



**Office
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Affairs**

THE BRIDGE

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Editor's Message

Welcome back! This is the fifth issue of The Bridge. We hope you will enjoy reading all about the new opportunities available to you from our most recently signed MOUs resulting from NSU delegation visits to Italy and the UK. (Those trip summaries are also included.) As usual we highlight an NSU alum, an international faculty member and an international student. We hope you will enjoy reading this issue of The Bridge! In case you don't already follow us on Facebook, here is the link to our page: <https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/>.

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The Vice Chancellor's Visit to Italy

After participating in the QS Subject Focus Summit on Humanities and Social Sciences Research in Venice (29-31 August 2018), the Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam was invited to visit two universities: Università Iuav di Venezia and Sapienza Università di Roma. Thus, on Friday, 31 August 2018, Professor Islam, along with Mr. Fawaz Rob Khan, Assistant Professor of the Department of Architecture at NSU, visited Università Iuav di Venezia, one of the best universities in the world for Architecture. The Vice-Chancellor and Mr. Khan were welcomed

warmly by the Università Iuav di Venezia representatives. Professor of Architectural and Urban Composition and the Director of the Doctorate School at the Università Iuav di Venezia, Dr. Benno Albrecht, with his assistant Mario, was extremely gracious and hospitable. The Vice-Chancellor and Mr. Khan were given a tour—where they saw the library, main campus, archives and other important places—to get an idea about the Università Iuav di Venezia. Mr. Khan played an intrinsic role by translating phrases or parts of conversation from Italian to Bengali when it was necessary. Professor Islam introduced NSU to Dr. Albrecht and showed its promotional video. He was impressed and showed instant interest to collaborate with NSU. The Vice-Chancellor, afterwards, expressed his intention to have a joint research program with Università Iuav di Venezia to which Dr. Albrecht showed great interest and possibility. This visit was immensely successful as a three year-long MOU was signed between the two universities. The MOU will allow the universities to implement exchange programs for both teachers and students in the framework of European programs. The MOU will permit cooperation in the performance of research and design on matters of common interest as between IUAV and NSU. It will also facilitate the planning and performance of teaching activities in a coordinated manner, including the possible institution of activities that entail reciprocity in academic qualifications awarded. A special thanks go to Mr. Khan for accompanying the Vice-Chancellor to the Università Iuav di Venezia and the Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Architecture, Ms. Shaila Joarder for being the common link between the two universities.





On Monday, 3 September 2018, thanks to the efforts by Associate Professor of the Department of Italian Institute of Oriental Studies, Dr. Sanjukta Das Gupta, the Vice Chancellor visited the Director of the department and other senior professors at Sapienza Università di Roma. A rich and productive discussion took place between the Vice-Chancellor and the representatives of Sapienza Università di Roma which increased the possibility of signing an MOU. Sapienza Università di Roma is a top-ranking university with very high research output. Therefore, for research collaborations, NSU is interested to form an alliance with Sapienza Università di Roma. The Vice Chancellor also met with the Ambassador of Bangladesh to Italy while he was in Rome.

NSU Delegation Team's Visit to the UK

An NSU delegation team, led by the past Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. M A Kashem flew to the United Kingdom on the 3rd of September 2018 to promote NSU to the universities in the UK and create more partnerships. The members of the NSU delegation team included the Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam, members of the Board of Trustees, Mr. M A Kashem, Mr. Benajir Ahmed, Mrs. Rehana Rahman, Mrs. Yasmin Kamal, the Director of the Office of External Affairs, Dr. Katherine Li and the External Affairs Officer, Dr. Hasanuzzaman.

On Wednesday, 5th of September, the NSU delegation team first went to Aga Khan University (AKU) for a meeting where they met with the Manager of Marketing and Professional Programmes, Ms. Alexandra Khan and the Head of Educational Programmes, Mr. Stephen Lyon. During the meeting, NSU learned about AKU and its students. AKU expressed their interest in NSU by offering to send researchers to Bangladesh to study Islam. A Research Fellows program could be introduced where researchers would come to NSU and work in their area of interest. Furthermore, AKU staff would be interested in giving public lectures, workshops on specialization: public or private. Moreover, AKU staff could also teach one class at NSU for a semester during their summer break.

On the same day, the NSU delegation team went to Regent's University London to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). They met with Head of Programmes Business and Management, Dr. Vincent Ong, Head of Programmes Liberal Studies, Professor Lawrence Phillips, Assistant Dean and Research Leader, Professor Jonathan Liu, Head of School of Psychotherapy and Psychology, Prof. John Nuttall, and, IPO Study Abroad Manager, Tanya Glazer. After signing the MOU, the delegates and the representatives of Regent's University London discussed many issues like entrepreneurship, global diversity, a Bachelor's in Innovation, 3+1 programs, a Master's in Luxury, Digital Analytics and more. It was a fruitful discussion and the two universities are now strategizing on the steps to activate the MOU.





On Thursday, 6th of September, the delegation team went to the University of Greenwich where they met with the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Javier Bonet, Director of Greenwich Research and Enterprise, Professor Peter Griffiths, Head of International Office, Mr. Christopher Bustin, and the Director of Accounting and Finance Programmes, Mr. Nick Hand. The NSU delegation team was warmly welcomed by the university representatives and learned more about the University of Greenwich. The delegates discussed issues like Ph.D. programs, joint programs, research collaborations, and student/faculty exchange. The University of Greenwich showed interest in joint programs where they could award a Ph.D. degree to students. As the University of Greenwich already has academic infrastructure in Bangladesh at undergraduate and graduate degree levels, they could do it for the Ph.D. level as well. The representatives also were informed that students of the University of Greenwich would be interested in short-term (2-3 weeks) study abroad programs in Bangladesh.

On the same day, the NSU delegation team visited Queen Mary University of London (QMUL). There, they met with International Partnerships Administrator, Dr. Miao Lin, International Partnerships Officer, Ms. Clare Burke, Sr. Lecturer of Robotics & Renewable Energy and the Director of Outreach and Recruitment, Dr. Hasan Shaheed. During the meeting, the delegates discussed Ph.D. opportunities at QMUL for NSU graduates and junior faculty members. This was the topic with the most synergy between the two universities. They proposed that NSU's Electrical Engineering Program students could come to QMUL. Similar to the already existing system in India, students could start at NSU for the first year, and then come to QMUL as second-year students. QMUL even offered to waive tuition fees. For the next step, NSU will look into the other MOUs of QMUL and then draft an MOU for NSU and QMUL.

On Friday, 7th of September, the NSU delegation team went to SOAS University of London where they met with Pro-Director of Learning and Teaching, Professor Deborah Johnston and Head of International Office, Mr. Nick Butler. The delegation team discussed the possible areas for collaboration such as joint research, faculty and student exchange, dual degrees, and teacher-focused collaboration. From their discussion, the delegates of NSU learned that SOAS focuses on languages and Social Sciences. Because of BREXIT, SOAS wishes to diversify and is looking for international students for exchange programs. They are interested to have international students for both a year-long and short summer exchange programs. SOAS is also looking for a trusted partner in South Asia for International Management programs. This is also where NSU offered to play a quintessential role by extending its hand in partnership.



On the same day, the NSU delegation team visited its partner institution, Cambridge University. While there, they met with Principal Researcher/Associate Professor of Global Health, Dr. Rajiv Chowdhury, Scientific Coordinator of CAPABLE Programme, Dr. Giulia Loffreda, and Ms. Sophie Weston. In that meeting, Cambridge University representatives met three NSU alumni who completed their Master's at Oxford and were now pursuing their Ph.D.s at Cambridge. Seeing the alumni and learning more about NSU, the representatives of Cambridge University were impressed. This meeting boosted up the possibility of progressing from having a letter of intent to an MOU with Cambridge University.

On Monday, 10th of September, the NSU delegation team resumed their activities. On that day, they went to the University of Coventry where they met with the Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor International, Dr. Gary Armstrong, Deputy Director Business Development, Dr. Jasmine Samra, Associate Dean International, Dr. Mark Norrish, Associate Head of School International, Dr. Martyn Morris, and Associate Head of School International, Dr. Richard Luck. The University of Coventry, previously a polytechnic institution is a full-status university with 40 collaborative partnerships that allow 1600 students to study in their home country without stepping a foot on the campus. They have partners mostly in Southeast Asia, the Middle East, Sub-Saharan Africa, and Europe. The delegates found that collaboration is possible between NSU and the University of Coventry. The School of Health and Life Sciences will be the starting point for a collaboration. They are also interested in jointly supervised Ph.D. programs.

On the following day, 11th of September, the delegation team visited the University of Manchester. They were welcomed by the representatives of the university, Senior Lecturer in HR Management, Dr. Chris Rees, Reader in Human Resource Management, Dr. Aminu Mamman, Lecturer in Development Management, Dr. Kate Rowlands, Senior Lecturer in Development Management and Policy, Dr. Farhad Hossain, and Teaching Fellow Development Manager, Mr. Paul Barry.



The delegates and the University of Manchester representatives had a thorough discussion where the NSU delegates learned that the two universities could collaborate on joint research, Ph.D. programs, and Capacity Development (NS) funded by the EU. The NSU delegates invited the faculty members from the University of Manchester to visit NSU and learn more about it before deciding how the two institutes could come together for collaboration.

On the next day, 12th of September, the NSU delegation team visited Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) for a meeting. There the delegates met with the Associate Dean of Global Engagement, Mr. Alastair Balchin, Head of International Partnerships, Mr. Steve Waterworth, and Senior Lecturer, Dr. Yolande Durowaju. From the meeting, the NSU delegates learned that LJMU is very interested to have student and staff

exchange. They are open to having research collaborators and jointly-funded research programs (as there are funds available from the UK government). They also showed interest in Ph.D. programs to improve staff quality for NSU faculty by distance learning with time in the UK. The two parties ended the meeting on a congruent note agreeing that collaboration between the two universities was of great possibility.

Also on that same day, the NSU delegates went to the University of Leeds where they sat down for a meeting with BSc International Business Programme Director, Mr. Andy Smith, Post Graduate Program Director, Dr. Surender Munjal, Director of Student Services, Dr. Heinrich Voss and Mohammad F. Ahammad. The representatives of Leeds informed the delegates that Leeds is a research-intensive university that attracts students from all over the world. It is ranked #1 in the UK and ranked #4 in the world by the Financial Times for International Business and for their Global Masters in Management. The delegates learned that Bangladesh is very important for them from an International Studies perspective. They are interested in attracting Bangladeshi students and are willing to offer six scholarships for international students. It was suggested that international conferences might be the best way for NSU to collaborate with the University of Leeds. Leeds is open to joint Master's program and (3+2) programs that naturally progress into a Master's at Leeds.

On the 13th of September, the delegation team went to the University of Hull to meet its representatives and to sign an MOU. While there, they met with the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hull, Professor Susan Lea, Director of Academic Partnership Office, Professor Andrew Abbott, Associate Dean (International), Dr. Lynne Barrow, Associate Dean (International), Dr. Amanda Lee, Professor of Science Communication, Dr. Mark Lorch, Lecturer in Social and Community Studies, Dr. Julia Holdsworth, Director of International Office, Dr. John Terry, Faculty Academic Manager, Dr. John Walker, and International Relations Officer, Mr. Calum Porter. In the afternoon, NSU signed the MOU with the University of Hull. Afterwards, aspects like staff exchange and joint research, visiting scholar scheme, etc. were discussed. They have professed that NSU students can receive special scholarships and the possibility of a Tier 1 Entrepreneurship Visa with a 1200 pound investment where students could stay for 2 years. The University of Hull representatives also offered to send their academics for a Postgraduate Certificate program – a program directed at the improvement of teaching/pedagogic skills of academics.

Finally, on the same day, the NSU delegation team concluded their official trip to the UK by visiting the University of Nottingham. The delegates were accompanied by Associate Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Knowledge Exchange, Professor Richard Emes. They also met with Associate Professor of Epigenetics, Dr. Reinhard Stöger, Associate Professor of the Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences, Dr. Andrew Jackson, Associate Professor of Cancer Immunology and Course and the Director for MSc in Oncology, Dr. Ian Spendlove, Pro – Vice Chancellor and Dean of Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Dr. John Atherton, Associate Professor of Anatomy & Vascular Biology, Dr. Lopa Leach and more. The representatives of the University of Nottingham expressed their desire to form an alliance with a university in Bangladesh and NSU extended its hand of friendship showing its reciprocated feeling. The University of Nottingham is interested to acquire young research fellows for its Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences Research program. They mentioned that their "Vice Chancellor's scholarships – Knowledge without Borders", waives 50% of the entire tuition fee, is a very lucrative program for international students. The University of Nottingham is also interested in joint research on infectious disease, diagnosis of disease locally to which Professor Islam added that NSU has relationships with hospitals through NSU Genome Research Center. Therefore, that could be the aspect that brings the two universities together.



NSU's SIPG Signs an MOU with BRACU's CPJ

PHOTO BY

On Sunday, September 30, 2018, NSU created an historic moment by partnering up with a local university of Bangladesh, BRACU. NSU, living up to its name, is the first university in Bangladesh to ever partner up with a local university. This partnership is between NSU's coordinating unit South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) and BRACU's Centre for Peace and Justice (CPJ). People present during the MOU signing were the Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam, Dean of SHSS, Prof. Dr. Abdur Rob Khan, Director of the Office of External Affairs (OEA), Dr. Katherine Li, Advisor to SIPG, Professor Salahuddin M. Aminuzzaman, Executive Director of CPJ, Barrister Manzoor Hasan OBE, and Coordinator, Mr. Shahariar Sadat. This MOU is a direct result of the Director of OEA, Dr. Li's outreach effort. Dr. Li states, "NSU is always the first to do new things. Through this MOU, we have set an example that we can partner up with local universities and uplift each other". The purpose of this MOU is to encourage collaboration on a range of activities, including joint research, organizing conferences and public lectures, and facilitating exchange programs for students. This MOU will encourage qualified practitioners, including from CPJ, to take up short or long-term research and/or teaching positions at SIPG and vice versa. This three year-long MOU will be a shining example that NSU is an institute that values collaboration over competition.



NSU Signs an MOU with Saint Mary's University

On Monday, 01 October, 2018, NSU gained another Canadian partner by signing an MOU with Saint Mary's University. This MOU was sent to NSU after the representatives of Saint Mary's University (Dr. Malcom Butler, Vice President of Academic & Research and Dr. Mohammad M. Rahaman, Associate Professor of the Faculty of Business) signed the document agreeing to the conditions stated in the MOU. From NSU's side, the Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam and Assistant Professor of the Department of Economics, Dr. Asad Karim Khan Priyo signed the document to formally bind the two universities together in partnership. The Director of the Office of External Affairs (OEA), Dr. Katherine Li was there to witness the MOU signing. The MOU permits the two universities to promote joint research/publication, exchange of faculty members and administrative staff, undergraduate and graduate students, research outcomes, academic publications and more. Academic and educational exchange programs can be implemented following mutual consultation. This five year-long MOU will expire in August 2023. Therefore, interested individuals are requested to visit the university website (<https://smu.ca/>) to find their desired programs for further education. NSU strongly promotes Canadian education, which is why at the end of November, the OEA is organizing an informational session on further studies in Canada where representatives from the Canadian High Commission will come and enlighten the participants on Canada and its education system.



NSU Signs an MOU with University of Newcastle

On Thursday, October 11, 2018, NSU gained another partner by signing an MOU with the University of Newcastle, Australia. NSU currently has partnerships with seven Australian universities and intends to increase this number by threefold and possibly more. The people present during the MOU signing were the Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam, Dean of SBE, Professor Mahboob Rahman, Director of BBA Programs at SBE, Dr. Mehe Z. Rahman, Director of the Office of External Affairs, Dr. Katherine Li, and Academic of Newcastle Business School, Mr. Nimay Kalyani. The objectives of the MOU are to facilitate and promote cooperation between the two universities. This five year-long MOU will enable faculty and students from both institutions to participate in programs of study, research, and training. It will facilitate opportunities for academic/staff and student exchange/study abroad. This MOU will also create opportunities for NSU's junior faculty members to get their Ph.D. degree from the University of Newcastle. If faculty members are interested to pursue their Ph.D. degree from the University of Newcastle, they are requested to look for Ph.D. programs at <https://www.newcastle.edu.au/> or email the Director of the Office of External Affairs, Dr. Katherine Li (katherine.li@northsouth.edu) to know about the available opportunities.



International Faculty Member Feature

I: From your bio, we can see that you have taught in the United States of America and Jordan. What influenced you to come to Bangladesh, specifically North South University?

JH: To be honest, it was like a child spinning a globe to determine where they would someday live; I applied everywhere and NSU was the first university to say "come here." I had no specific ties to or knowledge of this region, but I was up for anything, and anywhere was as good as anywhere else.

I: What are the differences that you notice in the teaching paradigm of NSU and other universities?

JH: I'm not exactly sure what you mean by "teaching paradigm." One relevant different, I guess, would be the centrality of examinations; doing well is treated as the only goal for a course by both the student and the authority.

I: What was your biggest challenge after coming to Bangladesh?

JH: I had been around a bit, so adjusting anywhere isn't all that hard. I suppose it would be adjusting to the pressure: always noise and people everywhere, always someone wanting something.

I: What is it like to be an international faculty member at NSU? Can you share some anecdotes?

JH: It is odd being a privileged minority; I get more respect than I know what to do with. Everything is "sir" this and "boss" that and people giving me the right of way. It was somewhat unnerving at first, but I quickly got used to it.





I: Since you have been teaching here for a while and married a Bangladeshi woman, can you understand some words or phrases in Bangla? Have you ever heard or understood Bangla conversations about you?

JH: I would prefer that you keep this professional and not mention my wife. I have picked up some functional Bangla, and might have studied it in some structured way (like I did Arabic in Jordan) if I had the time. Alas, I do not. Also, by this point I rather like not knowing Bangla very well, as people speaking a language that you don't understand is like the twittering of birds; you can still concentrate on reading, of which I must do a lot, while people are talking, and I rather like being able to do that.

I: What would be your advice for your future students?

JH: Learn. A university is a place where people serve you, try to make you better; you get a job, you will be serving other people. Take advantage of that and enjoy it while you can.

Dr. Hileman has been teaching at NSU since Fall, 2014 and teaches mostly literature courses.

Alumni Feature



Hailing from NSU, batch 052, Dr. Mahzabeen majored in Electronics and Telecom Eng. for her bachelor's degree. She was also a visiting Professor at NSU during Spring 2015 and has always maintained a close connection with her teachers and colleagues here, alongside, mentoring students at NSU for research and graduate school applications. During her student years at NSU, she served as a teaching assistant several times and feels she learned the most during that period. After graduating with Summa Cum Laude, Dr. Mahzabeen joined BRACU as a lecturer in the EE Department and continued for two years before she set out for higher education in the USA. Dr. Mahzabeen became the first woman from a private university to receive the Fulbright Science and Technology Award in 2011 from Bangladesh. She joined Stanford University to pursue her Masters and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering. She chose an interdisciplinary research path for her Ph.D., which focused on developing a state-of-the-art miniaturized biosensor. She had the opportunity to pioneer this project that is under patent application. Dr. Mahzabeen also acquired industry experience through an internship at Facebook Inc. as a hardware engineer. During her

Ph.D., she was awarded the prestigious Schlumberger "Faculty for the Future" Fellowship. Dr. Mahzabeen's biosensor research garnered interest for application in health monitoring of astronauts in space missions and hence received a grant from NASA for further exploration of its potential. After completing her Ph.D. last year, she has been working at Stanford as a Postdoc under the NASA grant, alongside teaching at San Jose State University.

Interviewer: What was it like to receive the Fulbright Science and Technology Award in 2011?

Fariah Mahzabeen: It was a great pleasure to be selected for the Fulbright S&T Award, especially to have broken the stereotype, being the first awardee from a private university in Bangladesh. It was also an immense honor to have been selected from a highly competitive pool of worldwide candidates. Through the program, we gathered great insights into the US culture and were privileged to visit some publicly inaccessible areas of establishments like the Kennedy Space Center and the White House. Most importantly, it was a great experience of multicultural exchange where I proudly represented Bangladesh!

Interviewer: Can you explain, in a simpler fashion, your research on biosensors?

Fariah Mahzabeen: Health technologies are tending towards point-of-care solutions, that is, to provide diagnosis as well as treatment at the patient's side. Such technologies are crucial for developing countries like Bangladesh where access to medical facilities may be difficult in remote areas. These technologies are also adopted in the most developed countries in smart wearable devices such as the smart watch. These devices comprise one or multiple biosensors that detect a particular health parameter in real time. My biosensor combines electronics, optics and biochemistry - an interdisciplinary solution to provide portable, real-time and low-cost detection of certain disease markers in blood and other body fluids.

Interviewer: What are your plans after the Postdoc? Would you be willing to come back to NSU and maybe teach here?

Fariah Mahzabeen: After my postdoc, I would like to gain some industrial research experience in the USA. By the time I come back to Bangladesh, I hope to bring a rich repertoire of research experience and network of collaborations to be fostered between USA and Bangladesh, as my goal would be to elevate the R&D scenario in Bangladesh. Upon my return, I would consider teaching at NSU.

Interviewer: What has been your biggest challenge and what is your advice for NSU graduates?

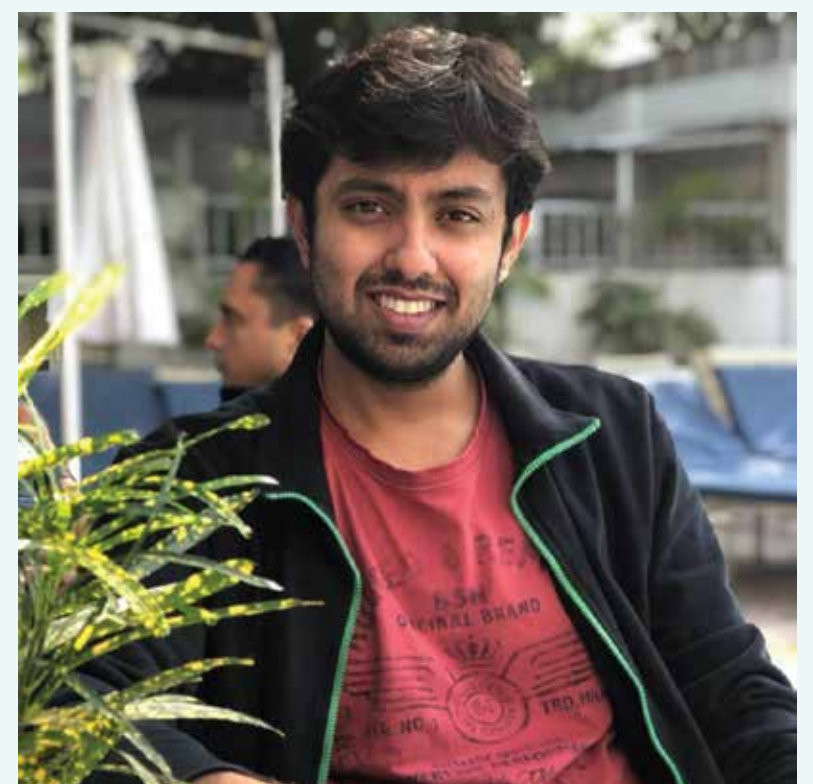
Fariah Mahzabeen: I would indicate two major challenges during my time at NSU (1) The curriculum of ETE (now EE) was formative back then and hence there were few lapses in core courses and hands-on training, which have significantly improved now as I found when I was teaching during 2015. (2) Another major hurdle was the lack of undergraduate level research. Research experience is a significant consideration in graduate admissions, especially in top-tier schools. Nevertheless, I am very happy to see that my colleagues at NSU are now working on great research projects. Moreover, during their last US visit, the VC and BoT members shared that they are prioritizing the improvement of the research facilities at NSU, which is greatly optimistic! My advice to current NSUers would be to engage with research early on and stay optimistic and persistent in pursuit of their goals!

International Student Feature

Mahin Ahsan is a postgraduate student and pursued a master's degree in Marketing and Management from North South University. He is from Pakistan and he always gives his best in everything. He is an optimist.

Interviewer: Tell us something about yourself.

Mahin Ahsan: Hi, I am Mahin Ahsan from Faisalabad, Pakistan. I am an optimist, I always give my best in everything I do and then whatever the outcome I accept it positively. I did my Electrical Telecommunication Engineering from Islamabad, Pakistan, later started my career in Textiles in Dhaka and then pursued a master's degree in Marketing and Management from North South University, so I guess I like to try different things in life. I love to sketch and sing. Other than that, I just enjoy life.



Interviewer: What made you choose NSU as your alma mater?

Mahin Ahsan: Well coming from a different country, I was completely unaware of the good Universities Bangladesh offered. So, the first platform where my search started was google, I simply googled top Universities of Bangladesh. And all my search lead me to North South University, which is the first and top private university of Bangladesh. The online reputation, and after consulting with different people I decided to go for NSU. Moreover, it is offering the best MBA program in the country and is certainly reputed as an excellent university with foreign qualified faculty members. So, all the above made my choice easy.

Interviewer: How is your experience with NSU so far?

Mahin Ahsan: I would say I had a great experience. Coming from a country with not so pleasant history between us. I was a bit cautious in the beginning, as how I would be treated by my fellow course mates in the University. But to my relief and surprise I was overwhelmed by the friendly nature of local students of NSU. Be it studying for exams, group discussions, project preparations I had ample help from them. My friends have been a great support throughout. I have made some good memories within the classrooms of NSU and made some friends whose memories I would cherish for life. NSU has given me a lot more than just great friends and a good education. It has helped me meet the girl I will be spending the rest of my life with.

Interviewer: NSU is known for being diverse and tolerant of cultural differences. As an international student, do you see that in NSU as well? Do you see NSU as a culturally diverse institute that not only accepts but also celebrates cultural differences of everyone?

Mahin Ahsan: Absolutely, my friends and faculty members have all been very supportive. Pakistan and Bangladesh are not very culturally different, so I always felt at home during cultural events taking place in the university like Pohela Boishakh, falgun. As an International student doing MBA in evening classes I mostly missed out on the day's events. Coming from a country which has a history with Bangladesh one would think that the journey must have been difficult for me. But it was an absolute pleasure enjoying the company of my fellow course mates. I caught Bangla language quickly but whenever I would stumble in speaking my fellow classmates would go to an extra length by attempting to speak in my language. Moreover, they would wish me on my cultural days, which made me feel that I was no where less than home.

Interviewer: What was it like when you came to Bangladesh for the first time? What were the differences you noticed here from Pakistan? Did you face any difficulties adapting to those differences?

Mahin Ahsan: As soon as I landed Dhaka, the humidity hit me. The weather in Dhaka is very different from Faisalabad. Although in January there is winter in Bangladesh, but the temperature was high from Pakistan, I was coming from 8°C and landed at 19°C, so it was a bit hot for me. The second difference was the jam-packed traffic of Dhaka, it took me 2 hours to reach home, it was a lot of time to cover 8 kms. Now it doesn't bother me as it did in the beginning. The only difficulty I had adapting was the language difference, but as many of the words are similar in our languages I caught on and was able to speak Bangla a bit within a short time. Apart from the language I don't find much difference between our countries.

Interviewer: Anything you wish to tell the future applicants of NSU?

Mahin Ahsan: My advice to the applicants is to gear up for the challenges which NSU will be offering. Every course has its set of challenges which will be enlightening once you overcome them. Take your projects seriously and work hard on them all the researching techniques and opportunities will later help you succeed in the corporate world.