



THE BRIDGE

The Official Newsletter of the Office Of External Affairs

ISSUE 7 JAN-FEB '19 Editor's Message

Welcome back to The Bridge! The OEA kicked off the new year with a large number of events and visits by foreign delegates. With each issue of the newsletter we try to provide a short synopsis of these activities. If any of them catches your interest and you want to follow up with anyone mentioned, feel free to contact us on the 5th floor of the Admin Building. NSU is recognized around the world as a highly reputed university and we are receiving more and more requests for collaboration. As always, your input and feedback is welcome. Happy Reading!

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Dr. S. M. Anisuzzaman from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Malaysia Gives Seminar on Activated Carbon

On 03 January
2019, Senior Lecturer of
Chemical Engineering
Programme in the Faculty
of Engineering, Universiti
Malaysia (UMS), Malaysia,
Dr. S. M. Anisuzzaman
paid a visit to NSU for a
seminar titled, "Application of Activated Carbon
for a Better Environment".
The Office of External
Affairs, NSU organized

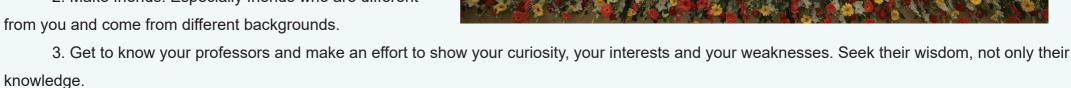


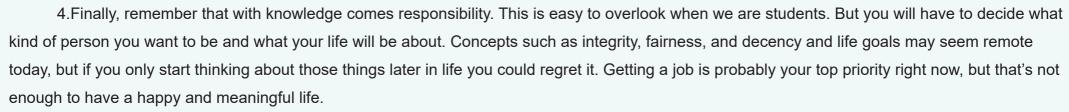
the event. The main agenda of his visit was to ensure a possible collaboration between NSU and UMS. At first he talked about the industrial training attachment for both the students and academicians and wished to establish a Research and Development (R & D) joint collaboration for postgraduate studies, research grants and publication between the two universities. In his speech he said that they have three different research units. These are: Artificial Intelligence (AiRU), Material and Mineral Research (MMRU) and Energy Research Unit (ERU). He also showed interest in student mobility, faculty exchange and signing an MOU between NSU and UMS. Further he moved on talking about his recent research topic titled, "Application of Activated Carbon for a Better Environment" and detailed how activated carbon can be used to prevent water and air pollution. The session concluded with a QA session between the guest speaker and the audience.

Words of Wisdom for the Freshmen Students of NSU by the Canadian High Commissioner

n 19 January 2019, the new Student Orientation Programme of Spring'19 was held at NSU. Among the distinguished guests was the Canadian High Commissioner. His Excellency Mr. Benoit Préfontaine was invited by the Office of External Affairs, NSU. As part of his speech, Mr. Benoit Préfontaine made the following four suggestions to the newly admitted students.

- 1. While you study at North South University, you will not only be preparing yourselves for a career, but also for the rest of your life. Don't focus only on acquiring knowledge and skills to find a job, take time to enhance your personal attributes and to equip yourselves for adult life.
- 2. Make friends. Especially friends who are different





This speech will help the new comers of NSU to pave their way towards a bright future. A short campus tour followed which including the NSU Library and the NSU Auditorium the visit ended with a fine lunch in the BOT Conference room, NSU.



21 January 2019, Dr. Jamal Uddin, Professor of Chemistry, Department of Natural Sciences, Coppin State University, led a seminar titled, "Nanotechnology: Small things matter and have Power to Transform Energy, Health and the Environment" organized by Office of External Affairs, NSU. In his presentation he described the field of Nanotechnology and how it is used in research centers from medical science to television screen making, mobile phones, computers, laptops, various cleansing substances and other significant things. He shared his ideas about starting a center for Nanotechnology at North South University. He also appreciated the faculty members and students of NSU saying, "They are very talented and the students here are fabulous".





He said that he is interested to support NSU personally, if NSU wishes to establish a Nanotechnology Center and suggested that both universities' administrators could collaborate to build it. He suggested that NSU could start by introducing some basic 100 level or 200 level courses on Nano-science with the help of Departments of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Pharmacy, and Engineering. Altogether these departments could form a team to work on this issue. An exchange of faculty members and students from both sides could definitely strengthen the effort. He showed a strong interest in introducing a joint research and publication effort between NSU and CSU.

British Council Returns to NSU for Fame Lab, 2019 Recruitment Session

n 27 January 2019, a team from the British Council came to NSU for a FameLab (which is a Science Communication Competition) recruitment session. The main target of this competition is to teach participants to break down Engineering, Technology and Mathematical concepts into three-minute presentations without any Power Point slides. Those students who are nationally selected and win the second round get the chance to attend Master classes taught by renowned scientists from the UK. Finally, one person will be the winner of the competition and the British Council will bear all the expenses of that person for further procedures in UK. In 2018 an NSUer named Alvee Islam, student from the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (EEE) participated in the FameLab Competition. His topic was "Neuro Plasticity". It won him the FameLab 2018 Bangladesh competition. Afterwards, he was sent to the UK for the following phases of the competition including the Master Class program. Mr. Islam describes his FameLab experience as, "FameLab 2018 was the best learning experience for me, too. I met so



many talented people there. Most importantly, I learned more about myself, about where I need to improve and what I am already good at. I came back to Bangladesh with fresh ideas about my career. After my graduation, I plan to go to abroad for my Masters and I am also thinking of starting a Science Communication series through YouTube. If I am asked to say one thing that I learned from this journey, I would say that there is no limit to learning. FameLab has changed my life and I'm very grateful to the British Council for this opportunity".

Dr. Tapan Sarkar of Griffith University Visits NSU



On 29 January 2019, Dr. Tapan Sarkar, Senior Lecturer, Research Chair, Griffith Centre for Sustainable Enterprise and Director (Engagement), Department of International Business and Asian Studies, Griffith Business School, Griffith University visits NSU. The event was organized by the Office of External Affairs, NSU. The invited speaker gave a presentation titled, "Implementing SDGs by Leveraging Social Innovation: A Case study of SELCO Solar India Ltd". He started by discussing the recent GU projects completed via the Griffith Centre for Sustainable Enterprise. Further he described what he felt was a sustainable economy and the role of local governments in achieving a sustainability economy. He believes that the local councils can play a greater role in this regard.



Then he talked about energy as an important area for SDGs to address. He also gave a small brief on the SELCO company and its operating areas. They did a case study on this company and ended up with three specific findings:

- 1) SELCO's work on alleviating poverty and hunger,
- 2) dealing with climate change, and
- 3) the challenges SELCO overcame in creating an energy eco-system,
- 4) raising capital for its innovations.

At the end there was a QA session during which he told the students about the new approaches regarding this social issue.

Delegate from Curtin University, Australia Visits NSU for Collaboration

On 30 January 2019, Head of Department of Petroleum Engineering
Discipline, Faculty of Science and Engineering, Curtin University (CU), Dr. Mofazzal
Hossain came to NSU to give an information session organized by the Office of
External Affairs. Dr. Hossain started his presentation by giving a background of CU.
He said other than their main campus, which is located at Perth, Australia, CU has
campuses in Singapore, Malaysia, Kalgoorlie, Dubai and the Mauritius. Further he
talked about different faculties and programmes that CU offers which include Faculty of Science and Engineering, Business and Law, Humanities and Health Sciences.
Dr. Hossain then said that if students earn a first class result in their Bachelors then
they can directly apply for PhD degrees in CU. Other than this they offer a 3-year
Master's programme only for science graduates to become engineers. After that in a
question answer session he talked about various scholarships and said that the



scholarships would be based on factors like excellent academic background, personal publications, etc. Finally he said that CU wants to have a collaboration with NSU.

Higher Education Opportunities at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand



On 04 February 2019, Mr. Jamy Mohaimen, Lecturer (on-leave), Department of Accounting and Finance, North South University visited NSU from Victoria University of Wellington. He was invited by the Office of External Affairs, NSU as a guest speaker for the seminar titled, "Higher Education Opportunities at Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand". He gave an informative speech to the audience about the higher education opportunities in New Zealand. First he explained why students from Bangladesh should consider choosing New Zealand for higher studies. He also gave students some advice from his personal experience about which programme might be suitable for whom.

He said if any person is interested to go for his/her PhD programme in Victoria University, or any University which is located in New Zealand that s/he would be able to avail the tuition fees as a local citizen. So, no other cost would be charged for being an international student. Afterwards, he also discussed some scholarships given by the New Zealand government and the application procedure. Then he told the audience about the possibilities of permanent residence in New Zealand and showed them ways to avail the opportunity.

University of Wyoming Delegate Gives Short Talk at NSU

On 07 February 2019, Assistant Director, International Recruitment, University of Wyoming (UW), Mr. Ryan Goeken gave a short talk at NSU. The Office of External Affairs, NSU organized the event. At the beginning, Mr. Goeken gave some background information about UW and also explained the Masters and PhD programmes UW offers for international students. He also said that there is one NSU alumni studying there already. Afterwards he shed light on the campus life. He said WU has 300 plus different student organizations including one Bangladeshi student organization. Further he discussed the application process of WU. He said that the students could start applying while they were in their final year. Then he said for most graduate programmes the IELTS requirement is 6.5 and the TOEFL score may vary from 80 to 85. The students also need to submit a statement of purpose in



order to fulfill their application process. Afterwards he gave information on the overall cost and scholarship issues. Finally, there was a fine QA session between the audience and the speaker.

A Delegation Team Visits NSU from Kansai University



Dn 25 February 2019, a delegation team from Kansai University-関西大学 (KU) visited North South University. The meeting was about developing an academic collaboration MOU between Kansai University and North South University to include a faculty and student exchange programme between the two universities. Other than their interest to create the MOU, they also showed interest in joint research collaboration with NSU in areas like Agribusiness and 'Smart' Agriculture. NSU Chair of ECE showed interest in robotics and mechatronics engineering. Chair of Mathematics expressed interest in working with Kansai faculty to design a Bachelor's Degree curriculum at NSU. Chair of History & Philosophy showed enthusiasm to start a Japanese language program at NSU. They also discussed scholarships for NSU students saying NSU students could pay their tuition fees to NSU while studying in Japan. Afterwards, Director of

Research, NSU noted that the Dept. of History and Philosophy would be interested in faculty exchange specifically with the Department of Philosophy and Ethics at KU. Dean, SEPS showed interest in working on extensions of laboratory research with a view to joint publications. They also talked about another option that might be to have senior year students spend a semester at KU when doing their capstone project research.

Bhutan Embassy Representative Visits NSU

On 26 February 2019, the Third Secretary, Bhutan Embassy, Mr. Kezang Wangchuk had a meeting at the Office of External Affairs, NSU with the Director, Dr. Katherine Li and the International Affairs Officer, Samina Alam Miti. The talk included a discussion about helping team OEA participate in the Bhutan Education Fair 2019. They also discussed the area of Peace Education, as NSU is launching a Center for Peace Studies. Mr. Kezang Wangchuk said that Bhutanese students would be interested in pursuing higher studies in Engineering, Public Health, Palliative Care or other areas within Health Science field, Climate Change, and Peace Studies. He informed Dr. Li that for research on Environmental Science & Management the OEA could contact the Royal Thimphu College as a good option. For peace and happiness, the embassy could make an introduction to Mr. Dasho Karma Ura, President of the Centre for Bhutan Studies & Gross National Happiness Studies. Further he added that the Royal Institute for Governance and Strategic Studies (RIGSS) is also a good option for academic collaboration.

International Student Orientation Programme

On 27 February 2019, as in the past semesters, the Office of External Affairs, NSU organized a International Student Orientation Programme for the international students enrolled in NSU for Spring'19 semester. This time OEA welcomed some 8 to 10 international students from different nations like, India, Ethiopia, Somalia, China, Nigeria, Uganda, and Palestine enrolled in the programmes like - MPH, MESM, MA in English, EMBA, BBA and Law. OEA also invited the currently enrolled international students. They were asked to share their experience staying in Bangladesh, the educational system and culture of NSU. There new students got to know how they might cope here. The new students were also given the opportunity to share their new experiences and thoughts. In the event a nice collaboration took place between the current and new interna-



tional students. To conclude the session, refreshments were served and to celebrate another successful international student orientation.

International Faculty Feature

Dr. Rossen Roussev is a Visiting Associate Professor of Philosophy at North South University. He has been also an Associate Professor of Contemporary Philosophy at "St. Cyril and St. Methodius" University of Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria, a Visiting Associate Professor of Philosophy at the Kazakh British Technical University, Almaty, Kazakhstan, an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Kyungpook National University, Daegu, South Korea, and an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at St. John's University in New York, He also taught at the University of Aktobe, Kazakhstan, the City University of New York, and Mercy College in New York, He obtained his doctorate in philosophy from The New School for Social Research in New York (2005) under the supervision of Professor Agnes Heller. His research interests are mainly in contemporary philosophy, including phenomenology, philosophy of language, critical theory, philosophy of culture, and trans-cultural studies. His publications include the monograph Philosophy and the Structure of Modernity: Fragments of Actualization (2005), as well as articles in his areas of interests. He is the editor of the first issue of Global Conversations: An International Journal in Contemporary Philosophy and Culture. He was the chair of the first International Colloquium in Contemporary Philosophy as Global Conversation at "St. Cyril and St. Methodius"



University of Veliko Tarnovo in the spring of 2018, and is now actively involved in the organization of the second one with heading "Home and Journey around the Globe" to be hosted by Ala-Too International University and the International University of Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek this spring.



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

Rossen Roussev: To me, it is like belonging to an international community working for a lofty cause. Everyone looks busy with their own tasks while contributing to the common good of knowledge and education. Here I do the job I have done everywhere I have worked, and it feels great. At NSU I feel at home, even as I come from afar.

Interviewer: From your bio, we can see that you taught in several different countries. What differences did you experience in each of the places? What influenced you to come to Bangladesh, specifically North South University?

Rossen Roussev: Each country, each place, each community is unique in itself. What impressed me most everywhere I have worked is the warm welcome I received from colleagues, students, and local people, who showed their willingness to make me part of their community - different as I was. What influenced me to come to Bangladesh is that I felt a special attraction to this part of the world with a culture with which I was – to a certain extent familiar with from my studies and work in philosophy. North South University in particular is a young academic institution which aspires to promote a world-class quality in learning, modern-day critical and creative thinking, and the values of openness and dialogue, which is what our ever more globalized world needs most.

Interviewer: Tell us something about the research areas you have an interest in, (e.g. contemporary philosophy, phenomenology, philosophy of language, critical theory, philosophy of culture, and trans-cultural studies).

Rossen Roussev: My academic interest is a topic which I need to be careful to discuss for fear of an over-expanded answer. Thus I shall be very general. I have been fascinated by the entire history of philosophical ideas but ultimately focused on the last century and a half. Wittgenstein's philosophy of language was my first big passion in contemporary philosophy; then came phenomenology and existential philosophy with the names of Husserl and Heidegger at the forefront. The critical theory of the Frankfurt School and of the post-structuralism thinkers of the second half of the last century was my next big philosophical excitement. From there I moved also into pragmatism, feminism, philosophy of culture, transcultural studies, and most recently into philosophy of globalization.

Interviewer: You were the Chair of the first International Colloquium in Contemporary Philosophy and Culture titled as, "Converging Differences: Global Thinking and Local Existence" – tell us about your experience.

Rossen Roussev: The International Colloquium in Contemporary Philosophy and Culture with the heading "Converging Differences: Global Thinking and Local Existence" took place at - "St. Cyril and St. Methodius" - University of Veliko Tarnovo last year. As an Associate Professor of contemporary philosophy in the philosophy department there, I had to take the lead in organizing it. The idea of the colloquium was born in an exchange between Professor Tomokazu Baba of the University of Nagano, Japan and me. It was initially conceived of as an academic seminar of the newly-formed Society for Philosophy as Global Conversation for which we did only a limited advertising. But as the response was very positive we expanded the advertising, which ultimately meant that what we originally planned as a relatively small forum became an international conference with participants from more than 10 different countries. The Colloquium also included an international cultural program featuring artists who address the relation between global and local in their work.

Interviewer: How did you become the editor of the first issue of Global Conversations: An International Journal in Contemporary Philosophy and Culture?

Rossen Roussev: The answer to this question is linked to the previous one. The international colloquium was perceived as a success and many of the participants felt that it had seized not just upon an enthusiasm that was triggered by our call for papers but upon a more fundamental need of global cultural awareness, exchange, and conversation. In the ensuing informal discussions, the ideas of regular conferences and a journal of the Society for Philosophy as Global Conversation got circulated and ultimately embraced. Thus, the journal Global Conversations was born and I became the editor of its first issue.

Interviewer: How did you get involved with, "Home and Journey around the Globe" to be hosted by Ala-Too International University and the International University of Kyrgyzstan in Bishkek this spring?

Rossen Roussev: The second International Colloquium in Contemporary Philosophy and Culture of the Society for Philosophy as Global Conversation is with the heading "Home and Journey around the Globe." As an active member of the Society, I had to be inevitably involved again, even as another enthusiast, Professor Jon Mahoney of the Kansas State University, is managing the organization on the spot. We are pleased that by this moment our concept has attracted a number of participants – both academics and artists – from all continents of the globe. I also hope that North South University can be the venue of one of our future conferences in philosophy and global culture as well.

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

Rossen Roussev: My advice to all students is to never stop dreaming, to be open for the differences of the world, and to try to make it a better place for all. Anyone in any profession can make a contribution to this cause. I believe that the idea of synergy whereby parts perform better within the whole than separately is valid for happiness as well – we can be happier together than we can be just individually.

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

Rossen Roussev: The organization of the academic work in NSU is similar to that of the American universities in which I have worked and studied. It differs from some European and Asian universities in that the latter have a specific differentiation between lecture and practice classes. Though the difference is to my mind inessential, I personally prefer the American and NSU approach which gives more freedom to the faculty in the organization of the teaching-learning process.

Interviewer: Since you have been living and working here for a little while now, how is your Bangla?

Rossen Roussev: Uh! Still in very early stages, dhan'wabad!

NSU Alumni Feature



Hosne Al Noor believes those are the luckiest people on earth who get to do what they like to do. Being a cricket lover since his childhood, he always wanted to become a cricket commentary and at times he was curious about sports journalism. He felt that a Bachelor's degree in English would provide a good foundation for him to be a journalist in the future. Since then, he began his Bachelor's in English at North South University, and started getting attracted to the teaching profession. He says his teachers' welcoming nature and teaching techniques left a huge impact on him. He was still a bit confused between teaching and journalism, but the course titled "Teaching Practicum" conducted by Shahidul Islam Khan Sir served as a career-defining course for him. Since then, there was no looking back, He said that, "yes, cricket was my passion, but teaching is a type of profession that will enable me to create a positive impact on society and the community."

After graduation he taught as an English Language Teacher in a renowned English-medium school. Then he completed his post-graduation in Masters in Applied Linguistics and TESOL from Macquarie University, Australia. During his Masters, he again realized that the teaching quality that NSU provided to him was really high in standard of teaching and grooming students. He says, "NSU made my life easier even at the global stage. After working as an educator at Randstad Education, Sydney, 9 am working as an educator at North Ryde Public School, Sydney. North South University deserves big thanks from me as it played its part in shaping my career."



Interviewer: If I quote you, "Teaching is a type of profession that will enable me to create a positive impact on society and the community". Why do you think so?

Hosne Al Noor: Teaching is not only about preparing the students for the future with sound academic knowledge, it also involves creating a sense of morality and honesty. At the end of the day, we educate ourselves to become better human beings. This is where the role of a teacher comes into play as he/she shares direct associations with his/her students. On top of that, academic knowledge helps us to become productive citizens who can contribute towards the economic development of the country. A teacher can make his/her students visionary by contributing to their vision, knowledge and awareness, so that the students can play a crucial role in developing the society and community as a whole.

Interviewer: What differences did you notice about the teaching methods used at Macquarie University and NSU?

Hosne Al Noor: At the undergraduate level, we build up our theoretical knowledge and during our post-graduate studies we capitalize on our existing knowledge to work at a deeper level and with more detail in the area of our interest. From that point of view, North South University prepared me for the future with its diverse academic curricula and interactive teaching techniques. NSU academic courses involve exams, presentation, small scale research etc. Such practices on a frequent basis made my life easier while doing my Master's at Macquarie University. I was an English major at the Bachelor's level and while doing my Masters, I hardly came across any academic courses in which I didn't have any prior knowledge. I thank North South University largely for this. At NSU, I found the teachers really helpful and dedicated towards the betterment of the students. On the other hand, Macquarie University focuses more on research and self-study with good supervision from the teachers.

Interviewer: What are the differences you feel between teaching in an English medium school in Bangladesh and teaching in Australia? **Hosne Al Noor:** At the school level in Australia, the students put equal emphasis on academic studies and extra-curricular activities. They are not judged entirely by their academic performance. As a result, they can feel the freedom and it helps them to flourish in what they love to do. Being a teacher here in Australia, I act more like a friend with my students who is a facilitator at the same time.

While teaching in Bangladesh, I found that the teachers and students here mostly go by the rules and focuses mostly on academic progress only. This is one area we need to improve in our Bangladesh education system and we have a fair distance to go.

Interviewer: Why don't more Bangladeshi students follow their passion when they choose their majors at the University (e.g. cricket for you)? Is there any difference in Australia?

Hosne Al Noor: I think it's the lack of future security that stops the students from following their passion while choosing their major at the university level. In Bangladesh, we focus more on which degree will get us a job rather than what we enjoy doing or what we can do best. We need to create more positions to accommodate people. However, Bangladesh being a small economy with a large population makes things tougher for us. In Australia, most of the people follow their passion as they know that they have the scope of earning by doing the job that they prefer.

Interviewer: Tell us about your experience working as an educator at Randstad Education, Sydney and North Ryde Public School, Sydney. Hosne Al Noor: I am enjoying my time as an educator in Sydney. While working under the banner of Randstad Education, Sydney, I was a casual educator and worked in 37 difference schools of New South Wales (NSW). I found meeting new kids in different schools quite fascinating. Working in different schools also facilitated my acculturation process. Now, I am working in one particular school and enjoying teaching in an environment where I help my students to flourish.

Interviewer: Any comments or career advice for the students currently doing or will be doing their Bachelors of Arts in English in the future?

Hosne Al Noor: I feel one should study English only if he is passionate about this particular subject. The beginning of your career might not be as smooth as one business or IT graduate experiences. However, it's your passion, desire to learn and eagerness to develop yourself that will get you through in the long run.

Interviewer: From your experience what would your advice be to other NSU students coming to Australia?

Hosne Al Noor: Getting used to Australian culture or its education system might not prove to be very challenging for an NSU graduate. However, I'll suggest the current students to put their best effort while doing their term paper for different academic courses. Those small scale research projects will prepare you for a degree in Australia. NSU is giving you the scope and opportunity to learn and master your research skill. Now it's up to you to decide where you want to take yourself from there.

International Student Feature

Sameera Sanduruwan iis an international student from Sri Lanka. He did his Bachelor's in Political Science from the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka. Now he has got enrolled into the Masters programme at the Department of SIPG, NSU.

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

Sameera Sanduruwan: NSU is one of the best private universities in Bangladesh. The faculty members here are highly qualified and hold higher degrees from the leading universities of the world.

Interviewer: How is your experience with NSU so far? Can you share some early stories from when you first came to Bangladesh?

Sameera Sanduruwan: After coming to Bangladesh I had to face trouble with my accommodation as well as finding it a bit difficult to adjust with the new culture. But, after coming to NSU my boredom disappeared day by day.

Interviewer: Can you share an interesting story while you are in the exchange program at the University of Bergen, Norway?

Sameera Sanduruwan: 5 months in Norway was the best part of my life. Everything there was a new experience for me. I learned many new things after going there. The people there are very friendly and everything is well maintained. The education system was quite different from South Asia. A student-centered education system is implemented in Norway.

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

Sameera Sanduruwan: Yes, I see NSU as a culturally diverse institution. Various programs and festivals belonging to various religious groups are often celebrated inside the premises of NSU. This provides the opportunities for students from different religious backgrounds to know the other cultures.

Interviewer: Where do you see yourself in the future?

Sameera Sanduruwan: After completing my Master's course in Public Policy and Governance from here I would like to join as a lecturer in University of Peradeniya.

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

Sameera Sanduruwan: The students who are coming from abroad should be provided with proper accommodation from the university.