

UMT | SLA

School of Liberal Arts



NEWSLETTER

7th Edition

Credit:
M Azeem
Office Attendant, SLA Dean's office

A Welcome Message of the Patron

As we inch towards the end of the Spring 2026 semester, several regrets, unfulfilled desires, and lost moments haunt us – what if I had worked harder, what if I had been awarded an A grade, what if I had not fell ill and so on. But what we don't realize is that 'what ifs' make us stronger, better, and wiser. Things happen for a reason which may surface at the outset or may remain a mystery for a long time. Whatever we do in a given moment is 'the best' which can be further enhanced, refined, and strengthened. The question of how well we could have performed or to what extent we could have achieved prepares us for that improved future and in this way the journey towards excellence continues. At the School of Liberal Arts, we strive to improve every single day. The activities we do may not be 'the best' but they promise us a future better than before. I welcome you to join us in envisioning this future with us.

Warm wishes,
Prof. Dr Nadia Anwar
Dean, School of Liberal Arts

Welcome Note by Editor- in-Chief

We are excited to present the 7th edition of the SLA Newsletter, a creative showcase of ideas, innovation, and academic excellence at the School of Liberal Arts, UMT. This edition reflects how our students and faculty are actively shaping knowledge through curiosity, creativity, and forward-thinking approaches. From innovative language learning practices and impactful research to student-led projects and global collaborations, each page highlights fresh ideas and meaningful contributions that drive learning beyond boundaries.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our contributors Ms. Shama Iqbal Hussain, Mr. Muhammad Hamzah Masood, Ms. Minaam Butt, and Ms. Kinza Iqbal, as well as our OCM colleagues for their continuous support. Special thanks to Dean SLA, Prof. Nadia Anwar, for her inspiring leadership and guidance.

We hope this edition inspires new thinking and celebrates the spirit of innovation

Naheed Ashfaq Qureshi
(Assistant Professor, CFL)

SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

at a Glance

The School of Liberal Arts (SLA) comprises two academic departments and two centers, with over sixty faculty members teaching three undergraduate and four graduate programs. Students across the University study English and foreign Language courses through Centre for Languages at SLA. With the courses in Linguistics, Literature and Liberal Arts, events, seminars, student-led initiatives, and international collaborations, SLA remains busy throughout the year.



OUR MISSION!

SLA'S mission is to promote inquisitive thinking by developing and nurturing in the participants the ability to analyze and make sense of rapid global transformations through reflection, research, intellectual inquiry, and historical consciousness.



OUR VISION!

SLA's vision centers on fostering an environment that encourages intellectual exploration, critical thinking, and creativity. The multifaceted nature of SLA suggests a comprehensive approach to education, incorporating various disciplines such as literature, languages, philosophy, history, cultural studies, and theoretical sciences. This diversity aims to provide students with a well-rounded education, enabling them to develop a holistic understanding of the world and its complexities. SLA is not just focused on imparting knowledge but is dedicated to instilling a sense of inquiry and curiosity in its students. By nurturing these qualities, the school aims to empower students to actively engage with and contribute to the resolution of societal challenges. The vision emphasizes the importance of students developing a command over a wide range of subjects, indicating a commitment to producing versatile individuals capable of addressing complex issues from different perspectives.

DEPARTMENTS, CENTER AND DEGREE PROGRAMS

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

DEPARTMENTS AND CENTER

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

DEGREE PROGRAMS

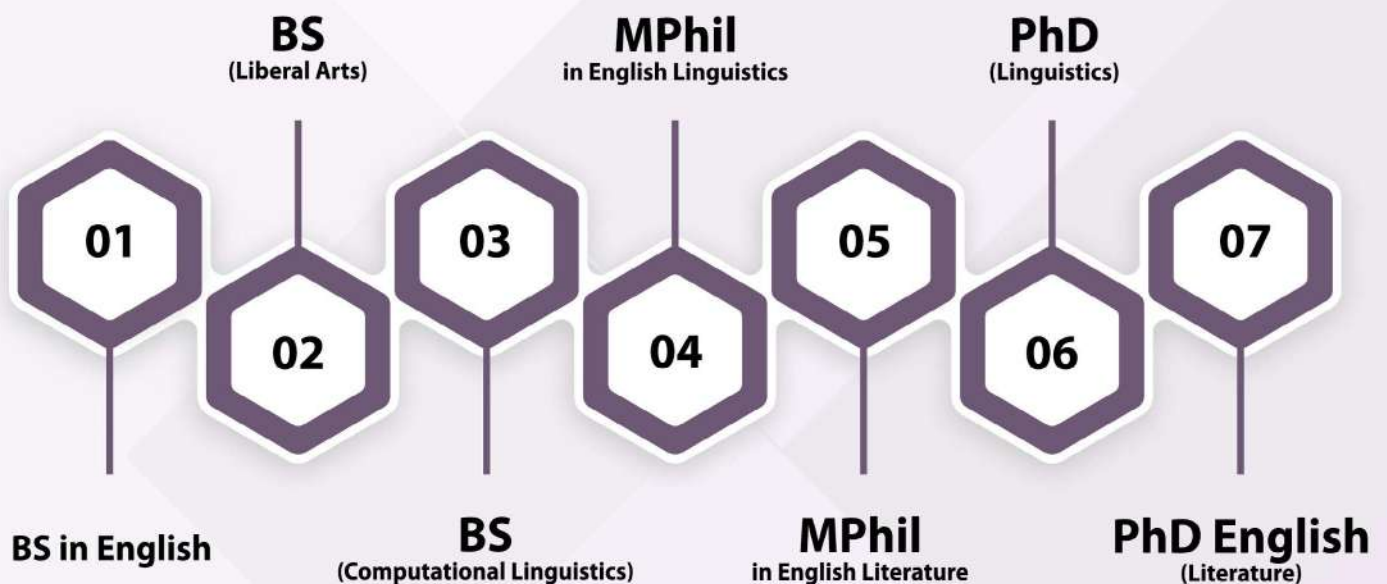


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Celebrating Excellence: SLA Face of the Month

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, excellence, and unwavering commitment to the SLA community.



Face of February
Dr Amna Shahid
 (Assistant Professor, CFL)



Face of March
Maham Batool
 (Academic Coordinator, DLC)

Seminars, Webinars and Training Sessions

Online Workshop on Developing Urdu Language Corpora

On January 11, 2026, the Department of Linguistics and Communications (DLC) organized an online workshop titled, “From Text to Corpus: Practical Steps in Developing Urdu Language Corpora.” Conducted by Prof. Dr. Andrew Hardie (Lancaster University, UK), the session provided a concise overview of developing Urdu corpora, from text collection to research-ready resources. The event was organized by Ms. Shumaila Ahmad.



Workshop on

From Text to Corpus Practical Steps in Developing Urdu Language Corpora

BY
PROF DR ANDREW HARDIE
Lancaster University, United Kingdom



WHY ATTEND:

This workshop introduces participants to:

- The end-to-end process of building Urdu language corpora
- Moving from raw text collection to fully designed corpus resources ready for research.
- The session will unpack both technical procedures and linguistic decision making, with emphasis on practical solutions for Urdu.

ORGANIZED BY:

Ms Shumaila Ahmad
Representative of FISCA Group: Linguistic Studies: Computation, Corpus, Syntax, and Semantics
Department of Linguistics and Communications

📅 January 11, 2026
🕒 11:00 AM

Online event- Video call link:
<https://meet.google.com/gme-ebiu-yyw>

Three-Day Theatre Workshop

On January 1-3, 2026, SLA in collaboration with the Maas Foundation, organized a "Three-day Theatre Workshop". The workshop was meticulously planned by Dr. Shazia Anwer under the leadership and guidance of Prof. Nadia Anwar, Dean SLA. Designed as an engaging and experiential learning initiative, the workshop offered students a dynamic platform to explore the art of theatre through interactive sessions and hands-on activities.



Workshop on Enhancing Research Journal Impact

On February 9, 2026, Dean SLA, Prof. Nadia Anwar organized a workshop titled, "From Local to Global: Best Practices to Enhance Research Journal Impact." The session was conducted by Dr. Humaira Ahmad, Chairperson of the Department of Islamic Thought and Civilization and Chief Editor of the Journal of Islamic Thought and Civilization (Q1 – Scopus Indexed). She shared practical strategies to improve editorial standards, peer-review processes, and ethical practices, helping participants enhance the quality, credibility, and global visibility of research journals.



Insightful Discussion on Arundhati Roy's Mother Mary Comes to Me Hosted by DELS

On January 9, 2026, the Department of English and Literary Studies (DELS), under the supervision of Dr. Bushra Siddiqui, organized an interactive session for MPhil students featuring Ms. Ayesha Iqbal, Assistant Professor of English, Higher Education Department. The session focused on the topic "She Raged. She Terrified. And She Shaped: Entangled Memories in Arundhati Roy's Mother Mary Comes to Me." It offered valuable insights into memory, narrative construction, and modern literary approaches, encouraging critical thinking and opening new avenues for research.



Literary Carnival Organized by DELS

On January 5-8, 2026, as the inaugural event of DELS Literary Carnival Week, the Alkitaab Reading Club hosted an engaging discussion on, "Who Knows the Bounds of Desire" by Mr. Osama Siddique. The session was organized by Dr. Bushra Siddiqui, moderated by Ms. Mah-e-Nao, with Dr. Shazia Anwer serving as the panelist. The discussion offered thoughtful insights into the novel's themes and fostered meaningful literary engagement among participants.



As part of the DELS Literary Carnival Week, MPhil students, under the guidance of Dr. Bushra Siddiqui presented their research through a creative poster display session. The event fostered academic confidence, effective research dissemination, and encouraged faculty and peer engagement. The presence of Dr. Ayesha Akram from the Punjab University added depth to the scholarly discussions.



As part of the DELS Literary Carnival Week, Ms. Amina Mehmood organized a project display for the Women & Literature course, where students transformed textual and theoretical concepts into creative projects. The activity brought seminal texts of women’s literature to life, encouraging critical engagement with themes such as gender equality, freedom, inclusivity, and environmental concerns, while fostering creativity, critical insight, and interpretative depth.



As part of the DELS Literary Carnival Week, Ms. Amina Mehmood organized a project display for the course on Existentialism. Students expressed complex philosophical ideas through paintings, exploring themes of existence, choice, freedom, and introspection. The activity encouraged critical reflection on meaning, ‘Khudi,’ and the purpose of existence, offering fresh perspectives on enduring literary questions.



In connection with the DELS Literary Carnival Week, A scholarly session titled, “The Impact of Speculative Fiction on Culture, Identity, and Power”, was organized by Dr Muhammad Numan, featured Jonathan Caleb Imdad, Lecturer at Forman Christian College, as the guest speaker. He explored how speculative fiction challenges power, identity, and cultural norms through science fiction, fantasy, and dystopia. Dr Muhammad Numan and Dr Rizwana presented the UMT souvenir to the guest, while BS and MPhil English Literature students actively participated in the engaging discussion.



In connection with the DELS Literary Carnival Week, Ms. Sobia Sikandar and Dr. Muhammad Numan organized an academic session titled, "Myth and Fairy Tales in 21st Century Literature," featuring Dr. Farrukh Nadeem, Assistant Professor at International Islamic University Islamabad, as the guest speaker. He explored how contemporary writers reinterpret myths and fairy tales to address modern concerns such as identity, power, conflict, migration, capitalism, and evolving gender discourses, highlighting their growing transnational and political relevance.



In connection with the DELS Literary Carnival Week, BS English Literature students presented their research through a "Three Minute Thesis Presentation" in the Research Methodology course organized by Dr. Muhammad Numan. The activity fostered clarity, critical thinking, and effective communication, showcasing emerging research voices during Literary Carnival Week Fall 2025.



As part of the DELS Literary Carnival Week, Ms. Mah-e-Nao conducted poster presentations for final year students in Fringe Literature, featuring topics such as war literature, displacement, trauma, street and underground literature, eco-fringe narratives, and posthumanism. The session was visited by the Dean, Prof. Nadia Anwar, who appreciated the students' academic rigor and engaged them with thoughtful questions. Students actively participated and found the experience enriching and impactful.



As part of the DELS Literary Carnival Week, Students of M.Phil. English Literature presented their research ideas through a "Three Minute Thesis Presentation" as part of their Global Literary Feminism course organized by Ms. Amina Mehmood. Through this activity, the students showcased the emerging trends and tropes within literary feminism covering the global perspectives and challenging discourses. The activity encouraged students to demonstrate their unique ideas packed with curiosity, depth, and critical thinking.



As part of the DELS Literary Carnival Week, MPhil English Literature students participated in a “Three-Minute Thesis Competition” centered on the works of László Krasznahorkai, the 2025 Nobel Laureate in Literature. Organized under the leadership Dr Nadia Anwar, the event showcased concise, critical, and creative research communication, reflecting UMT–SLA’s commitment to academic excellence and scholarly innovation.



As part of the DELS Literary Carnival Week, Ms. Isabel Ayesha Khalid presented a compelling Book Talk on her work “A Sinner???” moderated by Ms. Yasra Sani and hosted by Dr. Muhammad Numan. The discussion offered a critical exploration of taboo, moral judgment, women’s suffering, and the intersections of faith, culture, and ethics. Ms. Khalid provided insights into her authorial intentions and emphasized the role of literature in illuminating silenced social realities, concluding with an engaging exchange that enriched both academic and ethical discourse.



1st International Colloquium in Languages and Interdisciplinary Research (ICLIR 2026)

On January 20, 2026, the Centre for Foreign Languages (CFL) organized the, "1st International Colloquium in Languages and Interdisciplinary Research (ICLIR 2026)"; bringing together national and international scholars to promote research in language and communication. The event was inaugurated by Chief Guest Rana Sikander Hayat, Punjab Minister of Education, Rector UMT Dr. Asif Raza, and Dean SLA Prof. Dr Nadia Anwar. The colloquium featured four thematic sessions covering digital communication, discourse analysis, bilingualism, language assessment, eco-linguistics, and posthuman literature. It concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Sobia Ilyas, followed by certificate and souvenir distribution, marking its importance in interdisciplinary research and global academic collaboration.



Faculty Development, Achievements, and Contributions The Second Coming of Humanities Conference

On January 9, 2026, Dr. Muhammad Numan, Assistant Professor at DELS chaired a session at the, “Second Coming of Humanities: 2nd International Conference on Literature, Linguistics, and Language”, at the University of Central Punjab. The session focused on memory, trauma, gender, cultural identity, and resistance, highlighting literature’s role in addressing social issues and shaping contemporary discourse.



Successful Completion of Faculty Development Program 2025

On February 17, 2026, Dean SLA, Dr. Nadia Anwar was recognized for her commitment and the quality of her training sessions following the successful completion of the Faculty Development Program 2025. Her expertise and mentorship played a key role in making the program impactful, strengthening faculty skills, promoting academic excellence, and encouraging collaborative development.



Research at SLA

Published Papers

1. Yaser Ahmad, Maleeha Nazim & Aasma Nijabat. (2025). Framing Power and Conflict: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Donald Trump's Posts on the Iran-Israel War. *Journal of Applied Linguistics and TESOL (JALT)*, 8(3), 1256–1264. <https://doi.org/10.63878/jalt1105>
2. Saqib, U., Ilyas, S., & Abdullah, M. (2025). Implementation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into Robotic Surgical Systems. 4(3), 2611–2624. <https://doi.org/10.63056/acad.004.03.0552>
3. Qureshi, N. A., Sadaf, & Farhan, M. (2025). Exploring the relationship between AI usage, self-efficacy, and academic motivation among English language learners. *Qualitative Research Journal for Social Studies*, 2(3), 1312–1324. <https://doi.org/10.63878/qrjs442>
4. Bhatti, M. I., Hameed, I., & Mustafa, R. (2025, August 11). Narrative reconstruction: A critical discourse analysis of Donald Trump's 2024 Super Tuesday campaign speech. *Journal of Applied Linguistics and TESOL (JALT)*, 8(3). <https://doi.org/10.63878/jalt1104>
5. Ali, Y. A., Naeem, S., Alqarni, S., & Bhatti, M. I. (2025). Evaluating the impact of artificial intelligence-based tools on listening comprehension among ESL learners. *Contemporary Journal of Social Science Review*, 3(3). <https://doi.org/10.63878/cjssr.v3i3.982>
6. Inam, M., Haroon, S., & Sajjad, A. (2025). Conceptual metaphors in war discourse: Analyzing media coverage of the Israel–Palestine conflict. *Social Sciences & Humanity Research Review*, 3(4), 2125–2141.

Collaborative Events

Road Safety Awareness Session with Punjab Road Safety Authority

On January 22, 2026, DLC organized a “Road Safety Awareness Session” in collaboration with the Punjab Road Safety Authority, established under the Punjab Road Safety Authority Act 2023. The session highlighted traffic rules and responsible road behavior. It was coordinated by Mr. M. Hamzah Masood, Hafiz Syed M. Yasir (DLC), and Ms. Zara Fatima (CFL).



Engaging Class Activities for Holistic Development

A Tribute to Nobel Laureates: Celebrating Minds That Changed the World

On January 5, 2026, the Center for Languages (CFL), under the URISE initiative, hosted an exhibition organized by Ms. Naheed Ashfaq Qureshi, Ms. Sadia Noreen, and Ms. Shama Iqbal Hussain. Featuring documentaries and research-based presentations on Nobel Prize winners, the event encouraged critical thinking and academic exchange.



Student Conference for English III

On January 22, 2026, the Center for Languages (CFL), organized a conference coordinated by Ms. Sadia Noreen and Ms. Amnah Moghees. The event provided English III students with an opportunity to present their research proposals and papers, followed by brief Q&A sessions. It contributed to enhancing students' academic writing, analytical, and presentation skills, while also strengthening the research culture at CFL.



SLA Student's Dramatic Skills Display

Performance "Lady Macbeth: A Queen of Shadows" at DLC Lingua Mosaic Fest 2026

On January 30, 2026, DLC students, as part of their Shakespearean Tragedies course, presented "Lady Macbeth: A Queen of Shadows," reinterpreting Lady Macbeth in a nuanced light. The performance at Lingua Mosaic Fest 2026 reflected strong analytical and theatrical skills.



Performance on "Fate of Ophelia: A Tragic Tale of Love & Madness"

On January 30, 2026, DLC students, as part of their Shakespearean Tragedies course, presented "Fate of Ophelia: A Tragic Tale of Love & Madness," reinterpreting Ophelia in a nuanced light. The performance at Lingua Mosaic Fest 2026 reflected strong analytical and theatrical skills.



Educational Displays

Film Showcase: From “Once Upon a Time” to “What If...?”

On January 21, 2026, the Centre for Foreign Languages (CFL), under the leadership of Ms. Shama Iqbal Hussain, organized a Final Term Project display showcasing student-made short films. The students reinterpreted traditional stories through speculative and modern perspectives, demonstrating creativity, strong visual storytelling, and conceptual understanding.



Interdisciplinary Project: Climate Change and Engineering

On January 22, 2026, the Centre for Foreign Languages (CFL), facilitated an English I final project for SEN-ME and CS students on, “Climate change and engineering solutions”. Students analyzed machines designed to reduce environmental impact, demonstrating technical communication, analytical clarity, and professional presentation skills.



Educational Visits

Interdisciplinary Insights at NCA Thesis Exhibition

On January 12, 2026, DELS faculty and students attended the, "Thesis Exhibition 2025", at NCA, Lahore, engaging with diverse artistic projects. The experience highlighted creative research, visual storytelling, and opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaboration between literature and the arts.



Students' Triumph Moments

SLA Alumnus Khalid Mahmood Achieves Professional Milestones

On January 11, 2026, DLC student Khalid Mahmood, Tamgha-i-Imtiaz, was appointed Manager Education and Business Development (Pakistan & UK) and serves on the boards of IATELS and STARTINFORUM, Turkey. A distinguished MPhil Applied Linguistics graduate (2017) and current PhD scholar at the School of Liberal Arts (2023–2028), he has also served as Vice President of the UMT Alumni Association, reflecting his dedication to academic excellence and strengthening UMT's global presence.



DELS URISERs Present Innovative Research at Humanities Conference

On January 9, 2026, DELS students serving as URISERs presented research papers on South Asian Literature at the Second Coming of Humanities. The session was chaired by Dr. Rahat Bashir (Assistant Professor, DELS) and included presentations by Ms. Ambreen, Ms. Atiqa Zulfiqar, and Ms. Siddiqua Iftikhar, showcasing strong methodological approaches and contextual understanding.



ELS Research Colloquium on Posthuman Authorship

On January 19, 2026, DELS organized a Research Colloquium featuring PhD participant Mr. Roshan Khalid, who presented on, “Posthuman Authorship: Engineered Creativity in the Age of Digital Literature”. The session, guided by Dr. Shazia Anwer, examined human–machine collaboration in digital literary practices and sparked an engaging academic discussion.



Empowering Insights: SLA Alumni at UMT Thought Leadership Competition

On January 11, 2026, SLA alumni emerged as winners in the “UMT Alumni Thought Leadership Competition 2025,” organized by the Office of Alumni Relations (OAR). Ms. Hafza Arshad presented “Empowering the Next Generation: Advice I Wish I Had as a student,” while Mr. Khalid Mahmood shared “How UMT Shaped My Journey: Lessons Beyond the Classroom.” Their presentations highlighted alumni creativity, critical thinking, and the lasting influence of UMT.



Paper Presentation: 2nd International Conference on Literature, Linguistics, and Language

On January 8–9, 2026, DLC student Ms. Zunaira Khan (MPhil Scholar) and faculty Ms. Faiza Abid (Assistant Professor) presented their research paper, “Reframing Power Through Resistance: A Critical Discourse Analysis of Gender in Mirch Masala,” at the Second Coming of Humanities: 2nd International Conference on Literature, Linguistics, and Language held at UCP, Lahore. Their presentation examined gender and power through critical discourse analysis, engaging an international academic audience in discussions on literature and gender studies.



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