

UIHP Coach Pool Development Program

The UIHP Coach Pool Development Program is established to create a sustainable pipeline of qualified coaches and mentors, since it is challenging to identify a mentor possessing the right blend of knowledge, skills, and attributes ideally suited to guide young entrepreneurs and start-up founders.



Purpose

The primary objective of the UIHP Coach Pool Development Program is to address the lack of qualified coaches and mentors for startups emerging from universities. This initiative is part of the broader University Innovation Hub Program (UIHP), which aims to promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable startup ecosystems across Bangladeshi universities. Coaches and mentors play a crucial role in assisting students and alumni in navigating the complex process of transforming innovative ideas into viable businesses.

The program will nurture both university faculty and external professionals, ensuring a diverse pool of coaches and mentors from various sectors. This approach will meet the increasing demand for hands-on mentorship in key university hubs and reduce dependence on external experts who may need to travel long distances, a model that is not sustainable in the long term.

UIHP Coach Pool Development Program Component

1. **Program Structure:** The program will span 13 weeks, requiring a total commitment of 86 hours per batch. The structure includes:
 - Self-learning: 36 hours
 - Online sessions: 32 hours
 - In-person Bootcamp: 18 hours, where participants engage in simulated scenarios under the guidance of a "Super Coach."
2. **Application Process:** Participants may nominate themselves or be nominated by universities or professionals. Aspiring coaches may find more information on application by visiting <https://uihp.org/coachpool>
3. **Selection Criteria:** Potential coaches must possess essential traits such as goal-setting abilities, empathy, keen observation, active listening, and confidence. Experience in teaching, coaching, or business is advantageous.
4. **Mentorship Development:** Participants will undergo a rigorous training process that includes self-learning, online workshops, and real-time simulations. This ensures that selected coaches are well-prepared to mentor entrepreneurs in various aspects of startup development, from ideation to scaling.
5. **Batch Composition:** Each batch will comprise 20 coaches, drawn from diverse sectors:

- 12 from universities
 - 4 from startups or venture fraternity
 - 4 from various business sectors
6. **Program Expansion:** The Coach Pool Development Program will be implemented in five cities, with batches commencing at different times throughout the year, thus creating a broad network of coaches and mentors to serve local ecosystems.

By investing in the development of this coach pool, the program aims to establish a sustainable framework that will continue to foster innovation and entrepreneurship long after the current project concludes.

Benefits for the Coach/Mentor

1. The mentors will receive certification as recognized mentors by the Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority.
2. High-performing mentors will be afforded the opportunity to participate in international training programs to further enhance their skills and expertise.
3. Mentors will have the opportunity to improve their mentoring skills through active participation in the mentorship program.

About the University Innovation Hub Program (UIHP)

The University Innovation Hub Program (UIHP) is a flagship initiative under the Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (BHTPA) and is funded by the World Bank. It aims to promote innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable startup ecosystems across Bangladeshi universities. UIHP aims to foster a robust digital entrepreneurship and innovation ecosystem in Bangladesh, as part of the broader Digital Entrepreneurship and Innovation Ecosystem Development (DEIED) project. UIHP is designed to integrate global best practices into university-led innovation hubs.



Through mentorship, and access to funding, the UIHP nurtures talent and encourages the development of groundbreaking solutions to local and global challenges. The program emphasizes inclusivity, with a commitment to ensuring at least 20% participation by women, and offers post-graduation support to assist startups in scaling and achieving success.

With collaboration from top international experts, particularly from UPM Consulting Services Sdn. Bhd., a subsidiary of University Putra Malaysia, and Multimedia University (MMU), Malaysia, UIHP is well-positioned to accelerate the growth of Bangladesh's startup ecosystem, building a sustainable pipeline of digital enterprises and contributing to the country's future economic success.