and social action. Applications are open from 1 September 2024 - 21 October 2024. Eligible applicants will be considered for both national Alumni Awards in participating countries and the global Alumni Awards.

For more information visit britishcouncil.in/study-uk/alumni-awards

Careers advice and guidance for alumni: Tailored support is available for alumni through Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), bespoke training programs, and specialised master classes.

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about upcoming
Alumni UK events



Scan to find out
more about
Alumni Awards 2025

