

# Our achievements and collaborations

## Advancing educational excellence

*Elevating curriculum, teaching innovation, and academic standards*

### UAS Common Curriculum

In its first full academic year, the University made significant strides in strengthening curriculum quality and academic rigour. A key milestone was the commencement of the UAS Common Curriculum, designed to complement students' specialised training while fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and critical thinking.

The UAS Common Curriculum brings together students from across the institutions through three signature modules:

- **IN-depth module** that develops **Interpretive skills** (ways of thinking, reading, perceiving, and listening) and **Narrative skills** (ways of communicating, storytelling, and performing). The module broadens interdisciplinary perspectives and fosters collaborative skills, all while nurturing a deeper understanding of today's complex world.
- **Career Skills module** that provides the essential soft and hard skills needed to navigate the professional world, from personal branding to effective communication.
- **Industry-Based Learning (IBL) module** that offers real-world experience, enabling the application of skills in a practical setting and to make industry connections.





The inaugural **IN-depth workshops** brought together more than 400 students across campuses to explore contemporary issues through diverse arts disciplines. These workshops received a student satisfaction rating of 92.7%, affirming the quality of the learning experience.



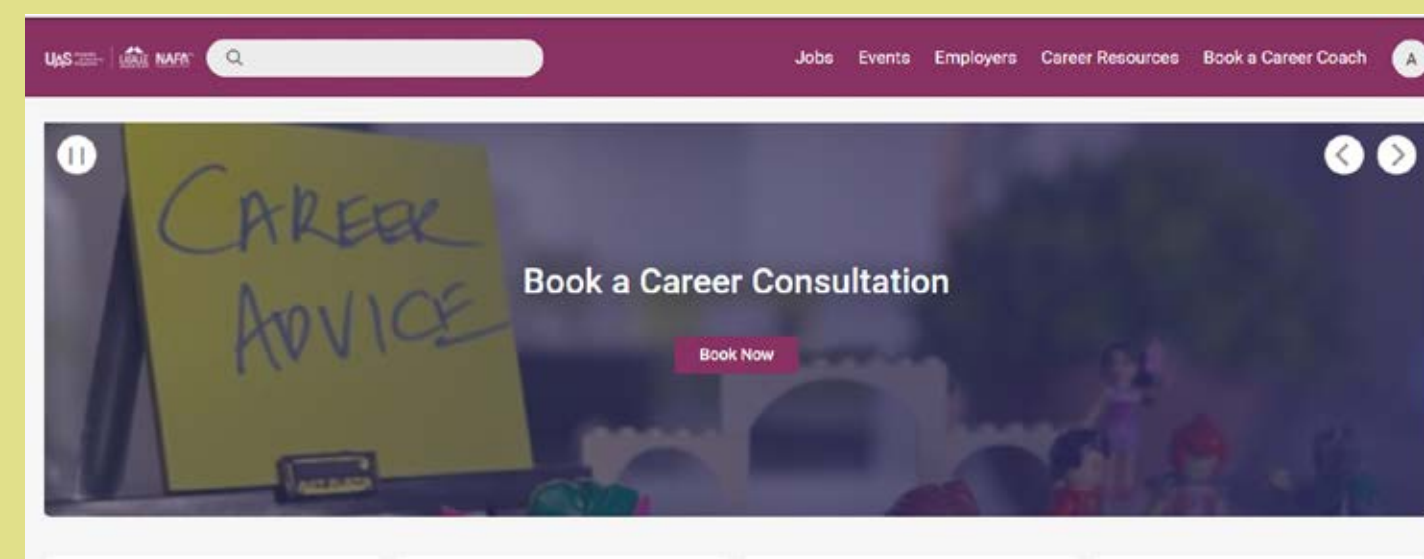
IN-depth workshops



In preparation for two new IN-depth tracks introduced in the next academic year, facilitator training sessions were conducted to enhance workshop delivery. A Community of Practice on facilitation skills was also organised, fostering peer learning and the exchange of best practices.



Career Skills module workshops



UAS Career Portal

To prepare students for the workplace, the **Career Skills module** offers 11 online workshops led by industry professionals, enabling flexible, self-paced learning in essential workplace competencies.

The newly launched **UAS Career Portal** featuring over 4,000 company profiles, provides students with a one-stop platform to access job opportunities, event listings, and track their experiential learning (EL) projects.



## External Examining System

As part of the University's Academic Quality Assurance Framework, UAS developed and operationalised an External Examining (EE) System to ensure objective reviews of student assessments and programme outcomes, reinforcing its commitment to continuous improvement and academic excellence.

Distinguished professors from leading global institutions such as the **Royal College of Art** and **University of the Arts London – Central Saint Martins** have been appointed as External Examiners.

The inaugural EE exercise was conducted in August 2025 with the MA/MFA programmes, and will be extended to the BA programmes in June 2026.



## Professorial Conferment Framework

To recognise faculty's outstanding contributions in teaching, research, and service, UAS established the Professorial Conferment Framework.

The evaluation process is overseen by the Professorial Conferment Evaluation Panel, comprising distinguished external professors from the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Management University, alongside internal professors to ensure rigour and integrity.

Following a faculty-wide sharing session, UAS launched its first Professorial Conferment Exercise in March 2025.



## New programmes approved

UAS approved two new university-awarded programmes in the year: Bachelor of Arts (Honours) Music Business by LASALLE, which will see its first intake in August 2025; and Bachelor of Music (Honours) by NAFA, jointly awarded by the Royal College of Music (RCM), which will commence in August 2026.

To mark this milestone, senior leaders from RCM visited the University in January 2025 to discuss the programme launch and explore further collaborations.





## Building a culture of cross-institutional sharing and learning through the Community of Practice

To promote knowledge exchange and faculty development, UAS established a **Community of Practice (COP)** co-chaired by the Provosts from LASALLE and NAFA. Two sessions were held during the year, where colleagues shared insights on student mental wellness and developments in the creative industries. These sessions fostered mutual learning and sparked ideas for future collaborations.



## Advancing cross-institutional research collaboration

UAS organised two workshops to foster research collaboration across institutions. Faculty members enthusiastically explored potential research themes and partnership models, laying the groundwork for future cross-institutional research initiatives.



## UAS Arts Education Symposium

The second edition of the **UAS Arts Education Symposium—*The Work of Art Now: Practices and Pedagogies in Southeast Asia***—convened regional artists, educators, and researchers to examine contemporary questions around arts practices and education in the region.





## Deepening academic and strategic partnerships

*Building meaningful collaborations between academia and industry*

### Student-centred industry engagements

UAS continued to strengthen its ties with the industry through a series of impactful initiatives that bridged education and professional practice.

Students and faculty from LASALLE and NAFA engaged directly with global leaders such as Laura Kim, Creative Director of Oscar de la Renta and Monse, through a series of intimate **industry dialogue sessions**. These exchanges provided rare insights into creative leadership and real-world industry practices.

UAS also formalised its first industry **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** with **Arts House Limited (AHL)**, unlocking opportunities for internships, project work, and community engagement with resident artists—giving students hands-on experiences in the arts ecosystem.



To prepare students for future careers, the inaugural **UAS Career Fair 2025 and Portfolio Night** brought together 1,900 students and 145 employers across three days of talks, networking, and portfolio showcases.



“ UAS plays a pivotal role in cultivating a future-ready creative workforce by bridging academic learning with industry practice... Through structured internships and collaborative projects with UAS, we are co-developing critical entry points into the industry for emerging talent. ”

**Ms Yeow Ju Li**

Assistant Executive Director,  
Arts House Limited



The **UAS Bootcamp 2025** attracted over 165 sign-ups across multiple career pathways. Through interactive sessions on freelancing, start-ups, financial literacy, and career resilience, students gained valuable exposure to diverse career possibilities.



Together, these efforts reflect UAS' commitment to equipping students with industry exposure, practical skills, and the networks they need to thrive in the creative economy.

## Institutional and international engagements

### Strengthening global collaborations

UAS leadership embarked on its first international engagement trip, forging deeper ties in Hong Kong and Beijing. The trip included the signing of **MOUs with the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts and Beijing Dance Academy**, paving the way for student and faculty exchanges, joint projects and cross-border collaboration.



Image credit: The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts



Image credit: Beijing Dance Academy



During the visit, the leadership also engaged with the heads of art and design of **Hong Kong University, City University of Hong Kong, Peking University, and Tsinghua University** to discuss opportunities for academic exchange and collaboration. UAS is working towards MOUs to formalise these partnerships.



Image credit: Peking University



Image credit: Tsinghua University



Image credit: City University of Hong Kong

### Hosting institutional delegations

Over the year, UAS hosted several overseas delegations, including a visit from **Bath Spa University**, which resulted in the signing of an MOU to support student and faculty exchanges, joint research and other collaborative initiatives.



Locally, UAS also hosted the **Junior College Principal Council**, sharing the breadth of UAS-awarded undergraduate programmes and exploring outreach strategies to attract prospective students.





Delegates from the **French Embassy** also visited UAS to discuss opportunities for cultural and educational exchanges, including potential connections with French higher education institutions to facilitate student exchanges and further studies.



To further enrich its academic ecosystem, UAS joined the **World Dance Education Alliance**, initiated by the Beijing Dance Academy. This affiliation strengthens UAS' international network and affirms its role as an active contributor to global discussions on the future of dance education.



### Enriching the student experience

*Celebrating a vibrant, student-centered environment that nurtures growth, well-being, and community*



Student Services at UAS plays a key coordinating role, working closely with the arts institutions to foster an environment where students can learn, grow, and realise their aspirations. This includes facilitating financial aid schemes, supporting student well-being and leadership development through mental wellness and Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs), and organising milestone events such as Open House and Convocation.

In August 2024, UAS welcomed its **first cohort** of undergraduate and postgraduate students from LASALLE and NAFA, pioneers of UAS-conferred degree programmes.



Our achievements and collaborations

The students participated in Orientation activities and the **UAS Welcome Party**—warmly greeted by academic leaders, faculty and senior students.



Throughout the year, UAS deepened its focus on holistic student development. The inaugural **UAS Mental Wellness Week** provided a platform for open conversations on mental health, offering drama-based workshops, Pilates, emotional literacy sessions, and more to encourage self-care and emotional resilience.



In a significant move to promote cross-campus collaboration and access to shared resources, students and staff now enjoy **expanded borrowing privileges across both LASALLE and NAFA libraries**. This initiative strengthens academic support and reinforces an integrated ecosystem at UAS.

Library	Ngee Ann Kongsi Library	Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple Library
Location	LASALLE at 1 McNally Street, Blk F, Level 4	NAFA Campus 1, Wing A, Level 6/7
Website	<a href="https://elib.lasalle.edu.sg">https://elib.lasalle.edu.sg</a>	<a href="https://library.nafa.edu.sg/">https://library.nafa.edu.sg/</a>



Beyond academics, student life thrived through an expanding range of **Co-Curricular Activities (CCAs)**. What began with the formation of the joint UAS Big Band in 2023 has since grown into a flourishing CCA scene. New clubs like the Board Games Club, Volleyball Club and Ceramics Club are all taking flight—fostering collaboration, creativity, and student leadership.



To engage future cohorts, **Open House @ UAS 2025** welcomed over 600 visitors who experienced the energy of the UAS community through campus tours, career and academic talks, and meaningful conversations with university leaders.



Together, these initiatives reflect UAS' unwavering commitment to creating a supportive and inspiring environment—where students feel seen, heard, and empowered to thrive.



## Shaping our future

### Charting a collaborative path for long-term transformation and impact

UAS laid its long-term ambitions with the development of its **10-Year Whole-of-University Strategic Plan**, casting an eye on the future.

Anchored in UAS' founding aspirations and shaped through extensive engagement with UAS trustees, faculty, staff, students and alumni from LASALLE and NAFA, as well as industry captains, the plan outlines the following strategic objectives:

- ▶ Build a firm foundation to transform higher arts education and enhance the arts institutions' contributions to Singapore's arts and culture ecosystem
- ▶ Contribute to the creative economy and social cohesion, and be a thought leader in the creative arts through arts education and practice
- ▶ Connect nationally, regionally, and globally, strengthening our role as a collaborative hub

Following an initial phase of blue-sky conversations, over 250 staff and faculty gathered for the first Strategic Plan Sharing Session in March 2025, with students and alumni contributing further insights in subsequent sessions.



The strategic plan is a living document that takes an iterative and phased approach towards our vision. UAS is committed to listening and co-developing thought leadership on practice, education, research and innovation with our stakeholders, preparing students and graduates for meaningful and sustainable collaborations.