



**Office
of External
Affairs**

THE BRIDGE

The Official Newsletter of the Office Of External Affairs

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Editor's Message

Welcome back to The Bridge, the publication created to showcase activities organized by the Office of External Affairs (OEA). Besides our regular features, we are excited to share the recent collaboration meetings, information sessions with partner universities and Alumni Talk Shows occurring during the past two months. The OEA continues to serve the community online and has grown its audience beyond NSU. In fact, each week we have visitors in the audience from all parts of Bangladesh and beyond. We have also launched a new talk show called, "What's Your Story". We hope you will enjoy learning more about the recent activities of the OEA and welcome your feedback and innovative ideas. By visiting the OEA Facebook page, you can view any of the programs.

Editor

Dr. Katherine Li

Reporter

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Continuation of outreach efforts to the National NGOs in Bangladesh for the purpose of research collaboration and branding of NSU

North South University's Office of External Affairs (OEA) started reaching out to government-registered local NGOs by sending the NSU Research Foci Booklet for potential research collaboration, joint publications, training programs, and internship opportunities through possible MoUs starting in October 2020. As part of that continuation of outreach efforts, the OEA organized several more virtual meetings with the government-registered local NGOs.

The following table shows the current progress of this effort from June 06, 2021:

Sl.	Meeting Date	NGO Name	Contact Person	Website link/Remarks
01.	08 April 2021	Gram Unnayan Karma (GUK)	Dr. Md. Mahbub Alam Senior Director & Mr. Raihanus Saadat Director (ICT & RM)	http://www.guk.org.bd
02.	11 April 2021	Bright Bangladesh Forum (BBF)	Mr. Utpal Barua Executive Director	www.brightbangladeshforum.org
03.	18 April 2021	Efforts for Rural Advancement (ERA)	Mr. Md. Sirajul Islam Executive Director	www.era-bd.org
04.	22 April 2021	Dustha Manabotar Seba Sangstha (DMSS)	Ms. Mahbuba Sarkar Executive Director	https://dmssbd.wordpress.com/
05.	02 May 2021	Local Environment Development and Agricultural Research Society (LEDARS)	Mr. Mohon Kumar Mondal Executive Director	https://www.ledars.org/
06.	06 May 2021	Jiban Sandhani Samaj Kalyan Sangstha (JSSKS)	Mst. Jahanara Akther Executive Director	Website is under maintenance.
07.	09 May 2021	Mohila Unnayan Foundation (MUF)	Mr. Md. Ariful islam Executive Director	Website is under maintenance.
08.	06 June 2021	Organization for the Poor Community Advancement (OPCA)	Mr. Md. Alamgir Executive Director	www.opcabd.org

For more information about this effort, please reach out to Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, Office of External Affairs at mehedi.sumon@north-south.edu.

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 32



The thirty-second episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on May 2, 2021. The episode showcased Md. Mosiur Rahman, one of the distinguished alumni of North South University Masters' Batch 2014, Department of English and Modern Languages. Alongside completing a Masters from NSU, Md. Mosiur also pursued a second Masters of Research in Applied Linguistics from the University of Science, Malaysia. Afterwards, he joined BRAC University as a Lecturer at the BRAC Institute of Languages. Currently, Md. Mosiur is on study leave and is a doctoral candidate in Applied Linguistics at the School of Languages, Literacies and Translation at the University of Science, Malaysia.

The event started with Md. Mosiur presenting an overview of the BRAC Institute of Languages and his role as a Lecturer of the department. He mentioned that the institute invites professionals from two categories – ones more focused on research and the others more invested in teaching. Md. Mosiur belongs to the former as he has been more research-oriented and has grown a fair interest in publication since the Masters' level. In fact, this keen interest regarding primary research and publication helped him to assure a fellowship and the Vice Chancellor's award within a very short period during his Masters studies at the University of Science, Malaysia. Even without a prior plan to build a career in academia, Md. Mosiur was driven towards this sector because of his association and attachment with academic research.

During the discussion about Md. Mosiur's academic and professional interests, he mentioned that from the latter years of his undergraduate studies, he developed an interest in Applied Linguistics; hence he decided to carry forward his higher studies and professional journey in this area. According to him, research is an endless process that exposes people to a broader universe of knowledge and curiosity. Md. Mosiur also enlightened us and discussed in detail his recent research work which is on English Assessment in Bangladesh and medium of instruction (MoI) of Bangladeshi universities. His research findings indicate that Bangladesh has ample scope to improve teaching and assessing English. He also added that Bangladeshi students, especially the undergraduate and post-graduate level students who lack exposure to research facilities, which limits their learning opportunities manifold and even decreases the chances for Bangladeshi universities to secure and improve their position in world rankings.

Md. Mosiur highly emphasized the importance of upgrading the education system. For students, especially the Masters-level students, his suggestion was to attend as many educational seminars as possible and to improve their reading skills.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/446471629979628>

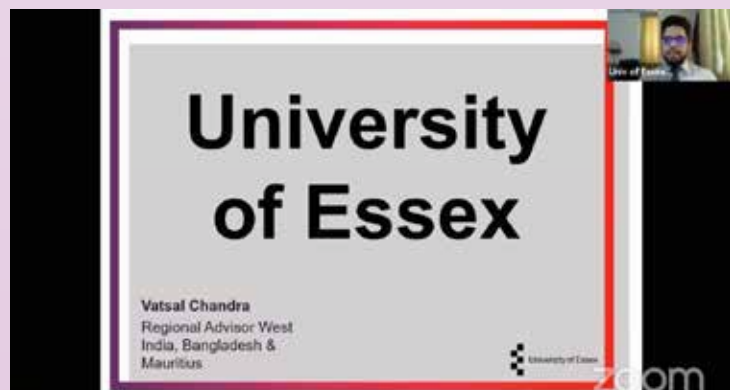
Information Session with the University of Essex, UK

North South University's Office of External Affairs organized an online information session with the University of Essex, UK on May 3, 2021. Mr. Vatsal Chandra, the Regional Advisor, West India, Bangladesh and Mauritius and Ms. Afshana Haque, Regional Officer from the University of Essex were present as speakers and represented the university during the webinar. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and was shared via Facebook Live on the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.



University
of Essex

The session started with a brief introduction of the heritage, academic structure and location of the University of Essex, UK through an informative presentation by Mr. Vatsal. The University of Essex is a relatively young British university which is less than sixty years old with three currently operating campuses in the central areas of the United Kingdom. The university is highly ranked for the students' satisfaction, international outlook and research quality and facilities among the regional, national and even international universities. During his presentation, Mr. Vatsal mentioned that the University of Essex was awarded the University of the Year title by the Times Higher Education in 2018. The university has a large, integrated and well-managed international student community with around 40% of the total students being international students. The university authority ensures adequate and affordable housing especially for the international students studying there.



The University of Essex offers a number of regular and unique programs for undergraduate, postgraduate and research-level students. The university has three main faculties which are – Humanities, Social Sciences and Science and Health. More than 100 subjects, courses and programs are offered to the aforementioned levels' students under these faculties. The University of Essex has recently introduced some new, unique and timely programs like the MSc of Global Public Sector, MSc of International Hospitality Management and several Fintech-related courses keeping the post-pandemic job market in mind. The educational structure and system of the university emphasizes practical learning for the students which helps the institute to ensure a high employability rate among its graduates. Moreover, the university also has a well-established and cooperative employability center for supporting its students and alumni with job placement-related guidance and facilities. The strong alumni base of the university contributes highly to the improvement of its international positioning, rating, reputation and employability.

At the end of the session, Mr. Vatsal discussed the admission deadlines, entry requirements, scholarship schemes, tuition and other fees, hostelry and other facilities offered by the University of Essex. The ending remarks of the event were delivered by Dr. Katherine Li, Director of the Office of External Affairs, North South University. During her short speech, she mentioned the existing MoU between NSU and the University of Essex which covers the agreement on joint research and publications, as well as faculty and student exchange programs between the two institutions.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/3911367912318874>

OEA Meets the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Canada

An online meeting was held on May 06, 2021 via Zoom about setting up possible joint/double degree programs between Bangladeshi and Canadian universities as part of a global outreach effort by the Office of External Affairs at North South University with His Excellency Dr. Khalilur Rahman, Honorable High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Canada. Dr. Rahman proactively discussed this matter with several universities in Canada to explore the possibility of having a suitable and mutually agreed upon mechanism under which both North South University and a Canadian university could award a joint or double degree or a degree to be awarded solely by the Canadian university to Bangladeshi students at the end of any undergraduate program.



Among others the participants of the meeting were Mr. Kawser Ahmed, Executive Director, Conflict and Resilience Research Institute Canada (CRRIC) and Adjunct Professor of the University of Winnipeg, Dr. Syeed Khan, Director, Innovation and Development, Conflict and Resilience Research Institute Canada and Data Scientist, Prof. Dr. Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Chair, Dept. of Political Science and Sociology & Director, SIPG, NSU, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, External Affairs, Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Asst. Director, External Affairs and Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, North South University.

The benefits of the joint or double degree in collaboration with reputable Canadian universities would be tremendous as this project would increase the employability opportunity for Bangladeshi students in Canada and would enhance the standard and quality of education as well as the overall ranking and standing of NSU not only in Bangladesh but also globally.

Finally, Dr. Rahman mentioned that they had opened a Bangabandhu Corner at the High Commission for Bangladesh in Canada, under which they are organizing various webinars and have plans for many more to increase the name and fame of Bangladesh.

NSU Participates in Culture Race 2021 Organized by FPT Education Global, Vietnam



FPT UNIVERSITY

Culture Race 2021 is an exclusive program arranged by FPT Education Global, Vietnam for its partner institutes to create a space for students from different cultural backgrounds to make new friends and learn about the different cultures despite the distance amidst the pandemic. North South University, as a partner university of FPT Global, participated in this event.

Culture Race 2021 was a virtual communicative event hosted by FPT Education Global, Vietnam with the participation of students and representatives from 9 universities in 5 different countries which are – India, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Thailand. The organizers of the event invited five interested students from NSU as the participants along with several other such participants from the aforementioned countries and institutes. All the participants were shuffled and divided into teams with randomly chosen members 2 weeks before the actual event and were provided with contact details of one another along with some specific guidelines for completion of a group task. The task was to prepare a creative video presentation with maximum participation of the members. Creativity and diversity were prioritized regarding the video-making content. The prime purpose of such a project was to inculcate participants with inter-cultural communication and inspire language and culture knowledge.

The actual event took place via Zoom on May 08, 2021. Representatives and judges from all the 9 participating universities, and of course the participants and the hosts, were present throughout the event. The program started with warm greetings and welcome messages from the organizers and hosts. Then the talent show segments of video presentations prepared by each team were presented and evaluated by the judges. Afterwards, other fun contests and competitive segments (i.e. twisty tongue) and evaluation of the contests took place. The program concluded with an award ceremony where the winning team was announced based on the highest marks of each participating team in the contests.



The main objective of this contest-based event was to provide a unique experience to participants and avail them of the opportunity to understand multiculturalism, to learn and respect diversity, and to make global friendships. Furthermore, the program also intended to enhance the leadership skills, time management skills, and language proficiency skills of the participants.

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 33

The thirty-third episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on May 09, 2021 having AKM Moinul Islam Moin, a distinguished alumni of North South University EMBA program, batch 2014. Mr. Moin is an internationally renowned and multiple award receiving business professional who has been associated with the Bangladeshi Fast-Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) industry of Bangladesh for nearly eighteen and half years. So far, he has worked in multiple divisions, departments and roles like brand management, integrated marketing communication (IMC), marketing strategy, business operations, sales, etc. in industry-leading companies like Partex Group, Jamuna Group, Bombay Sweets and Co. Ltd., etc. Currently, Mr. Moin is working as the Executive Director of PRAN-RFL Group.



As Mr. Moin has been actively associated with the FMCG industry for a long time, he has dynamic experiences as well as insight about the trends, culture, roles and activities of the respective industry. During the event, while discussing his professional life, Mr. Moin mentioned that the sectors he has worked with closely so far, are all very challenging and the nature of this industry interests him the most. According to his observation, the biggest challenge of the FMCG industry right now is the high competitiveness, both in national and international markets. Although, Mr. Moin has worked with almost all the prominent departments of operations and promotions management, he has a special attraction and soft side for marketing. He has made some great contributions to the overall marketing industry of Bangladesh and was behind some remarkable marketing campaigns for products like PRAN Mr. mango, atom gum, etc.

The current global pandemic situation has had a big impact on FMCG and was a huge challenge for the industry as well. As the industry and its offerings are closely related to the everyday needs of consumers, it couldn't afford to halt its functionality even for a day despite the pandemic. While sharing the experience of dealing with these hard times while maintaining an uninterrupted regular production process, Mr. Moin mentioned that the division leaders and higher level managers of the industry did not even shift to their home offices even for a day during the ongoing pandemic. He considers this dedication towards his professional duties as corporate and social responsibility, as their roles ensure uninterrupted food supply to the population.

According to Mr. Moin's insight, to be a good marketer, not only the academic knowledge about marketing is enough, but also one needs to be updated with the basic knowledge on market research, economics, statistics, human psychology, observational skills, cross-functional activities, etc. Moreover, soft skills like team-building, creativity, communication, etc. were mentioned to be equally important to excel in the professional sector. Mr. Moin mentioned that his prime motive for joining the NSU EMBA program was to integrate his academic knowledge in diversified areas with updated curriculum as well as to explore further scopes for learning and improvement. In this context, he said that his experience at NSU was very hectic as he had to maintain his job and his EMBA studies at the same time, yet the journey was very unique and pleasing to him.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/561251634878015>

Information Session with IIT Gandhinagar, India



North South University's Office of External Affairs arranged a virtual information session with IIT Gandhinagar, India on May 12, 2021. The main speaker of the event was Dr. Mithun Radhakrishna, Assistant Professor of Chemical Engineering Department and the Coordinator of International Admissions at IIT Gandhinagar. Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs and Ms. Samina Alam Miti, the International Affairs Officer from Office of External Affairs represented NSU during the session. 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 a warm welcome from Dr. Mithun followed by an informative presentation with a brief overview of IIT Gandhinagar including the inception, journey, campus, curriculum and facilities of the university. IIT Gandhinagar is a young university which was established in 2008. Since its inception, the university has been growing rapidly both in the sense of education quality and number of students. Currently, the university has a total of 1,700 students enrolled in different undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs. In his presentation, Mr. Mithun illustrated a clear outline of the programs offered by the university for undergraduate and graduate-level students. In this context, Mr. Mithun mentioned that IIT Gandhinagar emphasizes interdisciplinary aspects of relevant subject areas both in the case of offered programs and research. The university also ensures dynamic research opportunities with highly equipped modern research centers for the enthusiasts.

IIT Gandhinagar, India runs both its administrative and academic operations on the base of student welfare-oriented policies. The university ensures excellent faculties with world-class qualifications and remarkable teaching for all of their offered programs. They stress project-oriented learning and industry-based knowledge and upgrade their curriculum accordingly. It has a remarkable range of industry-academic partnerships to support this practical knowledge-based academic structure. The university also emphasizes internationalization and global outreach, thus it is working towards increasing global diversity on their campus. The overseas opportunities they are exploring include international exchange programs for students, faculties and researchers, study tours, program collaborations, etc.



During the latter part of the session, two other representatives from IIT Gandhinagar, Ms. Manjula Rao and Mr. Achal Mehra joined and shared some further information and thoughts with us. Mr. Mehra provided information about the application timeline and scholarship opportunities offered by

the university. On the other hand, Ms. Manjula proposed long-term partnerships regarding exchange and collaborative programs with NSU. The event concluded with an ending remark and goodwill from Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs, North South University.

To know more about the event, visit

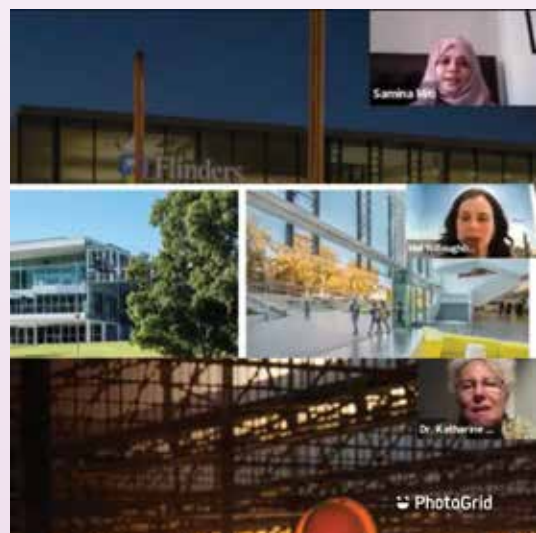
<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/798840871002216>

Information Session with Flinders University, Australia

North South University's Office of External Affairs organized an online information session with Flinders University, Australia on May 19, 2021. The session was hosted by Ms. Samina Alam Miti, the International Affairs Officer, Office of External Affairs and as speaker, we had Ms. Melisa, Country Manager, South Asia and Africa from Flinders University, Australia. 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 an informative presentation about the location, academic structure, offered facilities and entry procedures of Flinders University. The university was established in 1966 and is located in Adelaide, a small yet opportune city of Australia. Adelaide is considered to be one of the most student-friendly cities in Australia considering its comfortable climate, small population, vibrant economy, lively ambiance, etc. Flinders University currently runs three functioning campuses, each one of which is situated in a convenient location in Adelaide. Recently, the city has been identified as having zero COVID-19 infection cases which makes it safer and more accessible to the international students.



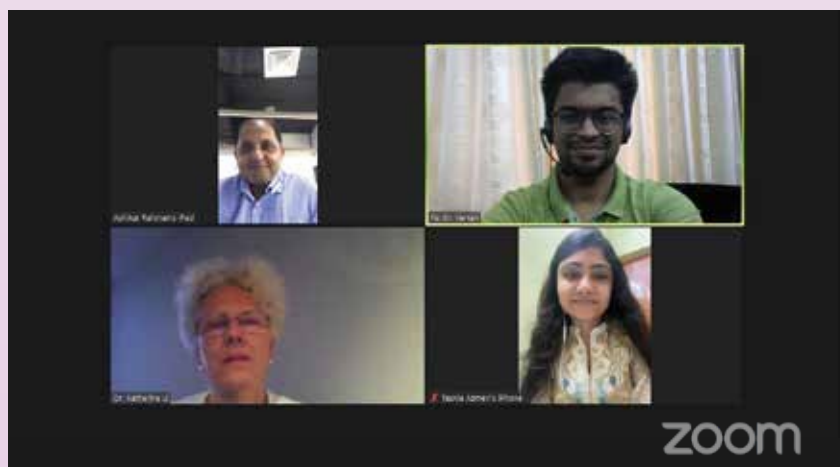
Flinders University has more than 26,000 currently enrolled students with more than 5,000 international enrollments from nearly 90 countries. Moreover, the university has a strong alumni base with many of the alumni working in different sectors and fields in more than 120 countries of the world. The university has its curriculum and programs organized under six wide-ranging colleges; nearly 500 different courses are offered for undergraduates, postgraduate and research programs by these colleges. Flinders University has several on-campus research labs and facilities for advanced research activities. Moreover, the university ensures on-campus accommodation facilities for students with safe and convenient residential arrangements. Alongside the aforementioned basic facilities, Flinders University also runs departments like the Student Learning Center (SLC), the International Student Service (ISS), etc. for the betterment of its students. The university is internationally reputed for its teaching quality, learning engagement and student support and is highly ranked for student experience and satisfaction.

Flinders University offers a number of scholarship schemes especially for the international students; both enrolled in undergraduate and postgraduate programs. The scholarship opportunities are offered in 3 categories at the undergraduate level and in 2 categories for the postgraduate level. The university ensures one extra year of post-graduate work rights for its graduates; therefore, Flinders University graduates can enjoy a three-year post-study work permit in Australia.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/853338831927110>

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 34



The thirty-fourth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on May 20, 2021. Our guest for this episode was Ashikur Rahman Habibe Rabbi, one of the most remarkable alumni of NSU from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering batch 2001. Although Mr. Ashik was a graduate of engineering, he chose to build his career in an alternate sector. Starting his career as the Acting Manager of the Bangladesh Football Federation, he has been associated with management-oriented roles from the very beginning of his professional journey. Currently, Mr. Ashik is working with Robi Axiata Ltd. as the General Manager of their External Communications Department.

During the session, Mr. Ashik discussed the opportunities and difficulties he has experienced so far on his professional journey. His current role as General Manager, External Communications of Robi Axiata Ltd. is to establish Public Relations (PR) plans and strategic planning to reach the objectives of the company using relevant platforms. He mentioned that the most interesting side of his job is that it offers him the opportunity to communicate with diverse people. According to him, the biggest challenge for PR in the Telecom industry is dealing with the negative perceptions of people and lack of recognition. Moreover, like every other industry, the telecom industry too has met with some newly emerged difficulties due to the ongoing global pandemic and has faced huge revenue losses.

As Mr. Ashik is associated with such an industry that promotes a digital lifestyle, he believes that every individual should be future-oriented, not only to thrive in the telecom industry, but also for succeeding in any industry. As per his observations, change in industries is inevitable. Heavy digitalization will result in automation, extinction of mainstream jobs and emergence of AI in the near future. Thus, to cope with this fluctuating environment, we must appreciate alternate career options, be open to diversity and opportunities and achieve multi-facilitated competency as soon as possible.

During the latter part of the event, Mr. Ashik shared some of his cherished memories from his student years at NSU. In this context, he mentioned that he chose NSU for his undergraduate degree because of the lively campus environment, broad diversity, enriched curriculum and academic structure of the university. He also emphasized the diversified opportunities to engage in extracurricular activities which helped with networking skills and confidence building of the students at NSU. Moreover, as a senior alumnus of NSU, Mr. Ashik highly praised the initiative of bringing all the alumni of the university under one platform by the NSU Office of Alumni Affairs and assured constant support and every kind of contribution in his power for these kinds of initiatives.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/2291132151020197>

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 35

The thirty-fifth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on May 24, 2021 having Dr. Fariha Mahzabeen, a remarkable alumna from the School of Engineering and Physical Sciences of North South University (batch 2005). She pursued her Doctoral and Post-doctoral studies and research at Stanford University, USA and pursued her internship at Facebook. Dr. Mahzabeen started her professional journey in academia at BRAC University, but then switched to industry after a short while when she received an opportunity to work with Google as a hardware engineer. She also switched departments and worked as the Technical Program Manager at Google. Later on, Dr. Mahzabeen returned to academia. Currently, Dr. Mahzabeen is associated with San Jose State University, USA as an Assistant Professor of her subject of expertise.



As Dr. Mahzabeen has been directly associated with industry and academia both for a remarkable period, she has some interesting insights about these two completely different sectors. While differentiating these two sectors, she mentioned that working with both the technical field and academia made her realize that teaching is her calling. The opportunity of closely interacting with students, impacting their lives and shaping their future through teaching fascinated Dr. Mahzabeen.

According to Dr. Mahzabeen's observation and experience, the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic has had significant effects on academia. She mentioned virtual interactions between students and faculties to be harder than conventional interactions, and these difficulties have introduced some substantial modifications in the curriculum structure toward adaptation to online education. Personally, Dr. Mahzabeen has turned towards email based communication to demonstrate constant presence and support and to encourage regular communication.

Alongside sharing her career journey and experiences, Dr. Mahzabeen shared some of the cherished memories from her student life at NSU. Starting from the factors effecting her decision to choose NSU for her undergraduate degree to her bonding with batch mates, closeness with faculties, culture of cooperation; the reminiscing of memories from her NSU campus life created a nostalgic ambiance during the event. Later on, she shared some valuable suggestions with the current students and recent graduates of NSU about PhD opportunities, application techniques, necessary competencies for industry, etc. She emphasized having an optimistic attitude for both success and satisfaction in life. Lastly, she thanked and highly praised NSU Alumni Affairs Office for its efforts to connect the alumni of NSU through an integrated system.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/2961918154044242>

Information Session with Liverpool John Moores University, UK



North South University's Office of External Affairs arranged an online information session with Liverpool John Moores University, UK on May 27, 2021. Mr. Shailender Silamsetty, Regional Manager, South Asia from Liverpool John Moores University, UK represented the university and was present as the speaker during the event. 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 interactive presentation by Mr. Shailender that included a brief overview of the academic and cultural structure, admission and education process and facilities of the Liverpool John Moores University, UK. The Liverpool John Moores University is a very student-friendly university. The university is located in Liverpool, UK – one of the safest and most affordable cities of the United Kingdom. Moreover, the environs of the city avail ample opportunities for both part-time and full-time jobs for the students and graduates of the universities situated nearby.

Liverpool John Moores University is a globally acknowledged university with high international ranking. The university holds a position among the top 150 universities under 50 years and maintains a huge portfolio of offered programs and courses which enables students from versatile backgrounds and preferences to have a greater exposure to many fields of expertise and majors. Mr. Shailender discussed the academic and departmental structure of the university in detail during the event. He also mentioned that the university makes sure to provide practical and placement-based opportunities for its students taught by highly qualified and international standard faculties. Such a strategic approach towards students' academic excellence and practical skill development ensures a high employability rate of the graduates of the university.



During the event, Mr. Shailender discussed the opportunities and facilities offered by Liverpool John Moores University. It charges a comparatively low tuition rate and offers an elaborate range of funding and scholarship opportunities to students. Moreover, the university maintains a comfortable, safe and affordable arrangement of accommodations for its students.

Mr. Shailender described the admission procedure, undergraduate and postgraduate admission requirements, language proficiency requirements, planning and duration of the sessions and deadlines for application of Liverpool John Moores University. Finally, he mentioned that the university is reopening its campus in September 2021 and shifting all its academic activities to in-person.

To know more about the event, visit <https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/514421763027589>

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 36

The thirty-sixth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on May 30, 2021. We had Mr. Zahed Hossain, a distinguished alumnus from the ETE Department batch 2005 of North South University. Mr. Zahed started his professional journey in his subject oriented technical sector and has been working in the same sector since then. Currently, he is associated with the Intel Corporation as a Wireless Standard System Engineer.

The event started with a detailed discussion about Mr. Zahed's professional interests and current projects at Intel. He mentioned that he had always found himself passionate about wireless communication methods. As the field of wireless communications is very broad, unconventional and rapidly developing, it offers him ample opportunities to work with continuous problem-solving opportunities and innovative ideas for technological advancement. In this context, Mr. Zahed shared his experience of working on an underwater wireless model for his Masters' project. Currently, he is working towards the improvement of the efficiency of digital communication systems. Some of his recent research and operational projects have been in areas like terahertz, holographic telepresence, and automated transportation, etc.

In the latter part of the event, Mr. Zahed shared his experience and memories from his student years at NSU. He mentioned that his journey started with a number of sudden and unexpected turns of events. The North American standardization of curriculum and faculties of NSU initially interested him towards his enrollment here. From his perspective, the practical knowledge and research-based educational structure is the best feature of NSU and has helped him the most in his career.

Mr. Zahed has the experience of pursuing higher studies in both national and international institutes as well as working in his subject area for several years. He has some interesting and valuable insights about these which he shared with us during the event. He mentioned that alongside standard previous academic results, proper recommendations and statements of purpose are important for pursuing a PhD, having patience is very important too in the case of a PhD, as the entire program is heavily research-based. As for acing the job market of his field, soft skills and human skills are as important as technical skills. To conclude, Mr. Zahed emphasized the importance of discipline and regularity to keep both academic and professional journeys on track.

To know more about the event, visit <https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/2936034533383914>



Information Session with the University of Arizona, USA



North South University's Office of External Affairs arranged an online information session with the University of Arizona, USA on June 02, 2021. Mr. Tolga Turker, Director of Europe and Central Asia Partnerships at the University of Arizona Global and Dr. William Simmons, the Director of Human Rights Practice Program, University of Arizona attended the session as speakers and representatives of the university. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and was shared via Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

In the beginning of the session, Mr. Turker presented a brief overview about the overall curriculum, structure and culture of the University of Arizona. He mentioned that the university was established in 1855 and is located in Tucson, Arizona. The University of Arizona is basically a research university which is invested in primary research projects and allocates a high budget for research purposes. Currently, the university has around 47,000 students, 6.5% among which are international students coming from different regions and continents of the world. About 3,000 highly qualified faculties are appointed to guide and teach this large pool of enrolled students. The university offers a diversified, adequately improvised curriculum and program outline for its students; the courses of the university are constantly modified in accordance with industry evolution and students' preferences.

Considering the aforementioned advanced curriculum and student-oriented facilities, the University of Arizona has been ranked highly among both national and international research universities. It is one of the top 40 public universities of the USA. Moreover, the university is ranked among the top 1% of universities in the world.

During the event, the speakers also talked about University of Arizona Global, an initiative that is intended to offer the education of the university in a global platform. The worldwide micro-campus network has been operating in 691 locations worldwide as a part of this program. Furthermore, the University of Arizona launched its globally available online education platform back in 2013-2014, which is a major provider of their global program as well.



The programs that the university offers under this global operation system can be accessed through either fully online or partially on campus categories. Arizona Global is setting the standard for a global university through this aforementioned initiative.

The event ended with a very interactive Q&A session during which the speakers answered the interested students' questions about entry requirements, the credit transfer process, scholarship schemes, Masters' and Doctoral programs as well as the semester timeline, etc.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/350407066755351>

Information Session with the University of the Southampton Solent University, UK

North South University Office of External Affairs arranged an online information session with the Southampton Solent University, UK on June 09, 2021. Mr. Mark Bloodworth, Senior International Recruitment Manager, Solent University, UK conducted the event as the speaker and representative of the university. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and was shared via Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

SOLENT
UNIVERSITY
SOUTHAMPTON

The event started with an informative presentation by Mr. Bloodworth who described the basic information about Southampton Solent University such as its location, academic structure, student dynamics, scholarship opportunities and other facilities. He mentioned that the university is a public university based in the city of Hampshire, a cosmopolitan city of Southeast England. The city is one of the top 10 happiest, sunniest and warmest cities of the United Kingdom and is fairly affordable, secure and thus student friendly. The university's main campus is located on East Park Terrace near the city center and the maritime hub of Southampton. Solent University currently has around 11,000 students enrolled in about 200 different courses and programs. A remarkable portion of the university's total students is international students coming from nearly 120 countries around the world.



Southampton Solent University is one of the top-listed universities of the UK for education quality and student experiences. The university has been rated five stars by the QS World Rankings for teaching and inclusiveness. Moreover, Solent University demonstrates a significant ratio of graduate start-ups and a high rate of graduate employment. The university ensures regularly upgraded program structure and a student welfare-oriented education system and facilities for enhancing the competency of the graduates. Some of the courses or programs of the university are conducted by guest lecturers from industry to give practical exposure to the students keeping them well connected to the industry.

During the session, Mr. Bloodworth discussed the offered programs and course maps of the Southampton Solent University in detail with the attendees of the event. He mentioned that their one-year post-graduate program is the most esteemed and popular among the

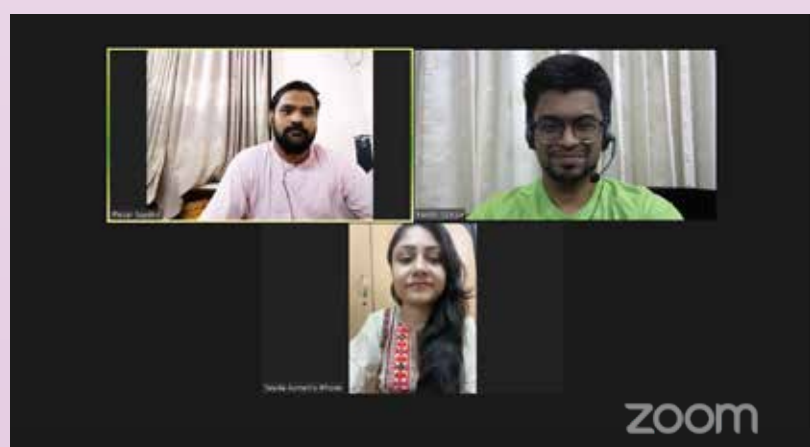
students. Alongside academic excellence and convenience, the university also offers student-oriented facilities like creative spaces, various sports opportunities, specialized labs and workshops, safe and affordable on-campus accommodation, etc.

Mr. Bloodworth also described the application procedure, entry requirements, language proficiency requirements, tuition fees structure, programs' duration, scholarship opportunities, etc. for the students interested to pursue higher education at Solent University. He also briefed about the visa application documents submission procedure. The event ended with an interactive Q&A session.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1177917889393048>

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 37



The thirty-seventh episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on June 11, 2021 having Mr. Iftezar Sayeed (Sakib), a distinguished alumnus of North South University BBA batch 2007 as the guest. Mr. Iftezar completed his undergraduate degree from NSU in the year 2011, and since then has worked closely with multiple renowned national and multinational companies such as Banglalink, British American Tobacco, Pathao, Suzuki, etc. Currently, he is working as a Manager at Robi Axiata Ltd.

Throughout the event, Mr. Iftezar shared his experience and insights from working with leading telecom companies and multinational organizations of the country as well as his memories from his NSU life. As a marketing major graduate, most of his professional experiences and contributions are in the marketing sector. Even now, he is handling the new

market development sector at Robi Axiata Ltd. Mr. Iftezar mentioned that throughout his career journey so far, he has experienced continuous learning and constant improvement while working in diverse environments and projects which he appreciates the most about his professional life. In this context, he especially appreciated the digital training and practical application that Robi Axiata Ltd. has applied to their regular operating system in the recent years to cope with heavy digitalization.

An interesting and noteworthy aspect about Mr. Iftazar is his passion for music. He has been enthusiastic and regular about his rap music career since his student life and throughout his professional life as well. He is one of the founding members of 'Deshi MCs', a pioneer Bangla Gangsta Rap and Bangladeshi Hip-hop Band of the early 2000's which launched several popular songs and albums till date. Mr. Iftazar also has the experience of conducting a number of live concerts. He especially shared the experiences of performing live concerts at NSU during several cultural functions as an alumnus of the institute.

As for the reason behind choosing NSU, Mr. Iftazar mentioned the influence and advice of his seniors who were already enrolled at the university. Later on, the practical and systematic teaching system at NSU impressed and benefited him the most. He especially mentioned and thanked the faculties of the university for positively impacting his thirst for knowledge and interest in research. Mr. Iftazar emphasized having an open mind and problem solving mentality to succeed both in one's academic and professional life. For the current students and recent graduates of NSU, he suggested practicing multi-tasking, gathering knowledge in multiple sectors and staying updated as much as possible.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/368795094661768>

Collaboration Meeting with Ryerson University, Canada

As a part of its global outreach effort, the Office of External Affairs, an online collaboration meeting was held between North South University and Ryerson University, Canada on June 11, 2021. The meeting was arranged and moderated by the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Canada, His Excellency Dr. Khalilur Rahman. From Ryerson, Ms. Sara Berman, Director, International Affairs who oversees the international initiatives was present. From North South University, Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director, External Affairs and Ms. Samina Alam Miti participated in the meeting.



Various agenda items were discussed between these two universities including exploring the opportunities for joint research, student and faculty exchange. The main priority was given to exploring joint or double degree opportunities, but it was recommended to consider the joint research and publications as a potential starting point because approvals will be required for the joint degree program to begin.

An agreement will be established soon when collaborative areas and joint activities are identified to pursue the partnership.

Information Session with the University of Texas at San Antonio, USA



North South University's Office of External Affairs arranged a virtual information session with the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA) on June 17, 2021. As speakers of the session, we had with us Dr. Saugata Datta, Professor of Hydrology in the Department of Geological Science at UTSA, and Ms. Maria Medrano, Senior Graduate Recruiter of UTSA Graduate School. 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 an informative presentation by Ms. Medrano illustrating a detailed overview of the academic structure, offered programs, and facilities of UTSA. She started her presentation with a brief introduction of the members of the recruitment team along with the distinctive activities and sectors they oversee. UTSA emphasizes internationalization and outreach and encourages a broad scale of diversity among their students, faculties, researchers, etc. Currently, 11% of the total students of the university are international students coming from different regions and continents of the world. However, the most international students that UTSA receives are from India, China, Bangladesh, Mexico, and Iran.

UTSA offers a variety of programs and courses for graduate, postgraduate, and research level students. Their graduate-level programs are organized and offered under 7 separate colleges, which are Business, Education and Human Development, Architecture, Construction and Planning, Engineering, Health Community and Policy, Liberal and Fine Arts and Science. The university offers nearly 120+ doctoral, masters, certificate, and online programs and around 33 research programs with the extraordinary opportunity of interdisciplinary collaboration. Moreover, students are given diverse career development and networking programs for the betterment of their industry-based knowledge. Ms. Medrano wrapped up her presentation by mentioning the application requirements and procedures to apply for admission to UTSA.



After the precise and informative presentation by Ms. Medrano, the floor was passed to Dr. Datta, the Director of the Institute of Water Research, Sustainability and Policy (IWRSP) at UTSA. The center's research is being conducted through collaboration with several relevant institutes including NSU.

During the event, Dr. Datta briefed about the features and objectives of this multidisciplinary research project. As he has the experience of visiting and working closely with NSU on this project, he shared some of his observations regarding the structure and administration of the university. While doing so, Dr. Datta talked highly of NSU and praised the dedication and cooperation of the university. Lastly, he showed his interest to further expand opportunities of collaboration and to explore joint exchange programs between NSU and UTSA.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/318678313128534>

Collaboration Meeting with McGill University, Canada

An online meeting was arranged by the High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Canada, His Excellency Dr. Khalilur Rahman between North South University, Bangladesh and McGill University, Canada on June 22, 2021. The main purpose of the meeting was to explore the opportunities of a joint/dual degree program and the potential for future research opportunities and exchange partnerships between the universities. Mr. Kawser Ahmed, Executive Director, Conflict and Resilience Research Institute Canada (CRRIC) moderated the meeting. From McGill University, Mr. Brian Bauer, Director of International Engagement, Dr. Guy Mineau, Director, School of Continuing Studies were present and Dr. Katherine Li, Director of External Affairs, Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director, External Affairs, Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer were present from North South University.



Dr. Mineau explained McGill's Continuing Studies Program's Plus-One model, where a student from a partner institution attends McGill for a year and earns a diploma. He said that this structure had been used with McGill's existing international partners. Compared to a joint Master's degree program, Dr. Mineau said the Plus-One model would be easier to implement in the short term while developing an institutional relationship.

Opportunities for joint research, short exchange of students and faculty members were discussed and it was concluded that before implementing joint degree programs between the two universities, it would be beneficial to start developing a relationship between both institutions to gauge the respective needs.

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 38



The thirty-eighth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on June 23, 2021. The episode showcased Dr. Razib Iqbal, an honorable alumnus of North South University School of Engineering from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, batch 2000. Dr. Razib completed his undergraduate degree from NSU in the year 2003, and received his Master's degree and PhD in the same subject from the University of Ottawa, Canada. He started his career in academia; later on he had some experience working in industry as well, but eventually he returned to academia and is still closely associated with this sector. Currently, Dr. Razib is working as an Associate Professor of Computer Science at Missouri State University, USA.

The event began with a brief discussion about the professional journey of Dr. Razib. He has explored the working sectors and opportunities of both academia and industry; and has chosen to continue his career in academia. The opportunities of influencing a student's life attracted him towards academia from the beginning and thus, he chose academia over industry. Dr. Razib's main teaching area is software engineering. Alongside his teaching, he is also closely associated with student service activities and research work. His interest area for research is the Internet of Multimedia Materials; currently, he is conducting his research operations with 6 graduate students as research assistants.

During the session, Dr. Razib discussed career opportunities in the computer science and engineering sector and projected an overview of job growth in the market for computer scientists, IT experts and other professionals in this area. In this context, he mentioned that analytical and problem solving tendencies and abilities are the most important qualities for an individual both for higher studies and career development. Additionally, he emphasized language proficiency, academic results, practical learning, teamwork, etc. to maintain an upper hand on the professional journey.

Later on, during the last portion of the event, Dr. Razib shared some interesting and cherished memories from his NSU student years. He shared stories about his campus life, bonding with friends, seniors and faculties, club activities, etc. of his time with the audience of the show. Dr. Razib appreciated the networking opportunities and outreach that NSU provides its students the most and emphasized the importance of this broad network both for career and higher studies. He especially mentioned the top notch curriculum of NSU and the impact of such an academic structure for the students' professional journey.

As a senior alumnus of NSU, Dr. Razib shared some valuable suggestions for the current students and recent graduates based on his observations and experiences so far. He emphasized setting priorities and suggested knowing thyself for setting life goals and successfully reaching them. To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/830796464196560>

Information Session with the Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia

North South University's Office of External Affairs organized an online information session with the Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM), Malaysia on June 24, 2021. Dr. Wan Norbani Wan Noordin, Director, Transnational Education Department, Institution of Continuing Education and Professional Studies, Dr. Hossein, Coordinator, Promotions and Marketing, Dr. Faiz Anwar, Head of Graduation Studies and Professor Dr. Ing Masria Mustafa, Head of International Students and Development, Department of International Affairs represented UiTM during the session. 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 a welcome speech by Dr. Wan Norbani followed by a video presentation precisely portraying the campus life and facilities of the Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM). Afterwards, Dr. Wan briefly went over the previous interactions, meetings and collaboration with NSU and shared an overview of UiTM, Malaysia. The university is Malaysia's largest public university having its main campus situated in Kuala Lumpur along with 35 branch campuses located in different areas of Malaysia. It offers approximately 457 unique programs at the undergraduate, graduate and doctoral levels among which 162 programs are for Masters' level and 55 are for the PhD level. One unique thing Dr. Wan mentioned about UiTM is that all their postgraduate and doctoral level programs are only offered for international students. The university is highly oriented towards overseas collaboration, opportunities and focused on transnational education. Dr. Wan concluded her presentation by sharing the strategic plan 2025 of UiTM that targets quality education and global excellence.



The floor was passed to Dr. Faiz, Head of Graduation Studies from Dr. Wan who provided the audience with details about his department, the Institution of Post-Graduate Studies. The institute offers a number of courses and programs for postgraduate studies including some extraordinary and niche subject areas. The offered courses are organized under 6 broad faculties for better administrative and operational facilities. Currently, the department is working with students from different countries all around the world. During his presentation, Dr. Faiz also briefed about the application procedure, requirements, program duration, incentives and scholarship opportunities available to applicants of postgraduate programs.

Afterwards, Dr. Ing, Head of International Students and Development briefed about the role and service of the Department of International Affairs. She also walked us through the opportunities and facilities offered by UG Global. The organizational chart and list of international collaborations were also presented during the session for better understanding and clarification. Dr. Ing especially mentioned the accommodations offered by UiTM for international students as many interested applicants have queries about this particular matter.

Lastly, the floor was offered to Ms. Refat Jahan, a student of the Department of Architecture from Bangladesh, currently studying in UiTM, to share her experience at the university. She shared her journey and experience of applying, getting enrolled and pursuing postgraduate studies at UiTM with the audience during the session.

To know more about the event, visit <https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1160846527718487>

Meeting with Management and Science University, Malaysia



An online collaboration meeting was held over Zoom on June 27, 2021 to discuss a potential Global Partnership Program between North South University, Bangladesh and the Management and Science University, Malaysia. The meeting was attended by Associate Professor Dr. Indang Ariati Ariffin, Director of Global Affairs, Mr. Siti Zubaidah Md Pauzi, Assistant Manager (Global Affairs), Mr. Mohamad Amirul Asraf Ismail, Assistant Manager (Global Affairs) from MSU and Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs, Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordinator, Office of External Affairs from NSU.

The meeting started with warm greetings from the representatives of both the universities and proceeded through a brief overview of NSU and MSU. The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the structure and duration of Dual & Double Degree Programs as well as mobility programs between the two universities. The aforementioned programs are to be accessible to undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level students. The discussion concluded with the decision that for undergraduate level, the students from NSU can spend at least 1 year at MSU and then progress to NSU under the Dual & Double Degree Program. The objective of this program will be to enable students to get degrees from both NSU and MSU with two separate certificates. For postgraduate programs, students will pursue 1 year at MSU and another 1 year at NSU and will achieve an NSU and MSU Master's degree certificate after completion of the program. Similarly, for PhD programs, students have to spend at least 1 year at MSU and 2 years at NSU, and vice versa. In that case, they will be expected to have at least one supervisor from each university.

The necessary information regarding the program collaboration procedure was shared from both sides during the meeting. Mr. Siti Zubaidah Md Pauzi provided a detailed list of MSU programs. On the other hand, Ms. Tasnia proposed suitable programs from NSU to consider.

Another aspect that was discussed thoroughly in the meeting was the MSU Learning Center (MLC) Program. The program is accessible for students enrolled for undergraduate studies at NSU under the Dual Degree Program with MSU. Under this program, MSU will provide the curriculum structure for every program as well as quality assurance and control (QAC) for each program twice per year. Moreover, the students' official transcript of results for every semester will be endorsed and approved by the MSU senate. NSU will be in charge of providing lecturers for proper guidance of the students during their course of study. Whereas, MSU may provide teaching support for students if required in accordance with the subject request and approval.

Meeting with Indian Institute of Management Visakhapatnam (IIM), India

North South University's Office of External Affairs and the Indian Institute of Management Visakhapatnam (IIMV) had a meeting on June 28, 2021. In this meeting from IIMV, the guest was Dr. Amit Baran Chakrabarti, Chair - International Relations, Indian Institute of Management Visakhapatnam and from NSU, Dr. Katherine Li, Director-Office of External Affairs (OEA), Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director-OEA and Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer-OEA.



In the meeting, the collaboration with North South University - especially with the School of Business & Economics (SBE) was discussed. This collaboration may be in the form of Joint Programs, Student Exchange, Research Collaborations, Joint Conferences, or any other aspects of mutual interest. Ph.D. opportunities for junior faculty members of NSU were also discussed.



start a long-lasting relationship between two institutes.

IIMV is a publicly funded institute based on the eastern seaboard of India. The term IIM or the Indian Institute of Management is an umbrella brand given to a set of twenty business schools spread across India. Each of these twenty institutes is autonomous in itself. These are among the most prestigious management institutes of India. Every year, about two hundred thousand students apply for admission to these institutes, out of which only about ten thousand get admitted to one of these twenty institutes. IIMV is relatively young - about five years old. Being a young institute, they are highly entrepreneurial and ambitious. They have a young cohort of thirty faculty members who are all very active in research. IIMV is also actively pursuing international accreditations such as AMBA, AACSB, and EQUIS. IIMV is eagerly looking forward to having another meeting with NSU especially with the Business School faculty members of NSU and hopes to

What's Your Story? Episode 1



The OEA has launched a new initiative as an extension of its outreach to Bangladesh Educators Abroad in the form of a talk show hosted by Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA. The name of it is, "What's Your Story?" The expected benefit to NSU students is to let them hear from successful Bangladeshis considered to be role models for young people as they consider their future possibilities. It is also an opportunity to create potential collaborative relationships with notable universities around the world where these honorable faculty members work. For the first episode we had Dr. Pradep Deb.

Dr Pradip Deb obtained his BSc Honours and MSc in Physics from the University of Chittagong Bangladesh, MAppSc in Medical Physics from Queensland University of Technology, and PhD in Nuclear Physics from the University of Melbourne, Australia. He was a Melbourne University Research Scholarship recipient. After doing post-doctoral research at the University of Melbourne and Ohio State University, Dr Deb accepted a Lecturer position in Health Physics at the University of Tasmania in 2007. Dr. Deb joined Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) in 2008. Currently, he is a Senior Lecturer in Medical Radiations, Research Supervisor and Radiation Safety Officer at the School of Health and Biomedical Sciences at RMIT. He was the Australian Institute of Physics Bragg Gold Medal Finalist in 2002 for his PhD thesis. He has received more than forty academic awards including Student Choice Teaching Awards, Teaching Excellence in Higher Education Award, Teaching Impact Award, International Media Star Award. He is a member of the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM), American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT), Australasian College of Physical Scientists & Engineers in Medicine (ACPSEM), and Australasian Radiation Protection Society (ARPS). He teaches medical radiations, radiobiology, radiography, and nuclear medicine physics. His research interest includes radiation dosimetry, and radiation safety and protection. He has published more than hundred research papers. He has supervised 10 PhD students. He is a science writer. His Bangla articles appear regularly in Biggyanchinta. He has authored 30 books in Bangla published from Bangladesh.

His most interesting life lessons included collecting motivation and learning from every aspect of life, enjoying the whole journey rather than just the goal or end result, learning through teaching, and learning to take failure. Finally, Dr. Deb encouraged the audience to develop an 'abundance' mindset.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/521647042511453>

NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 39

The thirty-ninth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on June 29, 2021. As our guest for this episode, we had two distinguished alumni of North South University – Mr. Faysal Bashar from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering batch 2000 and Ms. Faiza Nabita from the Department of Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering batch 2004. Both of the guests are currently based in Australia and working with Ericsson in two distinct departments. Mr. Bashar is operating as a Senior Integration Engineer whereas, Ms. Nabita is working as their IoT Sales and Business Development Manager.

The episode started with an interesting discussion about the career journey of both of our guests. Mr. Bashar completed his undergraduate degree from NSU in 2004, and since then he has been working closely in his field. He joined Ericsson back in 2007 as an Integration Engineer and has been working with the multinational company for nearly 15 years. Initially, his journey with Ericsson started in Bangladesh but later on he got transferred to Australia and promoted to Senior Integration Engineer. Mr. Bashar mentioned that his professional role in the organization mainly involves network solution design and network integration verification. On the contrary, Ms. Nabita completed her Bachelors from ETE in 2008 but had immediately switched her career direction from technical sector to management sector. She joined Ericsson as a project manager in 2008 and has been working in different country offices of the organization (i.e. Bangladesh, Singapore and Australia) throughout her career. In her current role as IoT Sales and Business Development Manager at Ericsson, she implements and develops business opportunities in Australia. While describing the organizational culture, the guests mentioned that as a European company, Ericsson projects strong values of mutual respect and professionalism. It is also a highly innovation-driven company and works towards the expansion of connectivity.

As both Mr. Bashar and Ms. Nabita have significant experience in technology-based industries, they shared their suggestions and recommendations for the recent and future professionals of the technological field. They emphasized constant skill development, analytical skills alongside academic knowledge. Both of them repeatedly mentioned that continuous self-development is a must for professional advancement in any field. They advised seeking guidance through networking and one-on-one communication with industry experts. Moreover, they emphasized gaining industry-based knowledge and people skills.

In the last portion of the event, Mr. Bashar and Ms. Nabita shared some of their treasured memories from their student years in NSU. The main inspiration for both of them behind choosing NSU for their undergraduate degrees was the advanced education quality and assurance of timely graduation completion. In this context, the guests called up the memories from campus life with batch-mates, seniors, juniors and faculties. Mr. Bashar especially mentioned the impact of his respected faculties behind the development of his sheer interest in telecommunication engineering. They also talked about their involvement in extracurricular and club activities during their time at NSU. Finally, they praised the alumni networking initiative by NSU OAA and assured their juniors that they were available anytime for any purpose and would be glad to help NSU with anything within their power.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/529304054924410>



Journey of Study in Canada Scholarship (SiCS) Program



As a young enthusiast with a sky-high dream, I never wanted to limit my scope within one country's border. Having awakened with this dream and to unfold it, I want to enter in the global educational system where I can explore my knowledge. Having wanderlust, exploring the world has always been a passion of mine which I never got to pursue because of various strings that have tied me down. So, doing a postgrad from abroad has always been my dream. I hoped and craved for exchange study programs even though I knew the chances were slim in our country. The knowledge that I had up until now has only given me a brief glimpse of the vastness of knowledge, but I did not get the opportunity to explore the wider world. This journey is not going to be an easy ride and I realize that I have to give my best shot in order to make a stand among the best in the world to reach my goals. However, a post of the Canadian Embassy of Bangladesh was seen by my brother about the Study in Canada Scholarship (SICS) for the first time. Seeing that post I knew it was a long shot and probably the best chance to get it was seeking guidance from NSU. As I could not apply on my own, my university had to apply on my behalf. At that point I knew it would be very competitive as the candidate would be selected by NSU among the best ones to represent their institution. I got cold feet at the first stage thinking of the kind of competition I was about to face, but I had confidence in my capabilities that if I got the chance to prove myself I could overcome every obstacle along the way. All I could think of was the opportunity presented to me, so despite having second thoughts I contacted NSU and let them know that I was interested. Finally, in March, the Office of External Affairs (OEA) reached out to me informing me about all the procedures and criteria and that there would be a selection-based competition as many students were interested in this program. The next rounds included questionnaires, submitting a resume, having an interview and so on. Finally, when I got the good news that I had been selected for the scholarship, that wasn't the end of it. I had yet to clear the final round where candidates from countries, like- Algeria, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Jordan, Kenya, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Taiwan, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, and Ukraine would be selected by Global Affairs of Canada. That wait was the hardest part of the entire journey of this scholarship. Thanks to the OEA, NSU has MoUs with universities worldwide. In my case, the one with Saint Mary's University (Canada) made the further steps possible.



Faculty Feature

Ambassador Shahidul Haque is a Professorial Fellow at North South University, Bangladesh and also an advisor on migration and humanitarian policy at the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Dhaka. He was the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh from January 2013 to December 2019. Mr. Haque also served as a director for migration policy at IOM global relations based in Geneva from 2009 to 2012. He received the IOM Director General's Award in 2005. He chaired the Global Forum for Migration and Development from 2015 to 2016. He also led the Chairmanship of the Platform on Disaster Displacement from 2015 to 2016, a global body dealing with displacement due to climate change (the Nansen Initiative).

Mr. Haque has also been extensively engaged in negotiations associated with the Rohingya. He led the Bangladesh side of the Bangladesh-Myanmar Joint Working Group on the Repatriation of Displaced Myanmar Nationals from Bangladesh. He also chaired the Bangladesh National Task Force on Undocumented Myanmar Nationals from 2013 to 2019.

Currently he is an Independent Expert to the Committee on the Rights of All Migrant Workers and their Families. He pursued his graduate studies in International Relations and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, USA (1988). He completed his Master's Degree in Social Welfare from Dhaka University, Bangladesh. Recently, he has co-authored a book titled "Migration Myth in Policy and Practice" (Springer, 2020). He has also written articles on trade, migration, climate change and human trafficking issues published in various journals. He was awarded Honorable Mention for the Robert B. Steward Prize for high academic achievement at Fletcher. He was also awarded the Dhaka University Chancellor's Award, The Grant's Commission Award and Chancellor's Gold Medal from Dhaka University for his outstanding academic accomplishments.



Interviewer: What made you want to join the Foreign Service of Bangladesh? Did anything in your academic background inspire you in this regard?

Shahidul Haque: Joining the Foreign Service was not something I planned, as my primary target was towards a teaching profession. After the final exam of my undergraduate degree in the early 80's, when I was waiting for the result and planning for my postgraduate degree, I came across a circular in the Foreign Relations sector and applied for it to take a chance. I was in a dilemma when I was accepted both for the foreign service job and professorship in my department; but apparently ended up joining the foreign relations sector.

Although I was studying social welfare, I always had a keen interest in international relations and world history, in fact from my early school days. I think that interest of mine played an influence in choosing the Foreign Service.

Interviewer: We see that you studied at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. Tell us about your experience studying abroad.

Shahidul Haque: Studying at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy to some extent brought a huge change to my life. I went to Fletcher as a Foreign Service Officer, and joining the university a postgraduate student made me realize how difficult and challenging studies of that level were. I kind of had an 'educational shock' being exposed to a very unfamiliar education system for the first time. It took me a while to cope up with the research-based academic structure, but I ended up achieving excellence regarding my postgraduate result. Nevertheless, the international educational structure played a significant role in improving my speaking skills, boosting my confidence and increasing my interest towards studies.

In short, Fletcher made me what I am today with its diverse dynamics and methods.

Interviewer: Do you think studying abroad should be more widely promoted? If so, why?

Shahidul Haque: Yes, I certainly think that the concept and opportunities of studying abroad should be more widely promoted.

In fact, I suggest everyone to pursue some portion of their higher studies abroad if possible. I believe studying abroad is not just about academic excellence or advancement. Alongside achieving academic qualifications, it enriches one's experience.

Interviewer: How did you become focused on issues of migration?

Shahidul Haque: The journey of my interest in migration started while heading a delegation, afterwards I never lost interest in migration but rather grew fond of it.

Interviewer: What does the term “Global Citizen” mean to you? Is it something that can be infused into the curriculum?

Shahidul Haque: I think the idea of global citizenship comes from global responsibility. As a global citizen, every human being has a responsibility towards others. Besides realism, a significant portion of humanity is driven by idealism which projects through global citizenship.

As for including it in the curriculum, I think it should be included from the very early stage of education. Global citizenship can be learned through life experience, but the education system can play a vital role in introducing the concept and even experiences to students by adding it to curriculum.

Interviewer: Tell us about how you decided to join North South University. How has your experience been?

Shahidul Haque: My exposure to North South University was through an international conference on the Rohingya issue arranged by the university. I received an invitation from NSU to attend the conference and that caught me by surprise.

Later on, I was convinced by a couple of friends working closely with NSU about the opportunities and environment of the university, and eventually was pursued to apply here. I was interviewed by Professor Rob whom I also had known before. Overall, the whole circumstance for me was in favor to apply and join NSU, thus I chose to do so.

I really enjoy working at NSU. I feel comfortable working amongst the vast diversity that NSU provides. Moreover, I get exposed to a lot of learning and research opportunities here. In short, I immensely enjoy directing the classes, seminars and I have adapted here quite well.

Interviewer: What advice do you have for NSU students as they think about their future careers?

Shahidul Haque: North South University offers a very rich collection of resources – may it be the library, guidance or other opportunities. I would suggest that students make the best use out of these resources and opportunities. Alongside chasing success, I would request them to also keep a people-centric ideology in back of their mind. As I have learned through my journey, communicating and speaking is very important; so I would suggest students to read, write and speak as much as possible.

Alumni Feature



Dr. Hossain is an Assistant Professor of Finance in the Economics and Finance Department at the University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW). He joined UNCW in the Fall 2018 after completing his PhD in finance from Florida Atlantic University. Dr. Hossain obtained his MSBA in Financial Risk Management from Colorado State University, and his BBA from North South University (Bangladesh).

His research falls under the broad umbrella of empirical corporate finance with particular interest in corporate governance, mergers and dividend policy. His recent agenda includes examining the implications of corporate executives' social ties on various corporate finance policies. His papers have been published in the Journal of Corporate Finance, International Journal of Managerial Finance, and Managerial Finance.

Prior to joining academia, Dr. Hossain worked in the banking industry for about five years. He has hands-on experience in preparing financial models, information memoranda and project appraisal reports for large infrastructure and renewable energy project financing.

Outside of the work life, Dr. Hossain is an avid photographer. He also enjoys traveling, playing cricket and table tennis.

Interviewer: What interests you about corporate governance, mergers and dividend policy? Can you provide a comparative description between how it works in the US versus in BD?

Dr. Hossain: Corporate governance, my primary area of research, has been an interesting topic because of its importance in the business world in the recent past. Besides working on shareholder wealth maximization, now-a-days corporate managers also must ensure a sound system of transparency and sustainability. Moreover, the continuously evolving nature of corporate governance standards also attracts me. Issues like gender diversity, racial equality, etc. have become a vital feature of current boardrooms. I feel like I am contributing to the broader welfare through my research findings in this area.

Honestly speaking, my knowledge of corporate governance and its implications on corporations is limited to the US firms. I do empirical research and thus I do not know much about data availability for Bangladeshi firms.

Interviewer: Can you say more about what you mean by "corporate executives' social ties on various corporate finance policies"? How did you develop an interest in this topic?

Dr. Hossain: Well, in plain and simple terms it means social networks (connections through alma mater, prior work, social activities, etc.) and of the CEOs/CFOs of large corporations in my case. Are these social connections beneficial or detrimental to the firms? Do CEOs utilize or exploit these connections? In finance, any sort of information about a company's current or future aspects is quite valuable. The main theme of research in this area is that information flows through formal or informal networks, and thus these networks might affect financial transactions/decisions e.g. mergers, equity offering, debt issuance, etc.

I was introduced to this topic by my doctoral supervisor, Dr. David Javakhadze. It really has been a fascinating research topic. I couldn't find a more interesting topic and later on, my doctoral thesis was on this topic.

Interviewer: You mention that prior to joining academia you worked in the banking industry for about five years, how does that real world experience inform your teaching? Do you think that academics with prior industry experience in their fields make better teachers? Why or why not?

Dr. Hossain: My work experience in the banking industry has been greatly useful in my teaching. Luckily enough, my role at Infrastructure Development Co. Ltd. (IDCOL) was very closely related to corporate financial analysis. I analyzed cash flows of prospective projects on a regular basis. Now, in the role of a professor, I mostly teach corporate finance and equity valuation, for which I have a bag full of practical examples from my work experience.

I absolutely agree that industry experience helps make a better teacher. I believe in applied learning and for that the instructor must relate the textbook materials with real world scenarios as much as possible. Industry experience, therefore, is indisputably essential, particularly for a finance faculty.

Interviewer: What exactly is renewable energy project financing? Do you see an upward trend of investment in green energy in general? Is it noticeable under President Biden in the U.S.? How might BD attract foreign and local investors to include renewable energy in their portfolios? How can young people be educated on learning how to invest?

Dr. Hossain: From my experience of working at IDCOL, renewable energy project financing meant providing debt financing for various projects like solar home systems, bio-gas plants, solar mini-grids, etc. These projects would originate mostly from private entities and we (IDCOL) would evaluate the financial feasibility of the project, creditworthiness of the project sponsor, etc., and finally disburse credit facilities to the project entities.

Green technology is definitely on the rise in recent times, especially since the beginning of Biden's term. It's been one of his key election agenda items and it looks like he is quite serious about this issue. He has already taken several steps to curb carbon emissions and fight climate issues.

I think Bangladesh has to think about green energy from both the demand and supply sides. So far, the focus has been mostly on the supply side, meaning producing more renewable energy. However, I think the demand side, which is the energy usage, needs more attention now. Households are using age-old appliances; factories are using inefficient machinery. All these inefficient technologies should be replaced with newer and greener ones. Anyway, I am not an energy expert, so I do not want to prolong my comments with naïve viewpoints.

Interviewer: From your bio we can have learned that you are an avid photographer. What subject matter do you like to photograph and how did you develop an interest in photography?

Dr. Hossain: I just love landscapes! My wife and I are addicted to traveling and that gives me ample opportunity to shoot landscape photographs.

It all started with the North South University Photography Club back in 2004. My father used to be a photographer too and there was an SLR (not DSLR yet!) camera in our house back then. So, I thought why not give it a shot. I joined the club and then I spent the rest of my NSU life closely attached to NSUPC. I got deeply involved with not only photography but also the club management. I enjoyed every bit of my NSU life, thanks to NSUPC and some wonderful souls I met there.

International Student Feature

I am Sashwot Kharel, an international student from Nepal, currently doing my undergraduate degree in Business Administration (BBA) at North South University. Initially, I did not have any plan to come to Bangladesh or to study at North South University. For me coming to Bangladesh was something out of the blue. I got to know that my family had to move to Bangladesh, because my father got transferred to the Embassy for 3 years. But for me moving to a completely different country is not new. As I had moved to the United States in the past, too. Despite that, moving to a new country always keeps you on edge, as you are not sure what is ahead of you. But now, I can say for sure that moving to Bangladesh is something that I do not regret at all. Rather it has been a boon to come here and study at North South University. Over the years I have explored, experienced, and learned so much. NSU has tested my limits, pushed me and therefore has shown me that I am more capable than I had imagined. I never thought I would be able to finish my degree within 3 years. But here I am, in my 9th semester, a few steps away from attaining the 120-credit milestone, which I thought was not possible before.



Interviewer: What inspired you to choose North South University for your undergraduate degree among all other universities of Bangladesh?

Sashwot Kharel: After coming to Bangladesh, I could have chosen any university to pursue my undergraduate degree, but for me North South University stood out among others. It is due to the university's experienced and highly competent pool of faculty members, state-of-the-art infrastructure, international accreditation, and remarkable achievements of the OEA that gave me the confidence that NSU was indeed a center of excellence in Higher Education.

Interviewer: What are your future plans for higher studies as well as career once you complete your undergraduate degree?

Sashwot Kharel: As I am still figuring things out, it is quite hard to say with certainty what I will do exactly, but it is highly likely that I will pursue my MBA in the UK. Ultimately I aspire to become an entrepreneur in the long run.

Interviewer: As you mentioned, NSU has enriched you with diverse experiences and challenges; what were some of the challenges that pushed you to the limit but ultimately increased your capability and expertise?

Sashwot Kharel: For me NSU provided a perfect environment to put my limits to the test. From the beginning of my NSU journey, I had this goal to complete my degree within the shortest time possible. For it to happen I was required to take 5 courses every semester. At first taking an extra load consistently till the end seemed something beyond my capability. But now, I am in the 9th or my very last semester, attaining the 120-credit milestone pretty soon. This would not be possible if NSU had not taught me perseverance, consistency and self-discipline. And most importantly the university taught me to believe in myself and my ability, as nothing is impossible if you are willing to give whatever it takes.

Interviewer: What is your opinion about the academic structure, education quality and campus culture of North South University?

Sashwot Kharel: The academic structure at the university is on par with the American credit system. In the university the academic structure is designed in such a way that it encourages competition. The curriculum is demanding in the sense that you're always expected to outperform others in the class. I would say this environment is advantageous in the sense that it helps us to develop a competitive mindset which is much needed in this contemporary dog-eat-dog world. From my experience I would say the university delivers on the quality of education it promises while at the same time has managed to establish a culture that is primarily focused on providing an international experience to students.

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.

Sashwot Kharel: I think NSU has done a great job in transitioning from the traditional in-class learning to online learning. For me, besides the lack of physical interaction, everything has remained the same especially where the quality of education is concerned. I believe that online classes have graced me with greater flexibility and convenience while relieving me from the hassle of commuting on a daily basis to and from the university, which has significantly saved my time, money and energy. From my perspective one of the major perks of online classes has been the ability to re-watch class recordings to clear confusion and misconceptions that generally arise in class. This feature has proved to be of great significance for me particularly when it

comes to handling mathematics courses. Despite the existence of many challenges conducting online classes, what I can say for sure is that the quality of education has not been compromised by the university when making its transition from the traditional in-person learning environment to a newer online-based system. This tends to prove that NSU has been quite successful in coping up with the new normal. I would not say everything is perfect, as there are still some areas that need quite a bit of improvement. However, I am hopeful that the university will be successful in resolving the remaining issues in the days to come.

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


Sashwot Kharel: I would say the experience I have had over these years has been truly amazing. Before I came here I really did not know what to expect, but as I got to know the people and the environment, I became more accustomed to the way of life here. I think the culture in Bangladesh is more or less defined by the conviviality, amicability and hospitality, shared by the people. Ever since I came to the country I have always felt welcome. The friendliness and neighborliness of the Bangladeshi people is what will make me want to visit the country again in the future.


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

Sashwot Kharel: Choosing NSU over other universities has been one of the best decisions I have made. NSU over the years has brought the best out of me and has actually helped me to grow as a person, and I am sure that many of the future applicants will experience this as well. What I have seen is that many of the newly enrolled students come with a preconceived idea that going to the university is all about getting greater freedom and enjoyment. And yes, you actually get these in your university life, but what many don't expect is the amount of pressure you are put through over the years. The academic structure here is designed in such a way that you will have to work continuously throughout the semester. It is most likely that you will be bombarded continuously with assignments, quizzes, group work and midterms. So, I would suggest the upcoming future applicants to prepare yourself in a way that you can show greater resilience and robustness in the face of pressure. Finally, I assure you that after getting accustomed to the pressure at NSU, you will be more than ready to face any similar kind of pressure in your professional life where maintaining work-life balance is always a challenge.



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