



MCC Connect

Issue 02

April 2026



MCC
BELIEVE. ACHIEVE. SUCCEED.

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1. Editor's note



ADVOCACY

How MCC is envisioning active support and promotion of students' rights, inclusive learning, quality education, and policies that improve educational opportunities and outcomes for all learners.

IAG

Providing quality information, advice and guidance facilities to our students

At MCC student experience is at the heart of everything we do. From providing **access to career counselling** and advisory services to ensuring the students are having an academic experience that aids their understanding, acumen and cognitive growth, we tend to do it all.

This month's MCC Connect issue focuses on just that: looking at an integrated student experience **from admission to graduation.**

Our AACT framework based on the principles of **Advocacy, Accountability, Consistency and Transparency** ensures that our student focused activities follow an outcome based approach where quality and impact take the front row.

Happy reading.

Noorulain Zafer
Quality & Compliance Manager

2. Alumni spotlight

My MBA through **Magna Carta College** was a valuable and well-structured experience, combining strong academic content with practical application. The flexibility of the programme allowed me to balance study alongside a demanding role, while still gaining meaningful insights into strategy and leadership. The support from tutors was consistent and helpful throughout. Overall, it has **strengthened my professional capability** and I would recommend it to others seeking a **flexible, high-quality MBA**.

Ash Stretton
Food Regulatory Affairs Manager
Marks and Spencer



3. Blog

Online MBA vs Classroom MBA: Which is Better for UK Professionals?

By Arooj Saif

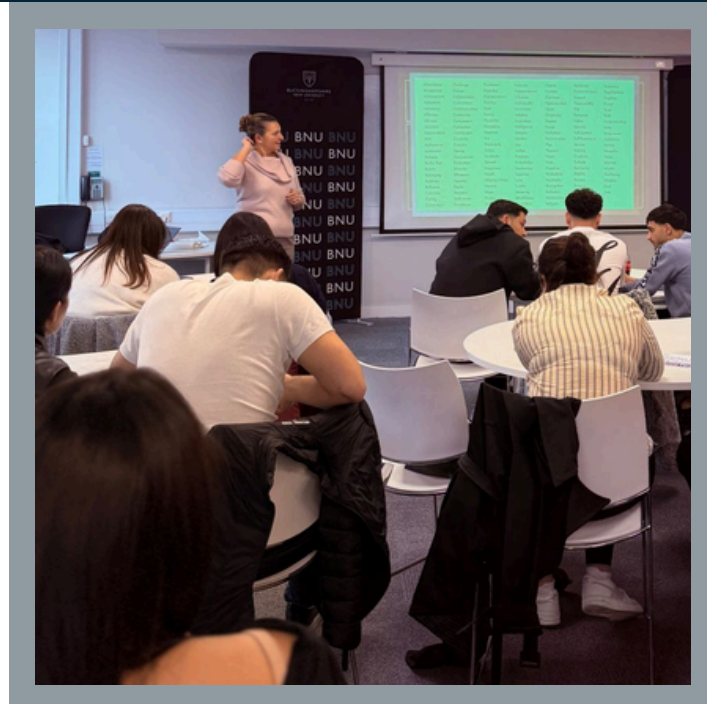
Are you considering pursuing an MBA degree but can't decide between a traditional MBA program and an online one?

Choosing the best online MBA programs that fit your life and budget is key as an MBA degree can open doors to career advancement and give a definite boost to your income. **According to Payscale, with a Master in Business Administration you can earn up to £60,000 per year if you are based in the UK.**

In this article, we will explore the differences between a classroom based MBA program and online MBA program and will guide you in finding the option better aligned with your finances and circumstances.

Online MBA degree

Online MBA programs are gaining more traction among students because of the benefits they provide. Completing an online MBA degree results in further professional development and increased career opportunities.



Flexibility & Accessibility:

The best online MBA programs are specially designed with young professionals in mind to offer them ease of access without any constraints of time or place. The course content is research-based and delivered by leading experts in the field.

The assessments are often practical in nature and require critical thinking on your part. In addition, the course material presented caters to all learning styles and is accessible for diverse learning needs.

Reduced duration:

Typically, a regular MBA program lasts for a total of 2 years. But if you enroll in an online MBA degree you can complete your MBA within a duration of 12 months which can give you an

3. ...contd

early head start in your career advancement.

Reduced costs:

With online MBA programs you can cut down on the costs. You usually need a laptop to access all your lectures and do your assignments.

You can access digital resources provided by your university on your devices, which means no additional costs related to relocation, buying course books or travelling back and forth to the campus.

Internationally Recognised Qualifications:

Online MBA programs are usually offered in partnerships among different universities and are internationally recognised in the global markets which means you get quality education without spending a fortune.

If you are an international student, you get exposed to a different cultural environment that can prove a wonderful addition to your communication skills. With these programs you can also gain exposure to industry trends and innovations and get a chance to connect with other professionals.

Less competitive:

Getting admitted to an online MBA program is easier compared to the in-person programs where the admission



process can be competitive with students applying from all over the world.

Read the full [blog](#)

4. Learning Focus

Skills England: Driving growth and widening opportunities

The concept of 'skill' is central to understanding many aspects of work, from the roles individuals perform and the qualifications they hold, to the dynamics of labour markets and the design of training programmes. It also plays a key role in recruitment practices and career guidance. However, despite its widespread use, the UK has lacked a unified system for classifying skills that serves the diverse needs of stakeholders such as employers, job seekers, careers advisors, training providers, and labour market analysts. This absence of a standardised framework has made it difficult to communicate and analyse skill-related information consistently across employment, education, and policy contexts. The Standard Skills Classification (SSC) seeks to address this gap by providing a coherent structure that accurately reflects the skills and knowledge required in the UK workforce. By establishing a common language for skills, the SSC will support more effective decision-making in recruitment, training, career development, and labour market analysis.

Read the findings [here](#)



5. Employee spotlight

Sharmeen Shah

Sharmeen Shah is a dedicated higher education professional with extensive experience in student support, engagement, and teaching across the UK and Pakistan. Currently serving as Manager of Student Support and Engagement at Magna Carta College, she leads the delivery of inclusive, student-centred services that enhance academic success, wellbeing, and overall student experience.

With a strong background in both education and pastoral care, Sharmeen has developed and implemented support systems that address diverse student needs, including mental health, disability support, and career guidance. She is experienced in managing multidisciplinary teams, driving service improvements through data-informed strategies, and fostering collaboration across academic and professional departments.

Her earlier career in teaching spans nearly two decades, where she demonstrated a commitment to student development through engaging instruction, personalised support, and co-curricular enrichment. This foundation informs her holistic approach to student engagement and retention.

Sharmeen is recognised for her empathetic leadership, strong interpersonal skills, and ability to build inclusive environments that empower learners. She remains committed to continuous improvement, sector best practices, and delivering impactful initiatives that promote student success and institutional excellence.



LIKES

Reading books/ travelling

BIRTHDAY

25 May

LIFE PHILOSOPHY

“Treat others how you want to be treated”

“Be the change you want to see in the world”

I believe that true success lies not only in what I achieve, but in how I achieve it, balancing ambition with compassion and progress with responsibility.

6. Connect Corner

Leadership Beyond Titles: The Human Side of Working with People

By Dr Ali Raza Nemati

Leadership, for me, has never been about titles or authority it has always been about people. The moments that have shaped my understanding of leadership didn't happen in formal settings, they happened in everyday interactions sometimes in meetings that didn't go as planned, and other times in quiet one-to-one conversations that revealed far more than any report ever could.

I remember early in my career, while coordinating a small academic project team, I assumed that giving clear instructions and timelines would be enough.

On paper, everything was structured perfectly, yet the team's engagement was inconsistent. It was only after a candid conversation with one of the quieter members that I realised they felt their input wasn't genuinely valued. That moment shifted something for me. I began involving the team earlier in discussions, asking for their perspectives before decisions were finalised.

The change wasn't immediate, but gradually, participation improved and so did the quality of the work.

One of the most important lessons I've learned is that listening is not passive, it's intentional. During a particularly challenging period managing multiple responsibilities, I once had a colleague who seemed increasingly disengaged.

My instinct was to address performance directly, but instead, I asked a simple question: **"Is everything okay on your side?"** That opened a completely different conversation about workload pressure and personal stress. Nothing in their formal updates had indicated this. It reminded me that people rarely communicate everything directly, and leadership often requires reading between the lines.



6. ...contd

Trust, I have found, is the real currency of leadership. It builds slowly and can disappear quickly if not handled carefully. In one instance, I made a decision that didn't sit well with a small group I was working with. Initially, I tried to justify it with logic, but it only created distance. It was only when I acknowledged that I hadn't fully considered their perspective and said so openly that the dynamic shifted.

Another lesson that has stayed with me is that motivation is deeply personal. While working with a diverse group of students and professionals, I noticed how differently people responded to the same approach. Some thrived on recognition, others preferred independence, and a few were driven purely by a sense of purpose. There was no single formula that worked for everyone. It required paying attention remembering small details, following up on conversations, and adjusting my approach accordingly.

Conflict, too, is part of the process. I used to avoid it, thinking it would disrupt harmony, but I've come to see that when handled well, it can lead to better outcomes. I recall a disagreement within a team about the direction of a project. Instead of stepping in to resolve it quickly, I allowed space for both sides to explain their thinking.



The discussion was uncomfortable at times, but it led to a solution that neither side had initially considered. It reinforced the idea that leadership isn't about having all the answers it's about creating the conditions where better answers can emerge.

In the end, leadership is a continuous process of learning and adjusting. It's less about control and more about connection. The more I've focused on understanding people their motivations, their concerns, and their perspectives the more effective my leadership has become. Not perfect, but real. And in my experience, that's what people respond to most.

7.Round up of events





PhD Proposal to Viva

Dr Ali shared key dos and don'ts for anyone embarking on their PhD journey, offering valuable insights into managing the pressures along the way and practical strategies to successfully navigate and excel in the viva.

[Watch](#)

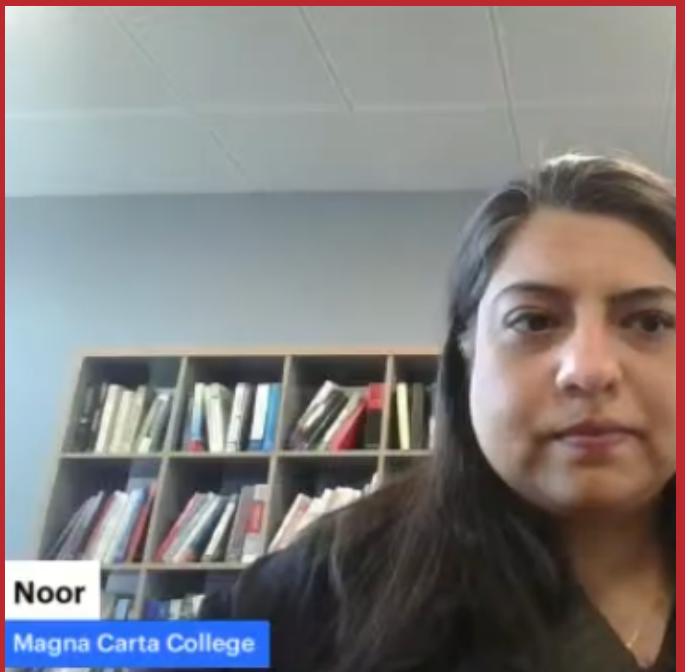


Dr Ali Raza Nemati

Academic Dean- Magna Carta College

HASS Orientation

Welcoming students to the Health and Social Sciences (HASS) degree programme at Buckinghamshire New University (BNU).

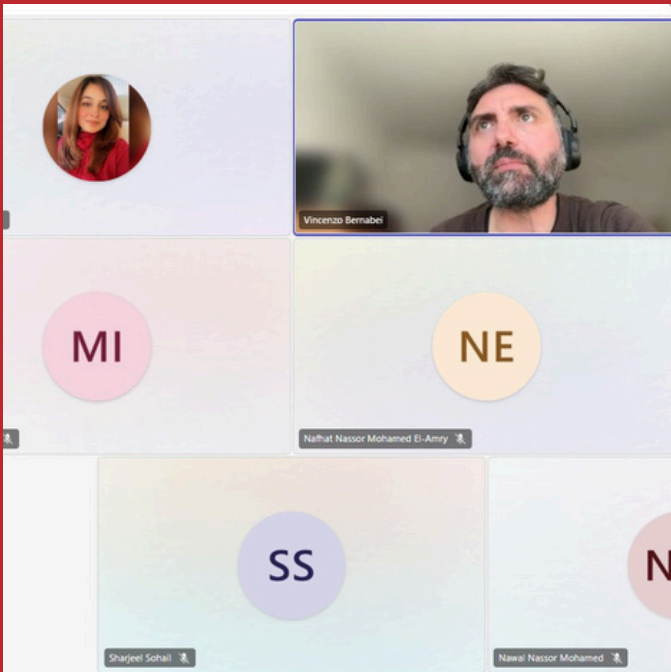
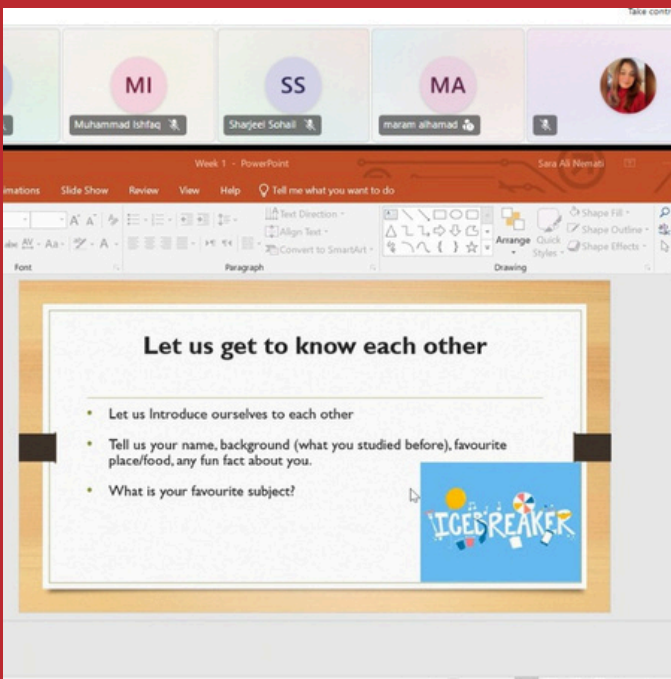


Noor

Magna Carta College

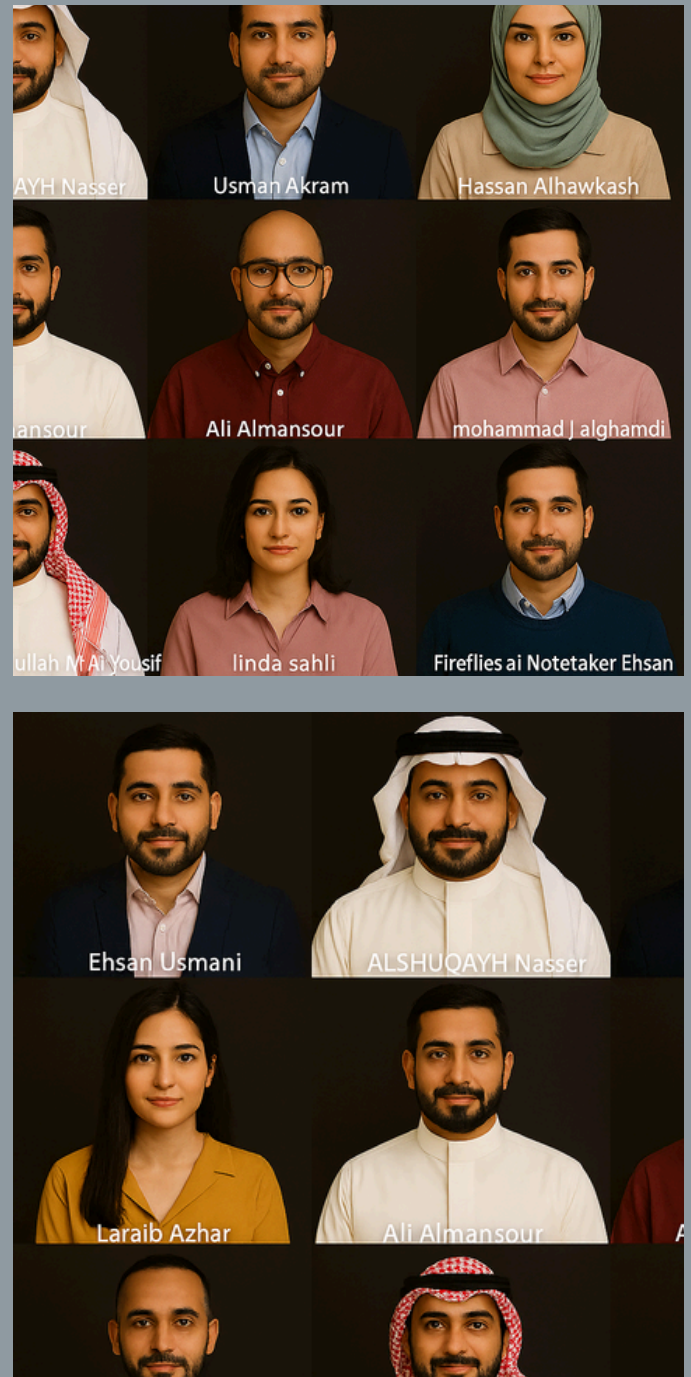
Level 7 Orientation

An orientation session was successfully held for Level 7 international students, designed to support their transition into academic life and help them settle into a new learning environment.



MBA Classes

Successfully delivering the first batch of UCAM MBA classes online, bringing together learners from around the world. The sessions are interactive, delivered in real time, and encourage deep reflection, creating a rich and engaging learning experience.





Open house

Online open house held for potential students who want to pursue their MBA qualification from UCAM Spain. All faculty members teaching the programme answered queries and questions live.

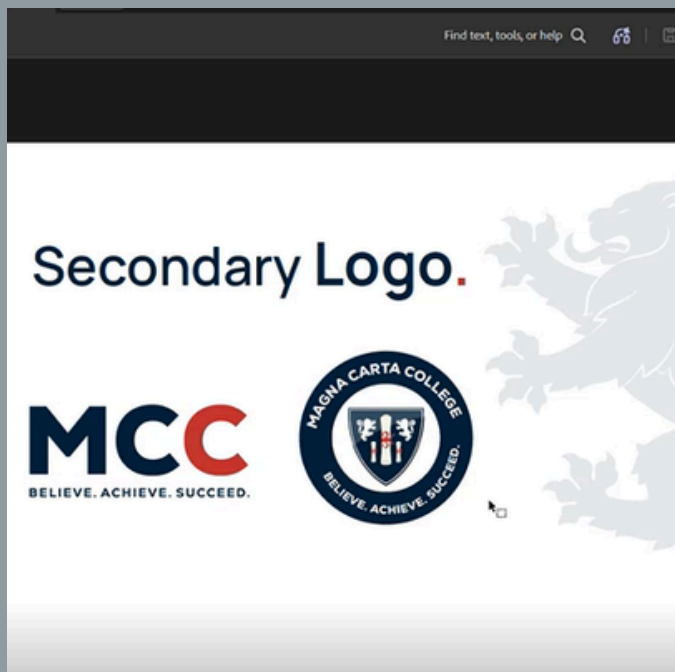
[Watch.](#)



Celebrating successes

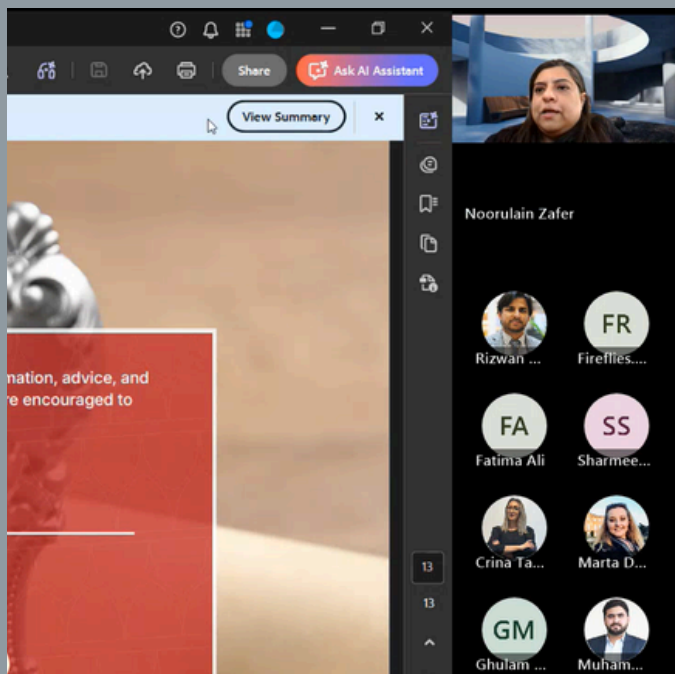
Celebrating our staff through milestones like family updates, promotions, and birthdays is our way of staying connected with the people who bring out the best in us.





Student wellbeing

A wellbeing and Q&A session was held with students to address their concerns, provide guidance, encourage open dialogue, and support their overall wellbeing.



Staff training

Internal training for MCC staff was conducted to get everyone acquainted with the MCC Brand guidelines.





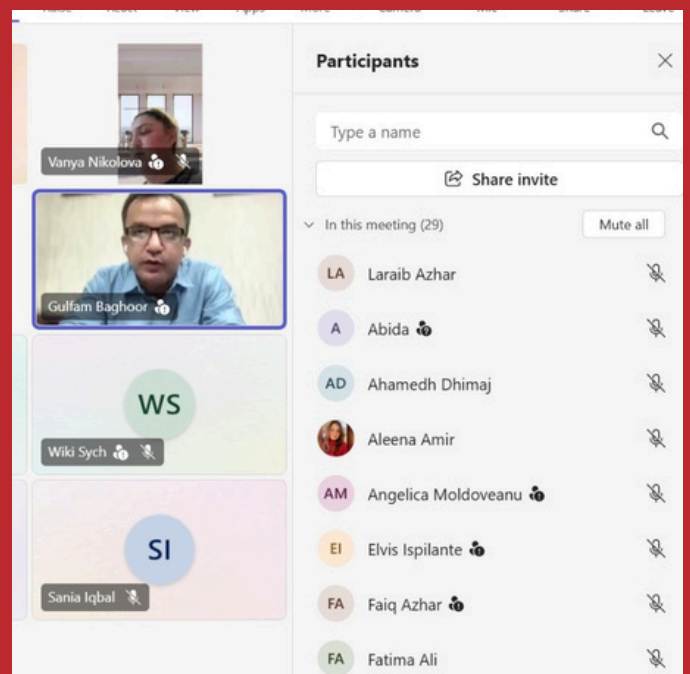
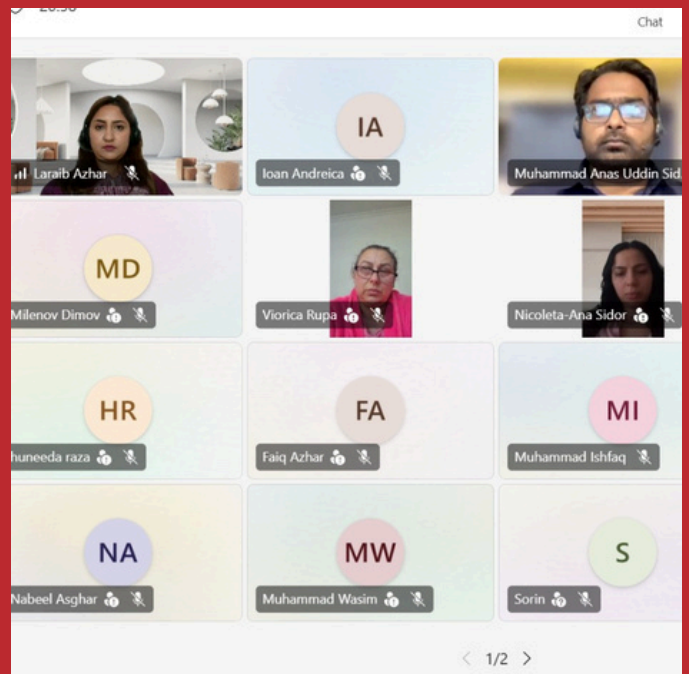
AI Bootcamp orientation

Kicked off the 3 months, fully funded Generative AI course sponsored by MCC for students, professionals and anyone who is looking for using AI as a tool to run their own businesses.



Celebrating neuro-diversity

At MCC, we celebrate neurodiversity by creating an inclusive and supportive learning environment that recognises each learner's unique strengths and provides the guidance they need to thrive.





Women scholarship

The MCC Women's Global MBA Scholarship launched to offer ambitious women professionals the opportunity to earn an internationally recognised MBA degree through our partnership with UCAM (Spain).

[Apply.](#)



Magna Carta College (MCC) Women's Global MBA Scholarship

EMPOWERING WOMEN. ACCELERATING FUTURES.

IAG Session

An Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) session was conducted at the MCC office for prospective learners. The session provided detailed support on course options, entry requirements, and progression pathways to help students make informed decisions about their future studies.

WHO CAN APPLY

- Women professionals with leadership potential
- Those seeking career advancement, sector transition, or entrepreneurial growth
- Individuals committed to global thinking and ethical leadership
- Women returning to work after a break

8. Upcoming Events/CPD

Supporting adult learners' positive mental health

An excellent CPD learning opportunity for professionals in the HE space.

[Apply now.](#)



OfS future approach to regulating consumer and student protection

Debrief from Office for Students (OfS) on an explanation of proposals for changes on how it regulates the interest of students as consumers.

[Register now.](#)



8....contd

Working with difficult people

CPD training for all staff who want to improve their leadership skills whilst eyeing that managerial position

[Apply now.](#)



EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT: **MAPPING YOUR CAREER PATH**



Noorulain Zafer



Noman Akbar

LIVE WEBINAR
ON SOCIALS  

**REGISTER NOW AND
INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE.**

Wednesday
06 May 2026
Time 4-5 PM

 07868214869

 magnacartacollege.ac.uk

MCC Conversation

Webinar on the role of effective career counselling and advice for students starting their academic journeys.



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We would love your feedback on the MCC Connect. Feel free to share any feedback or content you would like to add by emailing us on quality@magnacartacollege.ac.uk