



**Office  
of External  
Affairs**

# THE BRIDGE

## The Official Newsletter of the Office Of External Affairs

**ISSUE 18 | MAR-APR '21**

### Editor's Message

Welcome back to the 18th edition of the official newsletter of the Office of External Affairs at North South University. Our two weekly programs: the Alumni Talk Show and the Information Session with partner universities have gained a following. We're thrilled to be able to connect with viewers around the world. Even with the lockdown, we continue to explore ways to create new collaborations and strengthen old ones. If you are a faculty member interested in building a bridge between North South University and your alma mater, please contact us at the OEA and let us know. Also, the NGO network is gaining momentum and offers lots of opportunities for faculty and student research as well as possible internships. Happy Reading!

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### NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 23



The twenty-third episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on March 1, 2021. We had Dr. Fahad Ibrahim, a distinguished alumnus from North South University BBA batch 2005 as our guest for the episode. After graduating from NSU, Dr. Fahad completed his higher education – both MBA and PhD from the University of Hull, UK. Currently, he is working as a lecturer in the Department of Marketing in Swansea University, UK.

Although Dr. Fahad is currently associated with academia, he started his professional life in a completely different sector – banking. Nevertheless, he didn't feel passionate towards the banking sector, thus he started exploring other career paths and opportunities. The academic sector, especially the research opportunities in academia, interested him highly; therefore Mr. Fahad shifted his career towards teaching and research afterwards. His decision to pursue a PhD was highly influenced by his passion for research work. In this context, Dr. Fahad mentioned that as doctoral research is a lengthy process, it takes a lot of effort and patience to complete a Ph.D. Additionally, he suggested that the ones who want to pursue a Ph.D. to choose their research topic carefully and to make sure they have genuine passion towards the topic.

As Dr. Fahad has been teaching for a while now and shared his experiences, the benefits and satisfaction he gets, as well as the hardships and challenges he had to endure for this profession. He mentioned that teaching keeps him constantly learning, which is definitely the beneficial side of the profession but equally challenging as well. As Dr. Fahad had his higher education from, and years of teaching at experience at British universities, he has a clear overview on the education quality, curriculum and grading policy of the UK. According to his observation, the grading policy may differ to some extent, but the curriculum and quality of education at North South University is competent enough compared to the renowned British universities.

As a senior alumnus of NSU, Dr. Fahad conveyed some valuable suggestions to the current students and recent graduates of NSU. He emphasized working on both soft skills and hard skills during student years. He mentioned that good grades and a high CGPA to be as important as the extracurricular activities, thus one must balance these two out in order to ensure proper competency.

For further details, visit the link below –

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/4194431933909588>

### Information Session with North Dakota State University, USA

The Office of External Affairs, North South University organized an online information session with North Dakota State University, USA on March 3, 2021. The guests for the session from North Dakota State University included Ms. Lisa Hauck, Associate Director of International Student and Study Abroad Service, Dr. Shafiqur Rahman, Professor and Graduate Coordinator and Ms. Neely Benton, Student Recruitment Coordinator. Two PhD candidates from North Dakota State University, Mr. Wordh UI Hasan and Mr. Md. Ziaur Rahman Bhuiyan were also present during the session. The lively webinar was conducted on



Zoom and was shared via Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The event started with a brief introduction session of the guests and speakers from North Dakota State University followed by an informative presentation by Ms. Neely about the heritage and academic structure of the university. She talked about the foundation, location, facilities, goals and objectives of the university during her presentation.

North Dakota State University is a highly ranked student-focused research university in the USA with a total of around 13,500 national and international students currently enrolled. The university offers about 100 undergraduate and 75 graduate programs divided and supervised under several academic colleges. The university is vigilant about their education quality and the highly qualified world class faculty members of the university successfully ensure the expected quality of education.

Alongside offering a versatile set of courses and programs at the undergraduate level, graduation and research category, North Dakota State University also facilitates its students by offering various unique and necessary interpersonal development programs, such as: personal, academic and career counseling, a graduate professional skill academy, etc. Moreover, a number of student clubs and organizations provide the students with the opportunity to engage in co-curricular and extracurricular activities according to their preferences.

As the session continued, Ms. Neely passed the floor to Ms. Lisa to discuss the application procedure and requirements for getting enrolled in any program or course of North Dakota State University. She also discussed the estimated costs of different programs and scholarships as well as funding opportunities offered by the university in detail. Before opening the floor to questions from the audience, the guests answered some of the frequently asked questions by themselves for better clarification.

Mr. Wordh and Mr. Ziaur, two of the currently enrolled Bangladeshi students of North Dakota State University who were present in the session also shared their experiences of studying at the university and living in the USA with the audience at the end of the event.

For further details, visit the link below –

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/133622425313011>

## Information Session with the University of Dundee, Scotland



North South University Office of External Affairs organized an online information session with the University of Dundee, Scotland on March 9, 2021. During the event, Professor Bill Russell, Associate Dean, International, and Student Recruitment, School of Business, Mr. Volker Roeben, Professor of Energy Law and Global Regulation, Ms. Riddhika Shah, Regional Advisor, South Asia, and Dr. Nick Hopkins, Professor of Psychology represented the University of Dundee. Two alumni of both NSU and University of Dundee were Quazi Tafsirul Islam and Kazi Pushpita Mim. The interactive virtual seminar was conducted through Zoom and was shared via Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The event started with a structured and precise presentation by Dr. Nick Hopkins about the history, location, campus facilities, and basic academic structure of the University of Dundee. During the presentation, Dr. Nick mentioned that currently, around 17,000 national and international students are currently enrolled at the university and the university authority ensures a high teaching standard and research facilities for the students. Because of its assurance of quality education and accomplishments in the research sector, the university holds a high position in both national and international university rankings. Dr. Nick also briefed about the popular MSc programs, tuition fees, and different scholarship schemes offered by the University of Dundee.

The second speaker of the event was Mr. Volker Roeben. He introduced the programs and opportunities for working on sustainability-related subjects at the University of Dundee. He briefed about the programs offered by the university and explained the functionality of those for the interested students. Next up was Professor Bill Russell who introduced the School of Business at the University of Dundee to the audience. He mentioned the department to be Scotland's newest and fastest-growing business school. The school offers a number of interesting programs and courses for the business-administration enthusiasts. Moreover, the University's School of Business allows students coming from many backgrounds (i.e. science, engineering, etc.) to enroll in any of their programs.

After introduction of the University of Dundee by the university's representative team, the floor was offered to Kazi Pushpita Mim and Quazi Tafsirul Islam, two successful alumni of the University for sharing their time as students there. They shared their valuable observations, insights, and experiences about studying and adjusting to the academic structure and culture of the University of Dundee, Scotland.

At the end of the event, Ms. Raddhika described the application procedure and requirements for enrollment at the University of Dundee. The guests cordially encouraged the interested students to reach out to them for any further queries about the admission procedure or any other matters and requested them to the contact appropriate authority through the provided contact details.

For further details, visit the link below –

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1130059587417317>



## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 24

The twenty-fourth episode of NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on March 10, 2021. The guest of this episode was Mr. Chowdhury Abd-Allah Quaseed, one of the most successful alumni of North South University BBA batch 1994. By profession, Mr. Quaseed is an organizational growth and performance development and management expert and has versatile experience of working in different sectors with several renowned national and international corporations. He has also been involved with consultancy and mainstream media for quite a long time.

As in his professional life, Mr. Quaseed's student life was versatile as well. He was equally competent both regarding his academic performance and extracurricular activities. As a student of one of the very early batches of NSU, Mr. Quaseed was associated with the foundation of several significant student organizations of NSU such as: NSU YES, NSU Debate Club, and AIESEC. etc. His expertise in public speaking and debate were remarkable, and represented NSU as well as Bangladesh in eminent international platforms several times and earned enormous appreciation for his extraordinary performances. Besides clubbing, Mr. Quaseed also worked as a teacher's assistant and research assistant with experienced faculty members and researchers during his student years at NSU. Active involvement in such versatile activities helped him to improve his leadership skills, communication, interpersonal skills and strategic time management skills to a great extent.

As one of the most senior alumni of North South University, Mr. Quaseed had some very thoughtful suggestions for the current students and recent graduates of NSU. He suggested to start from scratch, gather experience and use every opportunity to learn something new. For improving communication and interpersonal skills Mr. Quaseed suggested conscious practice and listening to public speaking as much as possible.

For further details, visit the link below –

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/914229432738757>



## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 25



The twenty-fifth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on March 14, 2021. For this episode, we had Ms. Syeda Marjia Hossain, a distinguished alumna of North South University BBA batch 2006 as our guest. Ms. Syeda completed her undergraduate degree majoring in Finance from NSU and her postgraduate degree from the University of Hull, UK. She returned to Bangladesh immediately afterwards and rejoined NSU, but this time as a faculty member in the Department of Finance and Accounting. Currently, Ms. Syeda is associated with the University of Reading, UK as a Doctoral Researcher.

The session started with a discussion about the academic and professional paths and preferences of Ms. Syeda. From the very beginning of her career, she chose teaching as her profession. The reason behind this decision was that the academic sector interested her from a

very young age. Later, during her student years in several national and international universities, she had a vast exposure to the diverse research opportunities in different fields which attracted her even more to the academic sector and influenced her highly to choose it for her career. Her current association with doctoral research is also an outcome for such enthusiasm and dedication to academia. Ms. Syeda also briefly discussed her current research topic – 'Real Estate Valuation' during the event. The project focuses solely on sustainability and the valuation of real-estate sector.

As Ms. Syeda has experience being associated with a number of national and international universities as student, teacher and researcher, she had a wide experience and understanding of differences in academic structure and culture between North South University and international educational institutes. According to her experience, although the grading policy of NSU is totally different from British universities, the curriculum is more or less similar. Ms. Syeda expressed her excitement while talking about the vast and very successful alumni base that NSU has managed to build up through years of dedication, effort and academic excellence. Nevertheless, she mentioned that compared to the international universities, NSU lacks attention to research facilities and students' affiliation with the research work. Her suggestion for the authority was to emphasize on improvement in research. For the current students and recent graduates of NSU, Ms. Syeda's advice was to choose the major and career path that genuinely interests them the most.

For further details, visit the link below –

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/4259902007404751>

## Information Session with the University of South Alabama, USA

North South University Office of External Affairs arranged a webinar with the University of South Alabama, USA on March 18, 2021. Ms. Hannah Murphy, the Director of Global Outreach, University of South Alabama was present as the speaker and guest for the event. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and was shared via Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The session started with a well-structured and highly informative presentation about the history, location, academic structure and facilities of the University of South Alabama. The university is a medium sized public institute situated in the city of Mobile, Alabama along the southern coast of the United States. It has a vast campus with adequate open space and profound greenery. Around 14,000 national and international students are currently

studying at the under-graduate and graduate levels at the University of South Alabama.

The University of South Alabama offers an extensive variety of courses and programs for its students; around 100 degree programs are provided by the university under 9 distinguished colleges. The University of South Alabama is also progressive regarding their research and projects in several sectors and fields. The university facilitates 18 high-level research centers for the interested faculty members, students and researchers to pursue research activities in their field of expertise and interests.

Alongside the academic curriculum and research activities, the University of South Alabama also encourages their students to pursue extra-curricular or co-curricular activities of their choice. To facilitate this cause, the university administers 250 student organizations associated with different extra-curricular or co-curricular activities. During her presentation, Ms. Hannah discussed the estimated total cost for pursuing different programs at the University of South Alabama. She showed the breakdown of the total cost by tuition fees, insurance costs, accommodation costs, etc. Following that, she explained the different scholarship programs offered by the university and the requirements to apply for and get qualified for the funding schemes.

At the end of the event, Ms. Hannah mentioned the contact details of the Global Outreach Office and department in details and cordially invited the interested students to contact her for any further information or clarification.

For further details, visit the link below –

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/440573300358593>



## Information Session with the University of South Florida, USA



North South University Office of External Affairs organized a web information session with the University of South Florida, USA on March 23, 2021. Ms. Sarah Kay Wietzke, Associate Director, Office of Admissions International and Out-of-State students, Ms. Shifali Kumar, Recruitment Advisor and Ms. Nupur Khurana, Recruitment Advisor represented the University of South Florida during the webinar. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and was shared on Facebook Live via the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The event started with a video presentation about the campus life and facilities offered by the University of South Florida. Then, the first speaker of the event, Ms. Sarah conducted a structured presentation briefing about the location, academic structure, offered programs, application procedure and campus facilities of the university.

The University of South Florida is one of the newer universities of the United States founded in 1956. Statistics show that, it is one of America's fastest rising universities of recent times. Within a very short time since its inception, the university has become one of the highly ranked universities in regional as well as national rankings. The University of South Florida has also gained a remarkable popularity among both the domestic and international students. Currently, the university holds a count of more than 50,000 students, among which about 4,700 are international students coming from nearly 141 different countries. The university has 3 separate campuses located in three different locations to accommodate and facilitate its students.

The University of South Florida offers more than 200 different majors under different departments and programs at the undergraduate, graduate and PhD levels. One of the strongest and most emphasized part of the university is research. The university authority prioritizes their research programs. The university has been acknowledged as one of the Tier 1 universities of the USA for its remarkable contributions to various research fields.

The University of South Florida is a partner university of North South University; thus the students of NSU are eligible for several benefits in case of application, transfer and funding/scholarship programs. These procedures were also clarified through detailed discussion during the session.

For further details, visit the link below –

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/3857619384284602>

## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 26

The twenty-sixth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on March 24, 2021. We had Dr. Asad Karim Khan Priyo, a distinguished alumnus from North South University BBA batch 99 as our guest for this episode. After graduating from NSU, Dr. Asad completed his MA from York University, Canada and his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto, Canada. Later, he returned to Bangladesh and joined NSU as a faculty member under the Department of Economics. Currently, Dr. Asad is working as an Assistant Professor and Chair of the Department of Economics, North South University.

From the very beginning of his career, Dr. Asad chose teaching as his profession. During the talk show, he mentioned that the academic sector has always been his primary preference as a career path; he has been inspired and influenced by his family and teachers in this case. As an experienced faculty member of North South University, Dr. Asad shared his experiences of shifting to the online platform and continuing all kinds of academic





activities virtually during this COVID-19 pandemic. As the Department Chair, he has also started to reform the department curriculum in order to align it with the North American curriculum and has made a great deal of progress in this regard. Besides the departmental duties, Dr. Asad is working on several research projects aligned with his academic expertise and interest. His latest research interest is digital transaction and mobile financial services in Bangladesh.

As Dr. Asad has the rare experience of living and facing the culture and curriculum of North South University both as a student and a faculty member, he possesses a broad vision and perspective about the academic structure, strengths and deficiencies of North South University. According to his evaluation, the grading policy, curriculum, academic timeline of NSU are already aligned with international standards and are improving constantly. Along with that, he mentioned that the research focus of NSU has recently started to grow uniformly and has a

promising future ahead if the flow continues uninterrupted.

For further details, visit the link below –

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/3952855688069470>

## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 27

The twenty-seventh episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on March 31, 2021. The guest for this episode was Mr. Gazi Hasan, a distinguished alumnus from the very first batch of North South University – BBA batch 93. Dr. Gazi is an economist and is currently working as a Senior Lecturer of Economics at the University of Waikato, New Zealand.

Dr. Gazi has vast experience in the academic sector as he has been teaching from the very beginning of his professional journey. The immense ability of a teacher to grow curiosity in a student and shed light on the path of discovery impressed him deeply at a very young age and inspired him to choose teaching as profession. Alongside teaching, Dr. Gazi is also associated with Asia New Zealand Foundation as an Asia Specialist. His role in this position is to communicate with the journalists of New Zealand and refer them to the appropriate sources for Asia-related news reporting and information collection.

As a global economist, Dr. Gazi has a unique perspective about the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in global economics. Besides the economic damage and employment inefficiencies, he mentioned that COVID-19 has had a significantly negative affect on the sociocultural context. According to Dr. Gazi's insight, women – especially pregnant women are more prone to lose jobs due to the unemployment caused by the pandemic, which reactivates the gender inequality of the society that we have been fighting for so long. On the other hand, he mentioned that the pandemic has forced us to discover innovative ways to deal with the situation.

Dr. Gazi has extensive experience being associated with several domestic and international universities as student, faculty and researcher. From his versatile experience, exploration and observation, he ensured us that the education quality of North South University is high and can compete with most other international universities of the world. In this context, Dr. Gazi mentioned that the best thing that NSU taught him was independent learning, the confidence to seek explanations and acquire knowledge by himself. Another insight from his learning that he shared with us was that oversimplifying things is not always lucrative, rather balancing all aspects is the key to success. He shared his own personal story of overcoming adversities and coming out stronger as a result of never giving up.

For further details, visit the link below –

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/439607237098431>



## Information Session with Kansai University, Japan



North South University Office of External Affairs organized an online information session with Kansai University, Japan on March 31, 2021. Dr. Eiichi Yamamoto, Ph.D., Director, Center for International Education, Ms. Aya Zmisa, Division of International Affairs, and Ms. Zhu Xiaoping, Division of Admission Affairs represented Kansai University, Japan during the session. The interactive webinar was conducted through Zoom and was shared via Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The session started with a brief introduction about the heritage and education system of Kansai University, Japan. The university is one of the oldest universities in Japan; in fact, the institute will be turning 135 years old in November, 2021. Kansai University is located in the western part of Japan. It has been one of the top choices of international students who intend to pursue their higher studies in Japan including many Bangladeshi students. The university has approximately 160 partner universities in 37 regions around the world. Moreover, alongside maintaining a national alumni base, Kansai University also maintains an International Alumni Association for keeping their widespread alumni connected and active.

During the webinar, the speakers from Kansai University discussed the academic system, curriculum, and calendar of the university in detail. They explained the application procedures for enrollment in different programs of the university for the interested students. They also briefed about the entrance requirements, language requirements, semester timeline, and admission test structure of Kansai University, Japan.

Kansai University facilitates international students with different necessary and unique campus facilities and programs. The university runs an International Student Support Organization to help the international students to break the cultural barrier and adjust easily. They also provide a Japanese Language Support Program for international students to cope with the language difference; this program is offered in five levels – from beginners to advanced. The university offers four types of scholarship programs for international students. The applicants can choose a suitable scheme and apply for a scholarship during their admission.

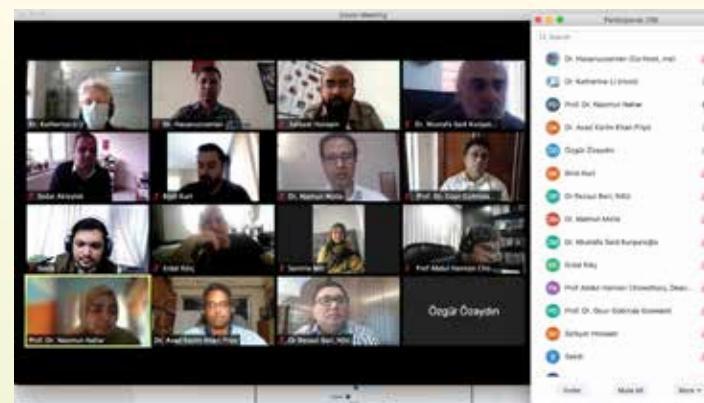
For further details, visit the link below –

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/790183471906662>

## Collaboration Meeting with Ondokuz Mayıs University, Turkey

An online zoom meeting was held between Ondokuz Mayıs University (OMU), Turkey and North South University on April 05, 2021. Within the framework of the meeting, opportunities for joint collaboration between these universities, especially between the School of Business and School of Engineering and Physical Sciences were discussed.

The meeting was moderated by Dr. Katherine Li, Director, External Affairs of North South University and other discussants were Prof. Dr. Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, Dean, School of Business and Economics, Prof. Gour Gobinda Goswami, Professor Economics and Director, Student Affairs, Dr. Sakib Bin Amin, Dr. Asad Karim Khan Priyo from the Department of Economics; from the School of Engineering and Physical Sciences, Dr. Rezaul Bari, Prof. Dr. Nazmun Nahar, Dr. Mamun Molla; and from Office of External Affairs, Dr. Hasanuzzaman and Ms. Samina Miti.



From Ondokuz Mayıs University, Turkey, Dr. Mustafa Said Kurşunoğlu and Birol Kurt and Tolga Arslan from the International Relations Office shared their presentations introducing the university during the meeting. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Özgür Özyayın from the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences and Prof. Dr. Erdal Kılıç and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sedat Akleylek from the Faculty of Engineering Department of Computer Engineering provided information about their departments and bilateral cooperation opportunities. An OMU Bangladeshi MSc student Mr. Safayat Hossain also attended the meeting, who actually introduced the two parties.

Collaboration opportunities especially student and staff exchange, joint events, joint research, publication and joint supervision of PhD students were discussed for cooperation.

An MOU has been signed between these two universities and a series of meetings is planned to be held both at the university and departmental levels to strengthen the cooperation between the two universities.

## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 28



The twenty-eighth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on April 06, 2021. The episode featured Mr. Aminul Ehsan, one of the most remarkable alumni of the first batch of North South University – BBA batch 1993. After completing his higher studies, Mr. Ehsan started his career in the development sector and has been associated with the same sector ever since. By profession, he is a Democracy and Political Expert and is currently working with Democracy International as the Senior Director; the organization works for youth leadership development. While discussing his professional life, Mr. Ehsan mentioned that an area of interest for him is youth engagement in politics. He is also working intensively on women's empowerment and the representation of women in politics. In this context, Mr. Ehsan especially mentioned the necessity of breaking the long-built chain of patriarchy and conscious reformation of a society where gender equality is welcome and practiced.

Alongside his extraordinary professional portfolio, Mr. Ehsan also has a passion for travelling and adventure. To spread this spirit of adventure, he started a travel agency named 'Traventure'. The organization plans and executes hiking and trekking based tours for the adventure-prone travelers of Bangladesh.

In the latter part of the session, Mr. Ehsan shared treasured and precious memories from his student life at NSU. As a student of the very first batch of the university, he was involved with the inception of several student organizations and clubs that are well-established and internationally reputed now. Mr. Ehsan mentioned that the best part of his student life at NSU was having the opportunity of being a part of the beginning of innovations and excellence. He also emphasized the strong teacher-student bonding of his time which exposed him to a broader horizon of thinking. As one of the senior most alumni of NSU, his suggestion for the current students and recent graduates of NSU was to avoid shortcuts and focus on hard work to reach any goal in life.

For further details, visit the link below –

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/461595568489595>



## Information Session with Edith Cowan University, Australia

North South University Office of External Affairs arranged a web information session with Edith Cowan University, Australia on April 07, 2021. Ms. Dasha Kondrashova, International Account Manager, International Partnership, and Ms. Poonam Sharma, Regional Manager, South Asia from Edith Cowan University were present in the webinar as guests and speakers. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and was shared via Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The event started with an informative and engaging presentation from Ms. Dasha about the foundation, academic structure, curriculum, and facilities of Edith Cowan University, Australia. Edith Cowan University is a 30-year-old public university situated in Western Australia. The university has attained a high ranking for the teaching quality among the Australian universities within this sort period of time since its inception. In fact, the young university has already secured its position in the world's top 100 universities under 50 years.

Because of the exalted educational quality and campus facilities of Edith Cowan University, it has been one of the top choices of students from its home country, Australia as well as many other countries around the world. The University has over 30,000 currently enrolled students among whom, around 20% are international students coming from all over the world. The University offers a vast range of study areas for the students; around 250 diverse and exclusive courses and programs are available for students to choose from under suitable departments and schools. The academic structure and curriculum design of Edith Cowan University is practical and industry-oriented which ensures a remarkable placement rate of graduates of the university. Moreover, the university provides career and leadership services and other mentoring programs to ensure the proper development of the students.

The application procedure and entry requirements of Edith Cowan University were also discussed in detail during the session. The university offers several diverse scholarship schemes both for undergraduate and post-graduate level students which were explained in the session. In this context, the speakers mentioned that Edith Cowan University is granting a 30% waiver for every student during the ongoing virtual academic procedure continuation. Other important topics like visa process, part-time work permits, post-study work visa, etc. were also discussed and clarified throughout the webinar. For further details, visit the link below –

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/275336274060705>



## GMAT Workshop with the EMK Center



North South University Office of External Affairs recently collaborated with the EMK Center to arrange a three-day long virtual workshop on Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). Two clubs of NSU, NSU YES! and NSU HR CLUB, also partook in the collaboration for reaching out to the maximum number of NSUers and promoting the event to them. The event took place on April 08, 2021 on Zoom. The workshop was arranged to assist graduate applicants in the business field to do well on the GMAT. A current MBA student at Texas Christian University, Belal Hossain conducted this workshop.

Students who attended the workshop were informed about the GMAT structure, marks distribution and time. Then Instructor provided tips and strategies to do well on 4 different sections of the test. Students were also given different resources and practice materials that might enable them to improve writing, analytical, quantitative, reading, and verbal skills. The instructor also provided guidance and instructions about preparing wisely and strategically for the GMAT.

More than 15 business degree aspirants attended all three classes of this workshop. The participants were very responsive and cooperative during the session. At the end of the interactive session, the attending students were offered the floor to ask questions about the topic.

For further details, visit the link below -

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGjf1T0akmhNrASz5xnFZhRixD993SSiO>

## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 29

The twenty-ninth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on April 12, 2021. We had Mr. Kamrul Hasan, a distinguished alumnus of North South University MBA batch 2006, as our guest for this episode. Mr. Kamrul is a transformational coach and international speaker by profession. His career portfolio is very versatile with the experience of working with diverse organizations as well as starting a number of organizations himself. Currently, Mr. Kamrul is working as the Managing Director of Sensei Wisdom and Managing Director of the Asian Region for the Jump Movement. Other than that, he is also the founder and CEO of CKH Network, Alpha Next Digital and NEST Business Incubation Hub.

Mr. Kamrul's career portfolio leaves no doubt about him being a multitasker, most importantly an enthusiastic, energetic and improvement-oriented person. He mentioned that the motivation behind every initiative he took so far was his passion for



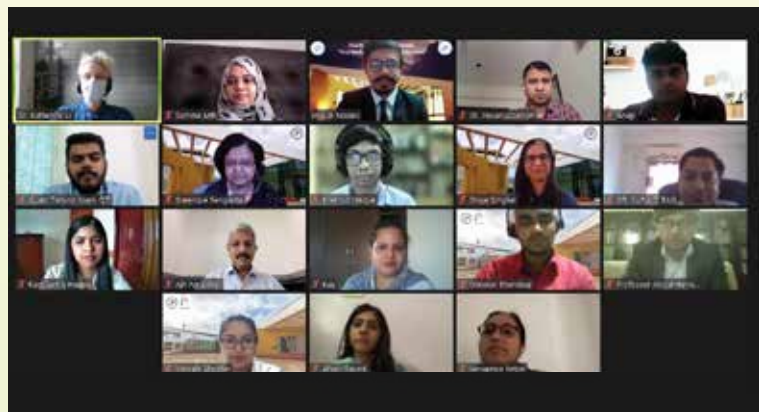
inspiring and connecting people. In fact, his suggestion for all the young aspirants and entrepreneurs was to let their passion influence every step, decision and action of their professional life. Alongside with passion, Mr. Kamrul also emphasized being focused and patient towards their targeted goals. As a successful entrepreneur and experienced manager, he also explained the importance of emotional intelligence for succeeding in the current competitive and technology-based work culture.

In the latter part of the event, Mr. Kamrul shared his memories and experiences from his student years at North South University. He mentioned that he dreamt of pursuing higher education from NSU since he was an undergraduate student and shared stories of his dedication and devotion for making it to NSU. In this context, he mentioned that the most special quality of NSU is that it integrates international standard curriculum, teaching quality, practical knowledge and training together and creates excellence in the education sector. According to Mr. Kamrul the most precious thing that NSU inculcates its students with self-confidence and street smarts.

For further details, visit the link below –

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/559524381655794>

## Collaboration Meeting with the Goa Institute of Management, India



An online collaboration meeting was held through Zoom on April 13, 2021 as part of the academic collaboration agreement between North South University, Dhaka, Bangladesh and Goa Institute of Management, Goa, India.

The Centre for Social Sensitivity and Action (CSSA) at the Goa Institute of Management, India (GIM) and the Center for Peace Studies (CPS) under the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) at North South University, Dhaka have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The Institutions to which both centers belong are part of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). The main areas of the new collaboration will include joint student projects in the area of SDG 4.7. It targets that by 2030 all learners will acquire the knowledge and

skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development.

Professor Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, Dean, School of Business and Economics, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, External Affairs and Advisor of CPS, Mr. Quazi Tafsirul Islam, Lecturer, Department of Management, Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director of External Affairs and Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer were present from North South University; Dr. Divya Singhal, Professor and Chairperson, Center for Social Sensitivity and Action and Dr. Sreerupa Sengupta, Assistant Professor working in the areas of sustainable development, gender & governance were present from the Goa Institute of Management.

In principle, initially 6 students (3 NSU and 3 GIM) can work on one project. The students will prepare the project virtually on the basis of: consulting relevant course material, books and important articles on the subject - browsing the internet, etc. Guidance will be provided by NSU and GIM faculty members.

The launch of the GIM-NSU SDGs/Sustainability Project joint student project took place on April 26, 2021. Following is the agenda:

10:30am – 10:35am IST/11:00am – 11:05am BST

**Welcome Address** by Prof. Divya Singhal, Chairperson - Centre For Social Sensitivity and Action (CSSA)

10:35am – 10:40 am IST/11:05am – 11:10am BST

**Opening Comments** by Prof. Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, Dean SBE, NSU

10:30am – 10:45am IST/11:10am – 11:15am BST

**Special Remarks** by Prof. Ajit Parulekar - Director, GIM

10:45am – 11:15am IST/11:15am – 11:30am BST

**Brief Overview of Sustainability/UN SDGs** and the project brief by Prof. Sreerupa Sengupta

11:00am – 11:10am IST/11:30am – 11:40am BST

**Project Team Breakout Room Activity** – Introductions and Communication Planning

11:10am – 11:30am IST/11:40am – 12:00pm BST



**Sharing by Team, Closing and Vote of Thanks** by Mr. Quazi Tafsirul Islam, Lecturer, SBE, NSU

For further details, visit the link below –

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/2849592265294445>

## Information Session with FPT University, Vietnam

**N**orth South University Office of External Affairs organized an online information session with FPT University, Vietnam on April 15, 2021. The session included Ms. Hien Nguyen, the Director of FPT Education Global, and Mr. Hai Vu, the Manager of Global Mobility Ms. Ha Ta, Student Mobility Coordinator FPT Education Global, from FPT University, Vietnam. The lively webinar was conducted through Zoom and was shared via Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The event started with a warm and convivial welcome speech from Ms. Hien. Through her speech, she introduced herself and the other delegates from FPT University, Vietnam, conveyed her best regards to the representatives from NSU OEA, and expressed her optimism for an interactive and lively session. Then the floor was passed to Mr. Hai Vu to carry on with the information session. He started his presentation with a brief introduction about Vietnam followed by an introduction of FPT University. Vietnam is a country situated in Southeast Asia with one of the world's fastest-growing economies. And FPT University is one of the top private universities of Vietnam having five distinguished campuses located in different locations around the country. The university currently consists of over 3,000 international students coming from different regions and corners of the world. The university has nearly 200 partner universities worldwide among which North South University is one of the most recent yet prominent.

FPT University, Vietnam offers diverse courses and programs for their international students. One of the most interesting and innovative programs among them is the Global Mobility program – 2021. This recently launched program is the pioneer of student mobility in Vietnam. A number of separate programs like study tours, IT training, English training, internships, etc. are enlisted under the university's Global Mobility Program. All of the aforementioned opportunities are diverse and customizable, academically well-designed, and intended to offer experiential learning to the students. One of the most notable and popular programs under this initiative is Remote Internship Program. The required cost for the program is affordable for the students and even offers an opportunity to obtain a scholarship at a minimal cost. More than 30 companies from all around Vietnam are now offering internships in different positions and sectors under this internship scheme. The Remote Internship Program can offer the participants an intense opportunity for global interaction, experience, and flexibility.

For further details, visit the link below –

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/593425022053409>



## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 30



**T**he thirtieth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on April 20, 2021. We had Mr. Md. Abdul Mukaddem Rushab, one of the distinguished alumni from NSU BBA batch 2008, as our guest for this episode. After completing his graduation from NSU in 2012, Mr. Rushab started his professional journey in the corporate sector of Bangladesh right afterwards. He has more than eight years of prior experience working in the telecom and FMGC sectors, and is currently associated with Unilever Bangladesh Ltd. as the eRTM Manager.

The session started with Mr. Rushab sharing his experiences of working in different organizations in diverse roles. He also elaborately discussed his current field and professional responsibilities at Unilever Bangladesh Ltd. As the eRTM Manager, he is currently involved with the B2B e-Commerce segment of the industry. While talking about the B2B commerce sector, Mr. Rushab mentioned the challenges that this sector still faces and pointed out the scopes for improvement in the B2B commerce ecosystem in Bangladesh. In this context, he emphasized the most on gaining trust and satisfaction of existing and potential customers.

As an experienced corporate personality, Mr. Rushab shared some valuable insights and observations with the audience throughout the session. In his opinion, digitalization in every industry is inevitable for improved efficiency and opportunities. He emphasized continuous improvement and learning of relevant skills for coping with the rapidly changing corporate environment and demands. He also mentioned that there is no alternative to acquiring digital skills for surviving in the current job market.

In the latter segment of the event, Mr. Rushab shared some exciting and interesting memories from his student years at NSU. As for the reason he choose NSU for higher studies, he mentioned that he has always been interested to know more about the administrative and business sector and this interest towards business administration led him towards getting enrolled in one of the top business schools of the country – NSU SBE. He also talked about how the academic structure and guidance of highly qualified and cooperative faculties impacted his professional life positively. As a senior alumnus of NSU, his suggestion for his fellow new graduates and current students of NSU was to concentrate on improving communication skills and building a network as much as possible.

For further details, visit the link below –

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/464576001535731>

## Information Session with La Trobe University, Australia

**N**orth South University Office of External Affairs arranged a webinar with La Trobe University, Australia on April 21, 2021. Mr. Amit Malhotra, Regional Director – South Asia and Africa for La Trobe International and Mr. Alok Kumar Singh, Marketing and Conversion officer – South Asia represented La Trobe University, Australia during the session. The interactive webinar was conducted through Zoom and was shared via Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The event started with a brief introduction by the guests from La Trobe University and right after, the floor was passed to Mr. Amit, the Regional director for La Trobe International to share his thoughts with the audience. Mr. Amit wholeheartedly thanked the organizers for offering the opportunity to connect with the students in this difficult time of the COVID-19 pandemic and cordially welcomed the audience to the information session. After the enthusiastic welcome speech, Mr. Alok took over the floor to present a brief overview of the history, academic structure and facilities offered by La Trobe University.



La Trobe University is a public university situated in Australia which started its journey in the year 1967. Currently, the academic activities of the university are conducted on 7 different campuses – all of which are located in different regions of Australia. The flagship campus of the university is situated in Melbourne, Australia. Despite being a comparatively young university, La Trobe University has already earned a strong regional, national and international reputation. The university is highly ranked for its educational quality, research standards and employability of the graduates. Moreover, La Trobe University ensures substantial industry engagement and has numerous accreditations with relevant organizations across the nation and even beyond their borders.

La Trobe University's academic structure is well-designed, industry-oriented, modern, regularly evaluated and updated according to the practical demands of the job market. The university offers more than 250 programs for undergraduate, postgraduate students as well as for research activities in different fields. The offered programs of La Trobe University include a number of exclusive and popular courses such as Supply Chain Management, Internet of Things, Digital Health, etc. These facilities and the quality assurance offered by the university makes it one of the top choices of both national and international students to pursue their higher studies. Around 8,000 international students from over 100 countries are currently enrolled in the university in different programs and courses.

During the session, Mr. Alok discussed the admission requirements and application procedures of La Trobe University in detail. He also mentioned the approximate cost for different programs and courses at La Trobe University. Moreover, the scholarship schemes offered by the university were also discussed during the event. At the end of the session, Mr. Alok described the post-study work rights that the graduates of the university will enjoy once they earn their desired degree from there.

For further details, visit the link below –

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/3657286587733096>

## Information Session with the University of Waikato, New Zealand



**N**orth South University Office of External Affairs organized a web information session with the University of Waikato, New Zealand on April 27, 2021. Several delegates from different administrative and academic departments of the University of Waikato participated in the webinar as representatives including Ms. Tanya Clarke, Regional Manager for South Asia, Mr. Jason Matangi, Director of Global Engagement and Development, Professor Frank Scrimgeour, Head of the school of Accounting, Finance and Economics and Dr. Gazi Hasan, Senior Lecturer of Department of Economics. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and was shared via Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The lively session started with a brief introduction of the guests and speakers and proceeded with a precise presentation about New Zealand and the University of Waikato by Ms. Tanya. In her presentation, she mentioned that New Zealand is one of the world's most convenient places to stay, pursue education and build a career. In fact, the country has been ranked as the 2nd safest country in the whole world and has a heritage of offering an international standard and comparatively inexpensive education both for local and international students. She also mentioned the improved and controlled COVID-19 situation of the country in this context.

Among a number of rapidly growing and highly ranked universities of New Zealand, the University of Waikato is one of the most prominent ones. The university cultivates a culture of diversity and supports the idea of a global community on their campus. Around 15,000 international students are currently enrolled in the university from over 135 countries. The University of Waikato ensures a zero compromise policy in the case of maintaining an international standard education quality. The university offers a large number of diverse programs at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels as well as versatile internship and research opportunities for the students.



The Management School of the University of Waikato is reputed and globally recognized for its world class academic structure and quality. During the session, Professor Frank informed the audience about the most popular programs of the Management school in brief. Meanwhile, he also mentioned that all the programs offered by all the departments are highly flexible.

The University of Waikato is committed to ensure suitable programs for every student and the administration and instructors of the university try their best to serve this purpose to the fullest. The university's moto is to maintain academic excellence and practice relevance. In this context, Mr. Matangi said that the university authority believes practical success and academic success go hand in hand and take their strategic and managerial decisions accordingly.

For further details, visit the link below –  
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1163374494181075>

## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 31

The thirty-first episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show was launched on April 28, 2021. The guest for this episode was Mr. Al Farabi, one of the distinguished alumni of NSU from BBA batch 2007. Mr. Farabi graduated from NSU in 2012 with dual major in Marketing and Finance; afterwards started his career in the marketing sector as a market researcher. From the very beginning of his career, he has been associated with the telecom industry of Bangladesh and has gained ample experience in this sector by now. Mr. Farabi joined Banglalink, one of the most prominent telecom companies of Bangladesh, as a research manager and is currently working with the company as the Brand Marketing Manager.

As a close and experienced associate of the telecom industry of Bangladesh, Mr. Farabi mentioned that the distinct characteristic of this industry from others is that it is dynamic and spontaneous. The room for creative thinking and spontaneous decision making opportunities of brand management sector excited and attracted him the most, thus he chose to build his career in this line. Alongside the exciting part of this sector, Mr. Farabi also discussed the challenges of successful market positioning because of the current competitive market and media in brand management. According to his opinion based on observations and experiences, street smarts and flexibility are highly required for a person to thrive in the current corporate universe.

In the latter segment of the event, Mr. Farabi shared some exciting memories and experiences from his student life at NSU with us. In his opinion, the versatility and diversity of people, culture, system and even curriculum is the best and most unique feature of NSU. He also appreciated the opportunity and support that NSU ensured for gradual and constant improvement of the practical skills of the students.

As a senior alumnus of NSU, Mr. Farabi conveyed some significant insights and suggestions for the current students and recent graduates of NSU. He emphasized constant practice and improvement of collaboration and networking, teamwork, leadership and communication skills, etc. real life oriented qualities. He also suggested openness and flexibility to change and innovation to the young aspirants for achieving success.

For further details, visit the link below –  
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/3682657488512103>



## Faculty Feature



*Md. Rizwanul Islam* is currently a Professor at the Department of Law, North South University. He obtained his first degree in Law from the University of Dhaka. He obtained his Master of Laws from the National University of Singapore and his doctoral degree from Macquarie University. Previously, he was an Associate Professor at the Department of Law, North South University; Assistant Professor and then an Associate Professor at the School of Law, BRAC University; a Lecturer in the Faculty of Law, Northern University Bangladesh; and a casual Lecturer in the Department of Business Law, Macquarie University. He is the author of *Economic Integration in South Asia: Charting a Legal Roadmap* (Leiden, Boston: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2012). Rizwan twice received the Macquarie University Faculty of Arts Higher Degree Research Award for Best Candidate Publications. He has more than 30 books, monograph, journal articles, or book chapters published in reputed outlets such as Brill, Cambridge University Press, Elsevier, Kluwer, Oxford University Press, Routledge, and Springer. Rizwan sometimes writes columns for national and international newspapers such as *The Diplomat*, *Straits Times*, *Bangkok Post*, *Business Times*, *New Straits Times*, *Economic Times*, and *Daily Star*. He has acted as a consultant and Fellow in projects funded by the World Bank, United Nations Development Programme, and national NGOs. Rizwan was commissioned by the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh for writing a research report. He was awarded President's Gold Medal for his paper titled 'Judges as Legislators: Benevolent Exercise of Powers by the Higher Judiciary in Bangladesh with not so Benevolent Consequences' as the Best Research Article in the subject category of Arts, Humanities, Education, and Law of the year 2016. He has recently been elected as a Co-Chair of Teaching International Law Interest Group in the American Society of International Law. Rizwan also occasionally writes short stories.

**Interviewer:** What inspired you to pursue Law?

**Md. Rizwanul Islam:** It is the ubiquity of law in almost every walk of life, the practical application of it, and most of all, the opportunity of being involved in reading for life that drew me to law.

**Interviewer:** Having studied at Dhaka University, National University of Singapore and Macquarie University, can you compare and contrast the education you received from those three different institutions?

**Md. Rizwanul Islam:** It is a bit difficult to answer this but let me try. In Dhaka University, it was rather a black letter approach. At NUS, it was more about being encouraged to study law more critically and contextually. At Macquarie, as a doctoral student, for me, it was being involved in learning to research and write on law.

**Interviewer:** You have more than 30 publications. What motivates you to write and do you have a strict writing routine? Please describe it. Also, have you ever experienced writer's block? If so, how did you overcome it?

**Md. Rizwanul Islam:** Reading and writing are things that are most enjoyable to me. I think writing is something which can inform, entertain, and unearth the unknown or highlight something less known. And all these can be done from the comfort of your desk.

I wish I could follow a routine. For me, it is about trying to spend as much time as I can on reading and writing, from which I derive a lot of pleasure. Writer's block? By somewhat piggybacking on a scholar, I would say, 'why would I have writer's block when my father never had a businessman's block?' On the contrary, I wish I could manage to have more time for my writing.

**Interviewer:** You mentioned that you occasionally write short stories. Can you tell us more about that?

**Md. Rizwanul Islam:** I have just started doing this. But of all my writing, this gives me the greatest pleasure. I feel a lot more liberated in creating my 'own universe'. In academic writing, we are at times constrained by dogmatic norms, which I do not feel in my fictional writing.

**Interviewer:** Having taught at several other institutions both inside and outside of Bangladesh, can you tell us what made you choose NSU and how it compares to the others where you've worked?

**Md. Rizwanul Islam:** In terms of the places where I have worked in Bangladesh, it is NSU's relatively more space for academics to engage in research that was a key reason for me to choose NSU. And I think with its renewed push towards research, NSU is increasingly becoming more interesting for researchers.

**Interviewer:** As you've written about the Rohingya Crisis, can you tell us how you see the current situation?

**Md. Rizwanul Islam:** The current situation is, unfortunately, quite bleak. However, perhaps it is now in such a state that from rock bottom, it cannot get worse. Hopefully, people's movement for democracy will usher in a better fate for the Rohingya. And I also hope the International Court of Justice can help the Rohingya to get justice.

**Interviewer:** Finally, what advice do you have for the current and future students considering a career in Law?

**Md. Rizwanul Islam:** Law offers a very diverse range of career options. If you have a passion for lifelong reading, maybe law is the subject for you.

## NSU Alumni Feature

*Mr. Mosharraf Yaafi* has been in the corporate sector for more than 20 years. He has a strong track record of business development and operations management. He is experienced in diverse areas of the business and commercial unit operations; encompassing field sales, distributions, B2B sales, distributors management, retail channel management, channel operation management, field forces and retail development, m-Commerce role out, alternate channel establishments and development of sustainable strategy for the low cost operations and enhancing profits as well as distribution process establishment after industry benchmarking.

*He has a phenomenal leadership quality which translated to success in organizations. A strong individual and professional with a very warm and dynamic nature, who never shies away*



*from challenges and believes in delivering the best.*

*Mr. Mosharraf Yaafi is the first ever Bangladeshi Country Head of Australia Based MNC IDP Education LTD. He is also a Board of Director of IDP Bangladesh LTD. Indeed it's huge achievement. Mr. Yaafi Iso has experience of working in different projects in UK, Australia, India, and Sri Lanka.*

*He worked in Reckitt Benckiser, Grameen phone, Airtel, Robi Axiata, MicroEnsure (A Telenor Company) and IDP. Stand-up comedian, MC (TV, Radio, and Live programs) and Writer. Apart from contributing and growing with corporate sector, Yaafi is engaged to establish standup comedy and world class MC pattern in country. He is instrumental to establish stand-up comedy clubs in Bangladesh. He participated very popular standup Comedy show Mirakkal by Zee TV India. He was one of the semifinalist among the contestants of both Bangladesh and India. Later used to work as regular TV host and part-time RJ on different FM stations. He is also a writer and published two books.*



**Interviewer:** You have been working in the education sector for a long time. What are the current scenarios, scopes and opportunities of higher education abroad for the students of Bangladesh? What are the key obstacles and challenges, especially during this time of the pandemic? And how might those be overcome?

**Mr. Mosharraf Yaafi:** Opportunities for higher education abroad have been widening recently. Bangladeshi students' academic achievements abroad are also quite impressive. Enrollment into top-ranking global educational institutes is increasing. By and large, higher education abroad is enjoying healthy growth.

There are two major challenges for Bangladeshi students. A) proficiency in English language and B) Financial/fund arrangement. In the case of English language proficiency there is no way but one has to get hold of English language. I mean all four components: reading, writing, speaking and listening. In order to manage funds, it is still pretty much sponsored by families of aspiring students. However, in many other Asian countries, banks and financial institutors provide loans. I believe the country's financial institutions should step in. Due to the pandemic all over the world, traveling is becoming limited. However, still online classes are taking places. Once the pandemic comes under control global movement will become eased and return to normal.

**Interviewer:** You have completed an overseas internship at Delhi University. How did you pursue and achieve that? Tell us about that experience, what did you learn from it?

**Mr. Mosharraf Yaafi:** Actually it was not Delhi university rather AIESEC. AIESEC is a global youth development initiative. During those days (late 90s') only NSU had a branch of AIESEC. [It still does.] One of the core objectives of AIESEC was to exchange youth among different countries so that they could get the exposure to the international corporate world. So I got the opportunity after five levels of screening in the country and abroad including the corporate house that allowed me to do a paid internship. The experience changed my life. To be very honest we live in very homogenous society, so we hardly get opportunities or the taste of a multi-cultural & multiracial atmosphere. To be a global citizen or global level corporate executive this is one foremost qualities someone needs to have. This is what I got during the early days of my career and it enriched me with immense confidence. Apart from that I got firsthand practice of objective-oriented deliverables in the work place. That helped my career later when I started to work in Bangladesh a great deal.

**Interviewer:** You have worked in multiple major sectors of the country before taking your current position. At present, which job skills do you consider the most important ones that the graduates need to learn in order to perform well in the job market? What is your opinion about the average quality of NSU graduates in the current job market?

**Mr. Mosharraf Yaafi:** In my opinion psychological maturity, mental toughness and adaptability are three major qualities that someone needs to have in today's corporate world, if someone wants to be at the top in long run. Softer skills like communication, negotiation, interpersonal skills, etc. are kind of a given. I meant someone must have them anyway. In the current job market there is huge competition. Since the supply of graduates has increased manifold. Hence, students must keep this in mind and need to prepare accordingly. Top CGPA holders of NSU have certain market acceptability. However, people with a moderate CGPA need to work hard. They need to build strong and effective networking, enhanced soft skills and openness to take risks. That will be helpful to make them more competitive.

**Interviewer:** You participated in the popular Indian comedy reality show Mir Akkel. When did you realize your passion for theater and entertainment? How did it help you to reach the stage of Mir Akkel? What is the prospect of comedic entertainment in this country? How can more individuals be motivated to join this industry?

**Mr. Mosharraf Yaafi:** I performed in the theatre since when I just passed class 12. Those opportunities increased when I came to NSU. I was super active in the NSU Cine & Drama Club and NSU Shangshkritik Shangathan where I performed a couple of dramas and used to do anchoring of all types. Apart from that I used to write my own satirical and short sketch dramas and used to perform in standup comedy formats. Hence, that background helped me immensely when I went to Mirakkel to audition and later when I performed and competed with Indian competitors. Comedy has universal appeal and it's one of the most desired forms of art across the globe. In Bangladesh the whole concept is pretty new, but I'm hopeful this will evolve and become popular here like in other countries.

**Interviewer:** As an entertainer, what is your advice for improving public speaking skills and getting rid of stage fright?

**Mr. Mosharraf Yaafi:** First and foremost one should have a solid content in back of his/her mind. Of course you must win over your unnecessary fear. Take responsibility for your mistakes and rectify those. A regular practice will sharpen your skill.

**Interviewer:** How much did NSU help you in your higher education, career and life overall? What is your advice to the NSUers?

**Mr. Mosharraf Yaafi:** In a word its "Immense". It opened up my world beyond the text books. It gave me huge confidence. This was so strong that when I started my lone corporate journey in a multi-cultural and multiracial world, it was without any fear or hesitation. NSU also made me mature enough to handle the world. I'm really thankful for that.

For NSUers, there are actually a lot of intangible treasures while you are studying. Obviously to grab those you must have open eyes. Just go and grab those. In the long race of life those will work as very handy and support tools to excel. Cheers!!!

## International Student Feature



My name is *Hamse Abdi Hassan* and I am a bachelor of civil and environmental engineering student at North South University. I was born and grew up in Hargeisa, the capital city of Somaliland. Without my parents, my big brother Mohamed and big sister Amina I wouldn't be where I am today. Coming to my passion, I enjoy using my skills to contribute to the exciting construction advances that happen every day in the world. I am pleased to say that, as a highly competent person with a good educational background, I already have a detailed understanding of the technical elements of civil engineering. I've always been a hands-on person with a passion for putting things together and assisting with practical problems since I was a kid. As I grew older, I became even more curious in how houses were built and stood up. This interest led me to choose building and engineering-related subjects in high school. Using mathematics, natural sciences, and common sense to design and create things that actually work gave me a lot of gratification on projects. This interest in engineering has led to a desire to seek a degree from one of Asia's top universities, North South University, which I can then use as a launching pad to a career as a civil engineer. I really enjoy being a part of our North South University Community and dealing with projects from conception to completion, from feasibility to design and implementation under professional teachers. As a young Somali engineering student, I have a deep desire to improve people's daily lives by changing our environment.

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

**Hamse Abdi Hassan:** Basically, companies in our country greatly appreciate graduates with foreign experience and higher education coming from top countries that provide high quality education and Bangladesh is one of those countries. I chose North South University for my undergraduate studies since it has a diverse culture with many foreign students and superior higher education which is not always the case in other universities.

**Interviewer:** What are your future plans for higher studies as well as career once you graduate?

**Hamse Abdi Hassan:** I am planning to start my postgraduate studies right after graduation, a route that I find interesting. In fact many plans are there for me but I am working to do my masters in water engineering.

**Interviewer:** From your bio, we came to know that you intend to contribute to the advancement of the world. Do you have any particular plan or aim regarding this intention?

**Hamse Abdi Hassan:** Yes, I do. In today's world, attractive residential design plans are being competed all over the world, so using my undergraduate knowledge, I would love to contribute new designs with interesting irregular shapes such as trapezoidal and circular building plans which civil industry has never seen before.



**Interviewer:** You mentioned your desire to work for the betterment of our environment. How do you plan to contribute to environmental causes?

**Hamse Abdi Hassan:** There are many aspects I would like to contribute, but right now as we all aware getting safe and clean water is a critical matter in many parts of the world. For that, I would say, I can design modern clarifiers that can solve that hurdle.

**Interviewer:** What do you think about the virtual academic continuation of NSU to cope with the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic? Please share your experience of online classes.

**Hamse Abdi Hassan:** In this worldwide pandemic, there are positive and negative issues that I have experienced. Starting from the positive perspective, the classes go smoothly. The faculty is always fresh and teaches us in a way better than before the pandemic. In case you don't understand something during the lecture, you can re-watch the video recording of the lecture, which makes me comprehend almost all lecture concepts. From the negative side, I would say the biggest issue is procrastination.

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

**Hamse Abdi Hassan:** To be honest, the people of this nation are amazing. I mean, I can't imagine better people to be with than these people. From their hospitality, their kindness, their smile, their attitude .....this list goes on forever. I like their culture. They have great customs. Their punjabi and sari dress are so cool. The deep respect and kindness between the elders and the juniors is outstanding. The beautiful festival of Pahela Baishakh gathering and so on. Besides that, these people are among the most welcoming in the world. So many people are truly curious about you and your background. They are inquisitive and ask a lot of questions. And, surprisingly for such a developing country, sometimes you will never have to pay for things, simply because the people are fascinated by the prospect of conversing with a stranger and will offer to pay for you and refuse to let you. Everywhere I go, I'd strike up a conversation with someone, and on occasion, I'd be invited to accompany them home or to their office, because they wanted to show me off to their friends or relatives. Indeed, I can say it's a wonderful opportunity for an unparalleled cultural experience that you won't get nearly as much in other countries.

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

**Hamse Abdi Hassan:** Dear applicant of NSU, you are lucky to choose NSU as your academic place. I am sure you will see the magic once you join the campus. With that being said, in your first days on the campus the things will be quite unsmooth! You are going to meet new people, new cultures, new languages and new environments and it will not be easy going for you. Among many challenges, the language barrier will be the dominant one, so I would suggest you to focus on it, and try your best to learn it by joining different clubs on the campus. Another thing I would recommend to you is to have a close connection with the Office of External Affairs as they are in charge of all foreign issues. They are genial, very cordial and will facilitate for you many things you need.

Interestingly, most of the OEA officers were students at NSU once upon time, amazing staff with higher education background under Dr. Katherine Li, an amiable foreign director, and altogether have a great experience in the sense that they can help you with anything about the campus. So that's all. Have a nice journey.

## Special Feature: Center for Peace Studies (CPS)

Organizing the ever first international conference on the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh in July 2019 was indeed a very important activity and a great achievement for a university. North South University did that. The center of NSU that played the central role in organizing such an event was Center for Peace Studies (CPS), which is located under South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) at NSU. Interestingly, CPS, through organizing the conference on the Rohingya crisis, began its operation way before it was officially recognized. It was on February 27, 2020 that the launching ceremony of CPS took place at NSU putting its work in full swing.

Although the pandemic hit the world in early 2020, CPS did not remain quiet. As it aims to facilitate the academic study of peacebuilding through evidence-based and empirical research, it began to host a series of online programs and undertake research. Among the online events, some of the significant webinars on contemporary social issues that CPS has organized in



**CPS: A Route, A Bond, and A Journey Towards Peace**  
by Dr. Ishrat Zakia Sultana, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science & Sociology and Coordinator, CPS

its first year are the Impacts, Consequences, and Responses to COVID-19 in Bangladesh: A Human Security Approach, the Rohingya Crisis: Western Asian and bilateral Perspective, the UN in times of people's needs Rethinking multilateralism, how Bangladesh can better address UN SDGs in a post-pandemic world, the US Presidential Election 2020 and Asia-US relations, impacts of Myanmar Election 2020 on the Rohingya crisis, and impacts of the military coup in Myanmar on the Rohingya crisis, etc.

CPS seeks to be a center of academic research and activity in the areas of conflict studies and peace promotion that will have national, regional, and global implications. Considering the importance of research in promoting peace, CPS has undertaken research on the reflection of the Rohingya voice in bilateral and other initiatives taken for their repatriation, social cohesion between the Rohingya and the host community, and impacts of COVID-19 on the garment industry workers in Bangladesh.

Another achievement of CPS in its first year is to organize a 10-week certificate course on Humanitarianism, Policy, and Diplomacy in partnership with BIPSOT (Bangladesh Institute of Peace Support Operations Training). The course included a wide variety of issues related to humanitarianism with a focus on the Rohingya issue. While 44 participants joined from Bangladesh, Canada, UK, India and Japan, the resource persons joined from the University of Western Sydney, the University of Arizona, and the University of Hawai'i. Also, national and international agencies working in Bangladesh contributed their knowledge and experiences.


A dynamic team consists of an advisor, a director, a coordinator, and eight members currently working for CPS. It aspires to be a route to peace through establishing bonds with the academics and practitioners towards the journey of peace.


To learn more about CPS, please visit the website:

<https://www.cpsnsu.org/>



## Office of External Affairs

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