



THE BRIDGE

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Editor's Message

We celebrate the end of 2019 with multiple international visitors to NSU. The partnerships that are forming with universities around the world inspire us at the Office of External Affairs to work harder in 2020. We hope you will take advantage of these opportunities for research collaboration and exchange.

If you have created any relationships with institutions in the form of an MOU, kindly bring the hard copy to the OEA for safekeeping and so that we can upload it to the NSU website: http://institutions.northsouth.edu/oea/international-affairs/partnership/list-of-mous Happy New Year!

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Delegate from MacEwan University Visits NSU

rofessor Shahidul Islam, Associate Professor, Department of Economics, MacEwan University, Canada visited North South University on 5th January 2020. The purpose of his visit to NSU was to explore North South University and to discuss establishing a mutual collaboration and student exchange program between NSU and MacEwan University. While visiting NSU, Professor Islam visited the Office of External Affairs and attended a one-to-one discussion session with Ms. Samina Alam, the International Affairs Officer, Office of External Affairs.



about the timely and updated educational system, curriculum and specialties of MacEwan University. MacEwan University is one of the top-ranked universities of Canada. Professor Islam mentioned that the university offers both undergraduate and postgraduate degrees in six study areas or departments which are – Arts and Humanities, Business and Social Sciences, Language and Culture, Medicine and Health, Engineering, Science and Technology. International students and faculties are cordially appreciated and welcomed by MacEwan University to apply for undergraduate, postgraduate, PhD or research programs.

During the discussion, Professor Islam raised a proposal to explore the possibilities of institutional, departmental or both kinds of collaborations or even an institutional MOU between NSU and MacEwan University. He also expressed interest in initiating study tours and student visiting programs with North South University. Under this program, MacEwan University will send selected students to NSU for a limited period of time and in the same way NSU will select some students from here and NSU will send our students to MacEwan University for a time period. This way, the students of both universities will be able to gain quality international experience. NSU has already conducted such study tours with several other universities around the world and is very excited to have an agreement to conduct a similar kind of program with MacEwan University. Currently NSU is also concentrating on some articulations with the Department of Economics, the Department of Management, the Department of Marketing and International Business, the Department of Finance and Accounting, etc. Ms. Miti and Professor Islam considered the chances of departmental collaboration among these departments and the possibility of conducting 2+2 programs between NSU and MacEwan University.

Delegates from University of Arizona Visit NSU

wo delegates from the University of Arizona, William Paul Simmons, Professor, Gender and Women's Studies, Director, MA and Grad Certificate in Human Rights Practice of the University and Robin Al-haddad, the founder of DevRA International (an international development research and analytics firm) who recently visited Bangladesh. During their visit, they attended a conference in Dhaka and visited the Rohingya camps in Cox's Bazar. They also met the department chairs and faculty members of North South University and attended a meeting with them on 12th January 2020.

The delegates scheduled their traveling period in accordance with the climate change conference happening in Dhaka. So during the very early portion of their visit, they joined the conference and afterwards headed to Cox's Bazar to explore the Rohingya camps. After many conversations and reading up on the situation there, they started to consider doing some type of joint participatory work with children/youth. In particular, they are thinking of working with peer groups of Rohingya children/youth and Bangladeshi children/youth in the host communities in Cox's Bazar.

The delegates participated in a meeting with the faculty members and department chairs of North South University on 12th January 2020. Dr. Katherine Li, the Director of Office of External Affairs also attended the meeting. In the meeting, the delegates shared their camp experience with the faculties and chairs. Afterwards, the discussion proceeded to the common interests in research topics of the researchers of NSU and the University of Arizona and they explored the research collaboration opportunities between the two universities.



IFIM Signs an MOU with NSU



nstitute of Finance and International Management (IFIM) and NSU signed an MoU on 20th January, 2020. It was created to enhance the relationship between the two universities by developing possibilities for academic and cultural interchanges in teaching, research and other institutional and departmental-level activities. Within the framework of the regulations applied to each university, they identified programs and activities that could be done including the exchange of students, exchange of faculties, joint research activities, joint executive training programs, joint conferences and workshops, etc.

Moreover, collaborative academic meetings, exchange of academic materials and information are also among the matters that both the universities agreed upon. The specific areas and details of the cooperation within the framework of the MoU was discussed and will be agreed upon in writing by the appropriate authority of each university prior to the initiation of any particular program or activity. After the signing ceremony, Prof. Atiqul Islam, Vice Chancellor, NSU and Dr. Atish Chattopadhyay, Director, IFIM Business School, Bengaluru exchanged tokens of appreciation from their respective universities.

Book Discussion: 'Internationalizing the University: A Spiritual Approach'

A Spiritual Approach' written by Ms. Kalyani Unkule at North South University on 23rd January 2020. Ms. Kalyani Unkule is an Associate Professor and the Director of International Affairs and Global Initiatives at O.P. Jindal Global University, India. She conducted the discussion by sharing her thoughts and ideas about what had inspired her to write the book. Dr. Abdur Rob Khan, Professor and Dean of SHSS, Dr. Katherine Li, the Director of Office of External Affairs, Ms. Parisa Shakur, the Director of Office of Student Affairs, several faculty members and students from different departments of NSU participated in the session.

The seminar started with Ms. Kalyani introducing her book to the audience. The content of the book is mainly focused on the topic internationalization of education, which is a very timely topic considering the current educational condition of the world. Her primary aim for writing this book was



to critique the current ranking race of universities. The book 'Internationalizing the University: A Spiritual Approach' is organized in five chapters and discusses the importance, advantages, ways and challenges of educational internationalization. While discussing the book, Ms. Kalyani expressed her interest and appreciation about the cultural and educational diversity throughout the world and emphasized cherishing this diversity by spiritual learning instead of constantly focusing on adapting or consuming it. According to her, the idea of 'intercultural competence' is not about discovering how we are different from each other, but about relishing how we are all the same despite the differences. Ms. Kalyani mentioned the 21st Century as 'the Asian Century' as the progress of nations is now measured with production of pioneering ideas, and Asian nations are rising swiftly when it comes to generating ideas.

Ms. Kalyani regards the internationalization of universities and the process and idea of internationalization as needing to be cooperative, not terrifying. She would like to replace the idea of 'Culture Shock' with the idea 'Culture Shock Therapy', because intercultural difference is supposed to be celebrated not feared. As NSU wants its students to have a positive international experience and exposure, the administration of NSU expressed great interest to explore the possibilities of having joint curriculum, research programs and scholarship opportunities with O.P. Jindal Global University. The proposal of considering the opportunities of institutional or departmental level collaboration under our current MoU between NSU and O.P. Jindal Global University was raised during the session and both the university representatives were positive about activating the agreed-upon programs.

Professor Zaki Wahhaj from University of Kent Visits NSU

rofessor Zaki Wahhaj, Associate Professor, Economics Department, University of Kent, UK visited North South University on 26th January, 2020. Professor Wahhaj's research expertise is in Development Economics. He was at NSU to discuss post-graduation, research and scholar-ship opportunities in his university and in other universities of the UK. He emphasized educational and research chances on his own research topic 'Development Economics' as well as the opportunities of higher studies and research in other branches of Economics.

Professor Wahhaj conducted two expedient discussion sessions; one with the students from different departments and another with the faculty members of Department of Economics. The discussion with students started with Professor Wahhaj giving an idea about the history and background of University of Kent and the School of Economics of the university. He elaborated on the structure of the MSc program in Economics and briefly introduced the faculty members of the School of Economics of University of Kent. The University offers six master's programs for students among



which Professor Wahhaj discussed three programs. The requirements for a student to get into MSc in the Economics program at the University of Kent include completion of undergraduate in Economics or a major in Economics, expertise in Calculus, 6.5 or more score in IELTS, etc. Graduates from majors other than Economics can also pursue an MSc in Economics at the University of Kent, but before getting into the courses for the master's program they have to study at the undergrad level Economics courses for one extra year.

The University of Kent offers different scholarship opportunities for international students both from institutional and departmental levels. The recipients of the scholarships are chosen based on the applicants' merit, previous academic performance and co-curricular qualities. The University of Kent offers a special scholarship for the students of developing countries under which the recipients only have to pay half the amount of total tuition fees for the one academic year MSc program. The recipients of this scholarship are chosen depending on the applicants' academic performance.

The discussion session with faculty members was held right after the session with the students. Dr. Helal Ahammad, Professor and Director of Economics Research Platform, Dr. Ahmed Tazmeen, Assistant Professor and Chair of Department of Economics, Dr. Katherine Li, Director of External Affairs and other professors from the Department of Economics attended the session. In this discussion session, the collaboration opportunities between NSU and the University of Kent were reviewed thoroughly. An MDS (Master in Development Studies) between the two universities is already under discussion and several more collaboration ideas were discussed in the meeting. Representatives from both the universities expressed interest in establishing joint student, faculty and researcher exchange programs. The discussed joint programs will enable the students and faculties of both universities to have a great exposure in both the universities.

NSU Signs an MOU with Brock University, Canada



North South University recently signed an MOU with Brock University, Canada after which a delegation of 6 members from Brock University and the Canadian High Commission in Bangladesh visited North South University on 2nd February 2020. Ms. Corinne Petrisor, Counsellor and Senior Trade Commissioner, Ms. Leigh-Ellen Keating, Director of International Affairs, Brock University, Mr. Sayed Ejaz Ahmed, Dean of Mathematics and Science, Brock University, Ms. Megha Srivastav, Relationship Manager, India and South Asia Market, Brock University were among the delegation members. The purpose of their visit was to celebrate the affiliation and collaboration between the two universities. Afterwards, the delegation sat for a meeting with Prof. Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. M. Ismail Hossain, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Jashim Uddin Ahmed, (Acting) Dean, School of Business and Economics, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs, Ms. Samina Alam, International Affairs Officer and chairs of all departments of North South University. The prime objective of the meeting was a detailed discussion between the delegates, chairs and faculty members of NSU. The meeting started with

a brief about NSU, its current position, objectives and goals from the Honorable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Atiqul Islam who expressed his expectations for a collaboration with Brock University. His take on the matter was that an MoU can be successful only if the cooperating universities share the same objectives. He hopes to gain the highest success from the MoU with Brock University.

Throughout the session, the Brock University delegates and department chairs of NSU discovered areas of interest among both universities through their discussions. They found many common fields and departments where both the universities are interested in student, faculty and researcher exchange programs. PhD student exchange and joint research programs are promising, considering the fact that NSU does not have PhD programs yet. PhD students or researchers of Canada can get help in data collection if they work in a joint research program with NSU. Brock University delegates expressed their interest in more collaboration contacts with NSU because recently they noticed interest among students of NSU for admission into Brock University and they want to make the admission process easier for them. They also mentioned that they offer 2+2 programs, scholarship programs for international students and a special scholarship program for Asian students.

Delegate from UniSA Business School Visits NSU

North South University on 3rd February 2020. Mr. Sarmiento is the Manager of International Business Development, Business School, UniSA. He conducted an interactive and informative seminar for NSU students during his visit. The purpose of the seminar was to provide beneficial and relevant information about opportunities to study abroad for interested students. Mr. Sarmiento also engaged the students during a Q&A session. As the prime objective of the seminar was to help the students with information and suggestions for developing themselves and preparing to face the challenges of the corporate world, Mr. Sarmiento focused on discussing the top-required qualities in the corporate arena and ways to achieve them.

The first and foremost thing that Mr. Sarmiento mentioned as a must for surviving in this digital age is computer skills. Computer skills are required for the job holders of every sector and profession. In this era of globalization, linguistic skill also gives a huge competitive advan-



tage to anyone. Other than these, better communication skills, team work, public speaking skills, conflict resolution skills, and strong ethics are some very important qualities that are strongly observed in an applicant by the employers. Mr. Sarmiento also mentioned that students should grab any internship opportunity that they receive during their student life, because these internship experiences can give them massive advantages and a head start in the corporate job sector. According to his view, every individual needs to maintain an international perspective to adapt to globalization.

Afterwards, Mr. Sarmiento encouraged students to take the opportunity of student exchange programs offered by NSU in their desired university abroad. As a representative of the University of South Australia, he ensured that UniSA will be more than happy to receive students from NSU under their student exchange program. UniSA ranked 264th position on the QS world ranking and number 16 in Australia. The university has four schools which are the Business School, School of Arts and Social Science, School of Engineering and IT and Faculty of Health Sciences. International students can apply to any department under any school according to their interest. Several students from NSU are already studying both at undergrad and postgrad levels in UniSA and Mr. Sarmiento expressed his expectation to see the students from NSU to grow larger in near future.

DAAD Scholarship Regional Director Visits NSU



he German Academic Exchange Service or DAAD (German: Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst) is a scholarship program for international students from developing countries. In fact, it is the world's largest funding organization for students of developing countries who intend to study abroad. Ms. Katja Lasch, the Regional Director of DAAD along with Ms. Rumana Kabir, Information and Office Manager, DAAD Representative Bangladesh and a few other related officials visited North South University on 3rd February 2020. This was a courtesy visit for the purpose of a friendly discussion session between the officials of DAAD and North South University. The DAAD representatives sat for a brief meeting with the Pro-Vice Chancellor, Dr. M. Ismail Hossain, Dr. Katherine Li, the Director of External Affairs, Ms. Samina Alam, the International Affairs Officer of North South University, Dr. Biswas Karabi Farhana, Department of Environmental Science and Management and Dr. Mohammad Sahadet Hossain, Chair, Department of Mathematics and Physics.

During the meeting, Ms. Katja Lasch briefed about the offered sectors and scopes for receiving DAAD Scholarships. They mentioned that they have a collaboration with IIT Bombay regarding the offered scholarship programs. Under that collaboration they

receive students from India and send students to renowned educational institutes of India as well with an opportunity for summer session in Germany. The DAAD Scholarship committee has received a few Bangladeshi students through their collaboration program in India, but otherwise they do not receive many scholarship applicants from Bangladesh. The main reason that the DAAD Scholarship has not caught the attention of Bangladeshi students was detected to be lack of information and insufficient exposure about the program to the students. NSU agreed to help DAAD to deliver information about it and expose their sensational offers to the students. The delegation talked not only about DAAD Scholarships, but also briefed about the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship program. Erasmus Mundus is a joint Master's degree program that is currently offering a dual major and huge scholarship opportunities. One of the major topics discussed at the meeting was students' interest in transferring credits or short-term semester-based study abroad programs. It is hoped that in the future the students of Bangladesh will become more interested in these short-term study abroad programs, where they can study abroad for one or two semesters, and then transfer the gained credit back to their home university afterwards. To increase students' interest in such programs, easy admission in MS and PhD programs are being offered for the students who have enrolled in these kinds of programs.

Delegation from Lincoln University Visits NSU

delegation of two professors from Lincoln University of Missouri visited North South University on 11th February, 2020. Earlier outreach attempts from the Office of External Affairs of NSU lead to communication with Dr. Mahfuzur Rahman, Senior Lecturer of International Business under the Department of Accountancy, Finance and Economics of Lincoln International Business School. The communication extended into a courtesy visit by Dr. Mahfuzur Rahman himself along with one of his colleagues, Mr. David Rugara, Associate Professor and Head of International at Lincoln University. During their visit, they sat for a brief meeting at NSU with Dr. Katherine Li, the Director of External Affairs, Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, the Coordination Officer and Ms. Samina Alam, the International Affairs Officer where they discussed the collaboration opportunities and scopes between Lincoln University and North South University. The primary discussion topics of the meeting were the objectives, interests, focus areas, current strategic plans and future goals of both the universities. Through discussion, it was realized that North South University and Lincoln University share many common areas of interest. Both the universities focus on internationalization and improvement of students' classroom experience.



About internationalization, Mr. Rugara mentioned that 62% of their total faculty members are from outside the UK and they target to increase this percentage even more. Afterwards, he proposed a faculty exchange collaboration with NSU. Dr. Li expressed her earnest interest to work on this collaboration and mentioned some more interesting points of possible collaboration from NSU's side such as joint research programs, Master's or PhD programs, study tour programs, etc. for the students of NSU. Delegates of Lincoln University appreciated the proposed ideas of collaboration. They have conducted such programs with several other universities before and are very much interested to have same kind of relationship with NSU as well. As the interests and goals of both universities sync perfectly, the meeting lead to an optimistic outlook and representatives of both Lincoln University and North South University agreed to work on institutional and departmental-level collaborations in future.

International Students' Orientation & Farewell Program Spring '20



orth South University Office of International Affairs organizes a special orientation program for the newly enrolled international students along with a farewell program for the graduating international students every semester, and so it was for semester Spring '20. The orientation and farewell program of international students for the semester Spring '20 was held on 12th February 2020. This time the members of NSU OEA welcomed 8 international students from different parts of the world including Somalia, China, USA, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Gambia who are enrolled in different programs like MPH, MBA, BA in English and BBA, etc. At the same time, NSU OEA wished the best of luck to the international students who are graduating from different departments of NSU this semester. The venue of the program was decorated beautifully and colorfully by the OEA members to make the program lively. Dr. Katherine Li, the Director of External Affairs, Ms. Samina Alam, the International Affairs Officer, Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, the Coordination Officer, Mr. Fardin Yaman, the Alumni Affairs Officer and the two student workers from NSU OEA were present at the event. Two members of NSU HR CLUB and NSU MUN CLUB were present at the program to repre-

sent their clubs and invite the new students to join. The event started with an introduction session of the members of the OEA family. Afterwards, the present club representatives said a few words about their club activities and encouraged the international students to join extra-curricular or co-curricular clubs.

The next and major portion of the event was for the newcomers and graduating international students. The graduating students shared their overall experience of studying at NSU and some suggestions for the fresher students. Afterwards, the new students introduced themselves to everyone. There was an icebreaking session arranged which included playing interesting games, cutting the cake, performing songs and so on. In short, a nice collaboration took place between the outgoing and new international students and the members of OEA through the program.

Delegate from Flinders University Visits NSU

Flinders University is a South Australian public university situated in South Australia. It is considered to be the number one South Australian University for its overall performance and improvement. Ms. Melissa Willoughby, the Country Manager of Flinders University visited North South University on 17th February, 2020. She was at NSU to represent and introduce Flinders University to the students and faculties of North South University. Ms. Willoughby attended two meetings on the same day at NSU, one with the students of different departments of NSU and another with the Deans, Chairs and faculty members of different schools and departments of NSU. At the first meeting, which was attended by the running students of North South University, Ms. Willoughby introduced the students to Flinders University. She mentioned that Flinders University is one of the best universities of South Australia and that the campus culture and administration of the university is very student-focused. The education system of courses is organized in a practical work-oriented way at Flinders. Moreover, employment permission is available for the students during their student life. The master's program of the university is for three years and the PhD program is for 3 years.

The graduates of Flinders can get a 3-year, post-graduate working visa which is very beneficial for the international students of the university. Scholarship offers are available for the students of Master's, PhD and so on, but the percentage of offered scholarship changes every semester at Flinders University. The requirements for getting into Flinders University are graduation from high school for undergraduate and graduate degrees for enrolling in post-graduation program. Moreover, a score of minimum 6 in IELTS is required by the university to ensure the enrollers' language proficiency. For the applicants of Business School, the required IELTS score is 6.5.

After finishing the discussion session with the students, Ms. Melissa Willoughby attended an interactive meeting with the officials and faculties of North South University. This session was attended by Prof. Dr. G.U. Ahsan, the Dean of School of Health & Life Sciences, Prof. Dr. Javed Bari, Professor, Dean of School of Engineering & Physical Sciences, Dr. Katherine Li, Director of Office of External Affairs and some faculty members from the departments of NSU. The main



topic of discussion was the common courses and research sectors offered by both the universities. The discussion proceeded towards research programs with matching funds, research scholarships, co-supervision programs, departmental and school-level collaboration and other innovative and beneficial topics. The huge common ground that NSU and Flinders have is Public Health and Medical Science. Both the universities were interested to conduct collaboration programs in such common fields. Moreover, credit transfer, 2+2 graduation program, 1+1 dual masters' program etc. were discussed thoroughly in the meeting. After exploring all the opportunities, the faculties and Ms. Melissa agreed on the point that further discussion should be done about signing a collaboration MoU between NSU and Flinders University, Australia.

NSU Signs an MOU with H&RC



orth South University and Hypertension and Research Center, Rangpur (H&RC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 19th February 2020. The MoU signing ceremony was arranged in the NSU VC Conference Hall on the same day. The MoU signing delegates from NSU included Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Prof. Dr. Gias U. Ahsan, Dean, School of Health & Life Sciences, Professor Dr. Ahmed Hossain, Professor of Public Health, Dr. Katherine Li, Director Office of External Affairs and several faculties from different departments. From H&RC, Prof. Dr. Md. Zakir Hossain, (Founder President, H&RC), Prof. Dr. Shah Md. Sarwer Jahan (Secretary, H&RC), Prof. Dr. Md. Mahfuzer Rahman (Advisor, H&RC), Dr. Faysal Bin Saley and Md. Anwar Hossain, (CEO, H&RC), were present on the occasion. The researchers of H&RC have recently conducted a timely survey for research purposes and in the meeting they shared the recent findings. The topics of consideration for the survey included age, religion, gender, occupation, diet, sleeping habit, tobacco consumption, exercise, etc. The primary result of the survey shows that people are really unconcerned about hypertension until they collapse. Publication of some parts of the research paper based

on the survey are already under process.

The expectation of the researchers of H&RC and officials of NSU from this MoU are that it will commence the scope of joint scientific research and training activities through educational collaboration between NSU and H&RC. H&RC intends to establish exchange programs beneficial to both the respective parties. Considering this golden opportunity, the faculties and researchers from both the institutes shared their research experiences and interests with everyone.

NSU Now Offers an IELTS Program

orth South University has recently signed a MOU with the British Council. The MoU includes several collaboration programs between two institutes that will benefit both the institutes equally. This collaboration opens the opportunity for the faculty, staff and students of North South University to register and attend the IELTS exam from their own campus. Moreover, the British Council is arranging three free IELTS guiding seminars and several mock tests for the students who will be registering to sit in the IELTS program. These opportunities will help the examinees with their preparation and evaluation of preparation for the exam to a great extent.

North South University has also set up an IELTS Corner space on the fourth floor of the Central Library Building. The IELTS Corner is enriched with books and documents that can be of great help to the IELTS examinees. The registered examinees can visit the corner at any time convenient for them and can use the collection of books and documents for their preparation.



The British Council has chosen two of the students from North South University as ambassadors for this IELTS program to communicate and assist the students with information and the registration processes of the program. The two chosen ambassadors are Rabat Morshed Chowdhury and Dewan Shahad Islam. Both the ambassadors are running undergraduate students of the BBA department of NSU.

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We had asked the ambassadors about their thoughts and duties regarding the IELTS program in NSU. In reply, Rabat M Chowdhury had said that,

"Becoming an IELTS ambassador of my institution, which is ranked as the number one and the first private university of our country, is a deeply rewarding opportunity both on a personal level and also in terms of my career prospects after I graduate from North South University.

As a student ambassador, I can have the opportunity to get involved in various types of work, allowing myself to develop skills that I already have and gain new ones. This big chance will definitely help me to become more confident, dynamic and a strong communicator.

Public speaking, communication, presentation skills, team work, office experience and networking are also some of the vital factors that attracted and motivated me to apply to be an IELTS ambassador. Since the ambassador scheme offers a fantastic opportunity to get involved with the university's many widening participation and outreach programs, as a result I have applied for this valuable position."

The reply of Dewan Shahad Islam regarding this matter was,

"I believe IELTS is an important aspect of applying abroad and it also gives an upper hand in the job field as it becomes easier for the employer to judge the applicant's English proficiency. The British Council has made IELTS

simple for everyone with step-by-step guidance to IELTS access as well as mock tests, however without the proper guidance the applicants might get confused and it can lead to bad IELTS scores. I have been heavily involved with extracurricular activities for the last 2.5 years and it has made me a known individual on the campus. I have given the IELTS exam and I wish to use my experience, network and fame to help the students with proper information and guidance so that they can achieve a better IELTS score."

On 23rd February, 2020, the inauguration program of the IELTS corner took place. Delegates from British Council, Professor AtiquI Islam, Vice Chancellor of NSU, Dr. Katherine Li, Director Office of External Affairs, the IELTS Ambassadors, several faculties from Department of English and Modern Languages and students of different departments attended the program. During the ceremony, VC sir said a few words about the IELTS opportunity NSU is offering. He mentioned the purpose of this collaboration and every other collaboration is to offer the best opportunities and help for the students of NSU regarding higher studies.

Launching Ceremony of Center for Peace Studies (CPS)

he South Asia Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG), North South University has taken an initiative to promote peace through people by creating the Center for Peace Studies (CPS). The launching ceremony of CPS took place on 27th February, 2020. The ceremony was enriched by the presence of Mr. Benajir Ahmed, Chairman of Board of Trusties, Prof. Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Abdur Rob Khan, Professor & the Dean of SHSS, Prof. SK Tawfique M. Haque, Director of SIPG, Md. Shahidul Haque, Senior Fellow of SIPG and former Foreign Secretary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Dr. Katherine Li, Director of Office of External Affairs, respected faculty members and students from different departments. The ceremony started with a pleasant speech from Dr. M Jashim Uddin, the Coordinator of CPS. He welcomed the distinguished audience to the celebration ceremony of the newly established, CPS. He mentioned that the motivation for this department is to focus beyond regional peace to world peace. Afterwards, Dr. Li took the stage and shared the poem she had written especially for the event.

Peace begins with me how the world I see and what I choose to be

Peace begins with you through everything you do creates a kind of glue

Peace begins with us and all that we discuss reduces any fuss

Peace belongs to her with or without fur freedom as it were Peace belongs to him with every life and limb a cup full to the brim

Peace belongs to them more precious than a gem in every single stem

Peace begins with me Peace begins with you Peace belongs to us

May we live in peace

-KLi 26 February 2020



She then expressed her excitement and expectation about CPS from the point of view of its the advisor. Later on the Director of SIPG introduced CPS in brief and shared his expectation about the effects and expected impacts by CPS. The keynote speaker. Mr. Md Shahidul Haque presented a historical context and vision for the future of the newly established CPS.

Md. Shahidul Haque carried the duty of the keynote presenter for CPS in the program. He started his speech with the history and world wars and peace and gradually proceeded to discuss CPS's expected role to effect the world's current situation. He also emphasized on its expectation to effectively impact education, training and research in Peace Education and Conflict Resolution. Professor AtiquI Islam, Mr. Benajir Ahmed, Dr. Abdur Rob Khan and the attending faculties and officials congratulated SIPG for being successful with their plan and initiative to establish CPS and conveyed best wishes for the future journey of CPS.

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NSU Launches the First Alumni Networking Session

North South University arranged its very first Alumni Networking Session for the alumni of the university on 28th February, 2020. This event was arranged and managed by the Office of Alumni Affairs of the Office of External Affairs. The expert hand who worked behind the whole networking arrangement of this session single-handedly was Mr. Fardin Yaman, the Alumni Affairs Officer. Around 800 alumni had registered online for the big event and 250 attended the reunion.

The ceremony was graced by Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of NSU, Mr. Benajir Ahmed, Chairman of Board of Trustees, Professor Sharif Nurul Ahkam, Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Katherine Li, Director Office of External Affairs and the precious alumni of North South University. The event became more lively and interactive by the valuable speech delivered by the Honorable VC Sir, Chairman of BOT and Director of OEA and the enthusiastic mingling of our alumni.



Professor Atiqul Islam sir welcomed the attending alummi with his cordial speech. He expressed his pleasure to experience such an event in campus for the first time where the alumni were gathered at their own campus after a long time since many of them had graduated. He congratulated the OAA for arranging such a successful networking session and hoped to see more such events in future. Mr. Benajir Ahmed sir, too, conveyed his best wishes to the OAA and welcomed the former students of NSU again. Afterwards, Dr. Katherine Li took the stage and during her brief speech, she thanked the alumni of NSU for heading back to their alma mater once again and for making the arrangement worthy and successful.

There was a brief raffle draw session arranged for the alumni to make the event livelier and cheerful. Afterwards, the winner alumni of the raffle shared a few about their feelings about the networking session and talked about how NSU had prepared them for their careers. The feedback from the alumni were positive and they expressed their hope for getting to attend more events like the Networking Session.

Faculty Newsflash: Dr. Sakib Bin Amin Delivers a Public Lecture at Durham University on the Occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the UK Commonwealth Scholarship Commission



Dr. Sakib Bin Amin, Associate Professor in the Department of Economics and Director of the Accreditation Project Team (APT) at North South University, Bangladesh was invited as a Keynote Speaker in a public lecture held on Wednesday, 4th December, 2019 at Durham University Business School (DUBS), United Kingdom on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the UK Commonwealth Scholarship Commission (CSC). Commonwealth Scholars studying across the UK North East, North West and Scottish regions attended the CSC anniversary event. CSC Commissioner Professor Brian Faragher was also present in this event and highlighted the activities of UK CSC over the last 60 years. In his presentation, Dr. Sakib gave an overview of the growing energy and electricity markets in Bangladesh and explained options for generating electricity in Bangladesh since the core reform programmes have taken place. The concept of energy sustainability was introduced, alongside a future roadmap for sustainable energy development in Bangladesh. Dr. Sakib previously completed his Rutherford Fellowship at Durham University Business School in 2018 on sustainable energy markets in Bangladesh. Hopefully, we will see more NSU faculty or students become Commonwealth Scholars in the future.

Faculty Feature

DV. M. EWAGAUN HAG picked up a professorial position in the Department of Political Science & Sociology, erstwhile Department of General & Continuing Education (GCE), at North South University (NSU) in January 2010. He chaired the Department of GCE until April 2013 and administered the NORAD funded Master in Public Policy and Governance (MPPG) program at NSU during the same period. Previously, Professor Haq had been the Academic Coordinator of MA in Governance and Development (MAGD) program jointly run by the Royal Netherlands Embassy in Dhaka and the Institute of Governance Studies (IGS) of BRAC University during 2007-09. The above programs were specially mended for the capacity building of the mid-level civil servants of Bangladesh government. Professor Haq was the founder Chair of the Department of International Relations at Chittagong University (2004-'07), and maintained an excellent track record as a faculty member in the Department of Political Science of the said university during 1982-2004. As Guest Speaker, Professor Haq taught about the narcotics threats at the National Defence College (NDC) in Dhaka for a number of years and remained Academic Adviser of this prestigious institution subsequently. He contributed many feature articles on wide ranging issues in the country's leading newspaper The Daily Star apart from his mentoring of the Student Clubs activities at NSU. In March 1998, Professor Haq received a PhD from the School of Politics at La



Trobe University in Melbourne, Australia. He achieved international recognition through his groundbreaking publication Drugs in South Asia: from the Opium Trade to the Present Day by world's two leading publishing houses: Palgrave Macmillan in the UK, with an US edition by St. Martin's Press in 2000. In 2003, Dr. Haq received the British Academy Visiting Professorship and was accorded scholarly reception by leading scholars and academics at Strathclyde University in Glasgow and by civil society groups, and community leaders in London. The University of Waterloo had awarded him Special Merit Scholarship and Type 1 Arts Faculty Scholarship in 1986 to pursue his Masters' program in Political Science. He maintained sparkling records throughout his academic career and was placed in 1st position in the first class in MA examination in Political Science from the University of Chittagong in 1981. To his credit, Professor Haq has substantial number of publications in multiple areas of political science at home and abroad. His latest book Transparency, Openness and Ethics in Public Governance (2010) has been published by KMAC from Seoul in Korea and this work is now used as training module for senior civil servants at the BCS Administration Academy (BCSAA) in Dhaka. At NSU, Professor Haq offers a number of courses ranging from Bangladesh Culture & Heritage, Political Science and Introduction to Governance at the undergraduate level to Theories and Process of Accountability and Corruption in Public Governance at the postgraduate level. Over the last two decades, he has been deeply involved in the supervision of postgraduate research work at different public and private universities. He presented a good number of research papers and articles and chaired many sessions in major international seminars and conferences held in Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, DPRK, Nepal, Korea, Malaysia, India, Pakistan and the UK.

Interviewer: You have invested a major portion of your career in teaching. What inspired you to choose teaching as a profession over all other career options?

- **Dr. M. Emdadul Haq:** After building a long teaching career, I can say that the teaching profession was my dream since boyhood, and it is my passion at this stage after 38 years. The major inspiration came from multiple sources that are as follows:
- (i) The desire was entrenched in my mind during the early years of schooling, what ancient Greek philosopher Plato had depicted in his classical book The Republic as 'individual aptitude.' When I was a student of the Brahmanbaria Primary Teachers Training Institute (PTTI) in the early 1960s, we had to join in the national assembly every day morning with the trainee teachers. Looking at them side by side, plus their beloved treatment for the students within the classroom and outside, I started thinking that one day I should become a teacher.
- (ii) While pursuing my MA in Political Science at the University of Chittagong, one of our favorite teachers Mr. Abdul Quddus Khan, one day, intriguingly asked in the class to write our aim in life. My answer emanated from an English verse, 'I am not afraid of tomorrow because I saw yesterday, and I am in deep love with today.' Along with the quote, I wrote, 'I want to be a proficient teacher in my life.' In the next class, the teacher expressed his gratification, mentioning my aim in life as a commendable one. I trust I could have nurtured the cherished goal as a teaching philosophy throughout my academic career up until now.
- (iii) On my completion of Masters' in Political Science, securing First class first position in a span of long fourteen years, I was offered a faculty position immediately. But one condition was tagged on me by the then Dean of the School of Social Sciences Professor R.I. Chowdhury to take 'permission' from my parents, as the profession was financially less rewarding. I had a job already as Research Officer at a leading NGO, not to keep myself unemployed after the examination. The readily available offer, however, attracted me to become a Lecturer within four days from the date of the publication of my result. Some of the junior students' and admirers on the campus used to address me as Ustad, which had appeared centuries back as Guru in the Hindu religious scripture Upanishad.

These are some of the tales that inspired me to pick up a teaching position on 18 March 1982, and that is how I ultimately landed up at NSU in January 2010.

Interviewer: You have represented Bangladesh at international seminars several times. Please share the feelings and experiences of representing Bangladesh in international platforms.

Dr. M. Emdadul Haq: It has always been a pleasure for me to speak in front of the learned audience, be it in the domestic or overseas environment. While speaking, I try to diagnose the listeners first for the right kind of information and to bring some impacts out of my deliberations. Also, I invest the effort to touch the mind of the audience by paying due importance to their cause and concerns. Especially when I speak before the overseas audience, I endeavor to give them the right perspective of my country so that through me, they get to know my country somewhat differently. I would also target the opinion builders in any public gathering so that by them, my comments are communicated to a larger body creating value addition.

Interviewer: From your bio, we came to know that you have an interest in research activities. What are the research areas or fields that interest you?

Dr. M. Emdadul Haq: Usually, in the Western hemisphere, academics and scholars develop expertise or specialize in a particular area of their respective disciplines. By contrast, there is another argument prevailing in academia for developing interdisciplinary knowledge combining different sets of facts, information, and ideas. Ancient Greek thinker Aristotle could be the glaring example in this context, and I would place myself as a student of the first political scientist. Even though my academic background has been political science, in my teaching career, I traveled around many disciplines starting from political history, international relations, public governance to narcotic drugs. As one of the commentators of my major work Professor Peter B. Mayer, Former Head, Department of Politics, University Adelaide, Australia observed:

Given the long historical baseline of this study and geographical spread it encompasses, the project would be impossible if it did not make clear linkages to many contexts of knowledge. Many disciplines (political economy, public policy, agronomy, criminology, etc. etc.) have a bearing on this topic, and those connections are well made.

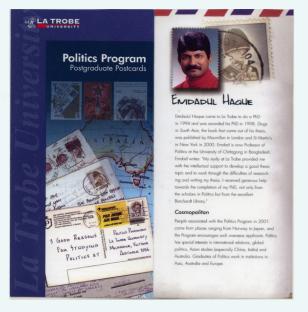
Although it is a daunting job for an academic to bring different information in one setting, as of now, this has been my practice to look at an issue from multiple angles. I tried to venture around in different branches of knowledge in social sciences with some credible publications having policy impactions, be it national, regional, or global perspectives.

Interviewer: You have written a substantial number of publications on your subject related topics. What motivates you to write books?

Dr. M. Emdadul Haq: Like many older people, sometimes I feel that I am very passionate about communicating my thoughts and experiences to the current and next-generation people at this point. I recall, when I was working on my Ph.D. dissertation, hardly it was a concern for me about getting a degree, rather my prime goal was to publish the work by the world-class publishing house at some point. On completion of my Ph.D. from La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia, alhamdulillah, I received four offers instantly from leading publishers to publish my work. Then, I ended up signing a forty-page long agreement with Palgrave Macmillan in the UK and St. Martin's Press from the USA for publishing my groundbreaking work Drugs in South Asia: from the Opium Trade to the Present Day. Listening to this charming news, my Ph.D. supervisor, Professor Robin Jeffrey, observed this kind of offer was not available to any other faculty members in the Department of Politics, including himself. In a commendable note he mentioned in a different place: I should emphasize that for a Ph.D. thesis to find distinguished publishers so quickly and readily is unusual.

In my writings, I try to touch upon the missing perspectives of the non-Western world, which is seldom overlooked or mislaid by the Western writers in some ways or other. I know, with my insufficient capacity, I can hardly build a palace but can contribute pieces of writings for the prospective readers. A good piece of work can bear the testimony of the writer for centuries together, as it happened to the many creative minds across the globe. While engaged in writing, I feel like talking to my audience, recognizing their tastes and temperaments in a given time and environment. If I get any feedback from any reader, luckily, I realize that someone has dug into my pursuit of being a reader. Writing a book or any serious academic publication is a lonely and tedious journey for the author, only a serious reader can understand. With my tiny ability, I try to produce something very substantive on the topic I am dealing with but am aware of the limitations that confound every writer, including myself.

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Interviewer: How do you feel about being at North South University as a Professor and Chair of the Department of History and Philosophy?

Dr. M. Emdadul Haq: I feel great to be here as one of the senior faculty members at North South University since 2010. Before that, I had served at the University of Chittagong for twenty-five years and then at BRAC University for two and a half years. In both places, I had the opportunity to work with professionalism, integrity, and reputation.

Contextually, I can share an example here. While on my completion of a Ph.D. I was getting ready to come back to Bangladesh, La Trobe University President Professor Michael Osborne, asked my supervisor 'if I had any expectation from the university.' Being impressed by a piece of information on my publication by world-class publishing houses that appeared in the Graduate Newspaper, he made this query. As I had decided to come back to Bangladesh, I was reluctant to get an immediate offer from him except for the return tickets of my family. After three years of departure, however, La Trobe University featured

me in a postcard and distributed it among the admission seekers on the University Open Day. It was a great honor for me personally as well as for the country in general.

Currently, I am chairing the Department of History and Philosophy (DHP), as the university authority felt about it at a certain point. Over the last year, I tried to take the DHP to the next level, not in figures only, perhaps also in quality. Probably, any junior faculty member with a visionary mind could have done this job. Fifteen years back, I was the founder Chair and professor of the Department of International Relations at Chittagong University. Distinctive experience earned in diverse departments can be a good learning experience in a professional career, which is not bad, I suppose. It can lead someone to use the expertise as a launching pad for reaching the desired goals in the future.

Interviewer: What progress and achievements do you expect for the Department of History and Philosophy of NSU as the Chair of the department?

Dr. M. Emdadul Haq: Currently, the DHP has several issues in its short, medium, and long term goals, which appeared in the strategic plan of the department. For the present readers, some of the information may be pertinent as follows:

- (i) Launching an MSS program in History and Asian History is the immediate objective of the DHP. The program will set a unique example for universities in Bangladesh and across the region by conjoining historical studies in Asia with the current affairs of the twenty-first century in a global context.
- (ii) Planning for an undergraduate degree program in Psychology in the immediate future. It will place the department at a competitive edge with similar disciplines run by the major public universities in Bangladesh.
- (iii) Offering a Ph.D. program by the department under the supervision of senior faculty members upon approval of the NSU proposal by the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh shortly.
- (iv) Expediting the current drive to recruit competent full-time faculty members to bost up the academic pursuit of the department in line with the vision and mission of the university.

Interviewer: Where do you see North South University five years from now?

Dr. M. Emdadul Haq: Under the dynamic leadership of the BoT and stewardship of the Vice-Chancellor and his competent team members, the university will reach a new stature, competing with the major universities in Bangladesh and across the region.

- Some major plans will be drawn, and attempt taken for the Purbachol New Campus development project for materializing the visionary plans of the university.
- NSU will grow both as a research and teaching institution in higher education and knowledge creation in Bangladesh and beyond its frontiers.
- The university will have its Ph.D. program run by its competent faculty members under different schools and programs.
- The number of full-time faculty members will increase significantly to make a balance between full time and part-time faculty members.
- With the performance of the NSU alumni, the status of the university will rise significantly across the national and global job market.
- Enlisting the research contributions made by the graduate and undergraduate students in achieving a higher ranking of the university in Asia.

Interviewer: What would be your advice and suggestions for the current and future students of NSU?

Dr. M. Emdadul Haq: Giving some suggestions is the easiest thing to do, but compliance is not easy in every situation.

- Stay away from a drug habit, because it is a dangerous evil, which is ruining our younger generation like bush fire.
- Become more meticulous, responsive, time-bound, and hardworking in your academic attainments.
- Remain morally upright like a good human being whatever you do and wherever you are.
- Don't deceive your parents, teachers, or friends, because, in turn, you will be deceiving yourself.
- Instead of running after only for good grades, pursue practical learning and help prepare yourself for the real-life situation.
- Try to focus some of the good things in the life that you have come across from reading my narratives, if these were not all empty or barren.

NSU Alumni Feature



Fatin Khandoker Brand Manager, MGH Group:

From having ZERO knowledge when it came to Supply Chain and Logistics, to managing several high-profile global accounts, to managing a country's operations and now finally being in charge of Branding the Group's Logistics, Supply Chain offerings and the nation-wide ride-sharing platform OBHAI, the last 4 years have been an enthralling journey thus far. Passionate about self-development, attaining an undergrad degree majoring in Finance and Marketing from our very own North South University, and serving as a Marketing Trainee and a Research Analyst in a Global Information Technology Enabled Service (ITES) outsourcing firm, Fatin Khandoker managed to transition into the Supply Chain and Logistics Industry rather seamlessly, well it looked seamless to say the least. Experience inherited over the last 4 years allowed him to make most of the opportunities earned in leadership roles in the 3PL and 4PL sector throughout his tenure with MGH Group, along with developing a strong network worldwide with various clients, vendors and partners locally and globally while learning from the best in the sector. Having also served as the company's Country Manager of Cambodia, he was allowed to dig deeper into the industry and explore the challenges and chances while establishing strong business acumen within while contributing to business development and pursue both professional and personal objectives. Serving as the Brand Manager of the group at present, challenges in reviving and excelling the brand image of the multi-million-dollar conglomerate through its

supply chain solutions and specially the ride-sharing phenomenon OBHA9, the kid who used to dress up for presentations in NAC Classrooms, seeks to conquer the world as a well nurtured product of North South University.

Interviewer: Where does your passion for self-development come from? How did this drive help you to get where you are today?

Fatin Khandoker: To be consistently able to adapt to the ever-changing world and of course the independence for oneself and to be able to be there for loved ones when called upon surely paid a major role in the pursuit for self-development. The sheer ecstasy from something major like signing your first employment contract or to the smallest of achievements like ticking off a daily objective from your to-do-list, but most of all the proud smile on your parents' face to see their son 'making it', makes you more driven than the day before.

Fatin Khandoker: You never know what new challenges wait in the supply chain and logistics sector. The uncertainty and the element of surprise in a truly global stadium leads to even more ways of getting things done, keeping you on your toes throughout. Also, logistics is a 24/7 gig, as they say, "It's 10 AM somewhere in the world". Majoring in Marketing and Finance and ending up in Supply Chain had its fair share of challenges, but most definitely from an education standpoint, NSU teaches you to get ready for the corporate world. It wasn't about the Finance and Marketing books, slides or the midterms, NSU was about developing yourself into who you are, from the people to the discipline to the networking and beyond.

Interviewer: What differences in business operations did you notice in Cambodia that differ from Bangladesh?

Fatin Khandoker: Compared to Bangladesh, Cambodia seemed a little more laid back. The people there were very simple-minded and didn't attempt to take leaps much. In terms of business operations, just the basic differences when it came to documentation or more factories having their head offices in China there.

Interviewer: Where do you see yourself 5 years from now? What are your plans to get there?

Fatin Khandoker: Being an avid fan of pro-wrestling and entertainment, the dream is surely to attend their biggest spectacle in WrestleMania. To live that dream, to have a stable and healthy life of course to push through the exciting challenges which life always throws at you making the best of everything, that 5 years from now, fingers crossed. No specific plans really, you can't make plans and expect them to work all the time. To take it as they come and adapt accordingly. Speaking from experience, having majored in Marketing and Finance and well sort of exceled in Supply Chain AND ended up in Cambodia, who would've known?

nterviewer: What advice would you give to the current and future students of NSU?

Fatin Khandoker: Take chances, and don't limit yourself to a 'scripted' life someone else had written for you. Try out opportunities, because if you never try you'll never know.

International Student Feature

Angela Jones is a freshman at North South University and a member of the North South Communications Club. She is from Florida, USA. Currently, she lives in Bangladesh with her mother and has been living here for two years. During this time, she has traveled to 14 different countries. After traveling to South Korea in October 2019, she decided she would like to live and work there. She is currently working towards her bachelor's degree in English-TESOL. She is very ambitious and is planning on completing her degree in 2-3 years. She is also considering partaking in the international university opportunities and studying abroad. She is thinking about continuing with NSU after graduating and getting her master's from here as well. She is a part of the BTS ARMY. They are a huge influence in her life with their incredible positive messages through their music. They are also one of the reasons she has decided to go university as well. She was also a cheerleader for 5 years through her final middle school and high school years. She did at one point have plans to do coaching and open her own cheerleading gym in her home state. She has 3 cats. Bone is 2 years old and she has two 3 months old kittens name Ming and Daiyu.



Interviewer: What inspired you to choose Bangladesh and North South University for your higher studies?

Angela Jones: I choose to live in Bangladesh because it's where my mom lives. I became interested in NSU because it was recommended to me by the CEO of Kazi It, Zara Mahbub. I decided on NSU because of its location, degree options, and accreditation. NSU is internationally accredited and that was a huge factor in choosing to attend and complete my degree. I was very impressed with the campus as well.

Interviewer: Why did you choose to pursue a bachelor's degree in the Department of English and Modern Languages?

Angela Jones: In October 2019, I visited the Republic of South Korea for BTS's Finale of Speak Your Self: World Tour in Seoul. I stayed for a week and fell in love with the city and people. I have experience working with kids and decided to become a teacher so that I may live and work in South Korea. I want to be able to better my students lives, so I want to learn how to be a proper teacher.

Interviewer: From your bio we can see that you are involved in extra-curricular activities at NSU. Please share your experience and feelings about being involved in club activities with NSU.

Angela Jones: I am now a proud Probationary Member of the North South Communications Club (NSCC). I wasn't sure what to expect because I haven't been in a club like this before. We just had our first meeting with the new recruits and I won the Judge's Choice for Top Speech. I had such a great time, which was surprising because public speaking is hard for me. I was so excited to share my win with my friends and family.

Interviewer: What are your future plans for your higher studies and career?

Angela Jones: I am currently debating with myself about whether I want to stay an extra two years with NSU and complete my master's or just move to South Korea or Japan to be an English Teacher. I am leaning towards completing my master's and teaching at a University.

Interviewer: From your bio came to know that you are a pet lover. Do you have any plans for the future that would work for the betterment of the animals of this planet?

Angela Jones: One of the biggest problems currently happening that affects not only wildlife but humans too is deforestation. We also have pollution problems too which are destroying marine life. As a member of the younger generation I feel it is our duty to protest and put pressure on society to not turn a blind eye to these problems.

Interviewer: You have been staying in Bangladesh for quite a long time. What is your opinion and observations about the people and culture of Bangladesh? How do you like it here?

Angela Jones: Everyone is incredibly friendly. The culture is very interesting because it's a melting pot like America. Built over hundreds of years and integrated into current society. I am in love with the food Dal. I don't know why but it's my favorite.

Interviewer: Anything you want to share with or suggest to the future applicant of NSU?

Angela Jones: Make sure to have your physical original certificates/grade promotions/diplomas from your previous schools because in Bangladesh, you need to turn that in for admissions.





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