



**Office
of External
Affairs**

THE BRIDGE

The Official Newsletter of the Office Of External Affairs

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Editor's Message

Dear Readers, thank you for following the activities of the OEA. In this issue you will find a number of new MoUs. For your convenience, please review the current MoU list to see what opportunities there are for you <http://institutions.northsouth.edu/o/ea/international-affairs/partnership/list-of-mous/>. Be advised that the OEA will be having a workshop about MoUs for all of you soon, so stay tuned!

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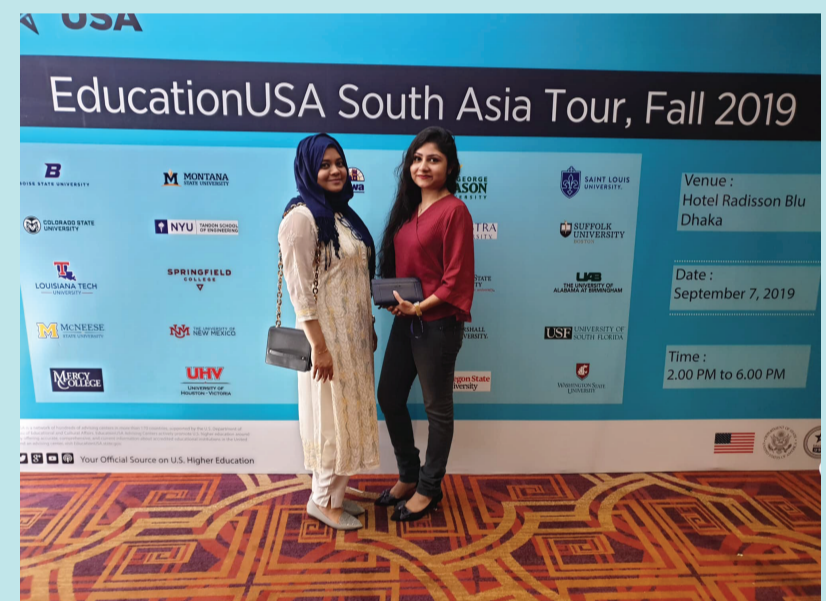
Photographs

Public Relations Office

EducationUSA South Asia Tour 2019

The U.S. Embassy in Dhaka hosted 14 U.S. universities and a consortium of others as part of the EducationUSA South Asia Tour Fall 2019 at the Radisson Blu Dhaka Water Garden Hotel on 7th September 2019. They included:

- Boise State University
- Colorado State University
- Louisiana Tech University
- McNeese State University
- Mercy College
- Montana State University
- NYU Tandon School of Engineering
- Springfield College
- The University of New Mexico
- University of Houston-Victoria
- University of Northern Iowa
- University of Missouri-Columbia
- University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
- Youngstown State University



There was also a special session for Bangladeshi institutions to closely interact with the representatives of the U.S. universities which included: "F1 student Visa Information Seminar" by U.S. Embassy Consular Officers, an EducationUSA Presentation on "Higher Studies in the United States" and a panel event with alumni sharing their U.S. experiences entitled, "Life in the U.S. and its impact on the Global Career Market." They discussed post-graduate opportunities, exchange and partnerships.

The representatives from NSU were Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer and Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer of Office of External Affairs (OEA). They individually interacted with every booth at the event. Sharing their experience attending this tour, Ms. Alam and Ms. Azmeri said, "This tour was organized after a 4-year gap which made it hugely popular." Dhaka was the first stop in the EducationUSA South Asia Fall Tour 2019, which included Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Pakistan. EducationUSA is a U.S. Department of State network of over 425 international student advising centers in 178 countries, including seven advisers based in Bangladesh.

The network promotes U.S. higher education to students around the world by offering information about opportunities to study at accredited institutions in the United States. All EducationUSA's services are free of charge. The South Asia Fall Tour 2019 aimed to facilitate international student access to U.S. higher education institutions by bringing together U.S. universities committed to internationalization with qualified, motivated, and well-prepared students from the local community. US Ambassador Mr. Earl R. Miller expressed his enthusiasm. "It's great to see the level of interest from Bangladeshi students in today's fair." Bangladesh has become one of the top 25 countries sending students to the United States. Currently, there are about 7,500 Bangladeshi students studying in the United States at undergraduate and graduate levels, a five percent increase over the previous academic year. Bangladeshi students have a strong record of success at U.S. institutions.

Ambassador Miller added, "Increasing the number of Bangladeshi students studying in the U.S is a top priority of our Embassy in Dhaka. To support that effort, we have seven EducationUSA advisers in three locations around the country: the Embassy's American Center, the Edward M. Kennedy Center in Dhaka, and the American Corner in Chattogram. We look forward to adding an additional adviser in the near future in another location outside of Dhaka. We also offer EducationUSA resources and remote advising services through our American Corners in Khulna, Sylhet, and Rajshahi."

University of Texas, Arlington (UTA) Delegation Visits NSU



A University of Texas, Arlington (UTA) delegation visited NSU on 7th September 2019. UTA delegation members were:

- Professor Vistasp M. Karbhari, President
- Professor Pranesh B. Aswath, Vice Provost for Academic Planning and Policy

Participants in the UTA meeting from NSU were:

- Professor Atique Islam, Vice Chancellor
- Professor Norman K. Swazo, Director Office of Research
- Mohammad Nazmul Islam, Professor, Structural Engineering & Chair, CEE
- Dr. Javed Bari, Professor & Chairman, CEE
- Professor Partha Pratim Dey, Chairman, Department of Physics & Mathematics
- Prof M A Matin, Coordinator, EEE/ETE program, ECE Department
- Professor Dr. Sharif Nurul Ahkam, Director, Office of Graduate Studies
- Dr. Hassan Mahmud, Professor, Department of Environmental Science Management
- Dr. Katherine Li, Director of the Office of External Affairs

The purpose of the meeting was to activate the MoU signed back on 8th November 2018. The items discussed were:

1. Collaborative research - Faculty members from UTA College of Engineering and NSU will jointly write grant proposals and engage in research. They will also submit grant proposals for NSU internal research funding through NSU Office of Research (<http://www.northsouth.edu/research-office/>) in addition to pursuing external funding.
2. Study tour - A group of students and one or two faculty members from NSU will visit the UTA campus for 2 weeks during the Fall and Spring semester. Students will attend lectures, seminars, labs, and other student-centric events on campus during the tour and the NSU faculty members will participate with UTA faculty members in conducting classes and seminars during the tour. This study tour will act as a preparatory tour for the NSU students to pursue their MS and PhD at UTA. Likewise, a group of students and one or two faculty members from UTA will visit the NSU campus for 2 weeks. NSU has established a similar program with Macquarie University in Australia for the Business School students.
3. MS & PhD - Aforementioned study tour will be a pivotal point to encourage NSU students and junior faculty members to pursue MS and PhD degrees at UTA. MS and PhD theses can be jointly supervised by both UTA and NSU faculty members.
4. UTA-NSU transfer program, dual-degree program.



International Refugee Committee (IRC) Meets South Asian Institute of Policy & Governance (SIPG) and Office of External Affairs (OEA)

Mr. Manish Kumar Agrawal, Country Director of IRC Bangladesh and Mr. Stephen Katende, Policy and Advocacy Advisor visited NSU for an introductory meeting with Dr. Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Professor & Director, SIPG & Chairman of Department of Political Science & Sociology, Dr. Rizwan Khair, Associate Professor of SIPG and Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA to follow up on topics related to the "International Conference on the Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh: Challenges and Sustainable Solutions" that NSU held, from 27th- 28th July 2019.

1. They wanted to know how NSU intends to take the outcomes of the discussion forward.
2. What the opportunities and barriers are to engage with the government on medium-term solutions.
3. IRC and NSU will be starting a joint research collaboration very soon.



OEA Director Visits Edward M. Kennedy (EMK) Center

Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA visited the EMK Center on 17th September 2019. She met with Mr. Asif Uddin Ahmed, Acting Director of the EMK Center who is also the Director of the MBA Program at the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB).

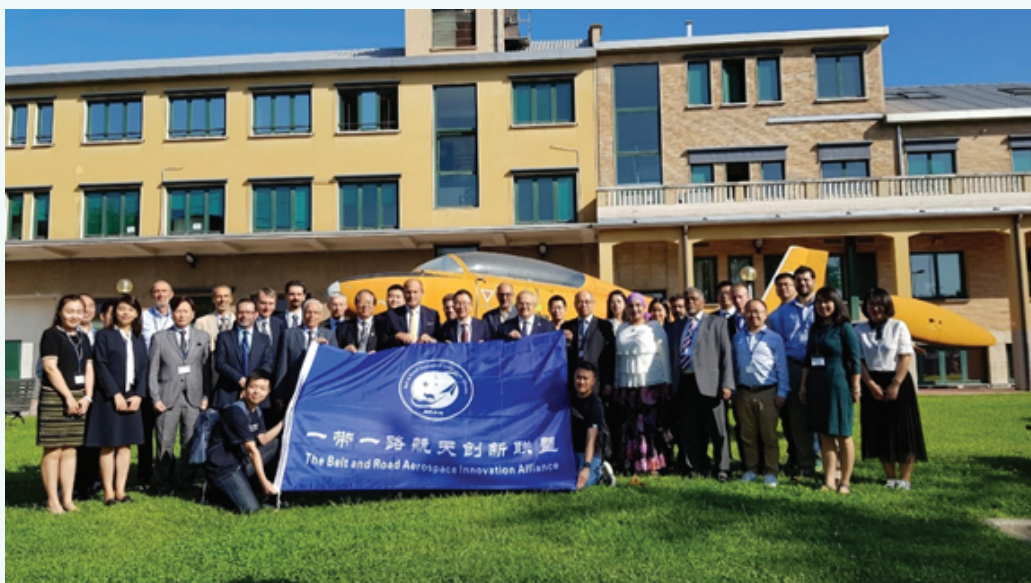
The visit coincided with an Information Session for which Dr. Katherine Li was invited to give a talk on Soft Skills. EMK was initially created in 2012 through a partnership between the Liberation War Museum and the American Center of the U.S. Embassy Dhaka. It is a non-partisan platform committed to open dialogue, informed action, individual and artistic expression, as well as personal and professional development.

According to their website, "EMK Center defines public service as service on behalf of the people – by anyone, anywhere, anytime. They honor the legacy of public servants worldwide, exemplified by the men and women who fought for Bangladesh's independence in 1971 and by U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy, who was moved to take action then and throughout his life in support of his convictions." In February 1972, Senator Kennedy planted a banyan tree on Dhaka University's campus as a living tribute to friendship, resilience, and hope which inspired the design of the logo for the EMK Center.

The EMK center is open to university students from all over the country to participate in their public programs, training opportunities and the use of their facilities. For more information, please visit their website: <https://www.emkcenter.org/>.



Belt & Road Aerospace Innovation Alliance (BRAIA) Meeting in Milan, Italy



North South University delegates attended the 2019 council meeting of the Belt and Road Aerospace Innovation Alliance (BRAIA) in Milan, Italy from 2nd-5th September 2019. The NSU delegation consisted of the Honorable Vice Chancellor of NSU, Dr. Atique Islam and Dr. Shahnewaz Siddique, Assistant Professor in the Department of ECE at NSU. The NSU delegates also attended the 2018 BRAIA council meeting, which was held in Xi'an, China. During the 2018 meeting North South University was granted membership in BRAIA through unanimous consent of the other members.

Currently 51 universities are members of BRAIA. The 2019 meeting was held in Politecnico di Milano (POLIMI), which is one of the premier engineering universities in Italy. During the 2019 meeting in-depth discussions were held among the member organizations about mechanisms on how research collaboration could take place between various members.

In addition, new members were inducted and an academic committee was formed. Politecnico di Milano (POLIMI) provided a tour of the laboratories and facilities. The labs visited included the subsonic wind tunnel laboratory, the rocket propulsion laboratory and the advanced design laboratory. It is anticipated that participation in BRAIA will open doors for NSU to collaborate in research with other members of this council.

Flinders University Australia Delegation with AUSTRADE

A delegation from Flinders University Australia visited NSU on 22nd September 2019. The purpose of this visit was to establish a research collaboration and exchange program between the two universities. This visit was followed up by an "Information Session about Scholarship Opportunities at Flinders University". The delegates from Flinders University were:

- Mark Charnley, Senior Manager, International Recruitment South Asia, Africa, Middle East, Americas & Europe
- Melissa Willoughby, Country Recruitment Manager South Asia, Africa, Americas & Europe
- Brett Wagner, Manager International Recruitment & Engagement, College of Business, Government & Law, College of Science & Engineering
- Julie Inglis, Manager, International Recruitment & Engagement, College of Nursing & Health Sciences, College of Medicine & Public Health

Mostafizur Rahman, Business Development Manager, Australian High Commission also attended the discussion. The representatives from NSU included Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA, Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA and Sara Tasin, Student Worker, OEA.



According to their website, “For over 50 years, Flinders has been a centre of inspiring achievement: from their pioneering research and excellence in teaching to the positive impact they have in the communities they serve. Inspiration leads to innovation. But innovation is more than just a buzzword at Flinders. It extends from their founding Vice-Chancellor Peter Karmel’s entreaty to ‘experiment and experiment bravely’ through to the creative, trailblazing work of their staff, students and alumni.”

Their “Go Beyond Scholarship-2020” includes programs in:

- Business
- Creative Arts
- Education
- Engineering
- Environment
- Law
- Psychology
- Public Health
- Science
- Social Sciences
- Social Work
- Information Technology

The Go Beyond Scholarship is for semester 1 and 2 of the year 2020. Students must enroll in full-time studies. The scholarship value of 25% is applied across the first 2 semesters of study for all eligible courses and is a reduction in tuition fees.

North South University-The Daily Star Roundtable: A Roadmap for Sustainable Solutions to the Rohingya Crisis



“A Roadmap for Sustainable Solutions to the Rohingya Crisis,” was jointly organized by North South University and The Daily Star on 24th September 2019 at 11:00 am at Azizur Rahman Conference Hall, The Daily Star. A set of policy briefs based on the research papers presented at the International Conference on Rohingya Crisis in Bangladesh held in July at



NSU was disseminated at the roundtable based on some 100 papers presented at the international conference under the following themes: peace building, diplomacy, health, environment, economy, and gender.

NSU Prof Salahuddin M Aminuzzaman moderated the discussion which was also addressed by former Ambassador Shamim Ahmed, Dhaka University, Prof. ASM Ali Ashraf, NSU faculty members, Prof. SK Tawfique M Haque, Dr. Mahbubur Rahman, Dr. Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Dr. Bulbul Ashraf Siddiqi, NSU Director of OEA, Dr. Katherine Li, and UNHCR Senior Protection Officer, Ms. Haruno Nakashiba.

Prof. Nikolaos Tzokas Visits NSU School of Business & Economics (SBE) to Discuss Further Accreditation

Professor Nikolaos Tzokas visited NSU SBE regarding CABS and AMBA accreditation. On 21st September he met with Mr. Benajir Ahmed, Chairman, Board of Trustees, NSU. Mr. M. A. Kashem, Member Board of Trustees, Prof. Atique Islam, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Mohammad Tayeenul Hoque, Assistant Professor & Chairman, Department of Marketing & International Business, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA and Dr. Hasanuzzaman, External Affairs Officer, OEA were also present. Another meeting took place with Prof. Dr. Jashim Uddin Ahmed, Acting Dean, SBE on 22nd September with faculty members from departments of the SBE.

His accreditation vision is to position NSU SBE within a distinguished group of accredited academic institutions in the region and worldwide. This will directly support the overall vision of NSU to be and remain a center of excellence in higher education.

Overall, gaining international accreditation will enhance NSU’s national, regional and international recognition and will enable NSU to continue attracting the best students and capable faculty and staff from all parts of the world. Moreover, gaining additional international recognition will solidify NSU’s position as the top university in Bangladesh. The reasons for considering this accreditation are:





- It signifies quality of provision that is externally assessed/approved.
- Allows comparison and contrast among competitive learning offers worldwide.
- Provides a sense of obligation, commitment and pride to the accredited institution.
- Helps students communicate their competitive skills and competencies to their current or future employers, thus becoming a 'turnkey' resource for competing successfully in an ever-increasing hypercompetitive recruitment market-space nationally, regionally and internationally.
- Facilitates the search process for new recruits and talent.
- Reduces risk in the recruitment process.
- Relieves students from critical 'on the job' training costs.
- Enhances the institutions own accreditation process and efforts (e.g. in the supply chain).
- Adds value to NSU's brand.
- Reduces risk when allocating CSR budget.
- Supports CSR and other philanthropic activity by allowing for investment in places which make an externally validated contribution to sustainable prosperity.

Engineering Institute of Technology (EIT) Visits NSU



Delegates from the EIT visited NSU on Thursday, 26th September 2019. The purpose of their visit was to explore a possible collaboration with NSU. The delegates from EIT were Prof. Akhtar Kalam JP, Chair of Academic Board and Mr. Rolf Baum, International Recruitment Manager. Representatives from NSU were Prof. Atique Islam, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Javed Bari, PE, Dean, SEPS, Dr. Shazzad Hosain, Professor, Department of ECE, Dr. Sifat Momen, Associate Professor & Undergraduate Co-coordinator, CSE, Department of ECE, Mr. Shaikh Shawon Arefin Shimon, Lecturer, Department of ECE and Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA.

In the meeting they discussed further study opportunities for NSU students at EIT which offers a 3+2 option (3 years Bachelors and 2 years Masters). Students from NSU can transfer their credits to EIT after the completion of their 1st year at NSU, if they so desire. Students can also finish half of their degree at NSU and the remaining half at EIT in Australia. EIT will have 2 intakes in 2020. One will be in February and another in July. EIT's per year tuition fee is AUS \$22,750. For the Masters, the minimum IELTS required

score is 6. Students who has a 5.5 score in IELTS can attend an Executive Program for 5-6 weeks. EIT has been delivering industry-driven programs for over 10 years.

EIT offers Australian-accredited engineering Diplomas, Advanced Diplomas, Graduate Certificates, Bachelor Degrees and Master Degrees. They also deliver non-accredited Professional Certificates of Competency, which are designed to impart skills that can be immediately implemented in the workplace making them ideal for ongoing professional development. All programs of EIT are offered online, while their four Bachelor degrees and their Master of Engineering (Industrial Automation) also take place on-campus.

According to their website, "EIT is a sister company of the reputable engineering training organization, IDC Technologies. IDC has been operating for over 30 years, from offices throughout the world, delivering practical short courses to well over 500,000 engineers and technicians. Both the on-campus and online delivery modes make use of industry-based expert lecturers and state-of-the-art online technologies such as hands-on remote and virtual labs, simulation software and live stream web and video conferencing."

Edith Cowan University (ECU) Visits NSU

Delegates from ECU visited NSU on Wednesday, 2nd October 2019. The purpose of their visit was to establish a collaboration with NSU. The delegates from ECU were Dr. Ganesh Kothapalli, Director, International Operations, Marko Remes, Manager, International Operations and Krishna Prasad, Associate Dean, Law & Director International. Representatives from NSU were:

Prof. Atique Islam, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ishmail Hossain, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Prof. Abdur Rob Khan, Dean, School of Humanities & Social Science, Prof. Dr. Norman Kenneth Swazo, Director, Office of Research, Prof. Dr. Javed Bari, PE, Dean, SEPS, Prof. Dr. Jashim Uddin Ahmed, Dean (Acting), SBE and Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA.

Other faculty members from SEPS were also present in the meeting during which an MoU signing took place. The discussion focused on opportunities for NSU students at ECU. According to their website, "Edith Cowan University's research priorities focus on solving real world problems across social, economic, physical and environmental domains.



Established in 1991, ECU has grown rapidly into a quality university with excellent student satisfaction and internationally recognized research. Students and graduates at ECU are amongst the best in the world, with many fulfilling crucial roles in the society.” Regarding their Ph.D. programs, ECU encouraged NSU to send candidates from the Department of Law and SEPS. For Research or Master’s Degrees, the Australian government gives a grant of AUS \$30,000. 20% of ECU graduates annually are entrepreneurs. ECU’s QS Ranking is amongst the top 300-500 at present. The collaboration of joint research will bring benefits to both parties, and through joint research the two universities will increase their joint publications.

National Cheng Kung University (NCKU) Visits NSU



Dr. Ching-Hao Teng, Associate Professor, Institute of Molecular Medicines, Medical College, NCKU visited NSU on Thursday, 3rd October 2019. The purpose of the visit was to establish a mutual collaboration. Representatives from NSU were Prof. Dr. Gias U. Ahsan, Dean, School of Health & Life Sciences, Dr. Sohiful Islam, Associate Professor & Chair, Department of Biochemistry & Microbiology, Dr. Hasan Mahmud Reza, Professor, Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Dr. Nadim Khandaker, Associate Professor, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering.

NCKU is in 3rd and 37th position in Taiwan and QS Asian University Ranking respectively. 30% of NCKU’s lab gets funding from the central government. NCKU wants to collaborate with NSU in exchange programs during any one semester (e.g., summer) at no charge.

NCKU is a public research university located in Tainan, Taiwan. NCKU is one of the best comprehensive universities in Taiwan and a leader in promoting industry-academia cooperation. It has consistently been ranked as one of the

top universities in Asia. According to their website, “The University is best known for engineering, computer science, medicine, planning and design. As a top university in Taiwan, NCKU has played a vital role in creating the Taiwan Miracle by helping Taiwan to transform from an agriculture-based society to an industrialized economy during the 1960s and 1970s. NCKU has many successful alumni in various industries in Taiwan.”

University of Huddersfield (UH) Visits NSU

The UH is a public university located in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, England. According to their website, “It has been a university since 1992, but has its origins in a series of institutions dating back to the 19th century. It has made teaching quality a particular focus of its activities, winning the inaugural Higher Education Academy Global Teaching Excellence Award, and achieving a Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) Gold Award, both in 2017.” The university is organized into the following academic schools:

- Applied Sciences
- Art, Design & Architecture
- Computing & Engineering
- Education & Professional Development
- Business
- Human & Health Sciences
- Music, Humanities & Media

Dr. Jonathan Wakefield from UH visited NSU on Tuesday, 15th October 2019. He is the International Relations Manager of the School of Computing & Engineering at UH. The purpose of his visit was to develop a collaboration with NSU. Representatives from North South University were:

- Prof. Dr. Javed Bari, PE, Dean, SEPS
- Dr. Shazzad Hosain, Professor, Department of ECE
- Dr. Nabeel Mohammed, Assistant Professor, Department of ECE
- Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA

Dr. Jonathan Wakefield stated that the UH team aims to visit Bangladesh regularly. In terms of joint research collaboration, UH collaborators can come to NSU once a year and can be co-supervisors for research projects.

If NSU students are interested to go to UH, they can complete their 1st year at NSU and go for a 3-year Bachelor’s degree and then a 1-year Master’s Degree at UH.

Alternatively, NSU graduates can also go to UH for their Master’s Degree directly after completing their undergraduate degree. In terms of exchanges, UH offers “A Semester Abroad” opportunities. Students can go there for one semester during their 2nd year. UH will provide NSU with an assessment of the student’s work afterwards for credit transfer back to NSU.





MoU Between NSU & University of South Alabama (USA)



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH ALABAMA

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NSU and USA was signed on 9th September 2019, the purpose of which is to promote collaboration between the two institutions. The point of contact from NSU is Prof. Atiqul Islam, Vice Chancellor and from USA is Dr. Richard W. Carter, Associate Vice President for Global Engagement. Both institutions have agreed to encourage contact and cooperation between their faculty and administrative staff, departments and research institutes. This MoU will enable the two institutions to pursue a mutually beneficial working relationship with each other within disciplines and fields that are mutually agreeable. The following general terms of the cooperation will be pursued:

- Visits by and exchange of undergraduate and graduate students for study; and
- Visits by and exchange of academic staff for the purposes of research, teaching and development;
- Exchange of information in fields of mutual interest;
- Other activities of mutual benefit to both institutions.

General Memorandum of Understanding Between the University of Western Australia (UWA) & NSU

UWA and NSU signed an MoU on 19th September 2019. It was created to enhance relations between the two universities by developing possibilities for academic and cultural interchanges in teaching, research and other activities. Within the framework of the regulations applying at each university, and subject to the availability of resources, the following programs and activities will be encouraged: exchange of staff, joint research activities, joint conferences and other academic meetings, exchange of academic materials and information, and also the exchange of students.

The specific areas and details of the cooperation within the framework of this MoU shall be discussed and agreed upon in writing by the appropriate authority of each university prior to the initiation of any particular program or activity. This MoU is a statement of intention between the universities in relation to the areas of cooperation. The signatories were Prof. Atiqul Islam, Vice Chancellor, NSU and Prof. Erika Techera, Pro Vice Chancellor, UWA.



THE UNIVERSITY OF
WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

MoU Between Goethe-Institut (GI) Bangladesh & NSU

An MoU between the Goethe-Institut Bangladesh and NSU was signed on 30th September 2019. The representative from the Goethe-Institut was Dr. Kirsten Hackenbroch, Director and from NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice Chancellor. The subject matter of the MoU is the introduction of German language classes at NSU, which also extends German language services to the neighborhood.

It includes a full A1-course for beginners consisting of 150 teaching units (UE - Unterrichtseinheiten) of 45 minutes each. The sign-up was on a first-come, first-serve basis; the course was announced publicly and both NSU students as well as others interested in the course offered at the NSU premises were admitted according to the following details:



GOETHE
INSTITUT

Class times: Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM

No. of students/class: Maximum 20 students

Duration: 38 days, timeframe (23th October 2019 to 10th January 2020)

Teaching units/day: 4 teaching units of 45 minutes

Break time: 30 minutes after two teaching units

Exams: participation in the exams as internal candidates, according to GI's rules and regulations; earliest exams for the course: January 2020

The instructor is provided by GI and uses their teaching methods for learning German. The materials are provided by GI via NSU's internal channels as well as via GI's social media and webpage.

Registration: All students, whether internal to NSU or external, register for the course at the GI Bangladesh in Dhanmondi on the date announced (September, for the course starting at the end of October). NSU students needed to show proof of their enrolment at NSU (student ID). All NSU students could be signed in by one person from NSU if all documents needed for admission were available and cash collected.

MoU Between The University Press Limited (UPL) & NSU

An MoU signing took place between UPL and NSU on 30th September 2019 for a workshop by UPL at NSU. The agreement lays out the manner in which UPL and the Department of English and Modern Languages (DEML) of NSU will collaborate in the workshop of translation and editing tentatively titled: UPL-NSU Translation and Editing Workshop.

I. UPL has approached DEML to organize a workshop on translation and editing to enable those who are interested in translating varied categories of text from the fields of literature, history, political science, economics, geography, and other areas of science and social sciences.

II. The aim of the workshop is to offer hands-on experience and guidance about the best practices of bringing out the essence of original language text. The challenges of translating will be dealt with, and the best ways to capture the spirit of the original language will be part of the exercise.

III. The workshop will primarily offer English language text to be translated into Bangla. The editing exercises will also be on Bangla language text.

IV. DEML has agreed to organize the workshop and has entered into this agreement with UPL.

In consideration of the mutual promises set forth, the parties agree to the terms and conditions as follows: the selection process will be determined by UPL and DEML jointly. Interested participants will have to register online, and will be given a combination of 2-3 different passages to translate. Participants will also have to edit a translated passage, their translated and edited output will be screened and enrollment will be done on the basis of their performance and number of participants. A total of 30 (thirty) participants will be enrolled in this workshop. DEML agrees to provide one-third participants from DEML or NSU faculty pool, provided they qualify in the screening round. Fees and opportunities: a nominal fee of Tk. 4000 (Taka four thousand only) per participant will be charged to minimize the total cost. However, participants from DEML or NSU will be offered a discount on the fee.



Special Feature

Introducing OEA, Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer



Ms. Samina Alam Miti is the International Affairs Officer at the OEA. She is in charge of the Office of International Affairs (OIA). She keeps all the records of the international students, embassy outreach, credit transfer and helps the local students to learn about opportunities available for their higher studies abroad.

Ms. Alam is dedicated to the international students' wellbeing and offers them support to make their stay in Bangladesh as pleasant as possible. She says, "I want this office (OIA) to be recognized by the students. Any support or information on study abroad, MoUs, scholarship programs and exchange programs can be received from this office. All students have to do is to make necessary communication with OIA".

The OIA, under the OEA, was established to provide information, services and support to international students currently hosted by NSU. The OIA is committed to developing liaisons, mutual understanding, and agreements with overseas universities and organizations. The OIA also promotes NSU internationally.

The main aim of this office is to handle collaborations between NSU and other reputed overseas universities as well as to serve international and local students of NSU. The OIA is responsible for many activities like – institutional collaboration, credit transfer, exchange programs, outreach to embassies, visa extension and exit visa applications for the international students, aiding SB Police, etc. Ms. Alam added, "My objective is to continue to flourish myself according to my passion, professional experience and educational qualification, where I can wave the flag of excellence by enhancing the scope of OEA's vision."

She continued, "this is what I learned while studying at NSU and also while working here." She has done

both of her degrees: Bachelors of Business Administration (BBA), majoring in Marketing and Masters of Business Administration (MBA), majoring in HRM at NSU.

While studying for her BBA, she worked as an instructor for a spoken English course and as a student councilor for higher studies at Chancellor Education International in 2013.

She was a part-time lecturer at Faith International School from 2014 to 2015. She also worked as an analyst at a UK-based IT firm named “Taskeater” in 2017. She had several outstanding scholarships during her student life and was awarded Best Speaker at DIIT English Language Course Seminar in 2004. Additionally, she was awarded the Best Student from Feni Business Association in 2007. While asking her about the OEA, she said, “I joined this office back in April 2017. At that time, NSU had only 27 MoUs. Thereafter, I communicated and collected MoUs from NSU’s different academic departments. When Dr. Katherine Li, Director joined the OEA team she decided to make the MoU list visible for all NSU admin, faculty members and students. After working on various formats, finally we decided on the current standard format displayed in the NSU website which clarifies any query on MoUs.”

International Faculty Feature

Nova Ahmed works with systems, humans and the work that lies in between them to connect humans with computing.

She finished her PhD at Georgia Institute of Technology, USA and came back to Bangladesh to serve her country. She tries to develop solutions to problems of Bangladesh that require very special attention (e.g., low cost, socially acceptable, etc.). In her free time she loves to spend time with her two daughters and scientist husband!

Interviewer: After pursuing your Ph.D., why did you choose North South University for teaching?

Nova Ahmed : I have visited a few universities after I returned and Dr. Miftaur Rahman was extremely generous and welcoming to me which helped me to make my decision. I was the only female faculty in our department at that time ... now it’s a fun place with many of us!

Interviewer: From your bio, we can see that you are very interested to work with systems, humans and the work that lies in between to connect humans with computing. What made you pursue this interest so deeply?

Nova Ahmed : I received my PhD in the systems area, but if we do not look at how it may impact the users (humans) – the system may not be used to its full potential. That is why I love to connect these elements.

Interviewer: You said you try to develop solutions to problems of Bangladesh that require very special attention. Please elaborate on this.

Nova Ahmed : I don’t think the western world will understand many of the challenges we face here being in a developing region. We need local solutions for ourselves. A “Made in Bangladesh” approach in technology is needed.

Interviewer: What is your vision for the Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering of North South University for the next five years?

Nova Ahmed : I would love to see it in the best position in terms of research and innovation.

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

Nova Ahmed : I am sure we will have the best solutions for many problems when you are engaged and yes, don’t forget to have fun!



NSU Alumni Feature

Md. Sohan Haidear is a licensed NLP Practitioner and Meta Learning Skills Trainer.

He is the founder and CEO of Smartifier Academy, a company that focuses on boosting people's productivity. Smartifier Academy aims to enhance the performance of young professionals and students by developing their meta learning skills. So far more than 100 young professionals and students have been trained by Smartifier Academy. Besides being a trainer, Mr. Sohan is also a writer, filmmaker and singer. An avid learner, Mr. Sohan finished his MBA from IBA, University of Dhaka.

He studied practical filmmaking from the University of West London and earned his BBA from North South University. He has completed 23 online courses and created more than 150 educational videos. He started his career in the digital marketing field and has worked in the leading national English daily, The Daily Star.

He also collaborates with 10 Minute School & Finding Bangladesh. Within two years of working as a full-time employee in the field of Digital Marketing, he had won 2 South Asian Digital Media Awards along with his team at The Daily Star. In the wake of the 4th Industrial Revolution, he realized the vital importance of developing the soft skills of today's youth. That is why he started his company, Smartifier Academy, so that we can develop our skills faster and achieve our dreams.



Interviewer: What is NLP?

Sohan Haidear : NLP means Neuro Linguistics Programing. It's a course that is built to teach you communication principles and how to have a winning and successful mindset and also how you can recondition your current mindset. There are many prejudices and ideas that are put into our heads while we grow up. Some of them are actually blocking us from becoming successful. NLP helped me, or it helps people to untangled from that sort of mindset and understand the basic and the advanced principles of communication, how you can influence people, and how you can understand people. I used to have a lot of confusion about how I could sell my ideas to people and how I could communicate. I used to think that I needed to read a certain number of books, or do a certain number of courses, so that was part of the reason why I went for NLP.

After NLP things changed drastically, because I realized that often we are just failing to listen. So, it's observing the other person, using active listening, being proactive, seeing their expressions, and building rapport with them; this goes on and on. Now when I have any kind of business communication scenarios, I can identify what needs to be done and how I can get the most out of it and also work through any pre-conceived ideas in my head. With those gone, I can totally focus on my work and get things done. I did my NLP from Navigo NLP, Malaysia.

Interviewer: Did you notice any differences in the way courses were taught at NSU, and the University of West London, Navigo NLP or IBA?

Sohan Haidear : Yes, of course, many! The big differences were between University of West London and the rest. The most similarities were between NSU and IBA. The courses were taught in a similar manner in terms of presentations, term papers and deadlines, and the curriculum.

IBA was a bit stricter compared to NSU. But, the best thing about IBA was that we had to study with a fixed batch. At the end of the year, we knew each other very well. In case of NSU, this was a bit more scattered. Since it's an open-credit system, NSU still helped me a lot to understand new people and work with new teams. Because I have worked in three companies, everywhere there were new people. And that experience from NSU helped me to do things better there. NSU helped me to be ready for uncertainty. On the other hand, IBA helped me more with networking. Also, I had to understand others from diverse backgrounds, because I had to come to the class and take courses with them. At UWL, we took 3 different modules with 3 separate groups. There I also had to work with new people. We couldn't choose our courses, except for the majors and minors. In NSU and in the UK, we could be very open about our ideas. But in IBA, it being a public university, there were certain things that we couldn't discuss. The situation there wasn't like at NSU. NSU had open debates about views, religion, gender, etc., but at IBA, they were more focused on studies.

Also, probably because it was the MBA, everyone was more focused about their career and the discussions revolved around them. At NSU, it was about the university experience. We had a wide variety of courses to choose from. I took many open courses here like Sociology, Psychology, and Philosophy. I took 3 courses in Sociology. That also helped me broaden my perspective about the world in general. What university education needs to do these days is to train our mindset to understand the world from many different points of views. No wonder people are becoming so intolerant these days. It will grow the level of tolerance in society. If someone is an atheist or likes to drink alcohol or speaks out against the norm, some of us will immediately express hatred towards that person. Before reacting with aggression, we need to understand where other people are coming from, and how the world works, sociologically, philosophically or psychologically.

UWL Met Film School was a bit more rigid. We couldn't choose our courses. In Malaysia, it was a small classroom of about 15 students. We were all professionals. It started at 9am and ended at 6pm. There weren't any exams. We only had to listen to the lectures and discuss amongst ourselves. The similarity there was the classroom set-up. The differences would be, we did a lot of activities. We also did activities that are similar to guided meditation, where we had to close our eyes and our trainer guided us to imagine things. One activity dealt with getting over a difficult past or memories which create a lot of pain. First, we had to imagine that memory in our mind's eyes on a screen and the reduce it down to the size of a small match box and change the sub-modalities. Our instructor kept guiding us through the activity. Then when he said to open our eyes, we could no longer feel those overwhelming emotions anymore. Activities like these were different from traditional methodology at NSU, IBA, or UWL.

Interviewer: How did you come up with the idea of Smartifier?

Sohan Haidear : Basically, it took me some pieces of puzzles to form together this idea. Firstly, I am someone who has had the privilege of studying in multiple fields, I have studied Science. In SSC and HSC, the studies were in Science. After I was done with my HSC, I wanted to become a film director. However, my parents are doctors; so, it came as a shock to them. They wouldn't agree to it.

I thought, “Which place would be good? Where I can study and also grow, and also have some free time for nurturing my passion?” The top two universities that I was considering was IUT and NSU. I picked NSU because it’s in Dhaka City. It has a very diverse set of students that I could meet. People from English Medium or Bangla Medium and also some people into fun and adventure. Some people are really focused on their studies. After my BBA I went for filmmaking, which belongs to the Arts. After my graduation, I learned to play the guitar. I developed skills like singing, writing, and public speaking after my graduation. People were always telling me it’s not very easy to learn new skills after 25 but somehow my age didn’t limit me. During my MBA course, I was struggling to score good grades so I decided to take a course to improve my learning speed. It was one of the most popular online courses from Coursera, “Learning How to Learn” and that’s where I first started understanding the facts about meta learning. If your meta learning skill is high, this means you can learn anything faster. So that was another piece of the puzzle. The other thing was when I was working with 10 Minute School, I really enjoyed teaching people and providing education online. That’s when I realized that I had a talent for training. While working with university students and young professionals, I realized their need to develop soft skills.

After working at The Daily Star, I worked at a startup accelerator. That’s when I started working with other startups. We were providing them trainings and consultation on design thinking, business intelligence, innovation, etc. I got to witness many startups coming up, which eventually gave me the courage to do it. There I also learned about the need of soft skills that will be vital in the 4th industrial revolution, as identified by World Economic Forum.

To summarize it all, I was learning different things from different places. I could see a pattern, there is a discipline in learning. Following that discipline, you can learn anything faster, from learning how to play a guitar to studying a subject like Accounting. Next, I loved to train people. Third thing was, after working at a place where I could see many startups, I finally had the confidence of starting something on my own. I also knew about the growing need for soft skills.

The timing could not have been any strange when I felt, “Okay, I can take the risk”. I had just gotten married a month before. We were on our honeymoon. And that’s when I thought “What if I start my own company?” The first thing I did was to ask my wife, and to be honest I was afraid thinking what her reaction would be. What she would do after I tell her?! She was ok with it, because her father is also a businessman. She said, “I saw my father working in a job, and one day he told us he wouldn’t work, he would do his own business.” So, my wife stood by me and she told me to stay dedicated. That’s how it all happened. Connecting all these dots, I decided to launch Smartifier Academy.

Interviewer: How is your venture different from the 10 Minute School?

Sohan Haidear : Well there are lot of similarities. Ayman and I worked closely together and we still do collaborate. Certain things are similar. We both have online platforms; we go to universities. What generates revenue for my company? The major part comes from corporate trainings. We can’t charge universities that high of an amount, the trainings are mostly free or provided at a discounted rate. 10 Minute School’s revenue model is different. The online activities that we do are to promote the things that we talk about. But for 10 Minute School, their main product is the online platforms they have.

We focus on young professionals and final-year students. That’s our focus group, because that’s the age when most of the students start to think about their careers seriously. Having said that, we don’t mind first-year or second-year students if they also want to take the courses. But, 10 Minute School makes content for a much wider range of audience, from Play Group to Ph.D. courses. We provide soft skills. We have started Meta learning skills too, but the demand for that is not high.

So, now we are also taking courses on public speaking and presentation, time management. and communication. Moreover, we are trying to work on creating a course that can prepare any final year student for a job from writing a CV to facing the interview and getting the job, as well as learning how to communicate in your office, how to manage your time, and how to negotiate your salary. 10 Minute School provides contents on many more topics.

Interviewer: What are your thoughts about winning two South Asian Digital Media Awards?

Sohan Haidear : First of all, it was a team effort. We were in The Daily Star’s Digital Marketing team, and we all contributed there. We felt really proud of that achievement. What went into it was the team effort of Tajdin bhai, Shuvashish, Intisar, Shahir, Arafat, and I. Biruni Bhai, Milton Bhai, Kamal Bhai from the Events team, Shuvam bhai, Kumkum from the Design team, Debjani from the Online Team, Shorif bhai and Zahed bhai from the Live Team, Sunny bhai, Tonmoy, and Arif bhai from the IT team also collaborated in the execution of the idea. We wanted to do something out of the box. One day Shuvashish, the Manager of the Digital Marketing team, came to the office.

He had an idea, “My new born baby has a nick name, my wife calls him Ghupi. We all have these kinds of funny nicknames. So why don’t we ask our readers to share the nicknames with us that their mothers used to call them?”

This gave rise to the campaign for International Mother’s Day. So, we came up with that just like that. We were skeptical about whether people would actually enjoy sharing their private names with other people. But what happened was, when someone shared that news online it looked like “The Daily Star was talking about you”. A newspaper is talking about you or covering you; that made people feel a bit privileged and they started submitting. To motivate people further, we used social media influencers like Ayman Sadiq, Solaiman Shukhon, Zara Mahbub, Shehtaj Monira Hashem, Arif R Hus-sain, and Prito Reza. We had almost about 4,000 submissions, and the campaign went viral and was successful. Another thing was that we were not only focusing on the idea, we were also involved in the successful execution. From the campaign launching to the influencers being interviewed; after everything was done, we also gave prizes to the winners. Winners had to show up in person to The Daily Star office for the prize. So, each step was maintained. Also, when we were applying for the awards, they gave us a restriction of 8-10 slides which meant that we had to compact every little detail into a limited number of slides. We showed them our framework, how we did it, what challenges we faced and what channels we used. They appreciated the effort that we gave to the project. We did all the steps for submission required for the award proposal. Now, when I look back at that time it motivates me to understand that just executing something is not enough. Submission for an award, the presentation of the work in an international competition is also very important.

So, this was the first one, the second one was for the campaign of Rise High Bangladesh. And that one achieved virility for another reason. We figured the university students were very competitive. So, we had 10 university teams as finalists. We planned to get the top 3 out of them to present during the gala. The question was, how do we pick them? So, we interviewed each of the teams giving them 32 seconds to ask for votes. Once we started counting the votes the reading board showed which team was ahead by how many votes. Some teams started getting 1,000-2,000 votes per hour. That made the campaign. It became a prestige issue for them, “Hey, our university doesn’t have enough votes”. So, this was how we achieved it.

Interviewer: What motivates you?

Sohan Haidear : My grandfather’s story motivates me. My great grandfather was a wealthy man, but he threw away all his properties. My great grandmother took my grandfather, who was the middle child and his sister to Burma (Myanmar) and lived there for a while. When my grandfather came back – he is from Moheshkhali, a remote island, he was alone and had almost no money.

He basically had nothing, and had to everything from scratch. He started living in a relative’s veranda and found work as a Forest Guard. he started selling betel nuts. Then after he started earning profit, he bought a salt field. He had turned into an entrepreneur. When my father was born, that’s when he was doing well. My father is the eldest and also wanted to be in my grandfather’s business, but my grandfather had vision. He told his son that he had to leave Maheshkhali for his studies. After my father became a doctor, he wanted to go back to Maheshkhali, but my grandfather told him to look forward and grow. He also established the first ever girls’ school in Maheshkhali even after facing death threats for it. So basically, because of his vision, here I am. Every time I wanted to become lazy, I would think of my grandfather. The pain, the trauma that he endured, the way he managed everything, this motivates me a lot. His stories somehow have inspired me.

I really wanted to be a filmmaker for 10 years of my life, so, I went to UK to achieve that. I never thought that I would come back to Bangladesh. When I had to, I was very demotivated for a couple of months. When I grew positive about myself and went to IBA, whatever happens now I see as a second chance in my life. Everything I have now, I am very grateful for; it’s all about staying in the moment, it’s all about going with the flow. For example, when we were working on the project, we were not working for the award. That just came along. Besides the story of my grandfather, my mother, and my father have actively motivated me. Because of their support and love I am where I am today. Also, every day, I think of my trainees and how I can add value to their lives. The better I become, the faster they will learn, earn, and grow. This thought pushes me to go for the extra mile. When I’m down, I go back to watching Rocky or Forest Gump to find inspiration. Movies like these help me get back up quickly.

Interviewer: What advice do you have for current and future NSU students?

Sohan Haidear : I wasn’t a highly ambitious business school student in comparison to NSU students. I remember my friends used to participate in various business competitions, but I wanted to be a filmmaker so I didn’t attend the competitions. This was not the subject that I wanted to study. So, I wasn’t an ideal NSU student, and that’s what many university students go through such confusion. I used to wonder what good studying this was going to bring me. There was a speech I had heard back then which I didn’t understand before, but I understand it now. It was from Steve Jobs’ Commencement Speech, “You cannot connect the dots by looking forward, you can only connect the dots by looking backwards”.

Any student having doubts about not knowing what he/she wants to do, don't overthink. Do what's in front of you and take in the university experience. Talk to people, socialize, join clubs. Do everything that you can to explore more about life. The one thing I regret about NSU is that I didn't join any club. I had this perception that in the clubs are only for fun and politics. I was totally wrong about it. By the time I had joined IBA, I knew how important this was. So, I did as many things as I could do besides studying – talking to people, socializing, organizing events, playing various sports as a member of the batch team. That really helped me to grow a lot. I would suggest that students enjoy these, because after university such chances rarely appear in life. Also, when you first go to your work place, you will start seeing the similarities to your club people. This helps you understand your colleagues better and become a better team player. There are some students who become reckless. As they are still young, it takes a few years until they become mature. Some think getting into relationships or finding your true love is the most important thing to do during university life. Don't do something that will hurt other people, because later on your reputation will precede you. Work hard to maintain a good reputation. I know there are rising doubts about a university education, but Bangladesh is such a country where we value education a lot. If you want to work at a good company, you have to get a good degree from a good university. Otherwise the chances of getting a decent job become very slim. There are many graduates and dropouts who have suffered due to this. So, don't disregard your CGPA completely. Maintain the balance between studies and ECA.

International Student Feature

Ms. Firdaus Nyamihingo is a 19-year old Ugandan student who has been studying for a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration (BBA), Entrepreneurship at North South University (NSU) since September, 2018. She is currently in her 4th semester. She comes from an elite family of four children where education is a priority. She studied in Uganda right from Kibuli Nursery School (2003-2004), Kibuli Demonstration School (2000 to 2009), but due to her passion for Islamic studies, she was transferred to Lukman Primary School (2009- 2010). Later, she went back to her previous school for her final year in primary school, 2011, where she excelled highly getting a first grade. She joined a prestigious first class Muslim girls' school in Uganda, Nabisunsa Girls' Secondary School, for O and A levels from 2012 to 2017, where she also excelled with excellent grades. During her high school vacation (11 months), Firdaus initiated a skills-based project production of paper bags which she created with her youngest brother for a commercial purpose. She is now looking forward to joining several clubs at NSU and is ready to work hand-in-hand with other students. She is living in Bashundhara with her father.



Interviewer: Why did you choose BBA as your subject?

Firdaus Nyamihingo : First and foremost, the BBA is a universal academic discipline taught around the world. I chose BBA to prepare for my career because of my passion for becoming a professional entrepreneur, which is due to the fact that we are living in a capitalistic world with a huge number of self-created entrepreneurs. Entrepreneurship inspires me to open my mind to the business world because, I want to be independent and hardworking. In additionally, I wanted to do a degree related to the combination of subjects I did at A' level (MEENT) in order to broaden my perspective in economics and entrepreneurship.

Interviewer: Do you plan to be an Entrepreneur? If so, tell us about your plan.

Firdaus Nyamihingo : Indeed, I have a long-term plan of being a professional high-skilled entrepreneur. My plan is too ambitious in a way that I want a lot of 'things'. I basically want to own different kinds of businesses that are environmentally-friendly. For example, Uganda is a rich country in terms of land; I would love to have my own piece of land so that I can put up different projects to help people around the world. In addition, am thinking about establishing a modern hospital and a Muslim Nursery school so that I can improve the wellbeing of people in my society through employment and training. This will broaden my entrepreneurship skills as a dependable and enterprising business woman.

Interviewer: You said that education is a priority in your family, can you tell us more about that?

Firdaus Nyamihingo : First, I would like to thank Almighty Allah for giving me this opportunity to reach this far in my studies. Many people are unable to study and finish school due to lots of circumstances.

Then, I would like to give my sincere gratitude to my parents for their encouragement since childhood and also for making sure that we studied in top schools in Uganda right from nursery school. Through my parents love and support for education, my siblings and I have managed to have the best education regardless of the expenses. I used to attend classes during holidays to shape up my studies throughout the term, so that I could keep up with the syllabus and be ready for the next term – which my brothers adopted and it is very helpful. The astonishing love for education of my parents made my father go for higher studies at IIUM Malaysia. He obtained a first class PhD which inspires me a lot due to the fact that he got it at a very late age. Then for my mother, she went back for her higher studies at IUIU, Uganda and obtained her MBA specializing in accounting and finance also at a late age. This inspires me and my siblings and gives us reason to prioritize education.

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Interviewer: How did you come to find about NSU?

Firdaus Nyamihingo : I came to find out about NSU through my father and also through an internet search about high-class universities around the world that offer a BBA. My father who is now working as a Registrar of Islamic University of Technology (IUT) Dhaka, Bangladesh advised me to enroll in a university in Bangladesh where he is working and both of us chose NSU because of its first-class ranking.

Interviewer: How did you get the idea of your skills-based project? Is this something Bangladesh can use?

Firdaus Nyamihingo : It all started when my youngest brother and I decided to make ourselves busy during the long vacation. We had a couple of ideas on what to do; among them we chose to make paper bags for sale. What made us stick to paper bags was the need to conserve our Ugandan environment as good citizens. We proposed the idea to our parents who were of great support. Consequently, we started production of paper bags using our own hands since it was a small business idea, we didn't have much technology. On a good note, we had enough market interest which helped us increase sales.

Unfortunately, the project was put on standstill since we both had to continue our education after the vacation period. Absolutely, it is something Bangladesh can use. This is because, I have realized around where I stay, there is a lot of waste of polythene that is very difficult to decompose and which can easily pollute the environment. Therefore, a massive use of paper bags can be good and easy to dispose of or can even be recycled into other products. Paper bags are also easy to make and relatively cheap in production. It can employ the youths and provide other various production skills.

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

Firdaus Nyamihingo : Certainly! First of all, I would like to thank Almighty Allah for giving me this opportunity to study at one of the best universities in the world and my beloved father for all the support he gives me to achieve my career.

NSU is a well-built and versatile institution with good infrastructure. The methods of teaching at NSU provide me with skills that can be adapted and adopted to my future entrepreneurship career.

Therefore, I urge future applicants of NSU to apply and get a quality education in different market-driven programs provided. NSU also gives you an outstanding exposure on how to relate to other international students where you are able to learn different cultures and also about Bangladeshi culture through club activities and holiday celebrations. Work hard and know where you come from; you will enjoy the beautiful premises of NSU.

Thank you very much to the Bridge for this wonderful opportunity. I remain, Firdaus Nyamihingo.