



**Office
of External
Affairs**

THE BRIDGE

The Official Newsletter of the Office Of External Affairs

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Editor's Message

Happy New Year, 2021!

The OEA remains busy with many activities including the continuing Alumni Talk Show series and the Partner Information Sessions. We also celebrated NSU's milestone of reaching 150 academic collaborations that include joint research/publication, faculty/student exchange and other activities like training and joint supervision of PhD students.

All of this is to say that in spite of COVID-19, we continue to serve NSU with full force.

Enjoy reading The Bridge #16 which includes videos that you can watch of all the activities as well as our regular faculty, international student and alumni features. For all the latest at the OEA, follow us on Facebook.

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

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Webinar with the University of Portsmouth, UK

North South University Office of External Affairs organized a web information session with the University of Portsmouth, UK on November 2, 2020. The guests of this session were Mr. Amran Mofiz, the Bangladesh Regional Advisor, Anna Bithiah Vaernes, the International Student Adviser and Mr. Joe Hall, Global Engagement Officer of the University of Portsmouth. The main topics of the information session included the application procedure and scholarship opportunities. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and was shared on Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.



The event started with Mr. Amran Mofiz informing the audience briefly about educational opportunities for international students in the United Kingdom and at the University of Portsmouth. He mentioned that among a number of high ranking and highly qualified universities of the UK, the University of Portsmouth is one of the best and has been one of the top choices for international students who are interested to pursue studies in the UK. Fortunately, North South University has an affiliation with the University of Portsmouth, UK; this affiliation allows NSUers to enjoy several advantages regarding applying and studying there. Moreover, the university has its regional office situated in Dhanmondi, Dhaka, Bangladesh where interested students are welcome to contact him for application-related information, suggestions and guidance about the university. Mr. Arman Mofiz, being the regional advisor for this area, encouraged the interested students to contact their office for relevant matters any time.

In the latter part of the event, the other two representatives of the University of Portsmouth, Mr. Joe and Ms. Anna, informed the students about the academic structure and opportunities offered to them at the University of Portsmouth. The university offers courses and higher studies programs on almost all subjects. Moreover, the university offers sufficient opportunities for research, language programs, post-graduation job placements, etc. The University of Portsmouth also offers campus accommodation and transportation for the convenience of its residential students. It offers adequate scholarships for international students under different criteria and students are always welcome to apply for them. In the last portion of the event, Ms. Anna informed about their online classes, assessment and other academic procedures during the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. She mentioned that the university has developed a separate online learning platform to run online academic procedures and the process is running all its academics programs smoothly so far.

To know more about the event visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/3516419581750911>

Alumni Talk Show Episode 9

Office of External Affairs of North South University continues to conduct the 'NSU Alumni Talk Show'. This is a weekly web-based talk show program arranged and managed by NSU Office of Alumni Affairs which aims to reconnect the alumni from previous batches of NSU with the current administration and students and thus broaden the alumni network. The talk shows are conducted as webinars and are made available for everyone via Facebook Live on NSU-OEA's official page.

The ninth episode of the 'NSU Alumni Talk Show' aired on November 3, 2020 at 12:00 pm having two of the alumni from the very first batch of North South University, Dr. Kamal Mahmud (BBA '93) and Mrs. Jabeen Mozammel (BBA '93). Both the guests of this episode are currently serving the international education sector; Mr. Kamal is associated with Charles Darwin University as a Postdoctoral Researcher and Mrs. Jabeen is currently working as part-time faculty at the University of Bahrain. She is also a permanent teacher at the Toronto Boarding School and works for the Provincial Canadian government.

The event started with Mrs. Jabeen sharing the back story of her getting into the teaching profession and causes of continuing her career in the same sector. The discussion about involvement in the education sector led the conversation towards the differences in education structure between Bangladesh and abroad. As both the guests have adequate experience of studying and teaching, both in our country and abroad, they own a clear view on this matter; thus, they shared their observations and opinions about it with the audience. Apart from the education sector, Mr. Kamal is also working in the sustainable development sector. He shared his journey and experiences of his involvement in this innovative area.

Apart from talking about their current professional lives and careers, the guests shared some deeply cherished memories and incidents about the campus life of their student years at NSU. Both of them especially emphasized on the strong bonding they had with their classmates as well as the faculty members of their time. They also mentioned how the curriculum, connection and interpersonal relationships they gained at North South University had helped them grow personally and professionally throughout their lives. Both Mr. Kamal and Ms. Jabeen agreed that North South University, and memories related to this institute, hold and will always hold a very special place in their hearts. They expressed their sincere interest and urge to help NSU in any way possible and thus requested to be reached out to anytime needed.

To know more about the event visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/862631761209172>



NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 10



The tenth episode of 'NSU Alumni Talk Show' aired on November 10, 2020 at 10:00 am having Md. Anwar Hossain, a distinguish alumnus of North South University (MBA batch 2006). Md. Anwar is a graduate of Architecture from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) and had initially started his professional life as an architect. Later, through clearing the 13th national BCS, he shifted his career from the private sector to the public sector and joined the civil service. Currently, he is working at the National Board of Revenue, Bangladesh as the Director General. As Md. Anwar has the experience of involvement in both the private and public sectors, he shared his opinions and observations about the work culture as well as the similarities-dissimilarities of these two fields. He also shared the reasons and stories behind his decision for switching to the civil service. In this context, Md. Anwar shared some valuable advice with the current NSUers as well as alumni who plan to join the civil service. He especially emphasized learning mentality and capacity, regardless of the field.

In the following portion of the event, Md. Anwar shared precious and treasured memories from his student years. As he had been a student of both public and private universities of Bangladesh, he has a comprehensive and clear overview on the academic structure and culture of both kinds of educational institutes, thus he shared his thoughts about this with us. An interesting fact about Md. Anwar is that besides studying in two renowned institutions of our country, he has the experience of studying in prestigious international universities like Harvard University and Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand (AIT). The guest mentioned that alumni networks and research as being the basic factors of improvement and growth for a university and praised North South University's effort and initiatives in these ways.

To know more about the event visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/310708703256431>

Webinar with the University of South Australia

North South University Office of External Affairs organized a Web Information Session with the University of South Australia (UniSA) on November 11, 2020. Mr. Juan Ospina Sarmiento, the Manager of International Business Development was the main speaker at the event. Besides him, Ms. Julie Fleet, Career Advisor of UniSA and Mr. Jamil Ameen, a distinguished alumnus of both North South University and UniSA attended the event as guests. The interactive session was moderated by Ms. Samina Alam Miti, the International Affairs Officer of NSU and conducted through Zoom and shared as Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The purpose of the seminar was to provide beneficial and relevant information for interested students about the application process, application requirements, scholarship opportunities, and advantages offered to NSUers at the University of South Australia. The event started with Mr. Juan's thorough and informative presentation on the higher studies' opportunities and programs offered by UniSA which offers courses and majors in almost all fields and subjects including Business Administration. Under Business Administration, the university offers programs in Finance and Accounting, Innovation and

Entrepreneurship, Human Resources Management, International Business, Marketing, Tourism, etc. The university offers adequate opportunities and different benefits considering the needs and welfare of both local and international students.

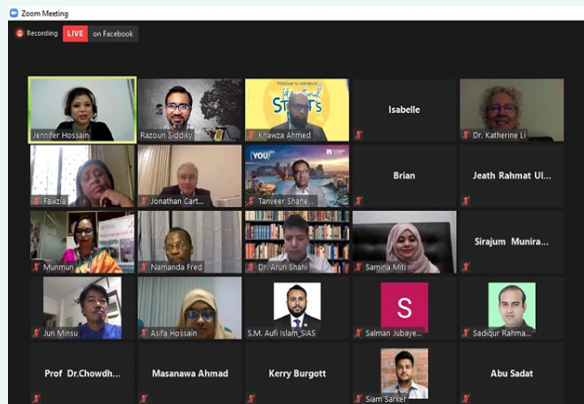
In the latter portion of the event, Ms. Julie talked about the career opportunities after graduation from the University of South Australia. She also informed us about the campus placement opportunities of UniSA. Afterwards, Mr. Jamil shared his experience of both studying at the University of South Australia and working with the university's administration. As he has the experience of studying at both NSU and UniSA, Mr. Jamil also shared his observations and point of view on the academic structures of both the universities. In the last segment of the session, Ms. Samina, the International Affairs Officer took the questions from students.

To know more about the event visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1520918018106910>



NSU Participates in Ceremony of International Students' Day 2020



Center for International Affairs and Cooperation (CIAC), United International University arranged a webinar to celebrate International Students' Day 2020 on November 17, 2020. The event was organized in collaboration with EMK Center, North South University (NSU), International University Bangladesh (IUB), BRAC University, University of Surrey (UK), Macquarie University (Australia) and Somaville University (Somalia). This is the very first time the initiative of celebrating International Students' Day has been taken in Bangladesh. The speakers of the event were Prof. Dr. Chowdhury Mofizur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, United International University (UIU), Prof. Dr. Khawa Ahmed, Director, CIAC, United International University (UIU), Ms. Isabelle Zsoldos, Cultural Affairs Officer, Public Affairs Section, US Embassy Dhaka, Dr. Fawzia Yusuf H Adam, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia, Professor Osama Khan, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Surrey, UK; Mr. Tanveer Shaheed, Associate Director, Global Engagement and Business Development, Macquarie University, Australia, Dr. Omar Ahmed Qaadi, International Coordinator and Dean of Health Science, Somaville University, Somalia, Mr. Asif Uddin Ahmed, Assistant Professor (ULAB), Mr. Jonathan Cartmell, Vice President, International BRAC, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs, North South University (NSU); Ms. Reefat Munmun, Head of Bangla Language Department, Independent University Bangladesh (UIU); Mr. Razoun Siddiky Tohin, Education USA Adviser, EMK Center, Ms. Jennifer Hossain, Assistant Director, CIAC, United International University (UIU) and Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, NSU.

The event started with a brief introduction of the attending guests by the host Ms. Jennifer. After the introduction session, the guests and speakers were offered the floor to share their valuable thoughts and speeches with the audience. Professor Mofizur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of UIU stated the history of International Students' Day and UIU's motive behind organizing this celebration ceremony through his speech. Professor Osama Khan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the University of Surrey focused on the international community, cultural intelligence, and global values in his speech. He also mentioned the necessity of diversity during his speech. Mr. Jonathan Cartmell, Vice President, International BRAC and Prof. Khawa Ahmed, Director, CIAC, UIU emphasized the importance of Internationalization of universities. Dr. Katherine Li, the Director of Office of External Affairs, North South University shared her memories as an international student throughout her own student life and the experience of living here as a foreigner. The people of Bangladesh and their perspective throughout in her six plus years of professional life as a faculty and Director of OEA, NSU in Bangladesh. Each guest and speaker of the event appreciated the initiative of organizing such an event and thanked United International University (UIU) and EMK Center for the initiative.

The session had a separate segment particularly for the representation of Edward M. Kennedy (EMK) Center. The representatives of the organization, Mr. Razoun Siddiky Tohin, the Education USA Adviser and Mr. Asif Uddin Ahmed, the Acting Director, briefed about the goals, objectives, and activities of EMK Center. Mr. Asif mentioned that the main focus of the EMK Center is basically youth development. They arrange multidimensional training programs for skill development. Mr. Razoun informed about the collaborations that EMK Center has with both national and international universities and mentioned how they were working for developing a harmonious environment and shared culture through the organization.

The later segments of the event were allocated to experience sharing session and cultural performances. The experience sharing segment started with the speeches from Ms. Jennifer Hossain, Assistant Director, CIAC, UIU; Ms. Asfia Hossain, Senior Officer, International Programs and Relations, IUB; Ms. Samina Aam Miti, International Affairs Officer, NSU and Ms. Ismat Shereen, Head of Relationship Management Office, BRACU. These officers of different private universities shared their experiences of working with international students and international affairs. Afterward, international students studying in different universities shared their experiences about studying and living here in Bangladesh. The lively and interactive session ended with dynamic cultural performances performed by the international students from the attending Bangladeshi private universities.

To know more about the event visit

<https://www.facebook.com/uiuinfo/videos/828483644570750>

Information Session on Higher Studies in Australia

North South University Office of External Affairs organized a webinar on 'Higher Studies Opportunities in Australia' on November 18, 2020. The seminar was conducted through Zoom and was shared on the official Facebook page of NSU Office of External Affairs via Facebook Live.

The motive of the seminar was to provide students with a broader idea about how to pursue higher studies in Australia, government and other scholarship opportunities offered by Australian universities and lifestyle of international students there. As guests, we had Mr. Mostafizur Rahman, Mostafizur Rahman, Director, South Asia, Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) and Ms. Sarah Hariz, Trade and Investment Commissioner from New Delhi, India for this information session. The event was hosted by Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, the Coordination Officer of NSU Office of External Affairs.



The session started with greetings and a brief account of education opportunities available for international students in Australia from Ms. Sarah. After the introductory speech, Ms. Sarah passed the floor to Mr. Mostafizur for a video presentation on prospects for international students studying in Australia.

Throughout his presentation, Mr. Mostafizur discussed the application procedure, academic structure, scholarship schemes, research opportunities, post-graduation job opportunities etc. in Australian universities. He mentioned that Australia has one of the strongest economies of the world and that the country's economic and administrative structure offers a very international student-friendly environment. This makes Australia the third most popular international student destination of the world. Moreover, Australia has a good number of highly ranked universities employing world-class and highly qualified faculty members as instructors. These universities also offer rich research opportunities for the students and has a strong global alumni base. An Australian university degree has wide acceptance throughout the world, thus it provides graduates with vast job opportunities. All these positive aspects of higher education in Australia ensure a high satisfaction rate from international students.

To know more about the event visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/729728767894810>

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 11

The eleventh episode of 'NSU Alumni Talk Show' took place on November 23, 2020 at 12.00 pm having two of the distinguished alumni from BBA batch '05 of North South University; Mr. Sabbir Jahangir and Mr. Asif Khan. Professionally, the two of them are involved in two different sectors; Mr. Sabbir is currently working as the Head of HR at Partex Star Group and M. Asif is running EDGE Asset Management Limited and EDGE Research and Consulting Limited as the cofounder of both the organizations.

As both of the guests have diverse career background and experience, the session started with discussing the journey of their professional lives. Mr. Asif shared the reasons behind his decision to be an entrepreneur and the back story of the establishment of his financial service and research firm. He also talked about the drives and objectives that inspired him to try out entrepreneurship. On the other hand, Mr. Sabbir

shared his experience of dealing with people as an HR Manager. In this context, he mentioned that he believes healthy conflict is sometimes necessary for self-development. From both of their shared experiences, the audience could fathom the obstacles that they faced throughout their professional journey and got to know about the strategies applied to overcome those obstacles. In this regards, Mr. Sabbir shared his observations about current corporate HR practices in Bangladesh and scopes for improvement in this sector. He especially mentioned the recent practice of compliance-oriented management applied both in MNC and local companies' HR management strategies.

In the later portion of the event, the guests were requested to share memorable incidents and memories from their student years at North South University. Both of them became nostalgic while going down memory lane. The guests mentioned that one thing that they appreciated back then and still do cherish the most about NSU is its diversity. Both of them emphasized the impact of North South University in their skill development and professional path paving. In this context, the guests mentioned how they got the inspiration to choose their majors, thus decide career directions from faculties and courses of NSU. They also praised and appreciated the strong student community and culture of harmony that NSU possesses. The discussion about campus culture led the conversation towards the differences they had noticed between educational structure and classroom culture of NSU and other international universities. The event ended with valuable advice and suggestions from the respected alumni for the current students and recent graduates of NSU.

To know more about the event visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/381106649868789>

Higher Studies in Canada

North South University Office of External Affairs organized a webinar on higher studies' opportunities in Canada on November 24, 2020. The seminar was conducted through Zoom and shared on the official Facebook page of NSU Office of External Affairs via Facebook Live. The seminar intended to provide students with a broader idea about the pursuit of higher studies in Canada, government and other scholarship opportunities offered by Canadian universities and lifestyle of international students there. As guests, we had Ms. Corinne Petrisor, Councilor and Senior Trade Commissioner of High Commission of Dhaka, Bangladesh and Mr. Kazi Golam Farhad, Trade Commissioner of High Commission of Dhaka, Bangladesh for this information session. Further, the panelists of the session included Md. Arifuzzaman, Senior Lecturer, Department of Mathematics, North South University and Ms. Mahnaz Atique, Lecturer, Department of Economics, North South University. From North South University Office of External Affairs, Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer hosted the event and Dr. Katherine Li, Director presented the closing remarks of the event.



The event started with Mr. Farhad's thorough and informative presentation on the higher studies' opportunities and programs offered by Canadian universities.

He mentioned that Canada has a good number of highly ranked universities employing world class and highly qualified faculty members as instructors. Students can find their preferred university as well as preferred subjects to major in among the diverse choices. Moreover, Canada has one of the strongest economies of the world and the country's economic and administrative structure offers a very international student friendly environment. It is also ranked to be the world's 13th most entrepreneurial economy. These constructive facts about Canada makes it one of the largest international students' hub of the world; thus it enriches the region with cultural diversity.

Throughout the session, the guests informed the audience about the versatile and effective educational structure and thriving research culture of the top notch universities of Canada. They also discussed the application procedures, requirements, scholarship opportunities, living costs and tuition fees for Canadian universities in detail. Afterwards, the guests briefed about the study permit-related necessary information like the procedure of availing it, the institutes to contact for permit-related operations, the duration of validity of the permit etc. As the COVID-19 pandemic is hitting every corner of the world currently, the speakers provided updates about the coping strategies and adaptations to the new normal situation of Canadian educational institutes.

In the latter portion of the seminar, the two Canadian university alumni attending the event, Md. Arifuzzaman and Ms. Mahnaz stated the facts that influenced them to choose Canada for higher studies and shared their experience of studying and staying there as international students. The event ended with cordial closing remarks from Dr. Kathrine Li, the Director of Office of External Affairs, North South University.

To know more about the event visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1777505239091334>

Yuan Ze University, Taiwan



North South University Office of External Affairs arranged a webinar with Yuan Ze University, Taiwan on December 2, 2020. The session was conducted by Mr. Trevor Wu, Director, International Cooperation Unit, Global Affairs Office, and Yuan Ze University, Taiwan. Two of the Bangladeshi students from the university were also present during the session as guest speakers. The main target of the information session was to inform and guide students about the application process, requirements, academic structure, scholarship schemes, etc. of Yuan Ze University, Taiwan. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and was shared through Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The event started with a brief introduction of Yuan Ze University of Taiwan from the guests. The introduction and description included the background and history of the university.

Yuan Ze University possesses a high rank among the Asian universities as well as in the world university ranking. It has been one of the top choices for international students who aim to pursue their higher studies in Taiwan. The university currently consists of 19 percent international students of its total students, coming from over 50 different countries around the world. Over the years, Yuan Ze University has built adequate affiliations and accreditations with several educational institutes and organizations which has helped the university to grow and facilitate its students with better opportunities. The university has a background of proficient research work and currently is offering the students the opportunity to pursue research programs with them. Moreover, Yuan Ze University facilitates its students with various scholarship and waiver offers, student exchange programs, internship programs, and so on.

Throughout the session, the guests thoroughly were guided on the application procedure and the application requirements of Yuan Ze University for international students. The academic structure of the university was also explained in detail during the session. In this context, the guests mentioned the number of required semesters for completion of graduation and post-graduation program at the university. Moreover, they provided the audience with details about the departments and courses offered by Yuan Ze University. The university has 24 departments under five colleges which are – Electrical and Communication Engineering, Informatics, Engineering, Management, Humanities, and Social Science. Each of these mentioned departments and colleges ensures quality teaching from highly trained dedicated faculty members. The university offers many of the aforementioned courses in English and some bilingually. Due to the excellency and integrity of education, Yuan Ze University has a higher placement/ employment rate among its graduates.

In the last segment of the session, the guests talked about the visa process and collection procedure for Taiwan. The event ended with an interactive Question/Answer session during which the guests took questions from the audience.

To know more about the event visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/131064925266240>

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 12

The twelfth episode of 'NSU Alumni Talk Show' took place on December 3, 2020 at 10.00 am having one of the most successful alumni from North South University BBA batch '95, Mr. Emrul Hasan as a guest. Mr. Emrul is currently working as the Vice President in Plan International Canada and is responsible for leading the Program Effectiveness Unit, Gender Equality Unit, Technical Quality Unit (Economic Resilience and Climate Change, Education, and Child Protection), and Policy and Advocacy Unit. He also has the experience of working with organizations like Results Canada, American and Canadian Evaluation Society, etc. Mr. Emrul acts as a counselor, advisor or expert for these organizations as they work to monitor and make suggestions for the policy making of the governments of the first world countries. The prime motive of his actions and projects with these organizations is to establish secularism and ensure equality for everyone despite their nationality, race, caste, religion or income class.

Other than having a rich experience of working with the world class development organizations, Mr. Emrul also has the unique experience of acting as a mentor for 20 under 20 in North America.

The event started with Mr. Emrul discussing and sharing information about his professional life and work experience, but gradually the discussion topic shifted towards his memories from his student years at North South University. Going down memory lane, our guest became nostalgic about the bonding he experienced with his classmates as well as faculty members as a student of NSU. As Mr. Emrul is from one of the earliest batches of NSU, he could remember the stories and motivations behind the foundation of the NSU clubs, many of which are now renowned nationwide. While discussing his campus life and experiences, Mr. Emrul mentioned the role of academic knowledge, skills development opportunities, guidance and cultural insights he received from NSU in his career, professional as well as every other aspect of life. In fact, the seeds of his career in the development sector were sown through the courses, experiences, connections and opportunities NSU offered him.



Mr. Emrul has enormous experience and a rich background of academic achievements as well. Other than North South University, he has the experience of studying at the University of Manchester and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). While sharing his experience of pursuing education in both national and international educational institutes, he mentioned that every institute has its own charm and positive aspects. To differentiate the management and academic structure of NSU and the international universities, he mentioned the difference in access to resources and research opportunities. He suggested, for the betterment of North South University as a whole, both students and administration must focus on developing these two sectors.

To know more about the event visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/732022457712738>

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 13



The thirteenth episode of 'NSU Alumni Talk Show' aired on December 6, 2020 at 9.30 am with Mr. Malik M. Dip, a distinguished alumnus from the very first batch of North South University (BBA '93). Mr. Malik has a versatile career history and experience of working in several sectors in both national and international arenas. As he is a devotee of diversity and possesses the constant urge to work on something new, he is currently working as an independent consultant and providing consulting services to national and international corporations and personnel.

Mr. Malik initially started his journey with North South University in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, but after several semesters, he decided to switch to Department of Business Administration. The reasons for this major shift included the job market, his own interest and management skills and many more. While discussing management skills and interests, the foundation and activities of NSU clubs during his studentship years came up. As a student of the very first batch of North South University, Mr. Malik has the experience and memories of the foundation of the NSU clubs, many of which are now renowned nationwide. He shared many such interesting and exciting memories of his NSU campus life, from first event management to attending classes and of favorite faculty members with us. Mr. Malik also has a rich background in the cultural sector. Singing has been his passion since his college days and later throughout his university and post-university life, he had pursued this passion. Mr. Malik along with his friends formed a band called "Sudden", which acquired fame and even released several albums in the music industry. The band became inactive as he and other band members got busy with their careers and lives, but Mr. Malik informed us that the band is planning to make a comeback soon.

In the latter part of the event, Mr. Malik shared his views on applicability and influence of the academic learnings, skills development opportunities, guidance and cultural learnings that he acquired from NSU in his career building, professional as well as every other aspect of life. As he mentioned, the key motivation of his life so far has been to learn new things and to develop himself. To advise the current and recently graduated students of NSU, he repeated the aforementioned two motives and assured that following those with a pure heart and positive intentions can take anyone to their desired position.

To know more about the event visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/123946219414007>

Information Session with the University of Newcastle, Australia

North South University Office of External Affairs organized a webinar with the University of Newcastle, Australia on December 8, 2020. The guest of the interactive information session was Mr. Antony Joseph, Senior Recruitment Adviser, University of Newcastle, Australia. The event was organized to discuss and inform the students about the application procedure, requirements, scholarship schemes, academic structure of the University of Newcastle, Australia. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and was shared through Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The event started with a brief overview of the University of Newcastle, Australia from our guest, Mr. Joseph. He mentioned that the University of Newcastle is one of the top regional universities, even among a number of highly ranked and highly qualified universities of Australia.

The University of Newcastle has 4 campuses including the main campus, all of which are situated in fine locations in the Callaghan region of Australia. The university offers on and off campus accommodations for both the local and international students; the environment and living cost of the region is student friendly and affordable.

During the session, Mr. Joseph also elaborately described the academic structure, offered undergraduate and post-graduate programs, research and PhD opportunities at the University of Newcastle. Additionally, he mentioned the online academic activities and strategies applied by the university during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Joseph elaborated on the cost requirements, scholarship programs, affiliations and accreditations with other educational institutes and organizations of the university. Moreover, he informed about the university's credit transfer and short study tour programs for international students.

In the latter part of the session, Mr. Joseph talked about the during and post-study employment opportunities offered by the University of Newcastle. The university offers campus job opportunities for its students as well as has a carrier assistance team to provide the students with guidance and direction regarding their career and professional paths. The university also maintains a strong alumni base and extended corporate connections, industry partnerships and professional networks, which apparently helps with the employment rate and quick post-graduation placements of its graduates. In this context, Mr. Joseph also mentioned that the graduates of University of Newcastle receive up to four years of post-study work permits in Australia.

To know more about the event visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/221800629527206>



Information Session with Brock University, Canada



North South University Office of External Affairs had an information session with Brock University, Canada on December 14, 2020. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and was shared as Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA. Ms. Megha Srivastav, Relationship Manager – India and South Asia, Brock University and Mr. Nigel Dixon, Head of Special Projects, Brock University were present in the session as guests and speakers.

The interactive session was organized with a target of enlightening the interested students about pursuing higher education at Brock University. The event started with a brief overview of the university from Ms. Megha. She shared detailed information about the academic structure, ranking, campus culture and many other relevant aspects of the university. Currently 13% of the total 19,000 students of the university are international students who are from more than 100 different countries

around the world. Such diversity allows the university to maintain a very diverse student community. Brock University offers more than 120 undergraduate and graduate level programs across 7 diverse academic faculties for the students and ensures teaching excellence in each one of these departments. Besides that, the university also offers students and faculty adequate facilities and opportunities for research.

Apart from these, the session provided an effective discussion about application procedures, requirements, offered scholarship schemes and campus facilities by Brock University. The speakers explained the admission requirements including language proficiency requirements during the event. They also briefed about the procedure and schedule students are expected to follow for applying to Brock University. In this context, Mr. Dixon discussed the credit transfer options from other universities and colleges and explained the procedure to avail these opportunities. Another major topic was scholarship and funding opportunities offered by Brock University for the international students.

Brock University projects a very high rate of employment among the fresh graduates of the university. The authority tries their best to prepare the students for surviving the vast corporate universe throughout the whole under-graduation period. With this vision, Brock University regularly arranges and conducts career-driven programs for its students.

To know more about the event visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/3505949412835285>

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 14

The fourteenth episode of 'NSU Alumni Talk Show' was aired on December 15, 2020 at 10:00 am with Mr. Mosharraf Yaafi, a distinguished alumnus of North South University BBA batch '96. Mr. Yaafi is currently associated with IDP Education Bangladesh Ltd as the Country Manager of the organization. Other than his current organization, Mr. Yaafi has a diverse portfolio of working with multiple national and international organizations in various sectors. The event started with an extensive discussion about his diverse career and professional life experience. He also briefed us on the activities and programs conducted by IDP Education Bangladesh Ltd. As Mr. Yaafi has experience of working both in domestic and international corporate corporate ambience, he drew a comparison of job culture in these two areas. He mentioned that the main differences in the corporate culture here in Bangladesh and abroad are punctuality, professionalism and planning.

Mr. Yaafi has significant knowledge, expertise as well as achievements in standup comedy, too. He got involved with standup comedy during his student life and later this unique quality turned into his passion. Besides his corporate career, Mr. Yaafi has continued performing as a standup comedian both in national and international platforms. Currently, he along with some of his mates are running a standup comedy platform in Bangladesh. In this context, Mr. Yaafi shared his views about the opportunities of standup comedy in Bangladesh with our audience.

Not only in professional life, Mr. Yaafi had the tendency of adapting and welcoming diversity during his student life as well. During the event, he shared his memories and interesting incidents from his student years at North South University. Along with memories, Mr. Yaafi also mentioned the experiences and real-life lessons he acquired from his NSU life. He explained the effect of the opportunities he had obtained from his student years in his further professional life and career build-up. Mr. Yaafi emphasized the interaction, connection and leadership skills he had mastered from club activities and internships attended in his student life and explained the role of these in the later years of his life. As the guest has been associated with the education arena of both national and international sectors, he shared his knowledge about higher studies opportunities abroad for Bangladeshi students including the constraints and solutions. He also shared valuable suggestions and advice for students who want to pursue higher studies abroad.

To know more about the event visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/805547470002791>



Information Session with Western Sydney University, Australia



North South University Office of External Affairs organized a webinar with Western Sydney University on December 21, 2020. The guests of this session were Ms. Namrata Anand, Senior Regional Manager for South Asia, Western Sydney University and Ms. Rabani Puri, Assistant Recruitment Manager, Western Sydney University. The interactive information session intended to provide adequate information about application processes, requirements, programs, scholarships and other opportunities offered by Western Sydney University for interested students. The session was conducted through Zoom and was shared as Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The event started with a brief introduction of Western Sydney University from Ms. Namrata during which she mentioned almost every aspect of the university from foundation and history to its academic structure. In fact, the university holds its position among the top 2% university worldwide. Around 14% of the university's total number of students are international students, coming from 170 countries around the world. Western Sydney University is globally recognized for its research work and opportunities, strengths and innovation in teaching. The university has total 10 campuses around Australia, each of which is situated in student-friendly areas of the country and provides suitable campus environments for students. Moreover, the university authority ensures proper student facilities, security, and convenient accommodation for both the local and international students.

During the information session, Ms. Namrata also provided details about admission requirements and processes of Western Sydney University. She enlightened the audience about the academic structure and offered programs of the university. She also informed us about the scholarship schemes, study abroad programs, student exchange programs offered by the university thoroughly. Western Sydney University focuses on building and maintaining partnerships and affiliations with other local and international universities as well as other organizations. The informative event ended with an interactive Question/Answer session.

To know more about the event visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/2946873322215886>

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 15

The fifteenth episode of 'NSU Alumni Talk Show' took place on December 31, 2020 at 11.00 am having one of the distinguished alumnus from North South University BBA batch '09, Quazi Tafsirul Islam as guest. Mr. Tafsir is currently working as a lecturer under the Department of Management of North South University. After completing his under-graduation from NSU, Mr. Tafsir initially started his career in the banking sector in Bangladesh. After three years of association with banking, he decided to pursue a Masters' and thus completed his post-graduation from Dundee University, UK. Mr. Tafsir started his professional journey in the academic sector after returning to Bangladesh with a Masters' degree and joined NSU as a faculty member. During the session, Mr. Tafsir talked about the influences behind his decision of switching career paths. He mentioned that, initially he wanted to start a career in the corporate world to gain some experience, then gradually he got involved in research and teaching.

In these contexts, he also shared his thoughts about the influence of his teachers from NSU on his teaching career.

Mr. Tafsir is and has always been an enthusiast of newness and diversity. Besides working as a lecturer at North South University, he is involved with another two youth and development organizations, one of which is NSU HR CLUB and another is International Youth Development Society. Mr. Tafsir is associated with NSU HR CLUB as the Faculty Advisor and with IYDS as the Senior Advisor. During the session, he shared his role in these organizations and experience of working with them.

In the latter part of the event, the discussion took a turn towards recalling the memories of old times, specially the student years of Mr. Tafsir at North South University. He became nostalgic going down memory lane while talking about his exciting journey from student life at NSU to joining here as teacher. Mr. Tafsir shared a few memorable and interesting incidents of his NSU life with our audience through the event. The event ended with some precious suggestions from our guest for the current students and fresh graduates of NSU. He also shared his recommendations about higher studies opportunities and processes for going abroad. In both contexts, he emphasized having an aim and plan about where to target and how to reach there.

To know more about the event visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/430879317959120>



Dr. Hasanuzzaman Promoted to Assistant Director of the OEA at NSU



Since 2015, he has been serving in the Office of External Affairs in various capacities. Prior to joining NSU, Dr. Hasanuzzaman worked as a USAID Research Fellow in the Next Generation of Public Health Project under the James P. Grant School of Public Health from 2013-2014. Prior to this he worked as a Project Research Physician at ICDDR,B. Dr. Hasanuzzaman received his Master's in Public Health (MPH) degree from North South University in 2016 and Bachelor in Dental Surgery (BDS) degree from the University of Dhaka in 2009. With Dr. Hasanuzzaman in his new role in the OEA, we expect to achieve even greater heights.

International Faculty Feature

Dr. Ahmed Hossain is an academic biostatistician and an expert in public health, and currently holds the position of Professor in the North South University- Department of Public Health. He is also continuing as a Director of the Global Health Institute at North South University. Dr. Hossain is a founding board member of Health Management BD Foundation, which helps vulnerable people in the UK and Bangladesh. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health in 2010, and was a Fellow at McMaster University of the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR). He finished his MSc in Biostatistics and Epidemiology in 2004 at McMaster University. Dr. Hossain began his career in 2002 as a lecturer at the University of Dhaka. He has also worked for McMaster University, Ryerson University, and Canada's Pharma Medica Research organization. In developing the field of statistical genomics, Dr. Hossain was mainly instrumental. He has based his current interest on public health research involving migration, disaster and both communicable and non-communicable diseases. To date, more than 40 papers have been published in various international journals by Dr. Hossain. He is also currently the Senior Editor of BMC Research Notes (Springer) and an active member of the editorial board of 3 international peer-reviewed journals. He is continuing many collaborations at McMaster University, Ryerson University, University of Manitoba, University College of London and Oxford University with clinical investigators, faculty members, and epidemiologists. An R package was developed by Dr. Hossain, which offers an estimate of summary measures and variances on receiver operating characteristic curves that are helpful for high-dimensional data analysis and can be downloaded from Bioconductor.



Interviewer: After having spent so much time in Canadian universities, what inspired you to return to Bangladesh and to join NSU?

Dr. Ahmed Hossain : I have always felt the desire to bring my experience to Bangladesh and support the next generation of Bangladeshi public health researchers throughout my career as an academic biostatistician and a public health expert. I have always wanted to contribute to the development of Bangladesh's public health education. I considered North South University (NSU) to be the most fitting institution from my search to accomplish these goals. In many ways, NSU's higher education system is very close to one of the United States and Canada universities.

I knew that NSU had a reputation for academic performance and a high rate of graduate employability. Thus, I came back to Bangladesh and joined North South University's Department of Public Health in 2015.

Interviewer: Can you tell us more about the history of the Global Health Institute at NSU?

Dr. Ahmed Hossain : All the top academic institutions (such as Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Toronto, etc.) host committed global health institutes to strengthen their global outreach and creativity, research, and advocacy partnerships. In 2016, the NSU Global Health Institute (NGHI) was founded to enable North South University to join global leaders in health science. Since then, NGHI has partnered with various national stakeholders (e.g., DGHS, BMRC, HMBD) and international stakeholders (e.g., the partnership project between the University of Maryland and NASA, the joint venture between GIZ and CDD, etc.) to solve pressing global health challenges and contribute to creative solutions. The 'Healthy City' project aimed to tackle non-communicable diseases, analyzing current dietary and behavioral trends of the urban populations in Bangladesh. In addition to these, NGHI has arranged numerous training programs for capacity building, such as grant writing, project cycle management, etc., and multidisciplinary activities to facilitate dialogue on top-pick public health issues and related solutions.

Interviewer: What is the Health Management BD Foundation, and what are some of the specific projects that it supports?

Dr. Ahmed Hossain : Health management BD (HMBD) Foundation is a humanitarian organization of Bangladesh, established in 2014, that assists the people from disadvantaged areas with a great need for social and health interventions. By now, the foundation has contributed to many opportunities to create the healthiest nation through research and actions. The organization primarily focuses on working with people's health, longevity, and well-being in disadvantaged communities. Therefore, the HMBD gives maximum effort to improve the places in which we live, learn, work, worship, and play. The team of HMBD believes healthy housing, clean drinking water, or safe places for children to play can improve health far outside the doctor's office. The HMBD team also continues to be amazed at the ongoing work being done every day to enhance Rohingya refugees' health. Currently, the organization provides services in maternal and child health centers, Primary Health Care Centers, Rohingya Children Care Centers, various relief distributions, orphan friendly spaces, and an age-friendly space.

Interviewer: If you were to compare the experiences you have had in public and private universities in Bangladesh, what would you say are the similarities and differences? How about between universities in Bangladesh and those in Canada?

Dr. Ahmed Hossain : I have seen more similarities than differences between the two. Both academic set-ups attract brilliant minds and dedicate an enormous amount of resources to nurture them. But the significant differences I observed were in the trends of career choices of students after graduation. The students from public universities tend to pursue civil service and postgraduate studies outside the country. In contrast, private university students prefer to seek private-sector jobs. Nowadays, an upward trend in postgraduate studies outside the country is also evident amongst private university students. The Canadian higher education system is, in many ways, very close to our own. The career-focused courses, a curriculum tailored to current events and the needs of the job market, high rate of admission in international universities, and the high employability rate of graduates are why the NSU university system is considered very successful.

Interviewer: From your bio, we realized that you have quite a few collaborative projects going on with international institutions. Can you tell us more about those? In your opinion, what benefit does NSU gain by having collaborations with other institutions?

Dr. Ahmed Hossain : International collaborations create network that are often exciting. The establishment of NSU as one of the global leaders in academia and research will be accelerated by positive input from partners and ever-expanding research networks. I have three significant ongoing projects at present. Currently, I have three important ongoing projects. The first one is with the University College of London about understanding the post-cyclone stressors and suicidal ideation in adults after Cyclone Amphan in Coastal Bangladesh. The second one is with McMaster University about an understanding of Moral Experiences of Healthcare Providers Involved in the Provision of End of Life Care: A Focused Ethnography of Médecins Sans Frontières Operations in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh (MEHP-CXB). And the third one is with the University of Manitoba about understanding regional differences of dietary and behavioral patterns on developing non-communicable disease. Third, the University of Manitoba is concerned with identifying regional variations in dietary and behavioral trends in developing non-communicable diseases. Our students are given opportunities to engage in all projects and also get the chance to publish their names in peer-reviewed articles.

Interviewer: What exactly is the "R package" that you developed? Is it patented?

Dr. Ahmed Hossain : The R is a statistical computing and graphics language and environment. It is developed around a simple programming language and enables users to add extra functionality by defining new features. Also, under the terms of the GNU General Public License of the Free Software Foundation, it is licensed as free software.

To cover an extensive range of advanced statistics, 'R' can be expanded through packages. I built a package called 'WLPaUC' that allows users to analyze high-dimensional data (like- estimation of summary measures and variances on receiver operating characteristic curves, a statistic of weighted log partial area under the curve). Although protected by its copyright, it is free for all to download and use in 'R' (if they acknowledge the source properly).

Interviewer: What is the biggest public health challenge in Bangladesh currently? What research is being done in this area by researchers at NSU, and are students involved in carrying out those research projects?

Dr. Ahmed Hossain : The threats to public health are no longer just national. They are worldwide. They are no longer only within the scope of experts in public health. Dhaka has been connected to other parts of the world through globalization. Bacteria and viruses migrate almost as quickly as e-mail messages. That's what we see in COVID-19 disease, similarly, with the knowledge that the human immunodeficiency virus did not know any boundaries. But we need to go back to the slow creep of illness to appreciate the much broader picture better. Who will be affected? Oh, and why? In Bangladesh, we should protect against these diseases such as malaria, TB, HIV, measles, diarrheal diseases, respiratory infections, etc. Globalization also carries with it rapidly changing lifestyles. In addition to infectious diseases, blood pressure, cholesterol, tobacco, alcohol, and obesity and the diseases associated with them are becoming more prevalent in Bangladesh, creating a double burden. The Covid-19 pandemic, of course, is presently the greatest public health challenge in Bangladesh. Both teachers and students at NSU have been actively involved in research and communication to increase public awareness and combat this pandemic. Several of our research work on Covid-19 has been published and featured in peer-reviewed journals.

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

Dr. Ahmed Hossain : For the good of our students, teachers, employees, and society as a whole, we have driven progress in all four pillars of the plan and reinforced the NSU community. That's why we are near 200 in QS ASIA ranking. The ranking encouraged us by design, to go much further to take advantage of new strategic possibilities. We have measured progress each year and initiated new programs inspired by the Academic Strategic Plan, led by our honorable Vice-Chancellor. NSU is still led by the strategy today and focuses on the NSU community's voices and ideas, and with this, I believe we will be among the top 50 universities in Asia in the next five years. Our high-quality graduates will drive the institution's attempt to become one of the best universities in the world in the coming days.

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

Dr. Ahmed Hossain : I would encourage them to be more conscious and curious about their research and concurrent global developments. As they pursue solutions to national and global challenges, they can connect more with local and international communities and be confident in thinking beyond the box. They should make serious efforts to uplift their alma mater's name and the nation in all walks of their lives. Lastly, they must agree that all progress in life can only be achieved by mutual respect and cooperation.

Alumni Feature



Nabi Chowdhury Shujon is an NSU alumnus from the first batch of NSU. He was enrolled in the Spring of 1993 and graduated in 1997 with a major in Marketing. Nabi was the first recruitment from NSU in Banglalink, one of the largest cellular network providers of Bangladesh, which was then known as Sheba Telecom Ltd. Currently, Nabi is working as the Head of Sales and Marketing at Saif Power Group, a Bangladesh-based company with business operations including container terminal operation, project management, machinery, solar system, plastic & polymer, battery and more. Nabi has been a part of this organization for around 15 years.

Nabi was an active club guy during his NSU days and was part of North South Green Club and North South Sports Club. . He has still kept his affiliation with his batchmates and friends and is an executive body member of NAASBE, the Business School alumni association of NSU.

Nabi Chowdhury has an avid passion for music and has an online Facebook page called "Tunes & Beats by Shujon" where he streams live music with his band. He is also continuing his project of composing brand-new songs which are expected to be released by 2021.

Interviewer: Please tell us about your organization Saif Power Group and your roles and activities as the Marketing Head there.

Nabi Chowdhury: Saif Powertec Ltd is one of the largest companies of Bangladesh with its territory in the world of engineering service of the energy sector of Bangladesh. It is providing sales and service of construction, materials handling, power production equipment and more. Later, Saif Powertec continued its business expansion and entered into the world of renewable energy, plastic & polymer-based manufacturing plant & OEM supply, and afterwards, the battery industry. It was established in 1994, and later registered as a private limited company in 2003. Currently, Saif Group employs around 1,500 people.

I joined Saif Group as a Senior Executive in this company in 2005. Later, I joined the Marketing and Sales Department of its Power Generation Division as AGM. Currently, I am working as the Head of Sales. My areas and scope of work are mainly sales, branding, product development, market penetrations and more.

Interviewer: What were some of your biggest achievements in your organization?

Nabi Chowdhury: I did a project for the supply installation and commissioning of 8MW power plant to Chittagong Port authority that included outsourcing for the scope of supply, negotiated with the foreign vendors and successfully completed the project. Even though I do not have any engineering educational background, I have applied so many technical procedures of engineering work which shows that whatever the background I have, the basic knowledge and continuous learning is the key to win any challenge. Now I am leading a team that consists of a number of electrical and mechanical engineers.

Interviewer: You were from the first batch of NSU. How was your experience during the beginning phase of this university?

Nabi Chowdhury: Even 1 month before my enrollment, I didn't know I would be moving to Dhaka and joining North South University. I always wanted to be an engineer, and my parents wanted me to be a doctor. I was studying for TOEFL to get into an international university. It was my father, who one day, brought home a copy of a Daily Observer. On the last page, there was a full-page advertisement of admission in NSU. My father strongly suggested that I should get admitted here, as NSU had affiliation with North American universities and followed their curriculum. My initial response was negative, although a few days later I gave it a thought again and realized I could be getting out of my parents' control for the first time and get a shot at freedom, if I moved to another city. But alas! My elder brother was already in Dhaka during that time and asked me to stay with him! The first month in Dhaka was hell! I was totally new and knew nothing about this city, and the commute was hectic. But slowly, I got used to it and discovered the amazing family in NSU that I have made! There were around 50 students in the first semester of NSU, and we did everything together, from studying to hanging out to arranging cultural programs. And the canteen! Like heaven for us! There were times that I would forget that I was so far away from my home!

Interviewer: You were the first NSU recruitment at Banglalink back in 1999. How was your experience there?

Nabi Chowdhury: After my internship in Beximco Textile, I was basically roaming around free for some days, until my eyes caught a vacancy announcement for Banglalink. It was known as Sheba Telecom at that time, and it was only 2 months old in terms of its operational activities in Bangladesh. I didn't think much before applying really, rather it was very casual. But luckily, within the next month, I started working there. There were graduates from all the renowned universities of Bangladesh, and a few more with international degrees. But during its inception, I was the only NSUer. Although, it didn't take long for the NSU grads to fill this place up afterwards. Unfortunately, I did not get much opportunity to work with anyone as I left the company by then.

Interviewer: Please tell us about your online music sharing venture "Tunes and Beats by Shujon". When did you discover your passion for music?

Nabi Chowdhury: It all started with a few friends of NSU as well, they were Amit, Upal, Enam, Prince, Jamil and Dip. We used to hang out together and play music. I was involved in music during my days in Chittagong and I used to perform with the local band named "Roots". After coming to Dhaka I was searching for the souls who love doing music and I found my friends as mentioned above.

Probably it was Amit who was playing guitar in the canteen and me from the far corner was singing with his rhythm. Upal and Dip were there, and they noticed me right at that moment. From that point we used to sing in the canteen and even after the class at Amit's place. I found my souls and up to 1996 we did so many shows and performances. But right after our university days we got busy with jobs and careers. Life has become a little different and

reality told us to do something else. I was always in touch with my friend Prince and especially after 2010 we started thinking to do music again and we started doing cover songs in different family programs and friends get-together. For the last 2-3 years we have seriously been thinking to compose some unique songs along with a remake of legendary songs. During lockdown times so many of my friends and other known people were asking for an online performance and I decided to form a team that consisted of a guitarist and a percussionist. Besides my job and service, whatever the time I find I used to give it for music. If the COVID scenario improves, it is our plan to perform in real life with all my musician friends of NSU 93.

We do have an intention to gather and unite all the musicians of NSU on a platform and organize a program or a concert. It could be at NSU or outside as well. We have lots of star musicians from NSU. Hopefully, we can make something like that happen once the pandemic is under control.

Interviewer: What is the source of your motivation for both work and passion?

Nabi Chowdhury: Love and affection that I am getting from family and friends.

Interviewer: Is there any advice you want to give to the current students?

Nabi Chowdhury: The young graduates in the present market are competitive and highly proficient in technology. But one thing I observe is their obsession with instant success. Right after graduation, students are dying to get into a big shot company with large digit salaries. But we have to see the whole picture. Understandably most of the time the fresh graduates might not be able to deliver his/her value right away. They would need training and grooming from the workplace. And for that the companies would have to invest significant time and money for them. So, don't get disheartened if you don't get a high salary job right away. Have patience, learn, and increase your value slowly. Stay consistent, and success will follow.

International Student Feature

Masanawa Ahmad holds a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Design from Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and studies for a Master of Science in Environmental Science and Management at North South University, Bangladesh. He is a general member of the Society of the Glass and Silicate Technologists and also for Model United Nations with both institutions respectively. In 2013, Masanawa Ahmad did an internship with Dana Steel Rolling, Limited which operates in Units of Quality Control and Utilities for several months which was satisfactory. By 2017, he served as a corp member with the Federal Government Girls' College, Kazaure where he assumed the role of Geography Instructor. Spending over a decade in Schools of Life and Physical Sciences - Masanawa Ahmad has left a trail of 20+ Certificates, 2+ Publications & a Federal Letter of Commendation. As a Nigerian, it's an honour being a part of the diaspora and the diversity that Bangladesh had to offer.



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

Masanawa Ahmad: Among the things that inspired me to choose Bangladesh over other countries was the duration it allows for graduate students (1 year). Thus, I choose North South University because of its well-known reputation and affiliation with universities across the globe.

Interviewer: What motivates you to pursue your Masters' Degree in Environmental Science & Management?

Masanawa Ahmad: Firstly, I did my Bachelor's Degree from the Faculty of Environmental Design, Ahmadu Bello University. So, I thought to myself there is a need to pursue a second degree to fulfill my dream of becoming a Master of Environmental Science & Management. Secondly, the rising environmental challenges across the world have pushed my interest in understanding the factors that threaten our existence as a people.

Interviewer: From your bio we can see that you have a rich working background in diverse sectors. Please share your experience of working in such diversity.

Masanawa Ahmad: Well, the labor market has taught me a lot regarding work ethics and discipline. Henceforth, the most important experience I got while working in such diversity is - we cannot become what we want by remaining what we are.

Interviewer: What are your future plans for your career once you complete your Masters' from NSU?

Masanawa Ahmad: Become a member of the working class or secure a scholarship for postgraduate studies in Environmental Engineering.

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 with us.

Masanawa Ahmad: NSU, through its staff and technical team, has really tried in the virtual academic sessions compared to its counterparts. Thus, my experience was smooth but stressful as it took quite awhile to normalize the digital stuff.

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

Masanawa Ahmad: : Bangladesh feels so homey - I must confess. Thus, the culture and religion matches the one I practice in Nigeria. Henceforth, I like it here because the Bengali people are hospitable and beautiful.

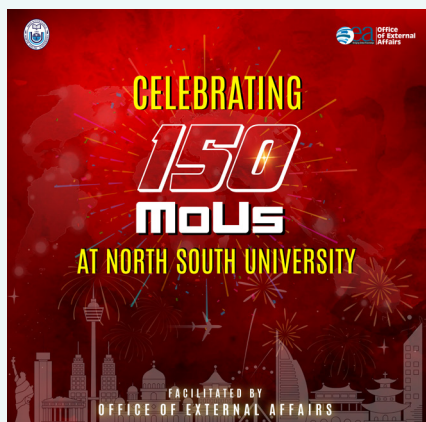
Interviewer: What do you think about the International Office of NSU and if you have any suggestions to improve it more?

Masanawa Ahmad: The International Office has been my guidance since day one and it feels like home every time I visit. Of course, the officers, especially Samina Ma'am, have been pretty awesome and my suggestion is to keep it up.

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

Masanawa Ahmad: My suggestion to future foreign applicants of NSU is to ensure attending the necessary orientation from OEA and of course, regular check-in for counselling and guidance from the ever-ready officers. I BET YOU WON'T REGRET A BIT.

Celebrating 150 MoUs



For the past three years, the OEA has focused on gathering together MoUs past and present to archive and showcase them on the NSU website. These include collaborations with NGOs, institutes, and universities inside and outside of Bangladesh. As of today, NSU has 154 MoUs <http://institutions.northsouth.edu/oea/international-affairs/-partnership/list-of-mous/>. If you need any support creating a new academic collaboration or being connected to our partner institutions, feel free to drop by the OEA. The MoUs include joint research and publication, faculty and student exchange and other collaborative opportunities.

Virtual Faculty Exchange: U. of Arizona Faculty Member Gives a Guest Lecture at NSU

Exchange of academic activities is a part of the MoU between University of Arizona and North South University. The pandemic could not entirely stop it, which is evident in the recent online special lecture given by a University of Arizona professor for NSU students. The special lecture was organized by PSS faculty Dr. Ishrat Sultana for her SOC 101 students on Dec 29, 2020. Professor William Paul Simmons of Gender and Women's Studies department and Director of Human Rights Practice Program from University of Arizona delivered his lecture on Sexual Violence Against Migrant Women and Children. According to her Sociology course syllabus for NSU students, this week was assigned for classes on gender. Among two classes, Dr. Sultana took one while Professor Simmons offered his lecture for the other.

