Fall 2025 - Spring 2026

QEC NEWSLETTER





Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) at Capital University of Science and Technology (CUST) was established on August 28, 2015, with a vision: "To be recognized as the leading educational institution, instilling and pursuing the highest quality assurance practices, both nationally and internationally.".

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QEC NEWSLETTER

Fall 2025 – Spring 2026

Vol. 8 No. 1

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Message from Director QEC

The Quality Enhancement Cell continues to foster an institutional culture defined by strategic rigor, meticulous self-evaluation, and robust compliance templates. Moving forward, our commitment remains anchored in absolute execution transparency across all departments.



Institutional Quality Assurance Governance

HEC-RIPE Pilot Review at CUST

CUST achieved a landmark milestone in Academic Year 2025-26 by successfully completing the Review of Institutional Performance and Enhancement (RIPE) Pilot Review, conducted from 2 to 4 February 2026 under the HEC PSG-2023 Framework. This was one of the most significant quality assurance events in the university's recent history.

The review was carried out by a distinguished High-Level Review Panel comprising academic leaders, quality assurance experts, and senior representatives from the Higher Education Commission (HEC). The panel rigorously evaluated CUST's institutional governance, academic processes, and quality assurance mechanisms as part of the RIPE-IPER-2026 Pilot Review.



CUST extends sincere appreciation to the esteemed panel members and HEC officials for their valuable insights and constructive recommendations, which will support the University's continued journey toward institutional excellence, quality enhancement, and continuous improvement.



Yearly Progress Report (YPR) 2024-25

The Quality Enhancement Cell successfully compiled and submitted the Yearly Progress Report (YPR) for the academic year 2024-25 to the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA), Higher Education Commission (HEC), in August 2025 within the stipulated deadline.

The timely submission of the YPR reflects the QEC's systematic approach to data collection, departmental coordination, and evidence-based documentation. The YPR 2024-25 has been formally submitted, and CUST is currently awaiting receipt of the final QEC Scorecard from HEC QAA.

3rd Meeting of the Institutional Quality Circle (IQC)

The 3rd meeting of the Institutional Quality Circle (IQC) was held on Tuesday, October 28, 2025. The meeting reviewed a comprehensive range of institutional quality assurance matters:

- QEC Accomplishments 2024-25: The Director QEC presented an overview of key achievements including successful adoption of PSG-2023, constitution of IQC, conduct of 24 Self-Assessment Reports (SARs).
- QEC Targets & Activity Calendar 2025-26: The Activity Calendar was presented, reviewed, and formally approved by the IQC for submission to QAA-HEC.
- PREE SARs Preparation: Departmental Program Teams (PTs) were formally constituted and oriented for SAR preparation under PREE standards.
- SCALE Establishment: The SCALE (Student Council for Academic Learning and Enhancement) forum was formally approved.



2nd Meeting of the Departmental Quality Coordinators Committee (DQCC)

The 2nd Meeting of the DQCC was held on April 30, 2026 — the first meeting chaired by Dr. Nosherwan Khan following his assumption of office as Director QEC.

- Automation and Digitalization: The PREE assessment was fully digitalized and successfully implemented.
- SCALE Involvement: All DQCC Members were urged to proactively engage Lead Student Representatives (LSRs).

University Rankings & Academic Excellence

Academic Year 2025-26 has been a milestone year for CUST in international university rankings. The university has demonstrated consistent upward trajectories across multiple global ranking frameworks.



Ranking Performance Overview (2023–2026)

World University Rankings

CUST has demonstrated consistent presence across multiple global ranking frameworks, with notable improvements in THE World University Rankings and visibility metrics.

Year	Ranking Body	World Rank	Remarks
2026	THE	801–1000	Latest band
2025	THE	601–800	Improved earlier
2025	uniRank	8409	Web-based ranking
2026	Webometrics	10,795	Visibility ranking
2024	Webometrics	9,367	Fluctuation
2023	Webometrics	9,053	Stable

QS World University Rankings

CUST has shown a remarkable two-band improvement in the QS World University Rankings, reflecting sustained progress in key performance indicators:

Asia University Rankings

CUST's QS Asia University Rankings have shown a two-band improvement from 2024 to 2026.

Year	Ranking Body	Asia Rank	Remarks
2026	QS Asia	=632	Improvement
2025	QS Asia	641–660	Slight improvement
2024	QS Asia	701–750	Decline
2023	QS Asia	601–650	Best band

Times Higher Education (THE) World Rankings

CUST is ranked in the 801–1000 band of the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2026, competing among 2,191 universities from 115 territories worldwide.

THE Subject Rankings

CUST has maintained strong subject rankings in Physical Sciences and Engineering, with Engineering showing consistent year-over-year improvement.

Subject Area	2026	2025	2024
Physical Sciences	401–500	301-400	401-500
Engineering	501–600	601-800	601-800
Business & Economics	–	501–600	–

Scimago Subject Rankings

The Scimago Subject Rankings reflect CUST's research impact and academic excellence across multiple disciplines.

Subject	World Rank	Asia Rank	Pakistan Rank
Business & Accounting	1673	519	28
Computer Science	1848	682	40
Engineering	1345	458	29
Mathematics	1478	521	34
Physics & Astronomy	790	284	9

UI GreenMetric World Versity Rankings - 2025

CUST was ranked 276th in the world among 1,745 participating universities in the 2025 UI GreenMetric World University Rankings. At the national level, CUST achieved the 7th position among 107 participating Pakistani universities.

These rankings reflect CUST's growing reputation as a research-active, sustainable, and internationally recognized institution of higher learning.

World (out of 1,745)	Pakistan (out of 107)
Overall: 276	Overall: 7th
Setting Infrastructure: 286	Setting Infrastructure: 9th
Energy & Climate: 191	Energy & Climate: 8th
Waste: 326	Waste: 4th

5^{th} Meeting of Student Council for Academic Learning & Enhancement (SCALE) Forum

The 5th meeting of the SCALE Forum was held on July 01, 2026. The primary agenda of the meeting was to recognize and appreciate the valuable services of the Lead Student Representatives (LSRs) who are leaving the SCALE Forum upon the successful completion of their degree programs at Capital University of Science and Technology (CUST).

The meeting was graced by Dr. Tahir Hameed Ullah Khan, Registrar, CUST, as the Chief Guest, and Mr. Hassan Mahmood Awan, Controller of Examinations, as the Guest of Honor.

During the meeting, the outgoing LSRs shared their experiences,

feedback, and valuable suggestions for further strengthening the SCALE Forum and enhancing student engagement. An interactive discussion was held, during which the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honor appreciated the contributions and commitment of the LSRs.

In recognition of their dedicated services and outstanding contributions, the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honor presented commemorative shields to the outgoing LSRs.

Both distinguished guests commended the efforts, dedication, and leadership demonstrated by the LSRs throughout their tenure. They expressed their best wishes and prayed for their continued success in their future academic and professional endeavors.







Student Engagement: SCALE Forum

The Student Council for Academic Learning & Enhancement (SCALE) continued to strengthen student participation in academic quality assurance processes throughout 2025-26.

Date	Activity / Key Focus
Dec 10, 2025	1st SCALE Meeting - Inaugural session outlining objectives of SCALE and the role of LSRs.
Jan 14, 2026	2nd SCALE Meeting - Focused on familiarizing LSRs with governance structures.
Jan 21, 2026	3rd SCALE Meeting - Infrastructure briefing, support facilities, and success rules.
Apr 21, 2026	4th SCALE Meeting - Individual evaluation of LSR departmental involvement.





PREE Assessment Cycle - Full Process Implementation

The Programme Review for Effectiveness and Enhancement (PREE) is the core academic programme review mechanism under the HEC PSG-2023 framework. During Academic Year 2025-26, QEC successfully completed a full cycle of the PREE process.

Phase 1: Programme Team (PT) Formation

The QEC initiated formal notification for the constitution of Departmental Programme Teams (PTs) across all academic departments.

Phase 2: PT Orientation for SAR Development

Following the constitution of Programme Teams, the QEC organized three consecutive capacity-building workshops to orient PT members on the preparation of Self-Assessment Reports (SARs).

Phase 3: SAR Preparation and Submission

27 SARs were successfully prepared for CUST's undergraduate and graduate programmes, covering all faculties.

Phase 4: Assessment Team (AT) Formation

Upon completion of SAR submissions, the QEC constituted Assessment Teams (ATs) for the review of 27 graduate and postgraduate programmes.

Phase 5: Digitalization of PREE Assessment

In a significant institutional innovation, the QEC fully digitalized the PREE assessment process for FY 2025-26.

Phase 6: Assessment Team (AT) Meetings

All 27 Assessment Team meetings were successfully conducted between April and 1st June 2026, completing the full PREE assessment cycle.

All 27 programme assessments were successfully completed. The QEC will compile Assessment Team recommendations and forward consolidated feedback reports to the concerned departments for action planning, compliance, and implementation — completing the full CQI loop for AY 2025-26.

Table 1: Outcome: PREE Cycle 2025-26

#	Programme	External Reviewer	Institution	Date
1	BS Psychology	-	Internal Panel	8 Apr 2026
2	BS Biotechnology	-	Internal Panel	8 Apr 2026
3	BS MLT	-	Internal Panel	16 Apr 2026
4	BBA	-	Internal Panel	17 Apr 2026
5	BS Accounting & Finance	-	Internal Panel	17 Apr 2026
6	BS English	-	Internal Panel	20 Apr 2026
7	MS Civil Engineering	Engr. Prof. Dr. Naeem Ejaz	UET Taxila	27 Apr 2026
8	MS AI	Prof. Ahmad Din	FAST	27 Apr 2026
9	MS Electrical Engineering	Dr. Junaid Nawaz	COMSATS	28 Apr 2026
10	MS Mechanical Engineering	Dr. Naseem Ahmed	IST	28 Apr 2026
11	MS Computer Science	Prof. Dr. Ayaz Hussain	QAU	28 Apr 2026
12	MBA	Dr. Khurram Shahzad	Riphah Intl. Univ.	29 Apr 2026
13	PhD Computer Science	Prof. Dr. Ehsan Ullah Munir	COMSATS	29 Apr 2026
14	MS Engineering Management	Dr. Naseem Ahmed	IST	30 Apr 2026

15	MS Project Management	Dr. Hassan Raza	SZABIST	5 May 2026
16	PhD Mechanical Engineering	Dr. M. Shehryar Manzoor	NSU	6 May 2026
17	PhD Electrical Engineering	Prof. Dr. Nisar Ahmed	GIKI	7 May 2026
18	MS Accounting & Finance	Dr. Shahzad Hussain	Rawalpindi Women Univ.	11 May 2026
19	PhD Civil Engineering	Engr. Dr. Usman Ali Naeem	UET Taxila	12 May 2026
20	M.Phil. Pharmacy	Prof. Dr. M. Iqbal Nasiri	Hamdard University	18 May 2026
21	MS Biosciences	Dr. Attiya Kanwal	IIUI	19 May 2026
22	PhD Math	Prof. Dr. Azad Akhter	NUST-SEECS	20 May 2026
23	PhD Management Sciences	Dr. Hassan Raza	SZABIST	20 May 2026
24	MS Psychology	Dr. Irum Naqvi	Quaid-e-Azam Univ.	21 May 2026
25	MS Management Sciences	Dr. Khurram Shahzad	Riphah Intl. Univ.	21 May 2026
26	PhD Biosciences	Dr. Attiya Kanwal	IIUI	22 May 2026
27	M.Phil. Math	Dr. Azad Akhtar Siddiqui	NUST	1 Jun 2026

Faculty Development & Capacity Building

Professional Development Center (PDC) under QEC at CUST organized a series of faculty development workshops throughout 2025-26.

Workshop on CQI Cycle and Its Implementation

The QEC organized a faculty development session titled 'CQI Cycle and its Implementation' for the faculty members of the Department of English on February 23, 2026.

Workshop for Newly Hired Faculty

The QEC organized a workshop for newly inducted faculty members titled 'CUST Structure and Academic Procedures' on April 28, 2026. Thirty-seven faculty members from across departments participated.





PDC Capacity Building Workshop Series

Date	Workshop Title	Resource
Sep 10, 2025	Effective Teaching Methodologies	Prof. Dr. M. Behlol
Oct 27, 2025	Outcome-Based Education (OBE)	Prof. Dr. Ishtiaq Hassan
Dec 05, 2025	Research Methodologies	Dr. Erum Dilshad

Advancing Teaching Excellence Through Pedagogical Innovation

The Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) conducted a one-day workshop, "Advancing Teaching Excellence Through Pedagogical Innovation," on 16 June 2026 for newly hired faculty members. Facilitated by Prof. Dr. Nusrat Fatima Rizvi, Shifa Tameer-e-Millat University. The session focused on innovative teaching practices and learner-centred pedagogy. The workshop reinforced the university's commitment to teaching excellence and continuous faculty development.



International Linkages & External Engagements

Visit of Ms. Kathryn Jack - ACU UK

CUST was honoured to host Ms. Kathryn Jack, Head of Membership and Events at the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU), United Kingdom, on May 4, 2026. The session focused on scholarship opportunities through the ACU network for CUST faculty and students.

FAST University QA Training Session

The Director QEC participated in a Quality Assurance training session organized at FAST University, Islamabad held on 5–7 January 2026.

Participation in 6th International PNQAHE Conference

Director QEC represented CUST at the 6th International Conference of the Pakistan Network of Quality Assurance in Higher Education (PNQAHE) held from April 13-15, 2026 at Baqai Medical University, Karachi.

Key QEC Activities at a Glance - FY 2025-26

Period	QEC Activity / Milestone
Sep 2024	Workshop on Contemporary Effective Teaching Methodologies — Dr. Maria Mashkoor, CUST
Sep 2025	1st DQCC Meeting — PSG-2023 QA Framework implementation & departmental coordination
Sep 2025	Workshop on Effective Teaching Methodologies for 21st Century — Prof. Dr. Malik Ghulam Behlol
Oct 28, 2025	3rd IQC Meeting — QEC Accomplishments 2024-25, Targets 2025-26, SCALE, PREE, and THE Ranking

Feb 2–4, 2026	HEC RIPE Pilot Review Visit — High-Level Review Panel evaluation at CUST under PSG-2023
Apr 13–15, 2026	6th PNQAHE International Conference — Dr. Nosherwan Khan, Baqai Medical University, Karachi
Apr–Jun 2026	PREE Assessment Team Meetings — 27 programmes successfully assessed on digital platform

Looking Ahead - QEC Priorities for 2026-27

- Completion and timely submission of the Yearly Progress Report (YPR) 2025-26 to QAA-HEC.
- Follow-up on Assessment Team (AT) recommendations arising from PREE reviews of all 27 programmes.
- Strengthening engagement of departmental SCALE representatives in Board of Studies.
- Preparation for the formal RIPE visit and development of an Institutional Performance Enhancement Report.
- Deepening international academic linkages through ACU, INQAHEE, and regional QA networks.
- Continued expansion of QEC digitalization — including feedback survey automation.

FACULTY INSIGHTS

Dr. Zunnoorain Khan

Associate Professor & QA Coordinator — Department of Management Sciences

Dr. Zunnoorain Khan is an Associate Professor at CUST and a National Certified Reviewer (NCR) for Quality Assurance. In this exclusive dialogue, he details his core strategies for advancing outcome-based education, driving institutional KPIs, and refining continuous quality loops within the university.

Driving academic excellence through synchronized institutional KPIs, meticulous Self-Assessment framework reviews, and structured data-driven continuous quality loops.

Can you briefly provide your educational background and responsibilities at CUST?

I am currently serving as an Associate Professor at CUST, with expertise in Human Resource Management, Organizational Development, Change Management, High-Performance Work Systems (HPWS), Organizational Resilience, HR Analytics, and Supply Chain Management. Alongside my teaching and research responsibilities, I also work as an Associate Editor and serve as the Quality Assurance Coordinator for the Management Sciences Department, contributing to academic excellence, accreditation processes, and continuous improvement initiatives. I am also a National Certified Reviewer (NCR) for Quality Assurance, which further strengthens my role in supporting quality enhancement and evaluation across academic programs.

How you have contributed in the implementation of best quality practices?

I have contributed to the implementation of best quality practices by strengthening departmental processes, ensuring compliance with national and international accreditation standards, and promoting a culture of continuous improvement. I have led the development and review of quality assurance frameworks, facilitated the preparation of Self-Assessment Reports (SARs), and provided training to faculty on outcome-based education (OBE), curriculum alignment, and assessment standards. Additionally, I have coordinated audits, monitored KPIs, streamlined documentation systems, and supported the integration of data-driven decision-making tools, including HR analytics and performance indicators.

How would you advise the DQCC committee to operationalize CUST's quality policy, ensuring its effective implementation?

Develop uniform templates, SOPs, and guidelines for:

- Course Files
- SAR Preparation
- Faculty Evaluation
- Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI)

I can provide trainings to the committee members for SARs preparation and other documentations.



What specific initiatives have been taken to improve the teaching methodologies and student learning experience at CUST?

Several initiatives have been taken at CUST to improve teaching methodologies and enhance the student learning experience. These include the integration of outcome-based education (OBE) across all programs, ensuring clear learning outcomes, structured assessments, and continuous feedback loops. Faculty have been trained on innovative teaching strategies such as case-based learning, flipped classrooms, and the use of digital learning tools.

In addition, the university has strengthened student support through academic advising, mentoring, and learning management systems that facilitate blended learning. Workshops, seminars, and industry interactions have been introduced to enhance practical exposure.

How would you assess the effectiveness of Quality KPIs employed at the departmental level?

The effectiveness of Quality KPIs at the departmental level can be assessed through a combination of data analysis, stakeholder feedback, and continuous monitoring. First, we review KPI trends over multiple semesters to evaluate improvements in areas such as student performance, course delivery, faculty engagement, research output, and accreditation compliance. We also examine the alignment of KPIs with institutional goals to ensure they accurately reflect academic quality and operational efficiency.

Regular feedback from faculty, students, and program teams helps validate whether these KPIs are meaningful, realistic, and actionable. Internal audits, SAR evaluations, and peer reviews further provide evidence of how well KPIs are being implemented. By comparing actual performance with set benchmarks, we can identify gaps, adjust targets, and refine strategies.

FACULTY INSIGHTS

Dr. Reem Altaf

Assistant Professor & HOD — Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Dr. Reem Altaf is an Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at CUST. In this exclusive dialogue, she outlines her strategic focus on integrating artificial intelligence into pharmacy education, driving experiential learning through regulatory internships, and advancing outcome-based curriculum models.

Integrating artificial intelligence and machine learning paradigms into the pharmaceutical sciences curriculum to equip future graduates for data-driven drug discovery and clinical care systems.

Briefly introduce your educational background and professional experience at CUST.

I am Dr. Reem Altaf, Assistant Professor and Head of the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the Faculty of Pharmacy, CUST. I hold a PhD in Pharmaceutical Chemistry and possess a strong academic foundation in pharmaceutical sciences, with specialized expertise in medicinal chemistry, computational drug discovery, and bioinformatics. Over the course of my academic career, I have developed extensive multidisciplinary proficiency in synthetic chemistry, molecular modelling, quantum

chemical analysis (DFT), QSAR, genomics, multi-omics, and a wide range of AI and ML enabled computational methodologies.

At CUST, I lead the Department of Pharmaceutical Chemistry and teach a variety of undergraduate and postgraduate chemistry-focused courses. In addition to my teaching responsibilities, I am deeply involved in curriculum development, pedagogical enhancement, supervision of postgraduate research, and facilitation of advanced hands-on workshops and training sessions.

I actively contribute to institutional academic governance as a member of several key bodies, including the Board of Studies (BOS), Board of Faculty (BOF), and the Industrial Advisory Board (IAB). Through these roles, I have contributed to curriculum revision, alignment of course content with emerging industry and research trends, enhancement of academic standards, and strengthening of academia–industry linkages. Moreover, I play an integral role in quality assurance and academic improvement processes. As part of the Program Team (PT) and the Departmental Quality Control Committee (DQCC), I support the development, review, and implementation of program learning outcomes (PLOs), ensure compliance with Quality Assurance (QA) guidelines, oversee continuous program improvement activities, and contribute to the preparation and review of reports, self-assessment documents, and accreditation-related documentation.

Having completed an year at CUST, how would you describe your experience?

Having completed an year at CUST, I would describe my experience as highly rewarding, professionally enriching, and strongly growth-oriented. During this period, I have had the opportunity to teach diverse courses, mentor students, introduce modern computational and research-driven learning approaches, and actively contribute to departmental as well as QEC-led quality enhancement initiatives. The collaborative environment, supportive leadership, and strong encouragement for academic innovation have significantly enriched both my teaching and research pursuits.

Over the past year, I have also been honored with several speaking and training engagements that reflect the recognition of my work in computational sciences and AI in pharmacy. I delivered invited seminars on the Role of AI in Pharmaceutical Sciences, including a talk titled “Pharma Meets AI: The Future of Drug Research” at Iqra University, Islamabad Campus (H-9), and another session at Akhter Saeed College of Pharmacy on “Career Skills for Future Pharmacists: AI, Data Science, and Interdisciplinary Competencies.”

In addition, I successfully conducted three hands-on workshops focused on strengthening computational proficiency among future professionals. These include a workshop at Riphah International University on “Differential Transcriptomics: From Reads to Genes to Pathways,” an AI-integrated pharmacy education workshop invited by ICRIPS 2025, and a comprehensive workshop at CUST in collaboration with ORIC titled “Decoding Drug Targets: GEO Data Analysis & Network Pharmacology with R.”



What initiatives have been taken to improve the quality of academic programs at your departmental level?

The Faculty of Pharmacy is staffed with competent and dedicated academic and professional pharmacists, and is strongly committed to delivering high-quality pharmaceutical education and training. At departmental level, several initiatives have been implemented to enhance the quality of academic programs and to strengthen students’ professional competencies.

A key initiative is the formal provision of structured internships for CUST pharmacy students at the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), the national autonomous body mandated to ensure the quality, safety, and efficacy of medicines and other therapeutic goods. Through this placement, students gain direct exposure to regulatory affairs, pharmacovigilance, quality assurance, and the drug approval process in Pakistan. This experiential learning opportunity allows students to observe and participate in real regulatory workflows, which is still a rare practice among universities offering pharmacy programs.

In addition, the department organizes a Pharmacy Career Expo where students present their research projects in pharmaceutical sciences and technology, participate in mock interviews, and submit their curricula vitae to representatives from the pharmaceutical industry. This activity strengthens their professional networking, enhances employability skills, and

encourages innovation and entrepreneurship. The Faculty of Pharmacy also conducts a series of seminars and workshops on professional skill development, career pathways, and international career opportunities, inviting speakers from reputable pharmaceutical industries and related healthcare sectors.

Most recently, the Faculty has initiated the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into pharmaceutical sciences education. In recognition of the rapidly evolving, technology-driven healthcare environment, the department is working to embed AI-related competencies, such as data-driven decision-making, basic informatics, and digital literacy, into the curriculum and co-curricular activities.

What innovative Quality interventions have been implemented by the Faculty of Pharmacy for improving the quality standards of its graduates?

The Faculty of Pharmacy has implemented a range of innovative quality interventions designed to strengthen the academic, professional, and research standards of its graduates. A central initiative has been the systematic integration of emerging technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Pharmacy, in line with the revised PCP curriculum. The department is embedding AI-driven tools, computational approaches, and digital health concepts into teaching, laboratory work, and research activities so that graduates are able to engage with data-intensive pharmaceutical care, regulatory science, and pharmaco-therapeutic decision support. To further enhance research capacity and analytical proficiency, the Faculty is in the process of acquiring advanced laboratory and computational infrastructure, enabling high-quality experimental work, in silico modelling, and data analytics relevant to pharmaceutical and public health practice.

A key academic intervention has been the development and approval of a PhD in Pharmacy program, scheduled for launch in Spring 2026, which represents a major advancement in research intensity, postgraduate training, and scholarly output. In parallel, the Faculty is working on initiating specialized certification programs for graduate students to enhance their employability, professional credentials, and readiness for diverse roles in industry, regulation, hospital and community pharmacy, and public health.

The establishment of an Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) constitutes another major quality enhancement measure, operating as a formal interface between academia and the pharmaceutical and related healthcare industries. Through regular consultation with the IAB, the Faculty receives structured feedback on curriculum relevance, evolving skill sets required by employers, and emerging professional expectations in areas such as regulatory affairs, quality assurance, pharmacovigilance, clinical pharmacy, and supply chain management. This structured industry–academia linkage has strengthened internship placements, industrial visits, and experiential training platforms.

In addition, the Faculty has continuously strengthened the implementation of Outcomes-Based Education (OBE). This includes regularly updating Course Learning Outcomes (CLOs) and their alignment with Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs), refining laboratory manuals to emphasize patient- and practice-oriented competencies, and defining clear Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and quality assurance documentation for monitoring teaching–learning processes. These measures support systematic evaluation of student performance, course delivery, and program outcomes.

The Faculty of Pharmacy is also actively moving towards establishing international collaborations with reputable academic and research institutions. These efforts, which include the pursuit of joint research activities, faculty exchanges, and future student mobility or exchange programs, are intended to provide learners with international exposure, broaden their academic and cultural horizons, and reinforce global perspectives in pharmaceutical care and public health.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Engr. Naeem Babar

Reg. No: MCE223011

PhD Scholar & Gold Medalist — Department of Civil Engineering

Milestone Achievement: Graduated with distinction, earning a gold medal and securing the first position in his Master's batch before advancing to doctoral research at CUST.

Question# 01: Would you please briefly introduce yourself and explain your affiliation with CUST?

I am Engr. Naeem Babar, a Professional Engineer (P.E.) with more than eight years of diverse experience in the construction industry. I am currently working as Manager Technical (Civil) at Terra Engineering & Consulting Services in Islamabad, where I lead technical planning, design review, and execution support for major infrastructure projects across Pakistan. My core expertise includes earth-structures, geotechnical-structural solutions, and advanced civil engineering design practices.

I hold a master's degree in Civil Engineering (Structures) from CUST, where I graduated with distinction, earning a gold medal and securing the first position in my batch. Alongside my professional responsibilities, I am pursuing a PhD in Civil Engineering with a specialization in Structural Engineering, aiming to contribute to research and innovative engineering solutions for modern infrastructure development.

Question# 02: How would you describe your overall learning experience during your stay at CUST?

My overall learning experience during my stay at CUST was truly exceptional and memorable. The academic environment, supporting staff, and well-structured courses greatly enhanced my technical and professional growth.

I thoroughly enjoyed my time there, not only in terms of learning but also through friendship with colleagues, and the positive campus atmosphere. CUST provided me with opportunities to explore my potential, develop confidence, and excel in my field. Without a doubt, it remains one of the best and most enriching phases of my life so far.

Question# 03: In your view, what were the key strengths of the academic program that you studied at CUST?

The academic program at CUST offered a strong, research-oriented, and professionally structured learning experience supported by foreign highly qualified faculty and modern facilities. It emphasized conceptual clarity, practical application, and advanced engineering skills. The institute provided excellent guidance, industrial exposure, and opportunities for innovation and academic excellence. Overall, it delivered a well-rounded and perfect educational environment.



Question# 04: What valuable advice would you offer to your juniors regarding their studies?

My advice to juniors is to focus on their studies and remain committed to their goals. Always respect your teachers, as their guidance will shape your professional journey. Be disciplined, work hard, and stay consistent—success will naturally follow. Maintain a positive attitude and make the most of every learning opportunity. Stay blessed.

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