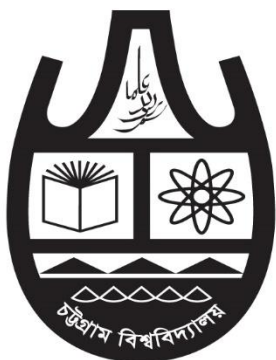


ANNUAL REPORT

SDG-16

**PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS**



**UNIVERSITY OF
CHITTAGONG**

Chittagong-4331, Bangladesh

SDG: 16 Peace justice and strong institutions

The University of Chittagong has implemented several positive measures to ensure good governance, with continuous efforts to enhance inclusivity. The highest governing body, known as the Syndicate, includes four elected members representing different categories of faculty, including professors, associate professors, assistant professors, and lecturers, ensuring that faculty voices are well-represented. Although the Chittagong University Central Students' Union (CUCSU) did not hold for many years, numerous vibrant student organizations, such as the Chittagong University Debating Society (CUDS) and the Chittagong University Research and Higher Study Society (CURHS), operate independently, enriching student life and providing opportunities for leadership and engagement. Additionally, various student groups representing different districts of Bangladesh offer valuable support to students from those regions.

The university engages proactively with local stakeholders, addressing various issues through informal channels, particularly during political or social challenges. Alumni associations, both at the central university level and for specific departments, also play an important role in shaping university policies and decisions, contributing to a strong sense of community and collective responsibility.

The university is committed to maintaining integrity and transparency. Statutes have been established to address organized crime, corruption, and bribery, with regular investigation committees ensuring fairness and natural justice. Multiple layers of investigation safeguard the accuracy of these processes. Academic freedom is a cornerstone of the University of Chittagong, guaranteed by the Chittagong University Act of 1973, which allows faculty members—from senior professors to young lecturers—to freely choose their research areas and share their findings through teaching and publications.

Financial transparency is a key priority for the university. Besides its own internal audit system, annual financial data is submitted to the University Grants Commission (UGC) for review, ensuring proper financial management. The university's financial budget is openly discussed in the Senate, and all transactions are audited by a dedicated audit department, fostering accountability.

The University of Chittagong actively collaborates with the government in various capacities. Faculty members provide consultancy services to governmental ministries and departments, offering valuable policy guidance and serving on committees at the local, regional, and national levels. They frequently provide education, training, and capacity-building support to government staff, and occasionally collaborate with policymakers on critical topics such as climate policy, refugee issues, and law enforcement. The university also undertakes numerous collaborative research projects with government departments, with many government-funded projects underway at any given time.

The university is proud to provide a neutral platform for political engagement, creating opportunities for dialogue among political activists of different orientations. This open

environment contributes to a politically vibrant campus. In terms of graduate outcomes, the university has made significant contributions to the field of law and related disciplines. In 2023, 169 graduates out of a total of 4,200 were from law and related fields, which constitutes approximately 4% of all graduates. Specifically, 135 students graduated from law, while 34 graduated from Criminology and Police Sciences.

The University of Chittagong is also dedicated to promoting mental health and well-being. The Laughter Club has played a key role in raising mental health awareness on campus through a variety of initiatives. In May 2024, the club hosted a Basic Counselling Skills Training session led by experts in psychology, equipping participants with essential techniques to support the mental health needs of the community. Earlier in February 2024, the club organized a Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) training workshop, focusing on techniques to manage stress and anxiety. These initiatives reflect the Laughter Club's dedication to fostering a positive and resilient campus environment, promoting well-being, and encouraging proactive care.