

# UMT | SLA

School of Liberal Arts

# NEWSLETTER



## Editor's Note

What drives us to achieve our dreams, meet our goals, rise from the ashes and prove our strength? It is passion. Passion works even when time and tide are against us. It is that quality which doesn't let our senses benumb in the face of adversity. It allows us to take challenges as an opportunity to reveal our skills and showcase our potential. Let us inculcate passion in our lives to bring positive change in our surroundings.

## A Welcome Message of the Patron

As we pass through one of roughest patches of time, it is natural to feel low, emaciated of emotional resilience, and open to the blows of rising unrest, economic stress, and traumatic events. History has never been different. There have been wars, destruction, economic depression, disease, political crises followed by peace, growth, happiness, prosperity, and hope. This is how time is built and this is how lives are designed. To overcome adversity, the only thing that has helped people get back on their feet is their sense of community; the passion to pray together, to build together, to improve together, and to stand together.

The sixth issue of SLA Newsletter presents a small effort to keep the spirit of unity alive and make things happen together. We are a close-knit family at SLA and our achievements, accomplishments, and success exemplify the support and strength we draw from each other.

**I welcome you to our world!**

Warm wishes,

**Prof. Dr Nadia Anwar**

Dean, School of Liberal Arts

## Welcome Note by Editor-in-Chief

“Creativity is intelligence having fun.”

**Albert Einstein**

We are thrilled to bring you the 6th edition of the SLA Newsletter, a window into the inspiring world of the School of Liberal Arts at UMT. This issue celebrates the imagination, dedication, and achievements of our students and faculty, who continue to push boundaries and embrace new ideas. Inside, you will find stories that spark curiosity and excitement, from innovative language courses and impactful research to student-led initiatives and international collaborations. Each article reflects our community's passion for growth, excellence, and meaningful impact. A heartfelt thank you goes to our talented contributors, Ms. Shama Iqbal Hussain, Mr. Muhammad Hamzah Masood, Ms. Minaam Butt, and Ms. Kinza Iqbal, whose commitment and creativity made this edition possible. We are equally grateful to our OCM colleagues for their support and extend special appreciation to Dean SLA, Prof. Dr Nadia Anwar, for her guidance and encouragement. We hope you enjoy exploring this edition and find it as inspiring as we found in creating it.

**Naheed Ashfaq Qureshi**  
(Assistant Professor, CFL)

## School of Liberal Arts at a Glance

The School of Liberal Arts (SLA) comprises two departments and two centers, with over sixty faculty members offering three undergraduate and four graduate programs. Through the Centre for Languages, SLA also provides English and foreign language courses across the University. With strong foundations in Linguistics, Literature, and Liberal Arts, SLA remains actively engaged through seminars, events, and international collaborations.

### Mission



The School of Liberal Arts (SLA) comprises two departments and two centers, with over sixty faculty members offering three undergraduate and four graduate programs. Through the Centre for Languages, SLA also provides English and foreign language courses across the University. With strong foundations in Linguistics, Literature, and Liberal Arts, SLA remains actively engaged through seminars, events, and international collaborations.

### Vision



To cultivate critical thinking, creativity, and intellectual exploration through a multidisciplinary approach, preparing students to address complex societal challenges with a well-rounded perspective.

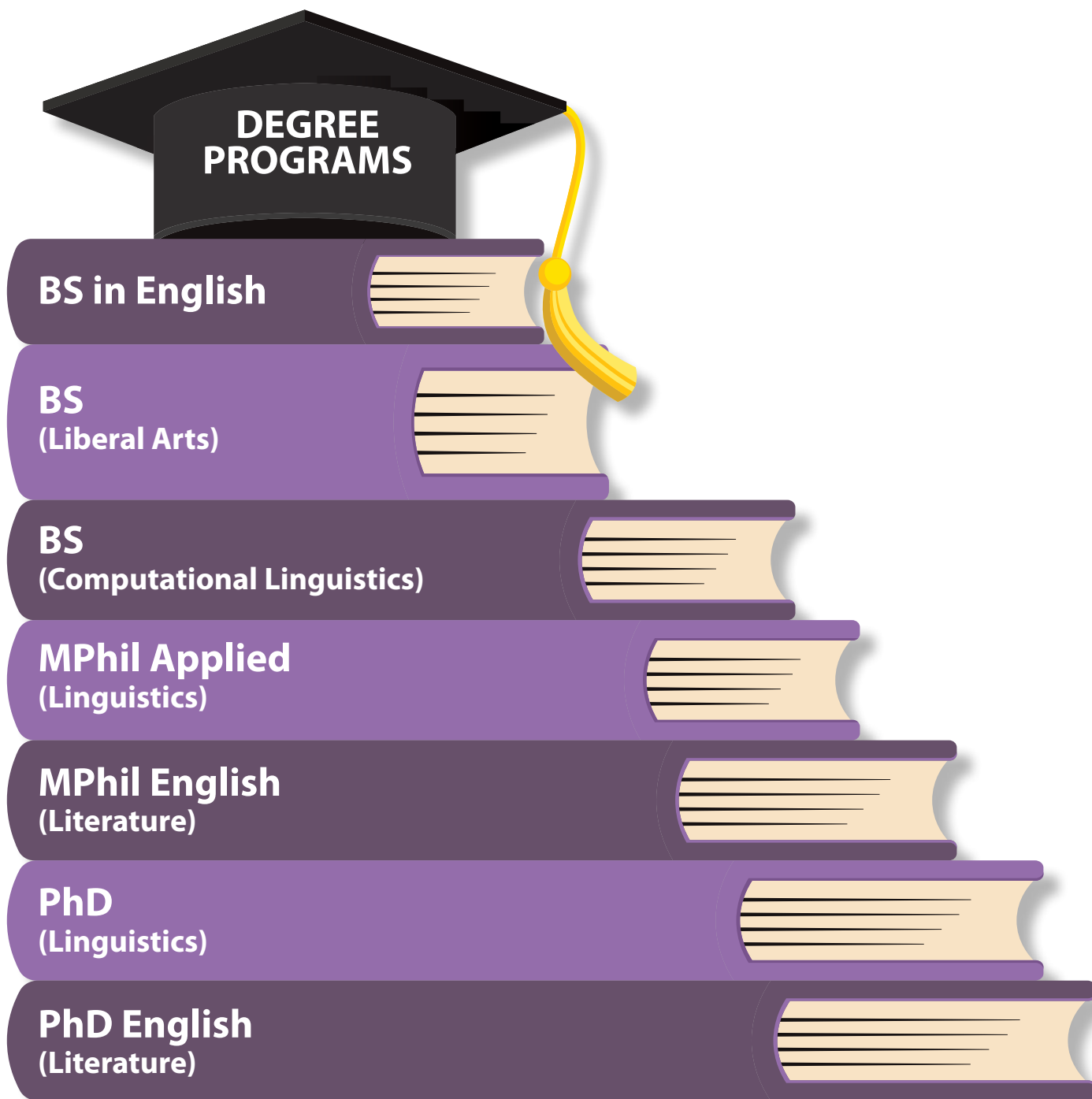


## School of Liberal Arts at a Glance

Here at the School of Liberal Arts, we have four academic units and seven main degree programs.

### We have 4 Academic Units

- Department of Linguistics and Communications (DLC)
- Department of English and Literary Studies (DELS)
- Center for Languages (CFL)
- Centre for Performing and Fine Arts (CEPFA)



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## Orientation Session & SLA Help Desk for Freshers

The School of Liberal Arts (SLA) welcomed new students on October 9–10, 2025, through an Orientation Session introducing its academic structure, vision, and research opportunities. Prof. Nadia Anwar and Prof. Dr. Asghar Zaidi highlighted academic commitment and curiosity, while students engaged with faculty to explore academic pathways. The SLA Help Desk was also organized to strengthen support services, ensuring efficient communication and personalized assistance.



## Celebrating Excellence: SLA Face of the Month

As part of its ongoing initiative, the Dean's Office proudly recognizes outstanding faculty members with the Face of the Month title—celebrating their dedication and excellence.



**Face of July**  
**Mr. Usama Nazeer** (Lecturer, CFL)



**Face of August**  
**Ms. Sobia Sikandar** (Lecturer, DELS)



**Face of September**  
**Dr. Sobia Ilyas** (Assistant Professor, CFL)



**Face of October**  
**Ms. Nabila Younas** (Senior officer, CFL)



**Face of November**  
**Ms. Iqra Yaqub** (Assistant Manager, DELS)

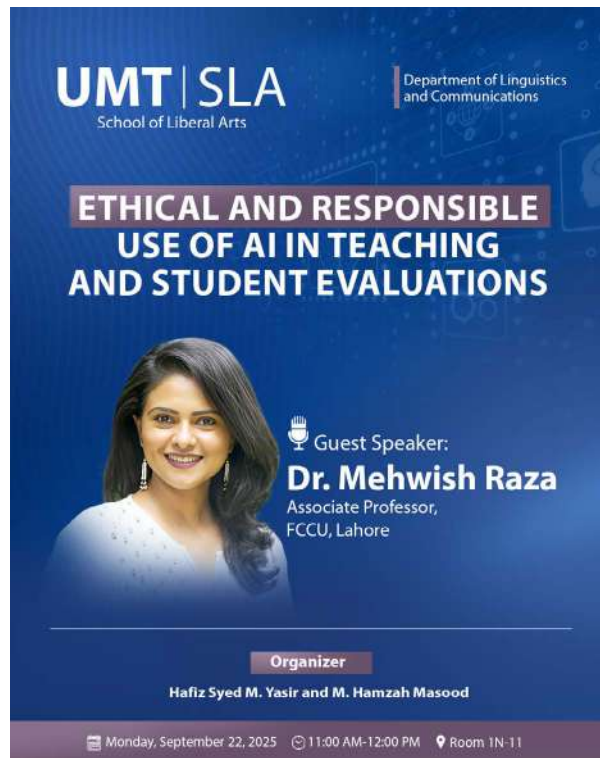


**Face of December**  
**Dr. Bushra Siddiqui** (Associate Prof, DELS)

## Seminars, Webinars and Training Sessions

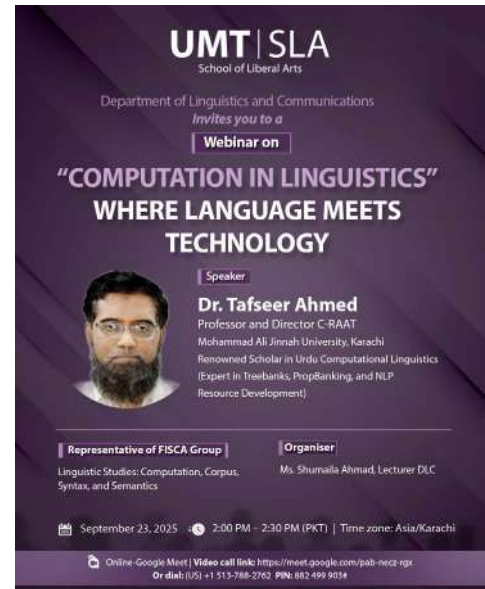
### Seminar on Ethical and Responsible Use of AI in Teaching and Student Evaluations

On September 22, 2025, Mr. Hafiz Syed M. Yasir and Mr. M. Hamzah Masood at The Department of Linguistics and Communications (DLC) organized a seminar on “Ethical and Responsible Use of AI in Teaching and Student Evaluations.” Dr. Mehwish Raza from Forman Christian College University emphasized ethical AI integration, fairness, and critical thinking in student assessments.



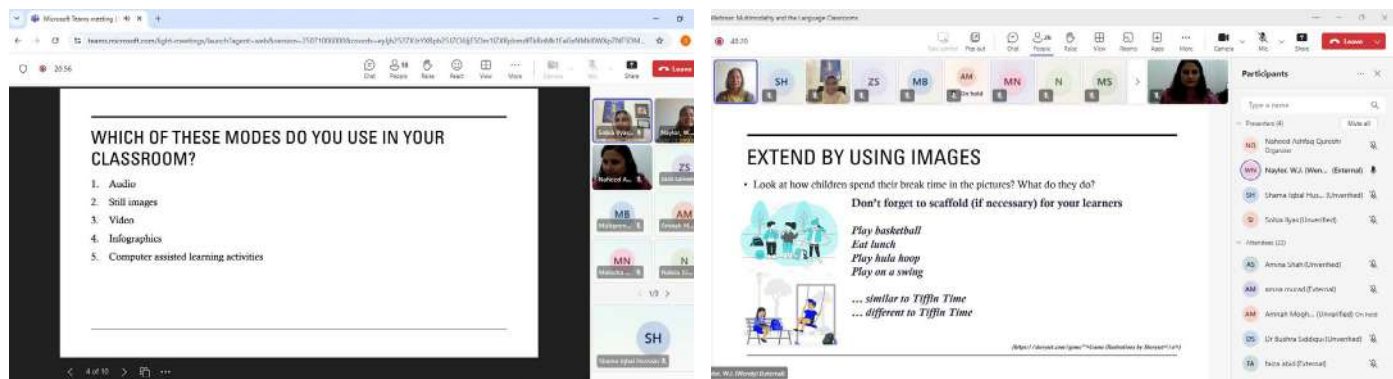
## Webinar on “Computation in Linguistics: Where Language Meets Technology

On September 23, 2025, DLC hosted a webinar “Computation in Linguistics: Where Language Meets Technology”. Dr. Tafseer Ahmed shared insights on Urdu Computational Linguistics, including Treebanks, PropBanking, and NLP resources. Organized by Ms. Shumaila Ahmad.



## Multimodality and the Language Classroom

The Center for Languages (CFL) hosted a webinar titled “Multimodality and the Language Classroom,” on July 15, 2025 featuring Wendy Naylor from Radboud University. The session was attended by the Head (CFL and DELS), along with active participation from CFL, DELS and DLC faculty.

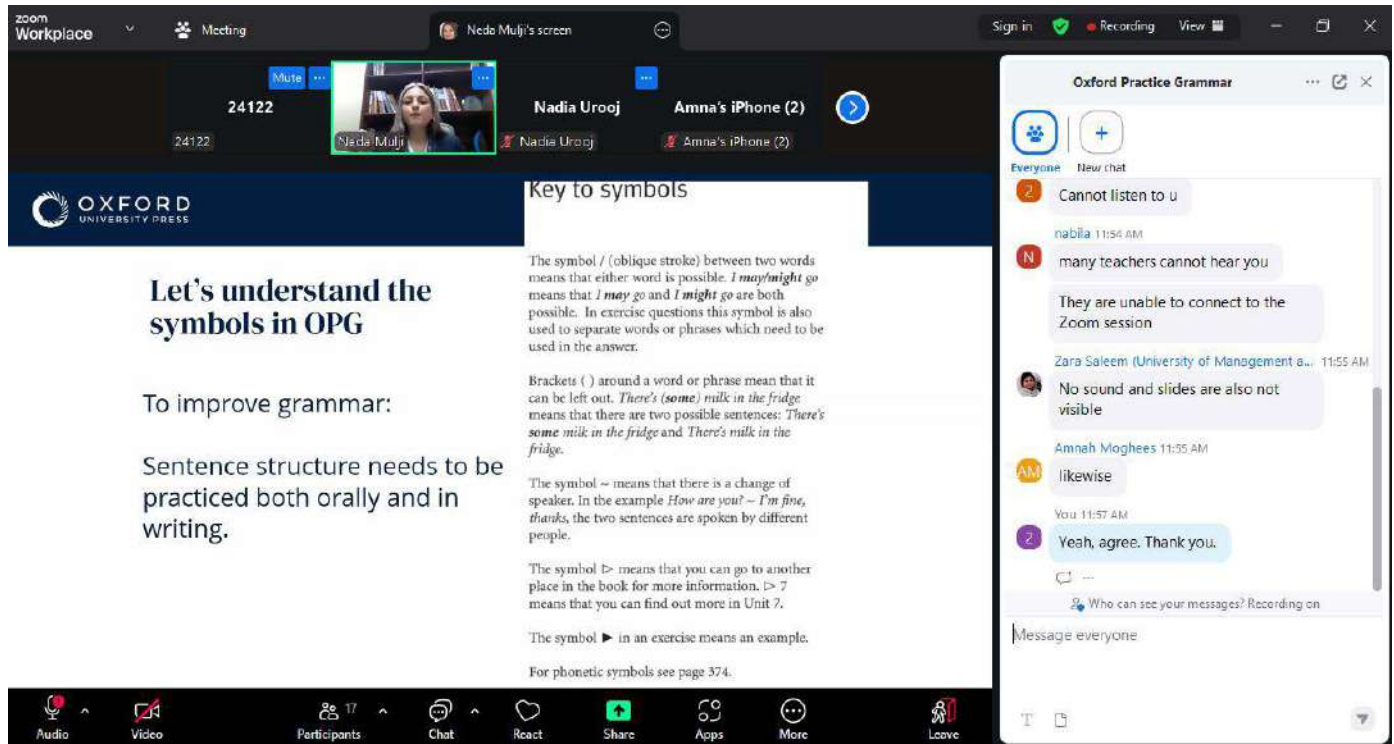


## Advancing SDG 4: AI Tools for Teaching and Research

On August 5, 2025, the Centre for Languages (CFL) conducted a workshop on responsible and effective AI use for faculty, focusing on ethical integration in teaching and research, enhancing pedagogy, and supporting SDG 4: Quality Education.

## Training Session by Oxford University Press

Faculty at the Center for Languages (CFL) attended a professional development workshop hosted by Oxford University Press Pakistan on “Transforming Grammar Instruction with Oxford Practice Grammar” led by Ms. Neda Mulji, Senior Manager, Professional Development at OUP on August 26, 2025.



## Guest Speaker Sessions

### Orientation Session on Oxford Practice Grammar and English for Undergraduate

On October 15, 2025, CFL, in collaboration with Oxford University Press (OUP), organized an Orientation Session on Oxford Practice Grammar for faculty. Ms. Neda Mulji guided participants on integrating OUP resources to enhance students’ linguistic competence, grammar, and communication skills. Faculty from CFL, DLC, and DELS engaged in interactive discussions and activities.



## Online Session on Research Funding Hosted by DLC

DLC organized an online session, "Securing Research Funding: Expectations, Strategies and Success Pathways," delivered by Dr. Tanzeela Anbreen on November 22, 2025. The session, organized by Ms. Sidra Haroon, Lecturer at DLC, offered practical insights on research funding and grant success.

**UMT | SLA**  
School of Liberal Arts

**SECURING RESEARCH FUNDING**

Expectations. Strategies and Success Pathways Profile

**SPEAKER**

**DR TANZEELA ANBREEN**

Senior Lecturer in Linguistics and Business | PhD University of Bedfordshire | MA University of Reading | CELTA University of Cambridge | Postgraduate degree in Social Sciences Research Methods, University College London

Saturday, November 22, 2025  
PST Time: 3:30 PM | UK Time: 10:30 AM

Online Google Meet weblink:  
[meet.google.com/jdk-bjto-sxq](https://meet.google.com/jdk-bjto-sxq)

Department of Linguistics and Communications

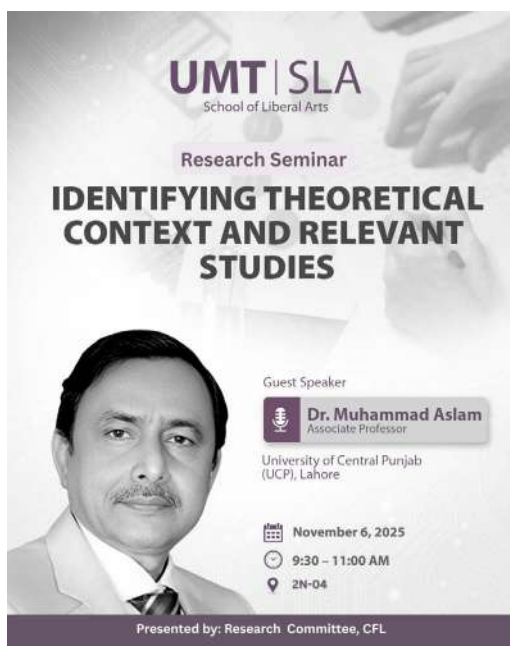
## Seminar on Exploring Multilingualism, Power, and AI

On December 27, 2025, DLC organized a seminar on "Multilingualism, Power and Representation in the Age of AI". Dr. Humaira Sharif, Associate Professor at UOL, discussed the intersections of language, power, and AI from a critical discourse perspective. The event was organized by Ms. Rida Sarfraz, Ms. Faiza Abid, Ms. Saima Abbas, and Dr. Sumera Shan Ahmad.



## Research Seminar on “Identifying Theoretical Context and Relevant Studies”

CFL hosted a seminar titled “Identifying Theoretical Context and Relevant Studies”, featuring Dr. M. Aslam, Associate Professor at the University of Central Punjab (UCP) on November 6, 2025.



## Seminar on “Think, Write, Revise! AI as a Magic Co-Author”

On December 2, 2025, CFL organized a seminar “Think, Write, Revise! AI as a Magic Co-Author” by Mr. Muhammad Saqib Zafar. The session focused on using AI to enhance academic writing, revision, and digital literacy while maintaining academic integrity, supporting innovation and skill development.



## Meeting for Academic and Research Excellence

### School Graduate Committee Meeting

On September 15, 2025, the School Graduate Committee (SGC) of SLA met to review postgraduate activities, assess student progress, and discuss strategies to enhance research quality and supervision, concluding with key recommendations to strengthen graduate programs.



### Meeting Led by Focal Person of SLA

Dr. Bushra Siddiqui, Focal Person for SLA, organized a meeting to address concerns of female faculty, focusing on creating a supportive work environment, identifying improvements, and formulating actionable solutions, reflecting SLA's commitment to empowering its female academic staff on September 24, 2025.



### URISE Project Initiation Meeting

On September 8, 2025 Dr. Muhammad Numan, Assistant Professor at the Department of English and Literary Studies (DELS), conducted the first introductory meeting with shortlisted undergraduate students for the URISE Project, presenting its vision, goals, and opportunities.



## Board of Studies Meeting for Curriculum Review

On December 11, 2025, DLC conducted a Board of Studies (BOS) meeting to deliberate on and finalize curriculum revisions for the BS, MPhil, and PhD programs.



## Faculty Development, Achievements, and Contributions

### TESOL International Online Certificate

On October 14, 2025, Dr. Arshad Ali Khan, Professor at DLC successfully completed the “TESOL Online Certificate – Fundamentals of TESOL” (60 hours) offered by the TESOL International Association.

**TESOL**  
**International Association**

**Arshad Ali Khan**

has completed 60 hours of professional development  
for the TESOL online self-study course

**Fundamentals of TESOL**



*Justin Shewell*  
Justin Shewell, President

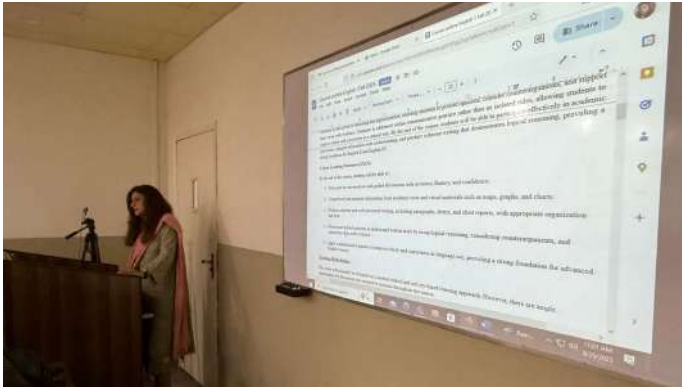


*Danielle R. Staudt*  
Danielle Staudt, Executive Director

The certificate features a world map background and the TESOL International Association logo. It includes a QR code and signatures of Justin Shewell, President, and Danielle Staudt, Executive Director.

## Presentation of Revamped Course Outlines

On August 25, 2025, CFL presented the revamped course outlines for English I, II, and III (Fall 2025). Ms. Amnah Moghees, Ms. Naheed Ashfaq, and Mr. Imran Bhatti showcased outlines emphasizing creativity, AI integration, research, and practical communication skills.



## Faculty Course Outline Presentations

From September 24-25, 2025, DLC conducted two productive academic sessions in which all faculty members presented the course outlines of BS English Language and Linguistics and MPhil Applied Linguistics programs.



## FCC Panel on Literary Theory

Dr. Muhammad Numan, Assistant Professor at DELS participated on October 27, 2025 as a panelist in "Literary Theory: Constraint or Catalyst" at Forman Christian College. He highlighted how literary theory can function as both a constraint and a catalyst in learning and shared insights from his research on Pakistani post-9/11 poetry and memory frameworks.



## Participation in Digital Leadership Service Program

From March 1 to September 1, 2025, Ms. Zara Saleem, Lecturer at CFL, successfully completed a six-month tenure as Community Lead for the OPEN Alumni Community of Practice, an international platform supported by the U.S. Department of State. She facilitated global collaboration among English language educators and received a certificate of recognition from Ms. Darlene Wiggins Dockery, OPEN Global Program Officer.



## Featured Speaker and Panelist at Pakistan English Conference

From November 26-28, 2025, Dr. Bushra Siddiqui, COD DELS participated as a Featured Speaker and Panelist at the “Pakistan English Conference” at Government College University.





### Presentation at Pakistan English Conference

On November 28, 2025 Dr. Muhammad Numan, Assistant Professor at the Department of English and Literary Studies (DELS), presented his research at the “Pakistan English Conference” at Government College University. His talk on “The Metonymical Evolution of Qais and Leila in Pakistani Anglophone Literature” provided insights into evolving literary representations and contributed to the panel discussion on Pakistani literature.



## Scholarly Talk at University of Gujrat

On December 1, 2025, Dr. Muhammad Numan, Assistant Professor at DELS, visited the University of Gujrat to deliver a talk on “Integrating Literature in Contemporary Research.” He highlighted interdisciplinary trends in literary studies and fostered academic collaboration between UMT and UOG.



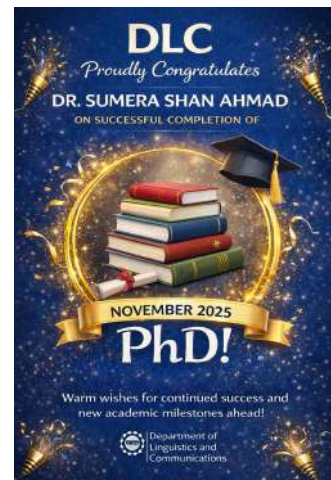
## GBV Costing Study Launch Event Graced by SLA Dean

On August 12, 2025, Prof. Nadia Anwar along with Mr. Hafiz Muhammad Nawaz, attended the launch of the “GBV Costing Study: Estimating Resource Requirements for Women Shelters” in Punjab at AVARI Hotel. The event, attended by Chief Guest Mr. Sohail Shoukat Butt, Minister for Social Welfare and Bait-ul-Maal, highlighted SLA’s commitment to supporting research and policy initiatives on gender-based violence and women’s welfare.



## PhD Milestone Achieved by Dr. Sobia Ilyas and Dr. Sumera Shan Ahmad (2025)

Dr. Sobia Ilyas, Head, CFL and Dr. Sumera Shan Ahmad, DLC, successfully completed their PhDs, marking a significant academic milestone.



## Shaping Applied Linguistics: Prof. Dr. Arshad Ali Khan at ICALLT 2025

On December 14, 2025, Dr. Arshad Ali Khan, Professor at DLC participated in the “1st International Conference on Applied Linguistics & Language Technologies” (ICALLT 2025) at Minhaj University Lahore. Serving as Session Chair and Panelist, he moderated presentations and discussed AI-driven language pedagogy, translanguaging, and learner-centered approaches in multilingual contexts, emphasizing the responsible use of AI in language education.



## Advancing Global Research: Dr. Nadia Anwar Joins IATELS Board Meeting

On October 7, 2025, Dr. Nadia Anwar attended the first committee board meeting of the “International Association of Technology Education and Language Studies (IATELS)” as a board member. She shared insights and proposed key initiatives for the upcoming academic year. The meeting, joined by Prof. Dr. Piet Kommers (Netherlands), Prof. Dr. İlknur İstifçi (Turkey), and Assoc. Prof. Dr. J.A.N.Z. Tiangco (Taiwan), focused on academic collaborations and strategic initiatives to advance global research and learning.



## Research Paper Presentation at ICLAP 2025

Ms. Faiza Abid and Ms. Rida Sarfraz, Assistant Professors at DLC presented a research paper titled “Generational Adoption of AI in ESL Education: Insights from Gen Z Learners and Millennial Instructors” at the 11th International Conference of the Linguistic Association of Pakistan (ICLAP 2025) held at NED University of Engineering and Technology, Karachi from November 5-7, 2025.



### Participation of Dr. Nadia Anwar in PSEA Leadership Training

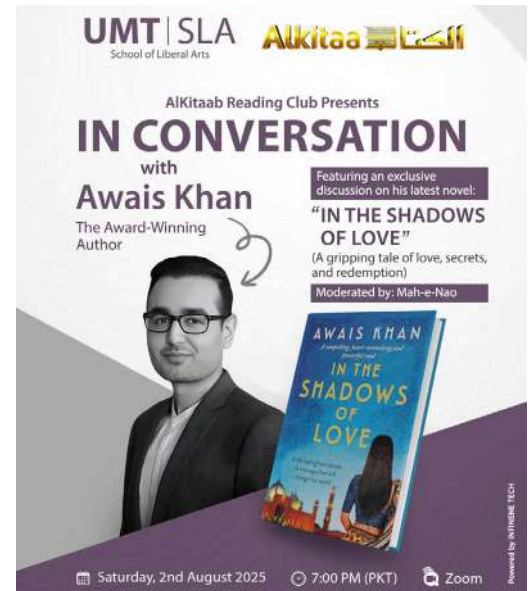
On June 30, 2025, Prof. Nadia Anwar participated in the “PSEA – Leadership Responsibility” training, jointly organized by UNFPA and the Civil Services Academy. The session focused on gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, PSEA guidelines, and related government policies, with insights shared by the DG Civil Services Academy and DG Punjab Women Protection Authority.



## Collaborative Events

### SLA and Alkitaab Hosts Virtual Book Session with Awais Khan

On August 2, 2025, SLA, in collaboration with Alkitaab Bookcafe, hosted a virtual session with author Mr. Awais Khan, moderated by Ms. Mah-e-Nao. The discussion explored themes of love, loss, resilience, identity, and Pakistan’s representation in global literature



### PSEA Orientation Workshop in Collaboration with UN Partners

On June 25, 2025, The School of Liberal Arts organized a “PSEA Orientation Workshop” in collaboration with UNICEF, UN Pakistan, UNFPA, and the Pakistan PSEA Network. Experts highlighted safeguarding principles, accountability, and institutional responsibilities, reinforcing UMT’s commitment to ethical standards.





## Jean Monnet Workshop on Governance and Policy at ITU

On August 19, 2025, ITU's Department of Governance and Global Studies organized a faculty workshop focusing on "European approaches to governance and policy". SLA-UMT faculty participated in curriculum design activities aligned with global standards.



## Commemorating Allama Muhammad Iqbal —“Khudi in the 21st Century”

On November 13, 2025, the Office of the Provost (UMT) and SLA organized “Khudi in the 21st Century” on Allama Iqbal’s philosophy of selfhood. Dr. Amjed Ali Khan delivered the keynote, with Prof. Brig (R) Waheed Uz Zaman Tariq as Guest of Honor. The seminar featured insights from Prof. Dr. Tahir Kamran and Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Shahid, engaging students and emerging leaders.



## Professional Development Achievement – FDP 2025

On September 1-5, 2025, Mr. Muhammad Hamzah Masood successfully completed the “Faculty Development Program (FDP) 2025” organized by the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL), UMT. The certificate was awarded in recognition of his active participation and professional engagement in the program.



## CFL Language Lab Experience: Enhancing Communication through Technology

From November 3–12, 2025, CFL participants engaged with innovative lab technologies at LinguaSphere-1, enhancing linguistic competence and confidence through interactive learning, continuous assessment, and modern tools for effective language acquisition.



## Educational Visits

### One-Day Trip for Graduating Batch

On August 7, 2025, DELS organized a one-day trip for the graduating batch. Students and faculty shared laughter, meaningful conversations, and moments of joy, making memories to cherish beyond the classroom.



## Celebrating Global Engagement – SLA at UN 80th Anniversary

SLA students and faculty represented UMT on October 28, 2025, at the “UN 80th Anniversary Celebration” in Lahore. Guided by Dr. Muhammad Numan, Dr. Rizwana (DELS), Ms. Sidra Haroon, Ms. Shumaila Ahmad (DLC), and Mr. Muhammad Hafiz Nawaz (SLA, Dean’s Office), participants explored international cultures, engaged in UN-focused activities, and celebrated the ideals of peace and diversity.



## Educational Visit to Lahore Science Museum

On November 25, 2025, MPhil English Literature (1st Semester) students visited Lahore Science Museum as part of their Science Fiction and Fantasy course. Led by Dr. Muhammad Numan and Ms. Amina Mahmood (DELS), students explored how science and technology inspire imaginative possibilities in literature and engaged in reflective activities linking observations to course concepts.



## Students' Triumph Moments

### Academic Milestone: PhD Defense of Dr. Nadir Ali Shah

On August 6, 2025, Dr. Nadir Ali Shah successfully defended his PhD thesis on "Language Assessment Protocol for Bilingual Aphasia in Lahore (BAT-Urdu)", supervised by Dr. Amina Khalid (DLC), contributing to language assessment and clinical linguistics.



### Exclusive Writing Workshop with Mohammad Hanif

On October 4, 2025, Ms. Yasra Sani, MPhil student from DELS participated in the "Writing in Tongues" workshop with Mr. Mohammad Hanif, held during Indus Conclave 2025 at Alhamra Arts Council. The session provided a platform for emerging writers to explore literature, language, and culture



### SLA Students Honored with the Rector's Award 2025

On November 13, 2025, SLA acknowledged the remarkable achievement of its students who received the prestigious Rector's Award. This distinction reflects their exceptional dedication, consistent hard work, and outstanding academic performance.





## Dean's Merit Awards

On December 1, 2025, the School of Liberal Arts held the Dean's Merit Awards to honor students for outstanding academic performance, dedication, and commitment, celebrating excellence and reinforcing SLA's focus on student growth and motivation.





## Consecutive Victory for SLA Fencing Champion

On December 17, 2025, Ms. Arooba Hafeez, MPhil Applied Linguistics scholar at SLA, earned her second straight Gold Medal at the "HEC Inter-Varsity Fencing Women Championship 2025."



## Scholarly Achievements by DELS URISERs at Pakistan English Conference

From November 26-28, 2025, URISER students from DELS participated in the “Pakistan English Conference” at GCU Lahore. Ms. Fatima Tuz Zuhra, Ms. Ambreen Ali, and Ms. Yasra Sani presented research on contemporary literary themes, while Ms. Faham Zeeshan and Ms. Siddiqua Iftikhar contributed as engaged attendees, showcasing academic rigor and DELS’s commitment to scholarly growth.



## Conference Presentation by Mphil Applied Linguistics Student

On November 28, 2025, MPhil scholar Ms. Hashima Khan from DLC along with co-author Ms. Zakia Mushtaq (Lecturer, DLC), presented “Beyond Representation: Visual Social Semiotics and the Digital Photography of War in Non-Western Contexts” at the Pakistan English Conference 2025 at GCU Lahore.



## UMT Alumnus Khalid Mahmood’s Presentation at ICLAP-2025

From November 5-7, 2025, Mr. Khalid Mahmood (Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, PhD English Linguistics Scholar) at DLC represented UMT at the 11th ICLAP Conference at NED University, Karachi. His presentation on “Aqua-Colonialism: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Indo-Pak Diplomatic Shift from Human-centric to River-centric Narratives” offered valuable insights into discourse analysis, diplomacy, and environmental perspectives.



## Representation at 3rd International Punjabi Conference

On December 5-7, 2025, Mr. Khalid Mahmood, Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, (Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, PhD English Linguistics Scholar) at DLC participated as a panelist at the “3rd International Punjabi Conference held at PILAC, Lahore”.



## New Addition to our Academic Family (CFL & DELS)

On November 19, 2025, Head of the Center for Languages (CFL), Dr. Sobia Ilyas, formally welcomed Dr. Amna Shahid to the center.



On October 23, 2025, Prof. Nadia Anwar (Dean, SLA) and Dr. Bushra Siddiqui (COD, DELS) welcomed Dr. Rizwana Sarwar and Dr. Shazia Anwar to DELS, along with international faculty Dr. Muhammad Imran and Dr. Saieed Moslemi Nezhad Arani.



## SLA Alumni Dinner 2025

On December 27, 2025, SLA Alumni Dinner 2025 brought together distinguished graduates, faculty, and leadership to celebrate alumni achievements, share professional journeys, and strengthen their connection with the School of Liberal Arts, reflecting a vibrant and enduring community.



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