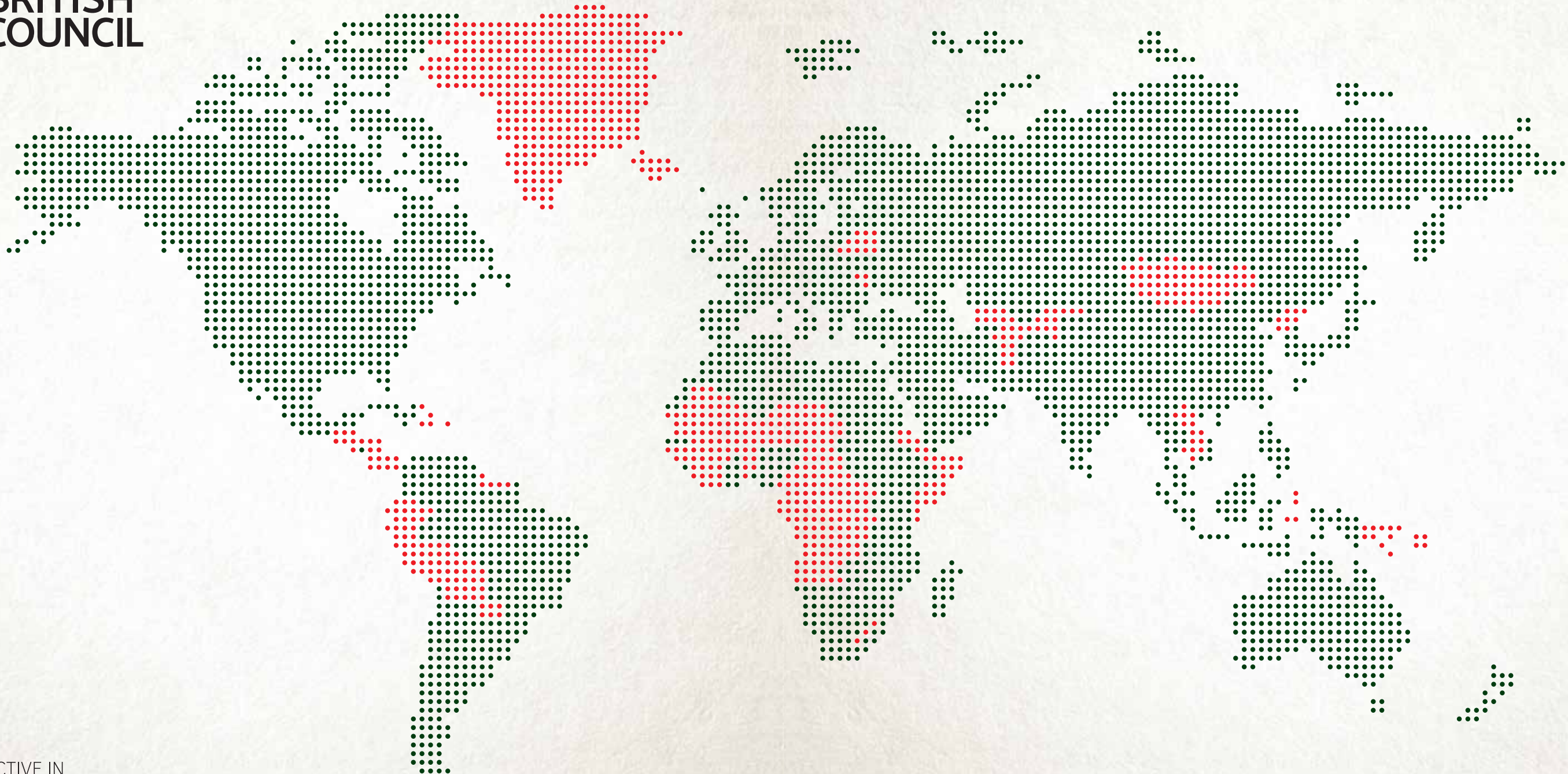




The British Council in Bangladesh

Celebrating over 60 years of impact



THE BRITISH COUNCIL

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. Our purpose is to create international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and to build trust between them worldwide.

We seek new ways of connecting with and understanding each other through the **Arts**. We strive for more widespread and better quality teaching, learning and assessment of **English** worldwide. Our goal is to enhance UK leadership and shared learning from interactive **Education**. We want to build **Societies** whose young people, citizens and institutions contribute to and benefit from a more inclusive, open and prosperous world.

We have over 8,000 staff working in over 190 offices in 110 countries and territories across the world.

The British Council was established in 1934 to create a friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and the wider world by making a positive contribution to the countries we work with.



10.9 MILLION

FACE-TO-FACE INTERACTIONS WITH
LEARNERS, TEACHERS AND
EXAMS CANDIDATES



11.6 MILLION

EXHIBITIONS, FAIRS AND
FESTIVALS VISITORS



350,000

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS HOSTED BY
THE UK UNIVERSITIES EVERY YEAR

THE BRITISH COUNCIL IN BANGLADESH

We have been working in Dhaka since 1951. Since then we have extended our presence to Chittagong and Sylhet. In all three locations we now offer a wide range of services, activities and programmes.

We work with three main groups of people:

Society and community leaders who can bring about changes in social, education and cultural policy and help us make wider connections.

Young professionals including professionals in the academia, arts and culture, media, science and trade and business, who we partner with in order to help maximise the impact of their work and ours.

Young people including students, new recruits, freelancers and entrepreneurs, who are opinion formers through their own social networks and are the next generation of national leaders and influencers.

Our main office in Dhaka is situated within the Dhaka University area. It is here where our recently refurbished Library is located and from where we project our activities across the country, and design and plan the implementation of our programmes. We operate in Dhaka (Fuller Road, Dhanmondi, Uttara, Gulshan), Chittagong and Sylhet. Our world leading English teaching services are available to children, students, adults, and professionals of Bangladesh. We administer exams nationwide. We work in partnership with a large number of foundations, trusts and public, private, non-profit and non-governmental organisations to deliver a portfolio of projects that are vibrant and full of impact. We are strongly committed to equal opportunity and diversity in all aspects of our work.



1,341,600

PEOPLE ENGAGED THROUGH OUR
DIGITAL PLATFORMS



150,000

ATTENDED OUR EXHIBITIONS, FESTIVALS,
EVENTS AND PERFORMANCES



54 DISTRICTS

ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN ACTIVITIES
WITH THE BRITISH COUNCIL

THE BRITISH COUNCIL IN BANGLADESH

1934

The first meeting of the British Council is held, then known as the 'British Committee for Relations with Other Countries'.

1947

The British Council is invited to open offices in India by the then Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru. We also open offices throughout Pakistan at this time.

1951

We open our first office in Dhaka.

1954

We open a library in Dhaka for the first time.

1960

We open branch libraries in Chittagong and Rajshahi.

1964

An English Teaching Information Centre opens in Dhaka; We hold an exhibition of 'Twentieth Century graphic art' in Dhaka.

1971

The Liberation War begins. Amidst the violence on the Dhaka University campus on 25 March, the British Council office is damaged, staff attacked and a security guard killed. Our offices and libraries then remained closed for 8 months.

1978

Commonwealth Scholarships, administered by the British Council, are awarded for the first time in Bangladesh. We continue to offer scholarships to Bangladeshi students wishing to study in the UK, and maintain a UK-Bangladesh Alumni network.

1983

We begin to offer English language courses to our customers. Today we have three teaching centres, in Dhanmondi, Gulshan and Uttara, that offer a range of courses to suit a variety of learners.

1986

Renowned UK theatre director Deborah Warner comes to Dhaka to direct a production of *The Tempest*. Today we still continue to connect the best of UK creative talent with talent from Bangladesh.

1997

The first 'British Education Fair' takes place in Bangladesh, in conjunction with the British High Commission. We now run annual 'Education UK' fairs and events in Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Khulna and Rajshahi.

2009

Our youth programme Active Citizens launches in Bangladesh. To date, Active Citizens has trained over 28,000 young volunteers who have run over 1,500 Social Action Projects in their local communities.

2013

We partner with BRAC to develop and implement 'English and ICT for Adolescent Girls', a project that empowers young women through English Language and ICT skills. This project goes on to win the prestigious Manthan Award for Digital Inclusion in Development.

2014

We renovate our library at Fuller Road into a cultural and convening space and introduce e-library services. World famous Akram Khan's theatre production *DESH* comes to Dhaka.

2016

We mark 400 years of Shakespeare's death by participating in the global programme of events and activities, Shakespeare Lives. We celebrate his genius and artistic legacy throughout the year.



OUR LIBRARIES

The British Council libraries in Bangladesh represent a cultural, convening, knowledge space that offers information opportunity for all. We have recently expanded our libraries in Dhaka and Chittagong and introduced e-library services. We have plans to open a new library in Sylhet.

Our collections include classical and contemporary English literature, authoritative guides on management, business, IT and the Arts, GCSE and A level text books, information about modern UK lifestyle and much more. We offer a wide selection of films, documentaries and British TV series on DVD. We also provide access to on-line information products, newspapers, journals and magazines. We have over **80,000 e-books, 14,000 e-journals** and **e-magazines** in our online collection, which can be accessed from anywhere.

Our wide variety of activities includes **Book Reading Competitions, World Book Day** celebrations, **Reading Challenges** for children, **Young Learners' Club**, etc. We are delivering two different reader development programmes for students from underprivileged background, **Kids Read** and **Play Learn Act**, in partnership with schools and corporates like HSBC, SCB and BSRM. Over 10,000 students from government primary schools are benefitting from the projects.

Our libraries are also cultural and social spaces that provide networking opportunities for members of all sectors of the community. We organise a variety of events and activities including theatre and film screenings, workshops and seminars, book launch and author talks.



2 NEW LIBRARIES

IN DHAKA AND CHITTAGONG,
AND PLANNED IN SYLHET



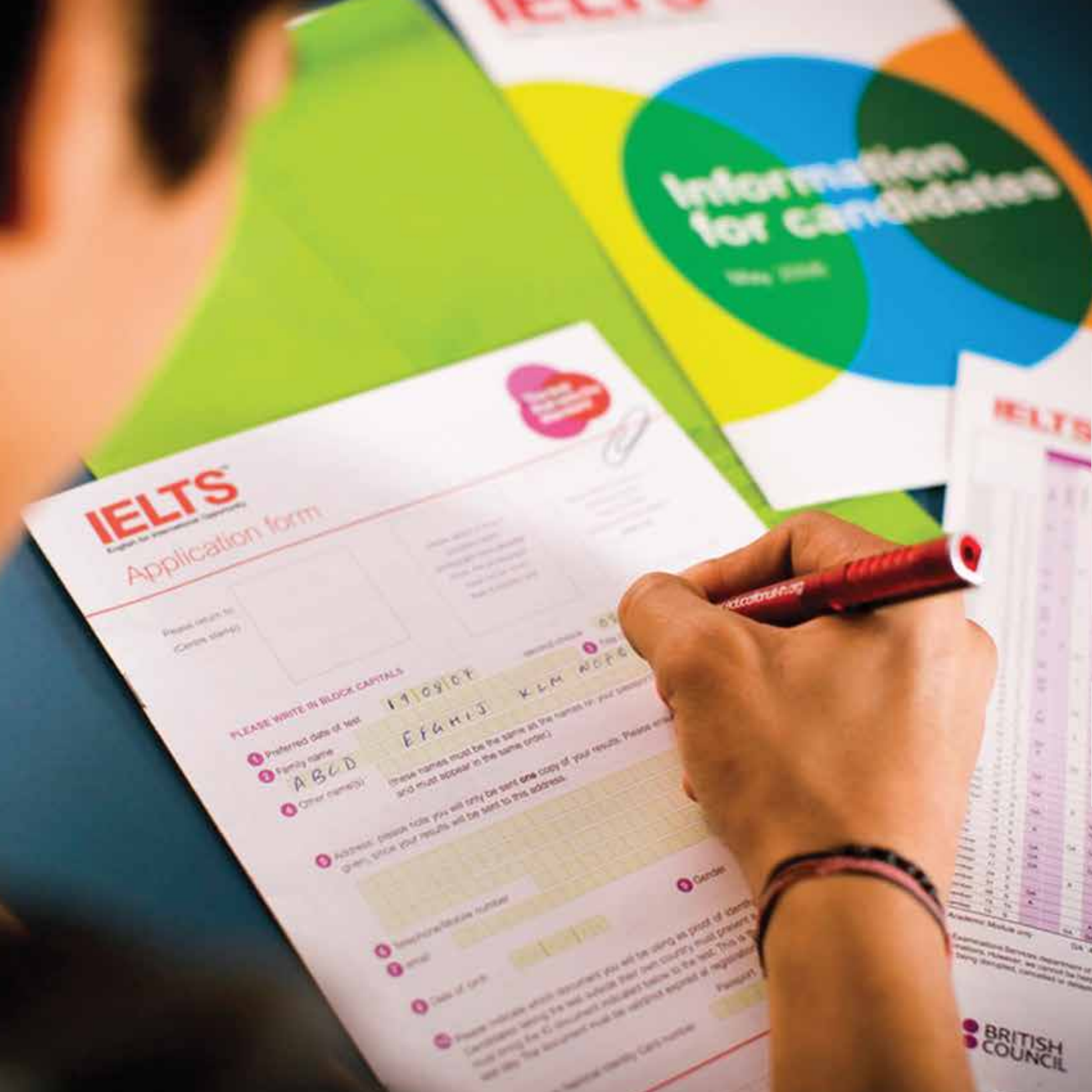
110,000

REACHED FACE TO FACE EVERY YEAR



50,000

PARTICIPANTS IN OUR
BOOK READING COMPETITIONS



EXAMINATIONS

Our examinations services allow people in Bangladesh to access educational and professional development opportunities from the UK and elsewhere.

In **School Examinations** we work with two of the largest global awarding bodies - Cambridge International Examinations and PEARSON Edexcel. We work with nearly 300 UK curriculum English medium schools across Bangladesh. The British Council provides support to these schools to make the examinations' registration and administration processes as smooth as possible. We also support our Partner School Network (PSN) by linking all the schools we work with that offer UK qualifications such as the IGCSE, O and A Levels. This network is a global community which supports school leaders, teachers and learners through leadership and teaching training, online products for students, competitions, conferences and much more.

IELTS (International English Language Testing System) is the world's most popular English language test. More than 2 million IELTS tests are taken each year. Taking IELTS opens doors – it can help to live, study and work around the world. More than 9,000 organisations worldwide accept IELTS, including government, academic and employment institutions. In fact, IELTS is the only English language test accepted for immigration purposes by all countries that require one. From 2015 British Council has launched IELTS Scholarships scheme in Bangladesh to assist more people access international education experience abroad.

Aptis is a modern and flexible English assessment system designed to meet the diverse needs of organisations and individuals around the world. Aptis is used by organisations and institutions to benchmark the English language levels of their employees, students and teachers. There are three different Aptis products available in the Aptis suite - Aptis (General), Aptis for Teachers and Aptis for Teens.

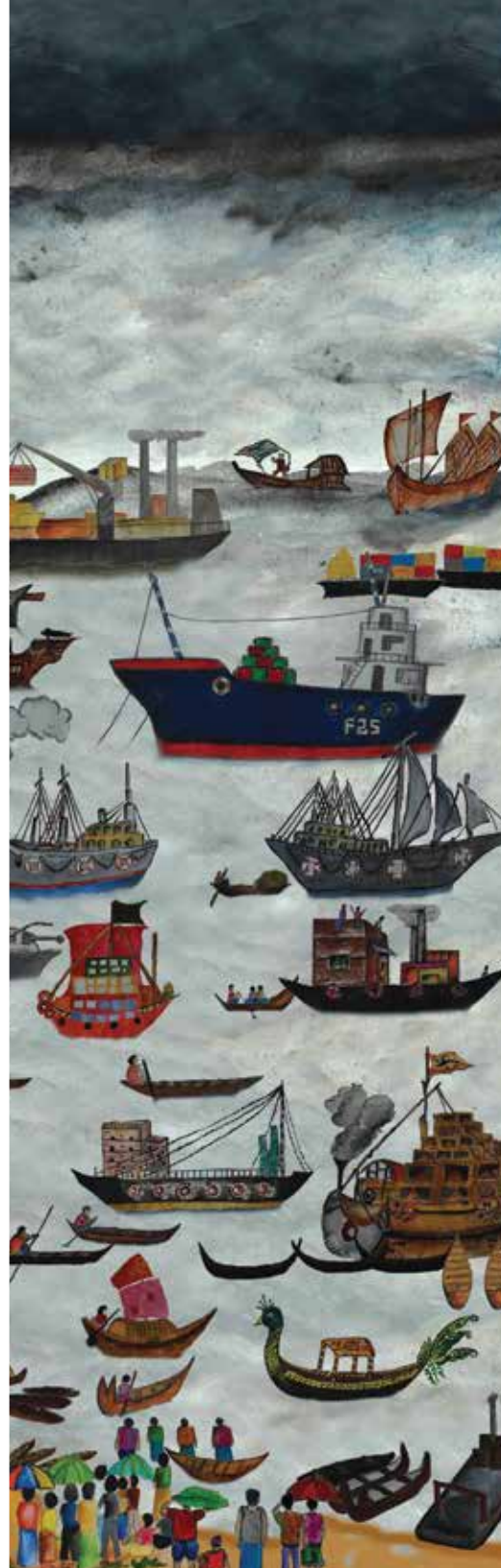
Educational and Professional exams: The British Council helps to gain internationally recognized qualifications from various universities and professional bodies, in the UK and beyond, by offering examination administration services. In Bangladesh, British Council administers a large number of exams on behalf of ACCA, ICAEW, CFA, ICS and NCC as a part of professional qualification suite.

We also offer University qualifications such as LLb under University of London, Northumbria and BPP University, BBA under Heriot Watt University, along with other university degree examinations, including distance learning programmers.


140,000
EXAMS CONDUCTED ANNUALLY


55,000
EXAMS CANDIDATES ANNUALLY

IELTS
MOST POPULAR ENGLISH LANGUAGE
TEST IN BANGLADESH



OUR WORK IN THE ARTS

Our Arts team works with the best of British creative talent to develop innovative collaborations with the Bangladeshi cultural sector. Our focus is on individual Bangladeshi talent, institutional links, new networks and new connections that can blossom into sustainable, long term, creative partnerships.

We partner with the various literary festivals in Dhaka, such as **Dhaka Literary Festival** and **Ekushey Boi Mela**, to create opportunities for British and Bangladeshi writers to explore new expressions together and to create new international connections, to cross cultural and genre barriers and to foster mutual understanding and respect.

In collaboration with the UK Graeae Theatre Company and Dhaka Theatre, we have worked with prominent UK and Bangladeshi directors to train young actors with disability. We harness their artistic abilities and help them gain more independence.

In 2013 we initiated a nationwide bilingual poetry competition with our partner Monsoon Letters, which is expanding every year with the introduction of written poetry, divisional events and partnerships. The winners participated in the UK's largest literary festival in Ledbury in 2014 and in SAARC Lit Fest in India in 2016.

We have worked closely with Bangladesh government to draft the first Creative Industries policy. Along with United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), we help map the potential of the creative industries and facilitate to increase skills collaboration across sectors.

We have marked Shakespeare's 400th death anniversary in 2016 by participating in the global campaign **Shakespeare Lives**. We commemorate his genius by celebrating his works through various projects, activities and events organised throughout the year.

We also have major programmes in film and music. We organise theatre and film screenings for the British Council members in our cultural convening space at Fuller Road, Dhaka premises.



400th
DEATH ANNIVERSARY
OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE



1,500
YOUNG POETS INVOLVED IN OUR
NATIONAL POETRY COMPETITION



125
YOUNG BANGLADESHI FILMMAKERS
DEVELOPED THEIR TALENT WITH
PROMINENT BRITISH FILM DIRECTORS



OUR WORK IN ENGLISH

We recognise that the English language is an essential skill in today's globalised world, and our goal is for more widespread and better quality teaching, learning and assessment of English worldwide.

Our Teaching Centres are world renowned for their quality of instruction. With many decades of experience in teaching students of all ages, we ensure that all our courses have been carefully designed to deliver the most effective and practical learning process through a full range of courses for children, teenagers, university students, adults, and corporate organisations.

We offer a wide range of flexible courses, so whether you are an absolute beginner or someone who wants to top up their English skills and become an expert speaker, we have the right course for you. Our teachers teach English in a fun and interactive manner. We help students maximise their opportunities with our English and IELTS courses, tests and online resources. We also provide corporate clients with the English language skills that will help them compete more effectively in today's fast-paced global economy.

We work in partnership to deliver high quality English language projects which enable people to meet their needs and aspirations through English.

Working with BRAC, we run the **English and Digital for Girls' Education** programme in community-based learning centres for girls. Our peer leader network helps girls develop their knowledge using English, digital and 21st Century skills.

In partnership with the British High Commission, our **English for Defence Services** projects work in the 12 Cadet Colleges across Bangladesh, and with Peacekeeping trainers at Bangladesh Institution of Peace Support Operation Training. These projects develop English language and pedagogical skills of the trainees.

In partnership with the Ministry of Education, we are developing a roadmap for **Speaking and Listening assessment**, which will improve teachers' capacity and knowledge when planning and administering speaking and listening assessments for schools. This supports the Government's aim that students will achieve communicative competence in all four skills.



6,000

ENGLISH LANGUAGE STUDENTS
IN OUR TEACHING CENTRES ANNUALLY



6,500

ADOLESCENT GIRLS TRAINED IN
ENGLISH AND ICT SKILLS



DIGITAL

ONLINE COURSES, SMS,
INTERACTIVE VOICE SERVICES
AND MOBILE APPS FOR PEOPLE
TO LEARN ENGLISH



OUR WORK IN SOCIETY

In partnership with Bangladesh and UK civil society organisations and networks, our Governance, Human Rights, Social Enterprise and Gender empowerment programmes increase social impact opportunities for young volunteers, professionals and leaders, through the development of their leadership skills and decision-making capacity.

Active Citizens is a youth leadership training programme that promotes intercultural dialogue and community-led social action, through civic engagement or volunteering in around 40 countries. Run by the British Council and partner organisations, it aims to increase the contribution of community leaders towards achieving sustainable development both locally and globally. It also encourages peer-to-peer relations across cultural, geographic and political boundaries via a lively online social network of participants, as well as occasional international exchange visits. In Bangladesh, the Active Citizens programme is active in nearly 650 communities throughout 54 districts.

Through our **Next Generation Research Series**, we create opportunities for 50 million young Bangladeshis to be heard. Our research and reports highlight the opinions and perspectives of young people in Bangladesh and bring them to the forefront of policy debates.

Our **Social Enterprise** programme aims to facilitate an enabling policy framework through policy dialogue by collaborating with policy makers, investors, development agencies and the growing social enterprise sector. We empower young entrepreneurs by providing education, training and incubator support.

Our **Promoting Democratic Inclusion and Governance through Youth (PRODIGY)** project develops the knowledge and skills of 540 young people to engage the wider community through volunteer activities, including youth club activities, theatre performances, internships with local government, community radio programs and public dialogues, creating platforms and channels to ensure that the wider community has access to government information. PRODIGY also supports innovative and creative ways to ensure that marginalised communities receive the information and guidance they need to enable participation in, and contribution to, social change.

Our programmes also address diversity and gender issues, including women's empowerment.



40 COUNTRIES
IN OUR ACTIVE CITIZENS NETWORK



28,000
YOUNG BANGLADESHI ACTIVE CITIZENS



700,000
BENEFICIARIES THROUGH
ACTIVE CITIZENS' COMMUNITY PROJECTS



OUR WORK IN EDUCATION

We work for more progressive primary, secondary and higher education systems and practices by introducing UK experience and international opportunities to policy makers, faculty members, researchers, principals, teachers and students to promote curriculum development, research, leadership, and continuous development of teaching and learning.

Education UK is our initiative to help students and their parents to learn about study opportunities in the UK. We advise them on their course selection by linking them with UK academic institutions and through our trained local agents. We organise Higher Education exhibitions, face to face briefings and consultation. We are also nurturing a UK alumni network in Bangladesh.

Research Partnerships strengthen academic collaborations by creating opportunities for universities in Bangladesh and the UK to conduct joint research studies.

Global Education Dialogues is a regional initiative that brings together policy level practitioners and experts from across South Asia to discuss and debate contemporary issues in Higher Education.

Centres of Excellence is a programme developed in partnership with the University Grants Commission to establish model universities as centres of academic excellence in the area of teaching and learning.

The Higher Education Reform Project will adopt from the outset a participatory approach which will involve the key stakeholders in Bangladesh and the UK in the education sector.

Connecting Classrooms is a global education programme that provides teachers and young students in Bangladesh, access to UK education opportunities and teacher training programmes, enabling them to exchange international best practice. Connecting Classrooms' fully funded online courses and face to face workshops equip teachers with teaching skills, materials and knowledge about global issues.

Commonwealth Class is an exciting initiative for schools which connects students from across the Commonwealth, and helps them to share their experiences as active global citizens. The programme supports lesson planning and enriches school resources with online debates and themed interactive projects to support teaching across the curriculum.

Our **International School Award** scheme aids schools in Bangladesh to develop professionally, adding international dimension to teaching and learning practices. It is available to all government and non-government schools, including madrasahs, recognising different levels of achievement in international work.

Rivers of the World is a project in partnership with Thames Festival Trust that provides opportunities and resources for teachers and pupils to learn about their local river environment and to compare this to other rivers in cities around the world.



4,000

**BANGLADESHI STUDENTS
STUDY IN UK UNIVERSITIES EVERY YEAR**



25,000

**STUDENTS ENGAGED IN
'CONNECTING CLASSROOMS'**



40

**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS
BETWEEN UK AND BANGLADESH
HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**



OUR WORK IN DEVELOPMENT

In Bangladesh we work with a number of partners and donors who invest in our programmes by co-designing and co-funding projects that ensure impact of our work.

We have an excellent relationship with the Government of Bangladesh and work closely with its Ministries and Departments to design and deliver our development programmes. Working closely with governments, donors and business, we deliver value for money solutions that are both effective and sustainable. We work with public and private sectors, including commercial banks, multinational companies, many universities, and international and national NGOs. This puts us in a unique position to enable discussions which leads to new thinking and innovative solutions.

We are a member of a consortium delivering **Community Legal Service (CLS)** Programme funded by UKaid. The five year (2012-17) CLS Programme aims to provide greater access to justice for the poor, marginalised and socially excluded communities in Bangladesh. CLS targets to reach 10 million beneficiaries through NGOs.

Promoting Knowledge for Accountable Systems (PROKAS) is an innovative fund that will support collective action by Government of Bangladesh, civil society and private sector partners to improve accountability and transparency in targeted thematic areas. These include climate financing, business regulation as well as other possible issues, such as labour migration and food safety that affect people's daily lives. The £9 million UKaid-funded project, led by the British Council, will last for an initial three years (2015-2018).

We manage the £70 million plus grant financing component of the DFID/SDC funded **Economic Empowerment of the Poorest Programme/SHREE**, which aims to enable 1 million people to lift themselves out of poverty and achieve sustainable livelihoods.

For **Libraries Unlimited** we are collaborating with the Government of Bangladesh to implement the \$4 million nationwide project to enhance access to information and knowledge in Bangladesh. Libraries Unlimited aims to greatly improve the lives of the citizens of Bangladesh through creating new and innovative models of libraries that will provide free access to information.

As an implementing partner on DFID/SDC's £22 million **Skills and Employment Programme – Bangladesh (SUDOKKHO)** to facilitate private-sector led training for 110,000 men and women and support 71,500 people into employment, we provide technical expertise in curriculum development and quality assurance, gender and social inclusion, and communications.



10 MILLION
BENEFICIARIES TARGETED BY CLS



£70 MILLION
IN GRANTS MANAGED FOR SHREE



110,000
PEOPLE UPSKILLED THROUGH OUR
TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO SUDHOKKHO



EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

British Council is strongly committed to equality, diversity and inclusion. We work to build meaningful, enduring and respectful relationships across different cultures. Our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy set out how we approach the challenges of mainstreaming equality, diversity and inclusion internationally. We have developed a range of tools and initiatives to help us build diversity into our work. Valuing and managing diversity within the British Council enables us to strengthen our work in the field of international cultural relations where positive engagement with difference is central.

CHILD PROTECTION

The British Council adheres to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), 1989, which is the international legal framework that sets out the specific rights of children. A child is defined in the British Council as anyone who has not reached their 18th birthday (UNCRC, 1989) irrespective of the age of majority in the country where a child is, or their home country. We recognise that we have a fundamental duty of care towards all children we engage with, including a duty to protect them from all forms of abuse. We help make sure that children who engage in British Council English for children activities are protected. We also provide step by step guidance to staff on what action to take if there is an allegation of or concern about actual or suspected situations of abuse.

CONTACT US

🌐 www.britishcouncil.org.bd
✉ bd.enquiries@britishcouncil.org
☎ + 880 9666 773377

Connect with us

📘 [BritishCouncilBangladesh](#)
📺 [BdBritish](#)

Dhaka

Library and Main Office
5 Fuller Road, Dhaka 1000

Dhanmondi Teaching Centre

754 B, Satmasjid Road
Dhanmondi, Dhaka 1205

Uttara Teaching Centre

International Turkish Hope School
Plot 7, Road 6, Sector 4 Uttara,
Dhaka 1230

Gulshan Teaching Centre

Canadian International School
200 Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka 1212

Chittagong

Rafique Tower, Floor 8,
92 Agrabad Chittagong

Chittagong Independent University

Floor 5, Roaksana Monjil
16 Jamal Khan Road, Chittagong

Sylhet

Surma Hall, Level 4, Rose View Hotel,
Shahjalal Uposhahar, Sylhet



British Council

5 Fuller Road, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh

 www.britishcouncil.org.bd
 bd.enquiries@britishcouncil.org
 + 880 9666 773377
 [BritishCouncilBangladesh](https://www.facebook.com/BritishCouncilBangladesh)
 [BdBritish](https://twitter.com/BdBritish)

© British Council 2016
The United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural
relations and educational opportunities. A registered charity:
209131 (England and Wales) SC037733 (Scotland).