



**Office  
of External  
Affairs**

# THE BRIDGE

## The Official Newsletter of the Office Of External Affairs

ISSUE 21 | SEP-OCT '21

### Editor's Message

As we begin to experience relief from the COVID-19 pandemic and the world slowly moves toward resuming in-person exchanges, the current newsletter reflects this reality here in Dhaka.

The OEA has not only increased our online presence but we have begun to hold in-person events. Enthusiasm pours in from our current and potential partners as NSU continues to shine more and more brightly in the world through its excellence.

Besides Information Sessions, Alumni Talk Shows, and What's Your Story, we have launched a new program called, NGO Talk Show. Feel free to browse the [video archive](#) of all the events.

We hope you will enjoy reading this issue of The Bridge. We are honored by your kind interest in the activities that we hold for the benefit of everyone at NSU.

*Editor*

Dr. Katherine Li

*Reporter*

Nusrat Naila Nokshi

*Illustrator*

Hafiz Uzzaman

### Information Session with Georgetown University, USA

North South University's Office of External Affairs organized an online information session with Georgetown University, USA on September 9, 2021. Ms. Sophie Al Mutawaly, Admission Analyst, Ms. Johanna Gutierrez, Assistant Director of Graduate Admissions and Ms. Julie Ito, Director of Admissions at Georgetown University, USA 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.



The event started with a brief introduction of the attendees and progressed through an exciting presentation about Georgetown University from Ms. Julie Ito. The informative presentation consisted of a general overview, history, location and academic structure of the university. She mentioned that the Graduate School of Georgetown University was founded in 1820 and has been one of the key targets for both local and international students for higher studies.

During her presentation, Ms. Ito discussed the academic segmentation and different Schools of Georgetown University as well as briefly explained the degrees offered. She especially mentioned the extraordinary campus resources that the university avails to its students. Georgetown University offers several postgraduate services such as its career center, Hoya gateway, international networks, etc. to help students with further studies and career planning. The University highly emphasizes on-campus safety for its students, particularly the international students.



Afterwards, the speaker presented the audience with a glimpse of life in Washington DC. As one of the world's most opportunistic cities, Washington DC has many exciting internship, part-time and full-time job opportunities on offer for the students and graduates. In this context, she mentioned the procedures and methods of applying for and getting student and work visas in the USA.

The information session intended to avail necessary, authentic and first-hand information about the academic structure, system and functional units of Georgetown University. Serving this purpose, the guests discussed the application requirements—transcripts and evaluation processes, test scores, recommendation letters, SoP, Resume/CV, etc. for the interested applicants in detail. They also explained the application procedure and application timeline of Georgetown University in brief. Furthermore, the speakers mentioned the tuition fees, financing options and financial aid opportunities offered by the university, especially for the international students. The consideration of deadline while applying for admission was especially emphasized during the session.

At the end of the session, the representatives of Georgetown University hosted an interactive Q&A session and provided their contact details in case of further queries from interested students. To know more about the event, visit <https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/836819493694431>

### NGO Talk Show Episode 1



Office of External Affairs (OEA) of North South University has recently initiated a new event titled 'NGO Talk Show'. This is a web-based talk show program arranged as part of the outreach efforts of the OEA with the objective to extend the research and internship opportunities for NSU with different national-multinational government-registered NGOs working in Bangladesh. The talk shows are conducted over Zoom and streamed live over Facebook on the NSU-OEA's official page.

The very first episode of the 'NGO Talk Show' was launched on September 12, 2021 with 'Light House'. The name of the event was 'Developing Bangladesh: Scope for Research between NSU and Light House'. As the keynote speaker of the event, we had Mr. Md. Harun-Or-Rashid, Founder and Chief Executive of Light House. From the Office of External Affairs, Dr. Katherine Li, Director and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer attended the meeting.

The event started with a brief introduction of 'Light House' by Mr. Harun-Or-Rashid. 'Light House' started its journey in a limited way back in 1992; later it went full-swing from 1997. During the discussion, Mr. Harun-Or-Rashid informed us about the core objectives and activities of his NGO. He mentioned that 'Light House' is solely devoted to the development of Bangladesh and has been working on sensitive yet essential issues like education, drugs awareness, sexual health, etc. for ensuring the social welfare of our country. The organization emphasizes community-based actions and encourages engagement of youth in change and the development process. Currently, 'Light House' and the Bangladesh Government are working hand-in-hand as most of their recent projects are associated with the government.



The discussion session highlighted the promotion of joint research/publications, resource/grants mobilization for research, internship opportunities for students, exchange of research outcomes, academic publications, and other academic information, promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through research and practice, joint training workshops on topics of mutual interest and other opportunities for both parties through academic collaboration which will be a win-win situation for both parties.

Mr. Harun-Or-Rashid mentioned that for the execution of such joint programs, proper planning and static designing is a must. According to him, the real life case-based internship opportunities at 'Light House' can offer NSU students first-hand experience and practical knowledge. As for the collaborative research programs, he neither prioritized action nor commission-based research methods, rather suggested to emphasize the needs and preferences of students and faculties regarding research topic or method. He also suggested long-term beneficial research with sustainable development goals in mind for effective and timely outcomes. Finally, Mr. Harun-Or-Rashid proposed organizing specific topic-specific yearly campaigns in cooperation with NSU for better engagement of the students in development projects as well as for availing preferable research and internship opportunities to them.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1321264208314700>

## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 48

*The forty-eighth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on September 13, 2021. For this episode, we had Mr. KM Raihan, a distinguished alumnus of North South University from the School of Business and Economics, batch 2009. Mr. Raihan completed his undergraduate degree from NSU in 2012 and afterwards, received an MBA from Institute of Business Administration (IBA), Dhaka University. His professional journey so far has been entirely in the telecommunication sector of Bangladesh. He has the experience of working in three of the leading companies of the telecommunication industry - Airtel, Robi and Banglalink. Currently, he is associated with Banglalink as the Senior Manager - Product and CVM.*

The event started with a discussion about Mr. Raihan's journey and experience from his job roles as well as in the telecommunication industry. His current role at Banglalink is to escalate the revenue and increase profitability of the employer company. According to Mr. Raihan, the telecommunication industry is one of the industries that has been intensely affected by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The entire industry had to adapt to the changes of the lifestyle of the consumers and evolve business conduct accordingly. Almost all the telecom companies implemented 'work from home' policies when the pandemic hit and most of them, including Banglalink, are still in that mode.

As our guest has a quite long history of working in the corporate sector of Bangladesh, he shared some insights about the essential hard and soft skills needed to succeed based on his observations and understanding. In this context, he emphasized having profound knowledge about current affairs locally and globally. He especially mentioned proper communication skills, analytical skills, knowledge and application-oriented learning for succeeding in professional life.

Higher studies is another topic about which Mr. Raihan shared some insights with the audience. He said, "There is no hard and fast rule about the timeline of higher studies, this decision should be made in alignment with one's career goals, needs and preparation." Additionally, he mentioned that some amount of industry experience and knowledge about data science can be of a great help for enrolment, succession and efficiency of higher studies.

In the latter segment of the show, the discussion turned towards the campus life of Mr. Raihan at NSU. He had a very happening campus experience with a tons of memories with faculties, course mates and acquaintances. Mr. Raihan mentioned that a significant part of his undergraduate life was case solving competitions as he participated in a number of such competitions. According to him, NSU graced him with a dynamic platform and opportunity for networking at a massive scale. The academic structure and culture of NSU has nurtured him to be confident, realistic, presentable and practical. As a senior alumnus of the university, he suggested to develop soft skills, networking acumen and to carry a welcoming attitude for continuous learning and improvement. He also highly encouraged seeking mentorship and help from faculties, seniors and alumni without hesitation.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/4298666166885670>



## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 49

The forty-ninth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on September 15, 2021. For this episode, we had Mr. Riasat Hussain, an eminent alumnus of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 2008. Mr. Hussain graduated from NSU in 2016 and afterwards, completed his Masters in Masters' of Commerce, Marketing and Business Management Subject from Macquarie University, Australia. In his professional life, he has worked with renowned organizations like ACI Limited, VION Limited, etc. Currently, he is working as the Manager of International Marketing, Recruitment and Conversion at Macquarie University, Australia.

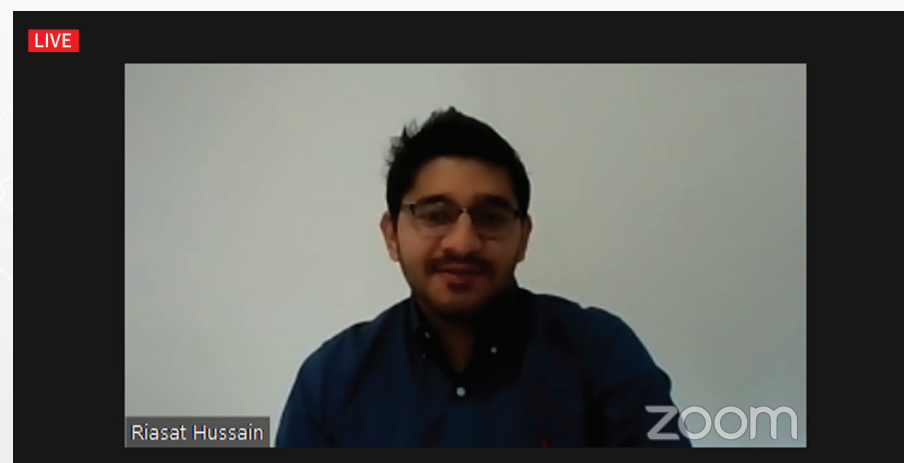
In the beginning of the show, Mr. Hussain shared his activities, responsibilities and experiences of his current role as an administrative staff of a well-established university. His responsibility requires his attention and effort in two separate but interconnected sectors – one is the International Contact Center that communicates with students and responds to them and the other is the Digital Communication and Events which organizes interesting live sessions via a digital studio.

As Mr. Hussain has been closely associated with the education sector for quite a while, he has a clear idea about the multiple effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on global education. He mentioned that, like all the other regions of the world, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused a serious impact on the overall educational structure of Australia. Nevertheless, Macquarie University has not only survived the hit but has adapted to the new normal in minimal time as the university had been advocating digitalization from before the pandemic. According to Mr. Hussain, the virtualization of academic activities went smoothly for Macquarie University, but they faced challenges regarding the transformation of student support services, practical/lab courses and admission processes. For verification of the required documents for admission, their communication and reliance on partner universities has increased for the good. Additionally, he mentioned that the global MBA program Macquarie University had already experienced massive exposure, appreciation and popularity among the international students during the pandemic.

During the latter part of the event, Mr. Hussain shared some memories from his student life at North South University. He experienced a very enjoyable and diverse journey while studying at NSU. He was associated with student clubs of NSU during his student life which availed him a huge network and connection with fellow NSUers. He appreciated the nontraditional teaching method and course contents at NSU as well as the international outreach, excellent guidance and grooming that NSU offers the students.

As a senior alumnus of NSU, Mr. Hussain passed on some suggestions for the current students and recent graduates based on his experience. He emphasized having a clear vision, goals and building a network that can help to achieve the goals. About higher studies, he said, "Studying abroad is not only about the degree, but also about the experience." In this context, he advised those considering it to start preparing and applying early to maximize the possibility for success. To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/578637096831847>



## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 50



The fiftieth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on September 19, 2021. The episode showcased Mr. Tanzil Ahmed, a distinguished alumnus of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 2007. Mr. Ahmed received his undergraduate degree from NSU with a dual major in Finance and Human Resources Management; afterwards, he started his professional journey with BRAC EPL Investment and was associated with the company for 3 years. Afterwards, he joined H&M and currently, he is working as the HR Business Partner and Talent Management Manager of the company.

In the beginning of the event, Mr. Ahmed discussed his current job – his responsibilities, goals and experiences for the role. He mentioned that for his current post, he supervises two essential aspects of Human Resources Management – first one is Human Resources business partners and the other one is talent management. He especially appreciated the organizational culture of H&M because it offers the employees ample opportunities for growth. Mr. Ahmed also added that, as a multinational organization, H&M is highly diversity prone which he enjoys the most about their workplace culture.

From the very beginning of his career, Mr. Ahmed has been associated with the Human Resources Management sector and from his experience from the past 10 years in this field, he shared some insights about current HR practices in Bangladesh. He started off by saying that the HR practices of Bangladesh cannot be generalized as modern HR strategies and practices have not been adapted equally in most Bangladeshi companies. Some organizations have assimilated the new ways of Human Resources management very swiftly and effectively, whereas, other organizations are yet to cope with the trends. In this context, he emphasized attentiveness to the mental wellbeing of a company's employees from the HR Department and said that there was still room for improvement in this area.

Alongside his professional experiences, Mr. Ahmed shared memories from his student life at NSU with the audience during the show. He said that he was very sure about studying Business Administration from the beginning, thus he chose NSU as its Business Studies wing is very well-designed, enriched and effective. His campus life at NSU was diverse and memorable as he was associate with various extra-curricular activities besides academic activities. While talking about his experience at NSU, Mr. Ahmed especially mentioned the unique, effective and practical-based teaching methods of the highly qualified faculties of NSU.

From his years of experience in the corporate sector, he shared some suggestions for the current students and recent graduates of NSU for succeeding on their professional journey. He emphasized soft skills like adaptability, flexibility, acceptance, etc. He said that, "Only working hard is not enough, one needs to work smart to succeed in one's professional life".

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/390229386000531>

## NSU Attends Courtesy Meeting with the U.S. Embassy, Dhaka



The U.S. Embassy, Dhaka in association with Education USA, arranged a courtesy meeting with some of the renowned universities of Dhaka, Bangladesh on September 21, 2021. The meeting was held in-person and was attended by ambassadors from American International University, Bangladesh, East West University, Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, Sher-e-Bangla Agriculture University, North South University and Daffodil International University. Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, Office of External Affairs represented NSU at the event. From the U.S. Embassy, Dhaka Ms. Sharlina, CAO and Ms. Khadija, ACAO were present. Furthermore, Mr. Muhammed Sohel Iqbal, Director, Public Affairs Section, Education USA and Mr. Razoun Siddiky Tohin, the Team Leader of Education USA at EMK Center were also present.



The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss availing sufficient, organized and accurate information about higher study opportunities in the USA for Bangladeshi students. The attendees of the event emphasized opportunities offered by American community colleges for international students and discussed effective ways of ensuring easy access to necessary data like application timelines, application procedures, requirements, etc. of these institutions for interested students. As Education USA is focused on helping students with all support of all kinds to enroll in their desired American educational institutions, the representatives expressed interest in conducting on-campus information sessions and guidance programs about the preparation and application process for targeted universities or colleges for interested students. Moreover, they proposed conducting similar informative seminars for faculty members as well regarding preparing standard recommendation letters and other supporting documents.

## NGO Talk Show Episode 2

The second episode of the 'NGO Talk Show' was launched on September 23, 2021 with one of the most remarkable government-registered NGOs of Bangladesh 'Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID)'. The title of the event was 'Developing Bangladesh: Scope for Research between NSU and CSID'. The keynote speaker for this episode was Mr. Khandaker Jahurul Alam, Executive Director, Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID). From North South University Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs was present as a Special Guest, and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA hosted the live talk show.



The event started with a brief overview about the objectives and activities of CSID by our guest Mr. Khandaker Jahurul Alam. CSID started its journey back in 1997 with an objective to establish a community-based approach toward disability. Since then, the organization has been actively working to improve and ensure equal rights for the disabled population of Bangladesh. So far, it has initiated actions and strategies for improvement in the areas of education, training and employment of disabled people. The organization especially focuses on establishing development and securing proper rights to disabled women, children and students.



The organization uses appropriate policies and conducts necessary research activities to support the action plans for the development of the underprivileged disabled people of Bangladesh. During the event, Mr. Khandaker mentioned that the scale of difference in opinion about the influences of disabled people in the economic, social and political development of our country is huge. Thus, CSID experiences both supportive and challenging behavior from people and institutions socially and organizationally while conducting their activities. The organization has been closely working with some significant functional branches of the government like the National Disability Forum, the ICT Ministry, etc. for better and swifter impact of their actions.

As the discussion furthered, our guest shared some insights about the role of NGOs in the overall development of Bangladesh. He mentioned that the NGOs working in our country at this moment have a great impact on the development of almost every sector, especially these organizations are playing a vital role on research prevalence and amplitude. They are also gaining some remarkable international appreciation, recognition, and attention.

The discussion session also stressed the promotion of joint research/publications, resource/grants mobilization for research, internship opportunities for students (both national and international), exchange of research outcomes, academic publications and exchange information, as well as joint training workshops. Mr. Khandaker also emphasized the promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals through research and practice. He expressed his interest in collaborating with NSU regarding the aforementioned sectors and expected more discussion and action on this matter.

To know more about the event, visit <https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/563516214967021>

## Information Session with AIESEC



North South University's Office of External Affairs arranged an online information session with AIESEC on September 26, 2021. As the guest and speaker of the event, we had Mr. Arfan Nazar, Member Committee President, AIESEC, Bangladesh and Mr. Tanvirul Hasan, Local Committee President, AIESEC, Bangladesh. Moreover, we had Ms. Sadia Sultana from the Career and Placement Center (CPC) of North South University present in the event. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and streamed via Facebook Live on the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

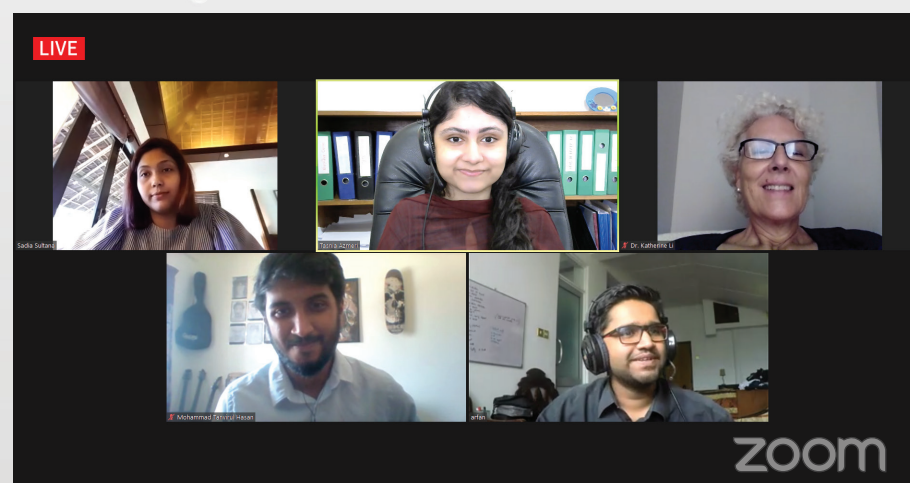
The event started with a brief introduction of the attendees. Afterwards, the floor was passed to the speakers to present their exciting speeches and presentations about the organization. The first speaker for the event was Mr. Tanvirul Hasan who started off by introducing the objectives and activities of AIESEC and presented a brief overview of the actions and achievements of the organization in Bangladesh. He mentioned that AIESEC is a global, independent, non-partisan, non-profit, student-run organization. It was established in 1948 after WWII with the objective to establish cross-cultural understanding, prevent conflicts and foster peace around the world. Currently, AIESEC is operating in more than 110 countries of the world with nearly 7,000 partners having more than 30,000 members and 1,000,000 alumni. The Bangladesh chapter of AIESEC was founded in 1997. Presently, the organization is running via two local committees in association with more than 12 universities and 8 organizations having a member pool of above 150 members.

As the event progressed, the floor was passed to Mr. Arfan Nazar who informed the audience about the events, activities and opportunities of AIESEC. AIESEC organizes different events and conducts activities to empower young people by developing leadership qualities and offering opportunities to seek enhancement. The organization tries to make a positive impact by initiating value-driven programs and events. The main objective of the arrangements and initiatives by AIESEC are intended to offer practical experience to its members in challenging environments. The organization seeks global talent and enables international internship opportunities for its associates. One such global talent program that Mr. Nazar mentioned was about Career 360 – an intensive 2-week cohort training for youth, organized with the target to develop soft and hard skills. He also provided the audience with the program details.

The event ended with a few words from Ms. Sultana, Job Counsellor, CPC and an ending remark from Dr. Li, Director, OEA. During her speech, Ms. Sultana mentioned the MoU between NSU and AIESEC and suggested considering arrangement of information sessions for the parents of university students. Lastly, Dr. Li appreciated the interactive, lively and helpful information session and thanked all the guests for their efforts.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/548695529548670>

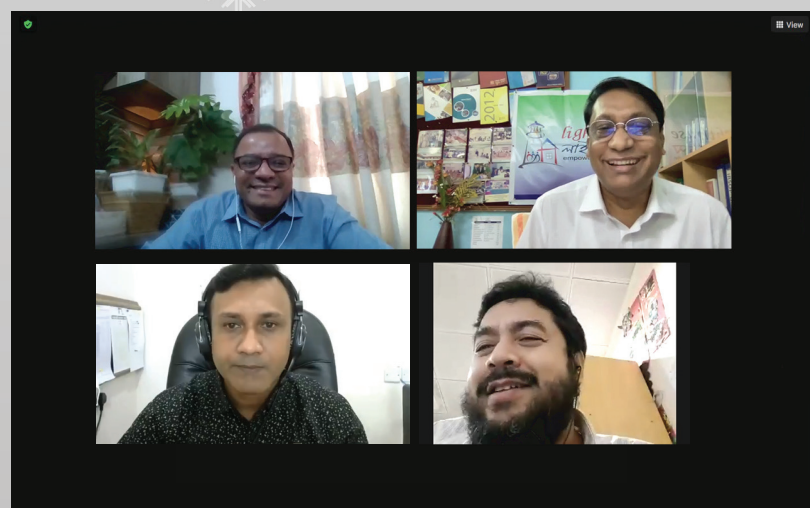


## The Second Follow-up Meeting with 'Light House'

The second follow-up meeting between 'Light House' and the Office External Affairs (OEA) of North South University (NSU) was held on September 27, 2021 via Zoom. The attendees of the meeting included Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), NSU, Mr. Md. Harun-Or-Rashid, Chief Executive, Light House NGO, Dr. Mohammad Delwer Hossain Hawlader, Associate Professor and Chairman, Department of Public Health, Dr. Md. Mainul Hossain, Associate Professor & Research Coordinator, School of Health & Life Sciences and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, External Affairs (OEA), NSU.



The agenda of the second meeting was to discuss the present work of Light House for the development of Bangladesh and the possible collaboration between NSU and Light House in terms of joint research, publication, research funding, student internships, and training opportunities after having interviewed Mr. Md. Harun-Or-Rashid for the NGO Talk Show on September 12, 2021. As the representatives from the Department of Public Health and School of Health & Life Sciences were present in the meeting, they had an opportunity to discuss common research interest areas between their respective departments and 'Light House'.



Dr. Li thanked the attendees for joining the meeting and appreciated the detailed discussion between the research associates of NSU and 'Light House' had the opportunity to have through the meeting. She also informed that NSU had an MoU with Light House which expired on 31 December 2018. She opined that the MoU between Light House and NSU needed to be updated and renewed for the researchers and most importantly the internship opportunities for the students of the Public Health Department.

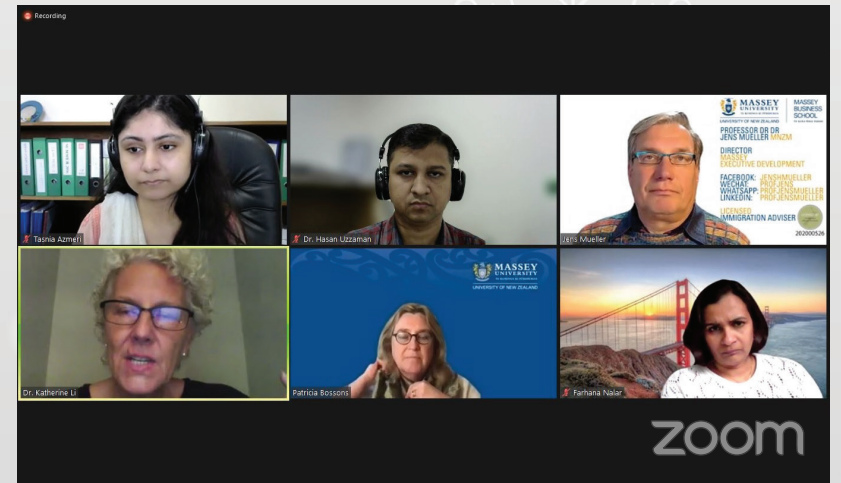
After a detailed discussion among all the meeting participants, it was agreed to renew and update the MoU between Light House NGO and North South University. This will help the two research groups to have successful research collaborations, joint publications, and research projects, joint research proposal submissions for funding as well as training and internship opportunities for the students of NSU.

## Collaboration Meeting with Massey University, New Zealand



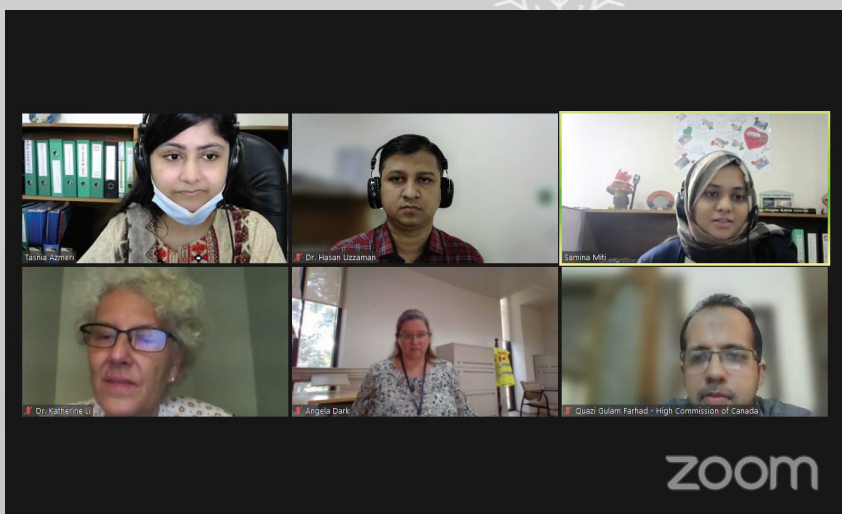
An online meeting was held between Massey University, New Zealand and North South University, Bangladesh on September 27, 2021 as a part of the global outreach effort of the Office of External Affairs. The meeting was attended by the representatives of both universities. Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs, Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, OEA and Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA represented North South University during the event. The representatives from Massey University included Prof. Jens Mueller, Director, Massey Executive Development, Ms. Patricia Bossons, Leadership Development and Coaching Lead, Massey Business School and Ms. Farhana Nalar, Associate Director, Global Engagement at Massey University.

The discussion about collaboration opportunities between Massey University, New Zealand and North South University has been going on since a delegation from NSU visited in March, 2020 just before the pandemic closed borders. The main objective of the meeting was to explore the opportunities of joint academic and research programs between the two universities. During the meeting, the attendees shared the distinct structural features of the schools and departments of both universities, evaluated the similarities and dissimilarities between the departments and systems. Based on these discussions, possible cross-teaching engagements, joint programs, etc. were suggested. Opportunities for a double master's program and research collaboration between departments of NSU and Massey University, New Zealand were highlighted. The Engineering department was specifically mentioned in this context. The establishment of a leadership program was also proposed. Finally, the attendees hoped for a successful execution of discussed joint programs and maximum student engagement via an academic partnership between the two universities.



## NSU Attends Courtesy Meeting with the High Commission of Canada, Bangladesh

North South University Office of External Affairs attended a courtesy meeting with the High Commission of Canada, Bangladesh on September 28, 2021. The meeting was attended by Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs, Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, Office of External Affairs, Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer and Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer from NSU Office of External Affairs. Mr. Quazi Gulam Farhad, Trade Commissioner/ Delegate Commercial and Ms. Angela Dark, Senior Trade Commissioner joined the meeting on behalf of the High Commission of Canada, Bangladesh. The agenda of the courtesy meeting was to introduce Ms. Dark, as she has recently joined the High Commission of Canada, Bangladesh.



The meeting started with an introduction session where representatives of both NSU and the High Commission of Canada introduced themselves and briefly stated their areas of responsibilities and expertise. During her short speech, Ms. Dark expressed her interest to know about the queries NSUers have about study abroad and higher studies opportunities in Canada to understand the students' interest and take necessary actions accordingly. She also offered cooperation for broadening connections and partnership opportunities of NSU with Canadian universities and assured looking out for scholarship opportunities for NSUers in Canada.

The representatives of NSU proposed an information session with the High Commission of Canada to present accurate and first-hand information for interested students. The proposal was appreciated and agreed upon by the attendees. Overall, the meeting was a fruitful one that ended with a Q&A session with the High Commission of Canada and a commitment to hold the information session on November 9, 2021 considering the convenience of both the parties.

## What's Your Story? Episode 4

The OEA continues with its new initiative as an extension of 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. The fourth episode of the event was held on September 30, 2021 and for this episode we had Dr. Nasreen Sultana as our guest.

Dr. Nasreen Sultana has more than 20 years' experience in academic teaching and research across universities in Queensland, Australia, including University



of Queensland (UQ), Queensland University of Technology (QUT), Australian Catholic University (ACU), and Griffith University. In terms of academic teaching, Dr. Sultana has extensive experience in a diverse collection of undergraduate and postgraduate courses from the Management, Strategy, and International Business disciplines. Specific subject areas she has experience in teaching include International HR, Global Talent Management, Strategic Human Resource Management, Managerial Skills and Communication, Intercultural Communication and Negotiation, working with Diversity and Managing people, amongst many others. She brings practical experience and skills to her teaching. She encourages all of her migrant and non-migrant students to develop their identity based on their commonalities. Dr. Sultana completed her PhD at UQ Business School in 2017. Her PhD research focuses on the impact on stereotypical perceptions on the career progression of migrants in Australia. It aims to shed light on the factors inhibiting and facilitating advancement into management for Australian natives compared to migrants. The findings revealed that the experience of migrant's career progression into higher management positions vary based upon their categorization as immigrants and

race when perceptual judgment exists. Her research provided practical implications for organisations, human resource practitioners, migrants and employees, who can together minimise the barriers and acute discrimination in hiring decisions and career advancement of diverse employees. Dr. Sultana also completed her research Masters on migrant women in management in Australia at UQ Business School. She acquired her course work Masters in Management from Dhaka University in Bangladesh. She has 18 national and international conference papers. She has also published a book chapter. She continues to collaborate with her supervisors and other academics to public further papers. Dr. Sultana has been involved with the UQ Business School career mentoring program to assist students in their career development. She was a panel member at the UQ national Mental Health Week hosted by the UQ School of Law, where she provided insights on the interaction between social identity, workplace dynamics and diversity. She was a judge for the QUT Business Negotiation Competition. She has been an examiner for Honours students and reviewed papers and book chapters. Outside of academia, Dr. Sultana had her own family business for 7 years in the Hospitality Industry while she was completing her PhD and working as an academic.

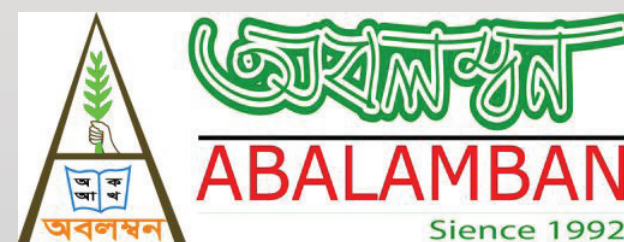
Throughout the event, Dr. Sultana shared the inspiring story of her academic and professional journey along with practical insights based on her experiences and observations so far. Dr. Sultana is a very independent and determined person herself. In fact, it is her firm determination that helped her the most to progress in life despite of the thousands of difficulties and struggles she had to go through. From the early stage of her higher studies, Dr. Sultana determined to build her career in academia and till today, she has been working towards that target. In every step she took towards fulfilling her dream, she has always been inspired and supported by her family. Even her superiors, supervisors and colleagues have been very supportive to her throughout her entire journey. She firmly believes, she could not have reached where she is now and achieved whatever she has achieved so far without the support she had received in every step of her journey. So, her advice for the younger aspirants was to find balance, reach out for help and support whenever needed.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/4397492680338100>

## NGO Talk Show Episode 3

The third episode of 'NGO Talk Show' was launched on October 3, 2021 in collaboration with 'ABALAMBAN' - one of the most active government-registered NGOs of Bangladesh. The title of the show was 'Developing Bangladesh: Scope for Research between NSU and ABALAMBAN'. As the keynote speaker of the event, we had Mr. Sadequl Islam, Chairperson, ABALAMBAN NGO with us. The talk show was hosted by Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA and Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs, North South University was present as a Special Guest during the event.



As our guest Mr. Sadequl Islam is not only the current Chairperson of 'ABALAMBAN', but also one of the founder members of the organization. He shared the story, inspiration and motive behind the inception of 'ABALAMBAN' at the start of the show. The organization started its journey in 1992 with an aim to conduct voluntary work, especially for the rehabilitation of the victims of 1988 flood. 'ABALAMBAN' achieved official registration from the Bangladesh Government in 1996 and has been working to ensure proper rights and development of underprivileged and neglected people of Bangladesh. Some of the notable sectors that the organization works for are post-natural disaster damage management, women empowerment, poverty reduction, basic and cultural rights of indigenous people, etc. Mr. Islam mentioned that the organization tries to focus on long-term development goals such as establishing social equality, ensuring appropriate rights, increasing scope of education and employability for underprivileged people rather than investing in transient goals.

As a founder member of one of the oldest and most active NGOs of our country, Mr. Islam shared some insightful observations and information about the emergence and development of NGOs in Bangladesh as well as the role of NGOs in our socioeconomic growth. He mentioned that the expansion of the activities and influence of NGOs in Bangladesh mostly started after WWII in 1945 and increased widely after the Liberation War in 1971. The main focus of these NGOs has been relief and rehabilitation of underprivileged people; in other words, micro-level development. However, some of the NGOs are working towards macro-level development through activities like research, policy advocacy, etc.

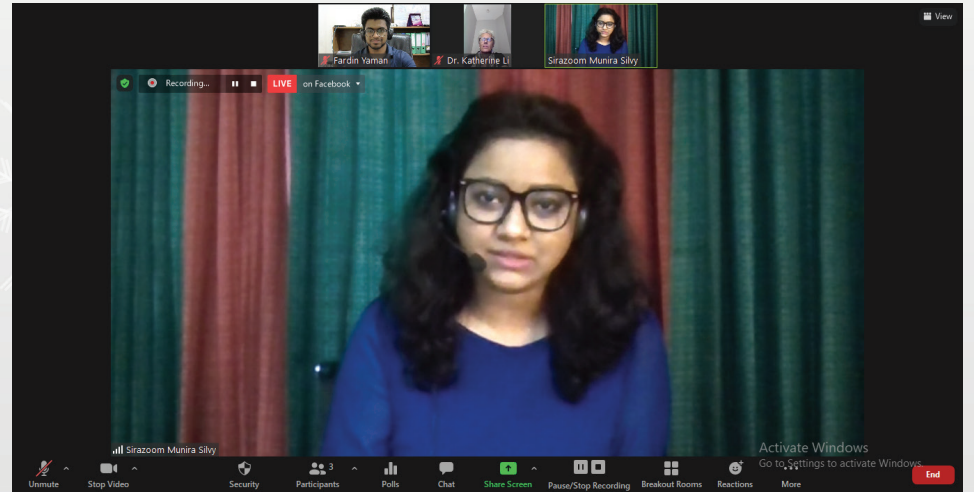
During the discussion, Mr. Islam acknowledged and appreciated the research initiatives executed and planned by NSU, therefore expressed his interest in associating with NSU for joint research and publication activities in relevant areas. He also agreed to further the connection between NSU and 'ABALAMBAN' through exploring opportunities of collaboration.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/605801283778735>

## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 51

The fifty-first episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on October 5, 2021. The episode showcased Ms. Sirazoom Munira Silvy, a distinguished alumna of North South University from the Department of Environmental Science, Batch 2010. Ms. Silvy completed her undergraduate degree from NSU in 2014; afterwards, she received a double Masters' degree – one from the same department of NSU as her undergraduate and another from University of Durham, USA. She achieved the Chancellor's Gold Medal from North South University for her remarkable results in her Masters'. In her professional life, Ms. Silvy has worked with the Bangladesh Center for Advanced Studies and the United Nations for quite a long time. Currently, she is simultaneously working as a Program Officer at the Climate Vulnerability Forum (CVF) of Global Center on Adaptation and as an Adjunct Professor for the Department of Environmental Science at NSU.



Ms. Silvy's professional journey has been very diverse and interesting so far, just as her current role at the Climate Vulnerability Forum. During the event, she granted the audience a brief glimpse into the agenda and activities of her current employer organization as well as her role as Program Officer. Ms. Silvy started with the back story of the formation of the Climate Vulnerability Forum. She mentioned that the forum includes 48 environmentally vulnerable countries and works for the betterment of climate of these regions.

As climate change is her area of expertise of Ms. Silvy, she shared her observations and thoughts about climate change and its effect on Bangladesh. According to her, Bangladesh has upgraded from vulnerable to resilient regarding climate change but is yet to lead this resilience to prosperity. She also highlighted the climate finance and climate change trust fund of Bangladesh. In this context, Ms. Silvy discussed another interesting aspect which is the activities of UNDP in our region regarding the climate change issues.

As a former student and current faculty of the same department of North South University, Ms. Silvy shared her experiences and lessons acquired from this institute while pulling off both the roles in different points of time. She emphasized the role of Department of Environmental Science, NSU on climate improvement as this platform can assure the awareness and involvement of youth in this matter.

Ms. Silvy's time at NSU as a student was interesting and challenging at the same time. She initially started her undergraduate studies in the Engineering Department, but eventually switched to Department of Environmental Science as she discovered her area of interest in this subject area. Ms. Silvy was also associated with several co-curricular and cultural activities during her undergraduate journey with NSU. She emphasized the role of teachers in her life by saying "I have been guided by teachers all my life, teachers are like parents to me." She mentioned multitasking, cooperation and unity to be her greatest takeaways from NSU as a student.

Throughout the event, Ms. Silvy inspired the young students and graduates to hold a strong goal, work towards improvement and read as much as possible for evolvement. She emphasized not following the tendency of comparing oneself to others, but rather suggested looking for the brighter side in every situation. One more important thing that she emphasized repeatedly was achieving emotional and financial independence for achieving progress and self-satisfaction. To know more about the event, visit <https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/878773976346357>

## Delegation from U.S. Embassy Visits NSU

A delegation from the United States Embassy, Dhaka paid a courtesy visit to NSU on October 11, 2021. The delegation consisted of Ms. Sharlina Hussain-Morgan, Cultural Affairs Officer, Ms. Khadija Mohamud, Assistant Cultural Affairs Officer, Mr. Mushfiq Hassan, Education USA Outreach Coordinator, Ms. Raihana Sultana, Cultural Affairs Specialist, Mr. Shaon Karmakar, English Language Program Coordinator and Mr. Sohel Iqbal, Education USA Director. From NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Sharif Nurul Ahkam, Director, Graduate Studies, Dr. Norman Kenneth Swazo, Director, Office of Research-NSU, Professor Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Director, South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SAIPG), Chair, Department of Political Science and Sociology, Dr. Biswas Karabi Farhana, Professor, Department of Environmental Science and Management, Dr. Hasanuzzaman, Assistant Director, OEA, Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri, Coordination Officer, OEA were present during the meeting.



As the meeting was held on the NSU premises, the delegation first toured the university campus after arrival, then they sat for the discussion session with the administrative officials of NSU. The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the potential areas of collaboration between U.S. universities and NSU. At the beginning of the meeting, the attendees from NSU shared the current initiatives, future plans and objectives of the university.

Alongside exploring collaboration opportunities, the other key points that were highlighted during the meeting were U.S. Fulbright Program, arrangement of seminars, exchange programs etc. While elaborating about the proposals, Ms. Hussain-Morgan explained the U.S. Fulbright Program briefly. She mentioned that the Fulbright Specialist Program is a part of the larger Fulbright Program. The program pairs highly qualified U.S. academics and professionals with host institutions abroad to share their expertise, strengthen institutional linkages, hone their skills, gain

international experience, and learn about other cultures while building capacity at their overseas host institutions. The U.S. embassy proposed to activate this program at NSU. Moreover, they expressed interest to host various seminars and sessions for prospective Bangladeshi students interested in studying in the U.S. for better information flow and student engagement. Furthermore, the delegation proposed to establish an exchange programs for students, teachers and professionals between NSU and U.S. universities.



## Information Session with Korea University, South Korea



North South University's Office of External Affairs arranged an online information session with the Korea University, South Korea on October 6, 2021. Ms. Michelle Kyung-ran Kim, Graduate School Admission team was present during the webinar as the guest and speaker. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and streamed via Facebook Live on the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

In the beginning of the session, Ms. Kim presented a general overview about Korea University and then gradually shifted the focus of the discussion towards KU Graduate School. Korea University was founded in 1905, whereas, the KU Graduate school was established later in 1949. KU is widely regarded as one of the most prestigious and top-ranked universities not only in Korea but also worldwide. The university has been ranked first in Korea, eleventh in Asia and sixty-ninth in QS 2021 because of its academic excellence. It has been consistently one of the top choices of both local and international students considering the distinguished faculty members and rich campus environment of KU.

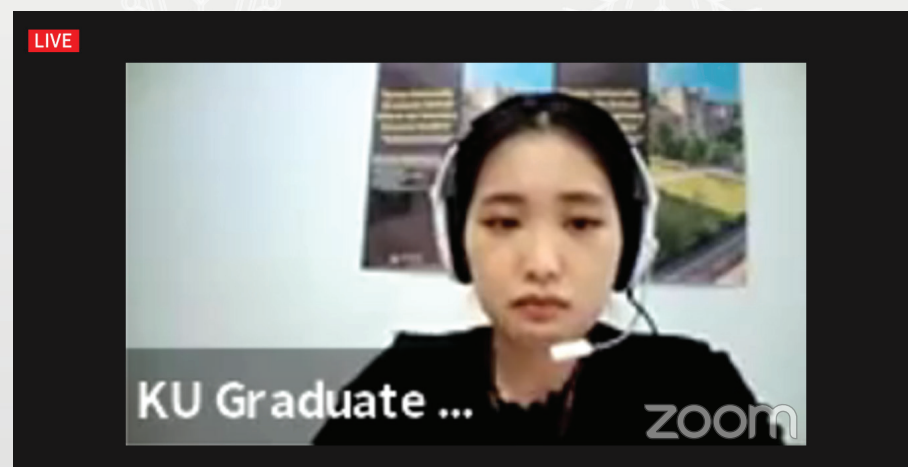
Around 13.5% of the total student pool of the university is made up of international students.

Korea University subscribes to the value of education via research, thus puts full effort to providing required support to various research projects to strengthen its international research network. The university's academic structure is organized and well-balanced. KU offers a remarkable number of diverse and unique programs and courses for Masters, Doctoral and integrated Masters-Doctoral level programs. The university offers about 895 majors under the aforementioned programs and all its courses and curricula are systemized under 20 colleges and 110 departments.

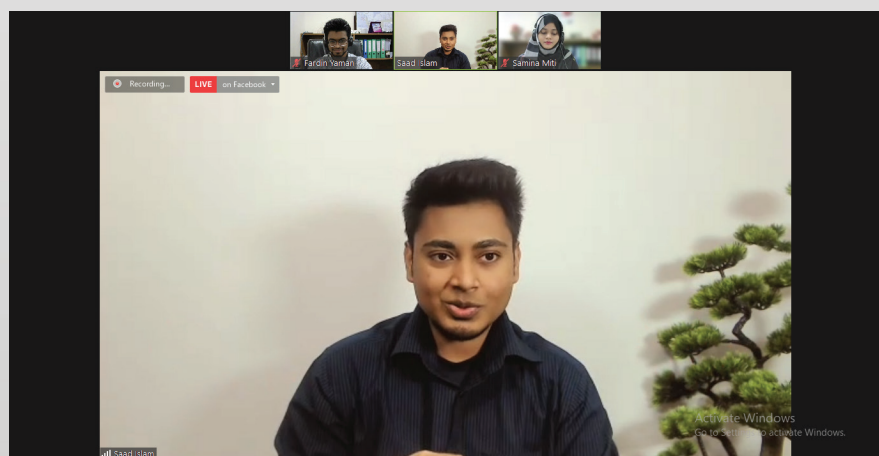
Ms. Kim also provided the audience with important information about the admission procedure, timelines and schedules, requirements, language proficiency, etc. of Korea University. She also briefed the audience about the scholarship opportunities, dormitory arrangements and other facilities offered by KU to the international students.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/281875410271615>



## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 52



The fifty-second episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on October 7, 2021. As our guest for this episode, we had Mr. Saad Islam, a distinguished alumnus of North South University, from Department of Computer Science and Engineering – batch 2014. Mr. Islam completed his undergraduate degree from NSU in 2019 and pursued an MBA from Macquarie University, Australia right after his graduation. It can be said that Mr. Islam is multitasking and multitasked as he has been managing a number of organizational responsibilities at the same time starting from his student life. Currently, he is associated with AristoPharma Ltd as the Executive of IT alongside performing as the Co-founder of Blessings Foundation Bangladesh and the Founder of WuperBooks & ElixSite. Furthermore, he also has a passion for writing and has gotten three of his books published recently.

The talk show started with a discussion about the timeline and experiences of Mr. Islam's diversified career – both as an engineer and an entrepreneur. The ventures he initiated (Blessings Foundation Bangladesh, WuperBooks and ElixSite) are all development driven – be it socioeconomic development or technological advancement. He mentioned that he tends to identify a problem, analyze the root cause of it and then tries to provide a feasible solution. Both his writings and entrepreneurial initiatives are driven by this motivation.

As Mr. Islam had received his postgraduate degree from a foreign university – Macquarie University, Australia, he shared his experience of studying abroad with the audience during the event. He said that his experience of studying in Australia was amazing and especially appreciated the teaching style, course contents, extra-curricular activity opportunities and student facilities of Macquarie University. As Mr. Islam was a scholarship recipient at Macquarie University, he shared some suggestions for the students who are aiming to study abroad with scholarship. He advised them to contact faculties, administrative officers and alumni to seek suggestions from them regarding higher education opportunities abroad for better chances.

Rewinding time a little, while talking about his student life, Mr. Islam mentioned that he had always been interested in technology, thus he had chosen Computer Science and Engineering as his subject for higher studies. NSU nurtured his passion for technology, while the academic system, qualified faculties and practical learning-oriented teaching mechanism doubled his interest towards this field and prepared him well for the industry. Alongside his academic insights, Mr. Islam expressed gratitude for the morals, ideals and perspectives he developed by the direction and cooperation of his respected faculties and beloved mates during his NSU life.

As an alumnus of NSU, he shared some suggestions for the current students and recent graduates of NSU. He encouraged them to follow their passion and advised them to always keep faith in self. He also suggested to never hesitate to seek help whenever necessary and he himself offered help wherever possible regarding every matter in life.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/410964100387001>

## NSU Signs MoU with Compass Program, U.S. Forest Service

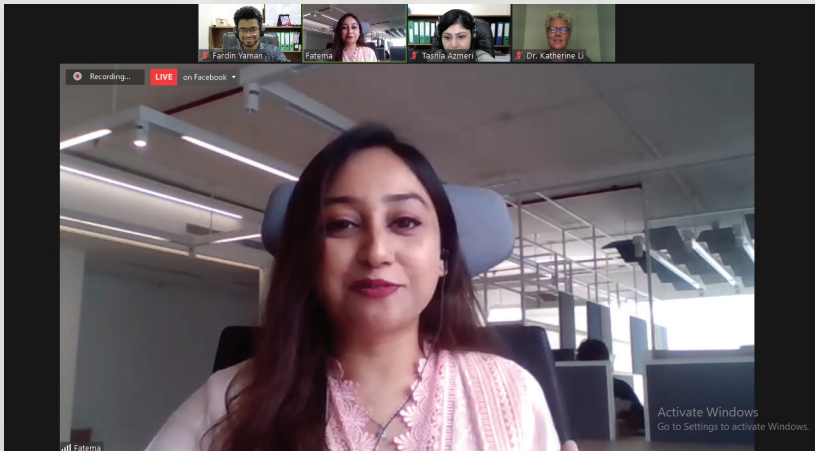


As a part of research activities extension outreach, North South University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Community Partnership to Strengthen Sustainable Development (Compass) of the US Forest Service International Program on October 7, 2021. The MoU agrees to facilitate a partnership between ESM, NSU and U.S. universities/research institutions, to collaborate on joint research, conferences, seminars, webinars and fellowship programs, and to support competitive research grants, students' field visit, preparation of thesis papers, provision of training, publication of research findings and other relevant activities.

The agreement was signed by Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice-Chancellor, North South University, Bangladesh and Dr. Abu Mustafa Kamal Uddin, Project Lead, Compass Program, USFS/IP.



## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 53



The fifty-third episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on October 10, 2021. The episode showcased Ms. Umme Fatema, an alumna of North South University from MBA, Batch 2015. Ms. Fatema received her undergraduate degree from East West University in Economics and pursued her postgraduate studies at NSU with a major in Human Resources Management afterwards. In her professional life, she has worked with numerous national-multinational organizations so far including Coats Bangladesh, FDB Management Consulting, Novartis, Banglalink, etc. Currently, she is working as the People & Culture Business Partner - Bangladesh and India at Roche Holding AG.

Ms. Umme's professional journey has been quite exciting till now as she has worked in diverse roles in different organizations. She started her career as a Recruiter and Talent Manager in FDB Management Consulting, then worked as Associate Business Partner in Novartis and Banglalink. Ms. Umme has recently joined Roche Holding AG – a multinational biotech company functioning in Bangladesh. Her responsibility at Roche is the development of a networking model suitable and applicable especially for Bangladesh and India. She stressed outcome-based planning for futuristic strategic development. As she has previous experience working in organizations related to the healthcare sector and is currently associated with the same field as well, she shared some insights about the healthcare sector of Bangladesh based on her observation and experience. She mentioned it as one of the fastest growing industries of the country with enormous opportunities.

Ms. Umme has the experience of working in managerial and leadership roles for her professional journey. According to her, in today's uncertain and highly competitive industry, analytical ability, digital expertise, external focus, critical thinking, adaptability, interpersonal and emotional intelligence, etc. are required for being a competent leader. She also emphasized the technical skills alongside the soft skills and managerial skills for succeeding in professional life.

In the last portion of the event, Ms. Umme shared memories and experiences from her NSU life. She highly appreciated the quality of education and real-life experience-based education that NSU ensures for its students. The case study based course structures of NSU exposed her to the opportunity of exploring the HR practices of multiple organizations, enriched her learning and helped her to implement those in her current role.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/436540681155872>

## Delegation from Embassy of Nepal Pays Courtesy Visit to NSU Campus

A delegation from the Embassy of Nepal, Dhaka and Manmohan Memorial Institute of Health Sciences (MMIHS), Nepal visited NSU for a courtesy meeting on October 11, 2021. The agenda of the visit was to explore possible collaboration opportunities and diplomatic relations between higher educational institutes of Nepal and Bangladesh. The delegation team included H.E. Dr. Banshidhar Mishra, Ambassador of Nepal to Bangladesh, Ms. Durga Mishra, Spouse of the H.E. Ambassador of Nepal to Bangladesh, Prof. Jiwan Prakash Sharma, Vice Chairperson of Manmohan Memorial Institute of Health Sciences, MMIHS, Prof. Bishnu Bhattacharai, Campus Chief, MMIHS, Asso. Prof. Dr. Mahendra Prasad Bhatta, Head of Laboratory Medicine, MMIHS, Ms. Pushpa Loirala, Lecturer, MMIHS and Ms. Reya Seetry, Secretary to the Ambassador. From NSU, Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Mohammad Delwer Hossain Hawlader, Chairman, Public Health, Dr. G. M. Sayedur Rahman, Chairman, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dr. Dipak Kumar Mitra, Professor, Public Health, Dr. Ahmed Hossain, Professor, Public Health, Dr. Asim Kumar Bepari, Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA, Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri, Coordination Officer, OEA attended the meeting.



The meeting was held on the North South University premises. Before sitting for the formal discussion, the delegation visited the NSU campus accompanied by Professor Atiqul Islam, Vice Chancellor, NSU.

During the meeting, representatives from both NSU and MMIHS presented brief overviews about the academic structure, education standard, research opportunities and interests, specialized facilities, etc. of their respective universities. Alongside the current scenario, the upcoming projects, probable upgradation and future strategic plan of the two universities were also discussed during the session. Therefore, considering the current structure and alignment with future plans, the attendees retrieved some mutual working areas and discussed the networking and collaboration scope, joint research opportunities, etc. in the meeting.

The diplomatic relationship between Bangladesh and Nepal was discussed during the meeting as well. A good percentage of Nepalese students prefer Bangladesh for their higher studies and over the years, their interest to pursuing higher education in Bangladesh has constantly increased. Nevertheless, in 2020, this process experienced a minor setback because of the COVID-19 pandemic. To reinforce the academic relationship between two countries, the Ambassador of Nepal to Bangladesh proposed developing specialized scholarship opportunities from NSU for selected Nepalese students. He also offered contribution from the Embassy of Nepal in Dhaka toward the selection process or examination of the scholarship candidates.



## NSU Attends Dinner Meeting with University of Portsmouth, UK



North South University Office of External Affairs was invited to attend a meeting with a delegation from the University of Portsmouth, UK on October 12, 2021 at the Six Seasons Hotel, Dhaka. The attendees of the meeting included Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director, OEA, Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri, Coordination Officer, OEA and Mr. Fardin Yaman, Alumni Affairs Officer, OEA from North South University and Mr. Amran Mofiz, Bangladesh Regional Advisor and Md. Noor Nove Saykat, Bangladesh Compliance Office on behalf of the University of Portsmouth, UK.



During the event, the representatives of the University of Portsmouth introduced the officers of the OEA with some agents of different universities from the United Kingdom. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss higher studies opportunities, facilities and procedures of application and enrollment for international students to the University of Portsmouth. During the discussion, Mr. Amran Mofiz informed about the scholarship schemes and application requirements for unlocking those scholarship opportunities. Moreover, he especially mentioned that in general the minimum CGPA requirement to apply to the University of Portsmouth is 3.7, but the authority has decided to lower the bar to 3.3 exclusively for NSUers considering the education quality and excellence of North South University.

## Collaboration Meeting with Algoma University, Canada

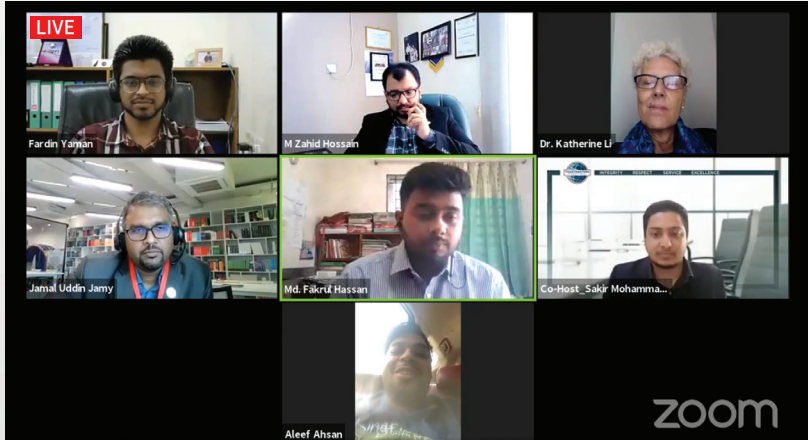
An online meeting was held between Algoma University, Canada and North South University, Bangladesh on October 13, 2021 as a part of the global outreach effort of the Office of External Affairs. The representatives from both the universities attended the meeting. Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Dr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, Assistant Director and Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, Office of External Affairs represented North South University during the event. Similarly, from Algoma University, Mr. Brent Krmpotich, Director of Enrollment Management and International Operations and Mr. Craig Fowler, Vice President of Growth, Innovation & External Relations were present during the meeting.



The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss possible collaboration opportunities between NSU and Algoma University. The discussion revealed that the representatives of Algoma University are already familiar with the education quality and academic structure of NSU as a significant number of students from NSU regularly enrolls at Algoma University for higher studies. The attendees from both the universities especially emphasized exploring exchange opportunities like students, faculty and researcher exchange programs between the two universities. Another important topic that was discussed thoroughly during the meeting was joint research and publication programs. The attendees agreed on finding common research interest areas of the faculties of both the universities upon discussion and carry forward collaborative research activities accordingly.

The meeting ended on a positive note as the representatives of Algoma University proposed to establish an MoU with NSU regarding the discussed partnerships and expressed earnest interest to explore more collaboration opportunities.

## Introductory Session for NSU Alumni Toastmasters Club



The Office of External Affairs (OEA) at North South University organized a webinar titled "Introductory Session for NSU Alumni Toastmasters Club" on October 13, 2021. Mr. Mohammad Zahid Hossain, Assistant Director of Program Quality, District 41, Toastmasters International; Jamal Uddin Jammy, Division L Director, District 41 were present as panelists in the session. Mr. Sakir Mohammad, Club Growth Director, Division L was the co-host of the program along with the Host Fardin Yaman, Alumni Affairs Officer, NSU.

The program started with an introduction of all the panelists and then Mr. Hossain gave a presentation entitled What is Toastmasters? Next Mr. Uddin gave a presentation about the Toastmasters educational program "Pathways". Mr. Hossain talked about the history of Toastmasters and how it is operating effectively in 149 countries around the globe. He also mentioned the diversity in Bangladesh

Toastmasters community in which university, corporate and community-based Toastmasters clubs are working successfully in this peer-to-peer learning platform. Mr. Uddin talked about 300 unique competencies that can be learned from 11 specialized learning paths in Pathways. Pathways learning experience primarily focuses on five core skills: Public Speaking, Interpersonal Communication, Strategic Leadership, Management and Confidence and is completely online based which means that members can access the materials anytime, anywhere.

The webinar ended with a Q&A session in which Dr. Li, Charter President of North South University Toastmasters Club took part together with other panelists. She talked about the impact Toastmasters has had in her personal and professional growth. At the same time, she described how many of her students at NSU have benefitted from Toastmasters educational programs.

The President of North South University Toastmasters Club, Mr. Aleef Ahsan and some former members of North South University Toastmasters Club were also in attendance. Mr. Ahsan talked about the way Toastmasters made him a better leader and public speaker and how it is helping him academically. Former toastmaster Mr. Md. FakrU Hassan talked about how the Toastmasters club experience has helped him in his career development and his desire to continue his journey with Toastmasters.

### What is Toastmasters?

Toastmasters International is a nonprofit educational organization that teaches public speaking and leadership skills through a worldwide network of clubs. Headquartered in Englewood, Colo., the organization's membership exceeds 300,000 in more than 15,800 clubs in 149 countries. Since 1924, Toastmasters International has helped people from diverse backgrounds become more confident speakers, communicators, and leaders. To know more please visit: <https://www.toastmasters.org/>

To know more about the event, visit <https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/201293158778027>

## NSU Renews MoU with Light House, Bangladesh

North South University Office of External Affairs has been reaching out to government-registered local NGOs for potential research collaboration for a while. As an outcome of this outreach effort, NSU signed an MoU with 'Light House Bangladeshi' which had expired on December 31, 2018. Recently, the OEA has organized and attended a number of meetings with the NGO to discuss the renewal of the MoU. As an outcome of these discussions, with the agreement of both parties, the MoU was renewed on October 13, 2021.

The purpose of this MoU is to promote the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through research and practice. The MoU agrees upon carrying out joint research projects and publications, mobilization of resources for research, shared internship opportunities for students, exchange of resources like research outcomes, academic publications and information, joint trainings, workshops etc. on topics of mutual interests. The validity of this agreement is five years and shall be renewed at the end of the five-year term unless one or both of the institutions proposes otherwise. The MoU was signed by Mr. Md. Harun-Or-Rashid, Chief Executive, Light House and Professor Atiquel Islam, Honorable Vice-Chancellor, North South University. The point of contacts mentioned in the agreement are Mr. Salah Uddin, Director program (In-Charge), Light House and Dr. Mohammad Delwer Hossain Hawlader, Associate Professor and Chairman, Department of Public Health, North South University.



## What's Your Story? Episode 5

The fifth episode of "What's Your Story?" was held on October 14, 2021 and we had Dr. Fara Azmat as our guest and speaker for this episode.

Dr. Fara Azmat is an Associate Professor in the Department of Management at Deakin Business School, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia. Prior to joining academia, she was a member of BCS Admin Cadre (10th batch) and worked with the Government of Bangladesh in a number of positions for the Ministry of Agriculture and Cabinet Division. After her first Master's in Science degree in Pharmacology from Dhaka University, Dr. Azmat did her second Master's in Public Policy and Management and a PhD in Management from Monash University, Australia. At Deakin Business School, Dr. Azmat has held various leadership positions. Within the broader domain of social responsibility, her research interests include: sustainable development with a focus on the UN SDGs alongside social inclusion and



and social entrepreneurship; and migrant/women entrepreneurship. She has published in the Journal of Business Ethics, Business & Society, Entrepreneurship and Regional Development, Journal of Public Policy and Marketing, Australian Journal of Management, and Journal of Consumer Affairs. She currently serves as a member of the Editorial board of Social Responsibility Journal, and a fellow member of the ESRC, Peer Review College UK.

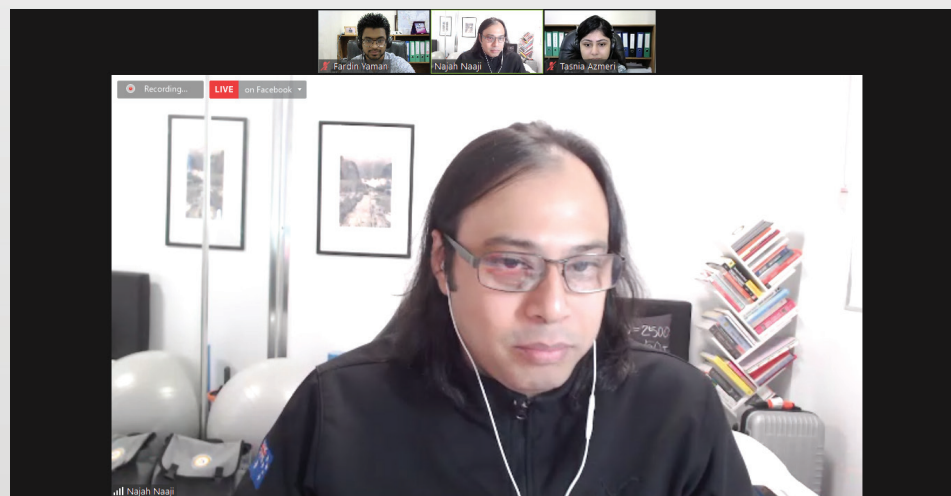
Throughout the event, Dr. Azmat shared his adventurous academic and career journey and valuable insights with the audience. While talking about her academic life in Bangladesh as well as abroad, she acknowledged the contribution of her parents and elder siblings behind her academic excellence and accomplishments. As Dr. Azmat has been working in academia for a while now and is currently focusing on publication, she explained the hardships and challenges she faces regarding publication and mentioned that working for publication takes a fair amount of patience and resilience. She stressed qualities like hard work, commitment, and patience to succeed in life. Dr. Azmat dreams to become a social entrepreneur someday in the future and plans to work for disadvantaged people especially orphans.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1215820742217757>

## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 54

The fifty-fourth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on October 17, 2021. For this episode, we had Mr. Najah Ahmed Naaji, a remarkable alumnus of North South University from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering with us. Mr. Naaji completed his Bachelors in CSE in 2001 from North South University; afterwards, had pursued his Masters studies at NSU as well in Electronics and Telecommunication Engineering and received a postgraduate degree in 2007. Mr. Naaji also holds an MBA degree from the Business School of the University of New South Wales, Australia. He has professional experience working both at home and abroad in association with local companies like Grameenphone Ltd. and international enterprises like Singtel Optus, Tektronix, Amazon Web Service, Google, etc. throughout his career. Currently, he is working as a Data Analytics and AI Specialist at Google.



The event started with an in-depth discussion about the guest's professional life and experiences as he has a very diverse and exciting career portfolio. In such a context, Mr. Naaji shared his current role and responsibilities at Google, the workplace culture of the internationally reputed company and his experiences, likings about both the company and his role. He mentioned that his current focus is formulating technological improvements for the manufacturing and health care industries. Google stresses intense research, data analytics and interdisciplinary roles to ensure usability, sustainability and integrity of their products and services. According to Mr. Naaji, freedom and flexibility of work, problem identification and solution provision-oriented approach and the culture of both internal and external trust as well as respect are the most positive aspects of Google. He also added that the diversity, equity, inclusion and combined development-based approach of the organization are impressionable. Mr. Naaji also briefly introduced his recently founded venture which works toward offering sustainable and ethical investment to its customers.

As the discussion progressed, it took a turn towards the current trends and demands of the Data Analytics sector. Mr. Naaji stressed ensuring profound hard or technical skills along with proper applied or practical skills. He mentioned the Data Analytics industry to be highly opportunistic and fast growing and has a huge potential and influence on upcoming industrial trends.

In the latter part of the show, the discussion shifted towards Mr. Naaji's student life from his professional career. As for the reason behind choosing engineering for higher studies, he mentioned that he had always been fond of mathematics and wanted to academically specialize in a mathematics-focused subject area. He also shared experiences and memories from his NSU life regarding interesting courses, favorite faculties, close friends, seniors, mentors, etc. with the audience during the show. The guest especially appreciated the diversity, guidance, leadership and communication skill development opportunities and effort management strategies NSU teaches and provides the students. As a senior alumnus of NSU, he shared some insightful suggestions for the current NSUers based on his observation and experiences. He advised them to explore and acknowledge strengths and weaknesses, focus on passion, seek excellence and devote the lessons learned and skills for sustainable, developmental and greater causes.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/4375817025831254>

## Second Follow-up Meeting with Center for Services and information on Disability (CSID)

The second follow up meeting between Center for Services and information on Disability (CSID) and the Office External Affairs (OEA) of North South University (NSU) was held on October 17, 2021 via Zoom. Representatives from both the institutes were present at the meeting. From CSID, Mr. Khandaker Jahurul Alam, Executive Director, Mr. Iftekhar Ahmed, Director and Mr. Akram Hossain, Senior Program Manager attended the meeting. Dr. Katherine Li, Director, OEA, Dr. Mohammad Delwer Hossain Hawlader, Associate Professor and Chairman, Department of Public Health, Dr. Md. Mainul Hossain, Associate Professor & Research Coordinator, School of Health & Life Sciences, Ms. Shahnaz Parveen, Senior Lecturer, Department of Public Health and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, OEA represented NSU during the meeting.





The meeting focused on two main items. The first item of the meeting was the present work of CSID for the development of Bangladesh and the possible collaboration opportunities between NSU and CSID in terms of joint research, publication, research funding, student internships, and training, and the second was to discuss the Research-Practice Partnerships: Collaborative Research for Educational Program's proposal, funded by Spencer Foundation, USA.

At the beginning of the meeting, Mr. Khandaker explained briefly about some of CSID's current projects and programs for the development of Bangladesh. Afterwards, the discussion progressed towards possible research collaborations and common research interests between NSU and CSID. The attendees agreed that this partnership would be a fruitful approach to knowledge generation and the improvement of education, broadly construed. Such a collaboration would help the two research groups to successfully carry out research collaboration, joint publication, and research projects, submitting joint research proposals for funding as well as training and internship opportunities for the students of NSU in the future.

Through a detailed discussion, the meeting attendees hereby agreed to jointly submit a proposal for the Research-Practice Partnership (RPP) Grants Program's funded by Spencer Foundation, USA. They anticipate that research conducted by RPPs (Research Practice Partnership) will result in new insights into the processes, practices, and policies that improve education for learners, educators, communities, and institutions.

## International Students' Orientation Program – Fall 2021

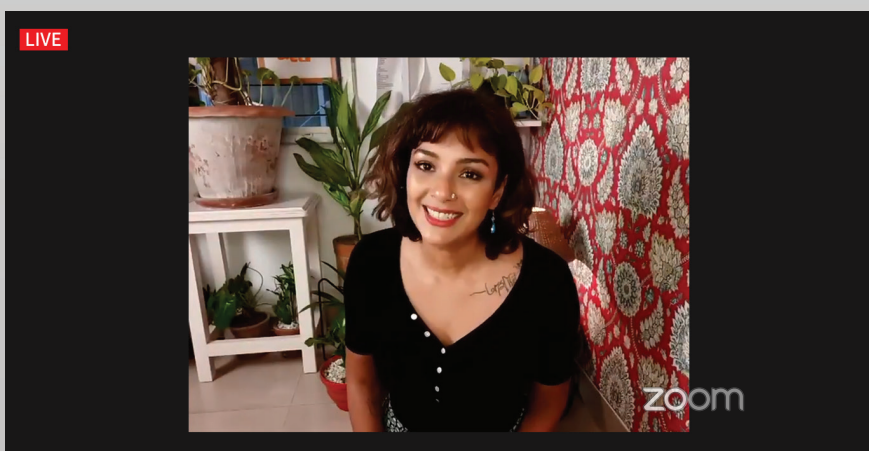
The orientation program for international students of the semester Fall '21 was held on October 21, 2021. Sadly, because of the current pandemic situation, the event could not be held on campus, rather it was held as a web video conference where the organizers from North South University Office of External Affairs and the international freshers of Fall 2021 semester joined via Zoom. The students from different countries and regions like Australia, Nepal, Korea, etc. attended the program. From the organizers' side, Dr. Katherine Li, the Director of Office of External Affairs; Mr. Hasanuzzaman Sohail, the Assistant Director; Ms. Samina Alam Miti, the International Affairs Officer, Mr. Fardin Yaman, the Alumni Affairs Officer, Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer were present in the program. Furthermore, the student employees of OEA, Nusrat Naila Nokshi also joined the event.



In the beginning of the event, the International Affairs Officer, Ms. Samina Alam Miti briefly introduced North South University and the Office of External Affairs through an informative slide presentation. She talked about the foundation, mission, vision, activities and the two wings (Office of International Affairs & Office of Alumni Affairs) of the OEA. Afterwards, she provided the new-comers with the necessary information about the OIA (Office of International Affairs) such as partner universities and organizations, international students and alumni, contact details both virtual and physical of the office.

The following segment of the event was the introduction session. The new students from different countries present in the ceremony introduced themselves one by one. Afterwards, the members of the OEA present in the event introduced themselves as well and each of them conveyed short messages for the new-comers.

## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 55



profession. Currently, she is working as a fitness expert, yoga teacher and health coach for her business 'Yoganika'.

The fifty-fifth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on October 27, 2021. The episode showcased Ms. Anika Rabbani, an alumna of North South University from the Department of English and Modern Languages. Ms. Rabbani completed her Bachelor's degree from NSU in 2007 and has also pursued her postgraduate studies from NSU in Development Studies. After completing her higher studies, she pursued her career in the development sector; thus, worked with multiple renowned national-international non-profit organizations like Care Bangladesh, Save the Children, World Food Organization, etc. Ms. Rabbani was also involved with modeling to a certain extent and had the experience of working with the famous Bangladeshi fashion designer Bibi Russell internationally. Her diverse career took an interesting turn when she decided to pursue yoga instruction as her

At the start of the event, Ms. Rabbani shared the exciting journey of her adventurous and diverse career. As a student of literature, art and creativity always had a special appeal to her. The desire to devote herself in developmental activities and bring changes in socio-economic infrastructure drove her towards the development sector. While working with NGOs, Ms. Rabbani had the opportunity to experience the aftermath of two of the most destructive cyclones of Bangladesh – Sidr and Aila. She also volunteered for the rescue operations after the tragic Rana Plaza accident of 2013. These real-life experiences reformed Ms. Rabbani's perspective about life and led her to an interest in yoga. Although Ms. Rabbani received formal training in yoga and chose it as a profession recently, she was introduced to it at the age of 14. However, once she determined to devote her dedication towards yoga, she received formal education and certification on it from K Pattabhi Jois Ashtanga Yoga Institute, Karnataka. Ms. Rabbani mentioned that self-satisfaction is the main reason that pulled her towards meditation and yoga. She also mentioned that yoga benefits one with deep attention, mental calmness, disciplined lifestyle, patience and most importantly fulfillment.

As the discussion proceeded, the topic shifted towards the student life of the guest. As for the reason behind choosing NSU for both undergraduate and post-graduate studies, Ms. Rabbani mentioned the education quality and enriched faculty pool of the university and her preferred department – the Department English and Modern Languages. Alongside academic activities, she was also associated with several extracurricular and co-curricular activities like club activities, a teachers' assistantship, newsletter reporter, etc. She added that NSU taught her patience, exposed her to diversity and trained her to be street smart.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/607885380364993>

## Information Session with UKVI (United Kingdom Visa and Immigration)



### UK Visas and Immigration

North South University's Office of External Affairs organized an online information session with UKVI (United Kingdom Visa and Immigration) on October 27, 2021. As the speakers of the session, we had Ms. Divya Malhotra, Customer Account Manager, UKVI at the British High Commission New Delhi and Mr. Syed Tirtho Mahmood, Bid Manager and International Education Service Project Manager at British Council in Dhaka. We also had Ms. Sharazad Hassan, Adjutant Lecturer at Independent University Bangladesh with us as our guest. The event was hosted by Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, Coordination Officer, Office of External Affairs, NSU. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and was streamed via Facebook Live on the official Facebook page of NSU OEA.

The event started with an informative slide presentation from Mr. Mahmood. His presentation precisely focused on the education, living, career opportunities, etc. in the UK and the international immigrants. He mentioned the state language of UK being English as a major upside of immigrating to UK for higher studies or a profession. For international students, Mr. Mahmood especially highlighted the global reputation of the UK for academic excellence and that they offered vast varieties of areas and subjects for the students to explore for their higher education. He intensely encouraged the interested students to apply for admission in their preferred departments to shortlisted universities of the country. In this context, he also explained the application procedure, application deadlines, estimated cost, part-time job opportunities, language efficiency requirements, scholarships schemes, etc. in detail for the audience.

Afterwards, the floor was passed to Ms. Malhotra for further the presentation on the visa and immigration policies and processes of the UK. She informed the audience about the necessary documents required for application and attaining visas for traveling to UK. She mentioned the visa conditions and traveling guidelines while briefing about the procedures. Following the situational demand, Ms. Malhotra also explained the COVID-19 vaccination requirements needed for visa confirmation for the UK. She especially suggested the interested audience to apply early having sufficient time in hand for proper processing.

At the end of the event, Ms. Sharazad Hassan shared her experience of studying and staying in the UK. She also answered some of the frequently asked questions by the students who are planning to apply for higher studies in UK about ways of living there, challenges they might face, living expenses, etc.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/1057746364976652>



## NGO Talk Show Episode 4

The fourth episode of the 'NGO Talk Show' was launched on October 28, 2021 with one of the most phenomenal government-registered NGOs of Bangladesh 'Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS)'. The title of the event was 'Developing Bangladesh: Scope for Research between NSU and CWCS'. The keynote speaker for this episode was Professor Ishrat Shamim, President, Centre for Women and Children Studies (CWCS). From North South University Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs was present as a Special Guest, and Mr. Mehedi Masud Sumon, Officer, OEA hosted the live event.



CWCS is one of the oldest and most active organizations of Bangladesh. The organization was founded in 1994 and its foundation initiated by our guest Professor Ishrat Shamim. As one of the founders of CWCS, Prof. Shamim shared her motivation and objective behind taking such an initiative at the beginning of the show. The academic interest and area of expertise of Prof. Shamim being 'Gender and Development', she was always involved in research and actions related to gender-based violence, women and children's rights, etc. In continuation of such activities, she along with a number of enthusiasts of the same field founded CWCS. She mentioned that CWCS mainly works towards the rescue, rehabilitation, placement of children and women who are victims of gender-based violence and injustice such as human trafficking. The organization also works to eradicate the root cause of such violence and spread awareness among people. She mentioned that CWCS also contributes to the policy-level advocacy in the relevant areas.

As Prof. Shamim has been associated with development sector for a long time, and is one of the pioneers behind the emergence of the sector, she shared some insights about the contribution of civil society on the development of Bangladesh. She mentioned that both the civil society and government-registered NGOs have played and are still playing an active role behind the development of our country. She especially emphasized the role of NGOs in the advancement of the grass

roots level and deprived population, marginalized and poor communities as well as the rural women of our society. She also acknowledged the contribution of development-oriented organizations in sectors like health and hygiene, relief and rehabilitation, etc.

In the latter part of the event, the discussion progressed towards the research and internship collaboration opportunities between NSU and CWCS. Prof. Shamim vouched for action as it facilitates the researcher with ample freedom of choosing research topic and objectives. She expressed interest to explore the collaboration opportunities with NSU regarding joint research, publication, internship, training, etc. She also suggested some topics and areas which the research activities could be conducted, such as migration, gender-based violence, human trafficking, human rights, post-natural calamity damage control and victim rehabilitation, etc. To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/233271602129701>

## NSU Alumni Talk Show Episode 56



The fifty-sixth episode of the NSU Alumni Talk Show aired on October 31, 2021. For this episode, we had Mr. Arifin Jaigirder, a phenomenal alumnus of North South University from the Department of Business Administration, Batch 1998. Mr. Arifin graduated from NSU in 2002. Afterwards, continued his postgraduate studies in NSU and received his MBA degree in 2005. In his professional life, he has worked with renowned companies like Partex Group, BRAC Bank, etc. Currently, he is working in the Business Development & Client Relations arena at BridgePoint Financial.

The talk show started with an informative discussion about the responsibilities and outlines of Mr. Jaigirder's current role at BridgePoint Financial as well as the situation and trends of the financial industry with which he is currently associated. As an employee of Business Development & Client Relations Department, Mr. Jaigirder's prime responsibility is to operate and manage commercial lending. His positional role permits him to widely communicate and deal with entrepreneurs of different categories and fields. Working closely with entrepreneurs and startups had him become observant about the analogy behind the success and failure of startups. According to him, strong determination, patience, courage are the key factors behind the success of any startup.

Mr. Jaigirder has been closely associated with financial markets for quite a while now. As he has first-handedly experienced the global effect of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on this industry, he shared some perceptive insights about the ups and downs that financial markets have faced throughout the last two years. He mentioned that the industry surely has experienced changes, some of which resulted in improvements and some of which appeared as limitations that needed to be overcome or adjusted. As the discussion furthered regarding the current situation of the industry, the guest mentioned some of the qualities that one must master in order to thrive in one's career journey. He emphasized skills like situational leadership, progressiveness, respect and appreciation for diversity, international understanding, observational skills, etc.

During the latter portion of the show, Mr. Jaigirder reminisced about his memories and experiences from his student life at NSU. He decided to join NSU because of the education quality, diverse career opportunities, job security, etc. that the university may ensure him. While talking about his NSU life, he also shared treasured memories with classmates, close relationships with faculties, club activities and experiences. Finally, Mr. Jaigirder mentioned that the opportunity of networking and the wide platform that NSU offers for its student is phenomenal. NSU influenced him to shape his perspective, foresight and confidence which helped him to move forward in life and career.

To know more about the event, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/OEANSU/videos/889430555110569>

## Special Feature

*Prof. Tanvir Ahmed Khan is an Economist but he has widened his horizon of thinking by pursuing the discipline of Urban and Regional Planning.*

*After completing his Ph.D. in Urban and Regional Planning (University of Sheffield, UK) as a Commonwealth Scholar, from Sept 1986 to Sept 1989, he landed on a journey which encompassed his presence in Donor-driven projects, his involvement in four private Universities where he rose from the position of a Registrar and Professor to the Vice-Chancellor. He has set his footprints in Bangladesh Economic Association, Bangladesh Institute of Planners, Officers Club, Gulshan North Club Ltd., Gregorian Alumni Club Ltd., Rotary Club of Dhaka West, University of Dhaka (Life Registered Graduate) and the University of Sheffield Alumni.*

*He has wide experience in University Administration; teaching Managerial, Development, Macro and Micro Economics; Research Design and Analysis (with special emphasis on PRA and RRA); Project Planning and Analysis; Rural Development and Homestead Farming System (HFS); Poverty Alleviation, Rural Poor Programs and GO-NGO collaboration; Women in Development (WID); Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); and Sustainable Resource Use.*

*He was awarded Galpin Fellowship from Quinnipiac University, Connecticut, USA (2008); Scholarship on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development from Land Reform Training Institute (LRTI), Taiwan, Republic of China (1995); Commonwealth Scholarship, University of Sheffield, U.K. for Ph.D. (1986-89); Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) sponsorship for Course on Project Planning Analysis at University of Philippines at Los Banos, (1984); CIDA sponsorship for acting as the Resource Person to Human Settlements Division at*





*Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand (1984); UNDP Fellowship, University of Sheffield, U.K. for M.U.R.P (1977). (From the back flap of Prof. Khan's newly published book, Looking Back: The Implementation of Rural Poor Programs in Bangladesh.)*

**Interviewer:** Where did you grow up and what was the attitude of those around you toward school(ing)?

**Prof. Tanvir Ahmed Khan:** I was born in old Dhaka in 1952. The town had a population of hardly 200,000 and a few vehicles. Town service buses used to ply the narrow streets and rickshaws and hackney carriages were the private service transport. The Dhaka town was in the north-south direction from Sadarghat, adjacent to the river Buriganga and all the way to Gulistan in the north. Today it has become a megalopolis with two to three crore people extending to Joydebpur in the North and Munshiganj on the south

My schooling was in St. Francis Xavier's, which was co-educational and accommodated the boys up to Class 2. From Class 3, the boys would move to St. Gregory's High School, adjacent to St. Francis. St. Gregory's had both the Bangla and the English medium of instruction.

The boys of St. Gregory's were accredited as best students in the vicinity of schools as the results of secondary school certificate examination always found the Gregorians earning excellent results. Therefore, the attitude of all those around us was always favorable.

**Interviewer:** Who was your role model?

**Prof. Tanvir Ahmed Khan:** We had a number of role models. The English teacher, Bro. Hobart Pieper CSC was an iconic figure. If there was a teacher like him in all schools, there wouldn't be any problem with our second language. Another iconic figure was our Bangla teacher, Mr. Nalini Kumar Sarker. We still remember the grammar portion since the examples he used to pose stuck to us for good. The transition to our move to hard Bangla from easy Bangla was made by Nalini sir in record time and we all earned good grades.

**Interviewer:** Why did you decide to pursue higher education?

**Prof. Tanvir Ahmed Khan:** My parents always gave higher priority to education and they instilled in us that we should all become Professors or reach equivalent positions. Much of that has become a reality. All members of my family are either Headmistress of a School, Principal of a College, Teachers in notable English medium schools, and Vice-Chancellor of a university.

**Interviewer:** How did you become interested in rural development?

**Prof. Tanvir Ahmed Khan:** My Master's thesis was on resettlement of urban squatters. To make a wholesome picture, I tried to bring in the rural poor so that I would have a clear understanding of the poor people in this country and how they are placed in society which is basically patriarchal, bourgeois-inclined, less acknowledgment of gender balance and parameters which reflect similar traits.

I was also working as an Economist in the Agriculture Sector Team (AST), a project of CIDA in the early eighties which was instrumental in preparing the Crop Agriculture Sector of the Fourth Five Year Plan. Since I went to the University of Sheffield in 1986 to do my PhD, obviously the rich substance learnt in AST had a bearing on my PhD dissertation. Later I worked in the Bangladesh Academy for Rural Development (BARD) in Comilla, the international organization which was spear-headed by no less a person as Dr. Akhter Hameed Khan, famous for the 'Comilla experiment'. He was a Magsaysay Award winner, the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize.

**Interviewer:** Tell us about your book, *Looking Back: The Implementation of Rural Poor Programs in Bangladesh*.

**Prof. Tanvir Ahmed Khan:** The PhD journey studied the initiatives of the public and private sector in the context of the alleviation of poverty of the rural poor in Bangladesh. The central thesis was that the public sector had made a significant departure at least in theory, towards the conceptualization of the rural poor programs in a way that the private sector, particularly the non-governmental organizations had been following for the past two decades.

Although it had been argued that 'moderate' NGOs like BRAC, were not institutions setting about to prove a specific model or theory of development in an absolutist sense, the study presents a 'mobilizing' NGO where the concept of 'Freire-type conscientization', a loaded concept in itself, has been seen to transcend the limits of present day thinking of moderate NGOs.

**Interviewer:** What made you decide to join North South University and what has been your experience so far?

**Prof. Tanvir Ahmed Khan:** I had been very close to Mr. M. A. Kashem, founding member of the BoT of NSU for the last 45 years. We are closely attached in the Rotary movement. Since 1992, when NSU was in its formative stage, he used to introduce me to different personalities who were working to establish private universities in Bangladesh. I taught on invitation the students of Masters in Development Studies at NSU in 2000 and 2001. I worked as a Professor and Registrar at IUB for thirteen years. Upon my retirement from IUB, I was invited to become the Vice-Chancellor of Hamdard University. I always wanted an opportunity to work with

Mr. Kashem who is a great leader in his own right. This opportunity arrived in March 2021 when he and the Vice-Chancellor of NSU proposed that I become the Executive Advisor to the VC, NSU. The objective for me to join was to strengthen the Office of the Vice-Chancellor.

The first seven months of my tenure at NSU (March to September, 2021) has been very eventful.

I could accomplish few things which I am scribing as follows for posterity:

Organizing the 23rd Convocation and anchoring as Convocation Marshal;

Prepared Organogram for NSU both Generic and Customized;

Prepared Amendments to Private University Act 2010;

Prepared Manual 'Road to Convocation of NSU during Pandemic';

Convener of Committees:

'NSU Milestone Dissemination';

'Pricing Policy of Book';

'Publishing Brochures';

Advisory Body to:

'CANVAS' &

'Radio/TV and Digital Lab';

Review of Documents and drafting of Policies sent by VC:

MoUs;

Policy prescription on various issues;

Facilitating students to get admission to universities abroad: Carleton, Delaware;

Student enrollment and progression: Close liaison with the Registrar; Controller; Director Career Placement Center; Director, Office of External Affairs and Director Student Affairs;

Public Relations: Meeting important dignitaries to make them aware of NSU's positive milestones;

Academic and Staff recruitment: Review of files from Internal Audit Unit;

Attending important meetings called by the VC and preparing advisory notes;

Attend the NSU ceremonial functions:

Launching of Units by Ministers;

National Days;

Attending national and international seminars and conferences.

**Interviewer:** What role can universities play in the development of Bangladesh?

**Prof. Tanvir Ahmed Khan:** Both public and private universities have been contributing greatly in human resource needs of the country. Not only in producing graduates who would become employees but also making them entrepreneurs who can establish their own companies and provide job opportunities to others. Research has been an area which was neglected since the faculty were busier in taking classes more than their usual three courses. Recently, the universities have put emphasis on research and have influenced the faculty to publish in journals accredited by Scopus so that **THE (Times Higher Education)** can assess their institutions. They are already in the **Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)** ranking.

**Interviewer:** What would you advise those in educational leadership positions to consider in the cultivation of global citizens?

**Prof. Tanvir Ahmed Khan:** Universities like NSU has so many positive attributes. Each unit has a tale to tell, but unfortunately one unit knows less of the other. Therefore, an integration of all the units have to take place and recently with the formation of the committee named 'NSU Milestone Dissemination' (NSUMD), the specific units are taking effort in showcasing their strengths and the NSUMD will be the single spokesperson.

Parallel to their studies, students should be involved in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities to sharpen their communication skills, computer skills, social skills and attributes that the employers look for.

**Interviewer:** What advice do you have for NSU students, faculty and staff?

**Prof. Tanvir Ahmed Khan:** NSU students should become global citizens. The excellent faculty at NSU have 49% PhDs from North American, UK, and Australian universities. They should not be complacent. They should take up the challenge to become a university in the first 100 world ranking.

The BoT members are providing excellent leadership and there should be more leaders like Mr. M. A. Kashem to steer the NSU ship.

**Interviewer:** What is a life-long dream that you still want to fulfill?

**Prof. Tanvir Ahmed Khan:** This is not my dream but my spouse's! She wants me to be the Secretary-General of the UN. I have no idea how she subscribed to this dream but to respect her wishes, I have kept my options open.

## Alumni Feature



**NH Fatima Wara** completed her O' & A' levels from Mount Royal Academy. Finished a dual major in Marketing and Human Resource Management from North South University (Batch 113). In 2017 she migrated to Australia for higher studies, completing my Master of Business degree in Marketing & HR in the year 2019.

When Ms. Wara started her BBA, she officially opened her own English Medium Coaching venture back in 2011 which experienced rapid growth in a very short time. As a result, was offered job for Senior English Language Instructor position at a leading English medium school in Narayanganj, Bangladesh named ABC International School. She continued her teaching career and academics simultaneously until 2016 and chased her dream to pursue a postgraduate degree from Australia in 2017, securing a Master of Business degree from Monash University in 2019.

While doing her Master's course, Ms. Wara started working as an operations consultant at Melbourne Racing Club. With the same experience eventually ended up as a casual employee at all other racing organizations, including Victoria Racing Club, Melbourne, which is the home of the world-renowned racing carnival called the Melbourne Cup Carnival.

When Ms. Wara was closer to her Master's degree completion, she started applying for jobs in relevant sectors to build her career pathway starting as a casual Business Support Officer at a national telecommunication company called We4Us Pty Ltd which is a subcontracting company of NBN, Telstra, Foxtel, etc. Since her interest is more in people management, she started investing in the company's people culture. In about a month's time, this effort was recognized with a promotion to directly being a National Operation Manager where her main focus was managing a diverse workforce of 200+ employees across Australia, liaising with business partners, coordinating projects and leading the admin team. This became her first full-time job right after post-grad in her career abroad.

Since Ms. Wara holds a strong interest in understanding the money market, she thought she'd want to explore the banking industry this time. And successfully landed as Loan Administrator in the Consumer Fulfilment Lending Services department where she has learnt amazing work culture, experienced diverse knowledge and still enjoys what she does as there as she was able to explore lots of professional and personal growth opportunities. At present, she is a Team Coach, Administration, Lending Services of National Australia Bank.

She has been part of the executive body as the Joint Secretary of Media & Communication of Melbourne NSUers Association since 2017. She mentioned that it is a big pride and blessing for the NSUers there as their senior alumni like Iftekhar Uddin, Rahi Khondker, Sadia Haq, Fayzal Bashar, Tamim Khan, Tanveer Masud to name a few have already set clear footprints for them to follow in different industries in Australia, constantly inspiring and assisting in shaping immigrant students' career with their success stories, support and undeniable contributions in NSUers' community.

Besides, she is a Cultural Arts Enthusiast, she often performs in and assists to organise cultural events, particularly dancing, fashion show, etc. in Melbourne where her focus is usually to celebrate Bangladeshi heritage.

Hobbies & Interest- Cooking, Dancing, Social Work Activities

**Interviewer:** What drove you to the banking industry? How is your experience in this sector? What are your suggestions for fresh graduates who seek a career in banking?

**NH Fatima Wara:** Having migrated to Australia, the abundant opportunity to explore new market/economy and cultural diversity became a great trigger to my mind to start adapting and learning new things. The thirst to learn and my innate curiosity towards trying out new adventures was the reason why I started working for different job sectors here. As a result, I became more and more inclined towards knowing how the financial system works in practice, what factors drive the economy, this time not as a customer but the one behind the system - perhaps a banker! The interest to know about the economy more than just theories drove me towards joining the banking industry.

I have been able to gather phenomenal experience from this industry here in Australia. As we all know, there are major interesting differences in the way Australian organizations, people and culture operate as compared to Bangladesh. I have had the opportunity to enjoy these organizational culture diversities through working with multicultural people who bring in a diverse pool of talents and skills. Here, I experienced how prioritizing employee health and well-being results in greater customer satisfaction because a well-taken care of employee (in terms of not only professional aspects but also mental, physical, financial, moral and social factors) produces better service naturally. The banking sector in Australia is quite agile, adaptive and technologically much more advanced than those in our country. They've contingent management plans around unexpected crises, for example COVID19, during this time because of tech advancement this sector was readily prepared to cope with the situation through introduction of work from home. I believe Bangladeshi banks still have room for improvement in the way employees' well-being and organizational contingency plans are designed.

I'd suggest aspiring graduates willing to join the banking profession to work on their soft skills like communication which will assist in stakeholder management, problem solving skills which will help with making conscious decisions; emotional intelligence through the practice of empathy and patience that can contribute in people management; willingness to self-reflect and self-challenge continuously can help keep personal and professional growth up; and, most importantly maintaining ethical professional behavior at all times, because honesty is highly valued in any profession, especially in Australian organizational culture. Regarding technical knowledge, mostly it's transferred through regular on-the-job training but some industrial knowledge is required which can be derived from our relevant academic and online certification accomplishments.

**Interviewer:** How did you get involved in the racing industry in Australia? Please share the story.

**NH Fatima Wara:** It was quite an exciting memory. Our main target when we migrated to Melbourne, Australia was to get into a local job preferably in an industry which is locally popular. Racing (Sports) is a heritage that Australians take pride in which unites the whole nation just like the sensation we have about cricket in our country! The very first job that we applied for (through a job portal) was in a popular racing club called Melbourne Racing Club which was luckily 2 minutes away from our residence in Melbourne. It was like the cherry on top of cake! Reference to this local experience in a well-known industry served as a foundation for us qualifying for all other racing clubs as employee in the operations department, which in turn not only helped us quickly adapt to Aussie culture, values and lifestyle but also catered as a big boost to our next job application.

**Interviewer:** Please tell us about your social work activities. How did you become passionate about them?

**NH Fatima Wara:** I have been doing social work ever since I became financially independent back in the year 2010. I'm comfortable keeping this a bit private as I'm a believer of our religious ideology regarding charity that, 'charity should be such that when right hand donates, left hand must not know'. However, this belief seems to have slightly evolved as I have been advised by a lot of my seniors who have seen me perform community work that sharing the things I do could inspire others which in turn can benefit a greater number of people in our society. Hence, I am sharing that I have contributed in under-privileged children's education through direct teaching, created job opportunities for disadvantaged groups in my own venture and in other companies. I usually perform career counselling for students and assist international students with job-hunting, internships to employment journey with my own experience and through help of my seniors who are highly successful in their own fields here. During this pandemic, I've been able to personally support international students in whatever capacity I can whenever possible as well as create network between them and charitable organizations so that they can get help when I am unable to afford it myself. I'm thankful to each and every one who came forward in solidarity to my personal efforts to stand by international students in hardship in my network during this hard time.

The credit of my passion to serve the community goes to my beloved father who dedicated his entire life for people's welfare and my family who has always strongly cherished the practice of social work. I inherited this from my family and this is something which I truly feel from inside. If we care for each other in need, or even in no need, the world would be a better place for us all. Only if we knew positivity can drive us a long way, bring us a peaceful life and unite us in one big platform that things would be much simpler. It can be hard as there are factors that may discourage us, but if it's a natural passion and we find spiritual peace in it, it can become strongly active in our everyday lifestyle - which can't be helped.

**Interviewer:** What things should the students focus on if he/she wants to get into an Australian university, preferably with a good scholarship?

**NH Fatima Wara:** Scholarship opportunities are quite competitive and are generally based on academic merit. Students who aim for top universities in Australia like University of Melbourne, Monash University, University of NSW, University of Sydney, should primarily focus on scoring decent academic results. A good CGPA can contribute to the likelihood of qualifying for reputed universities and for being granted a scholarship. The scholarship opportunities, however, vary based on government grant rules and regulations in the territory and the education provider (universities or academic institutes) that a student is applying for. For instance, Master by Research/PhD provides scholarships to international students. Other subjects like Master of Information Technology, Business, Medical Science, and Engineering usually provide scholarships which contribute to a small percentage of the whole course tuition fees. However, all these depend on the applicant's eligibility and scholarship availability from the university for which the student applies. It is a good idea to check scholarship eligibility online and extensively research the academic requirements, tuition fees and post-migration factors like accommodation (living costs), etc. prior to applying for higher studies so that a student can make an effective decision.

The best way to start preparing is through consulting an expert migration agency like Shaheda Higher Education Consultancy-SHEC (that I applied through) or IDP that can provide customized guidance based on a student's need and background check.

**Interviewer:** Tell us about the latest events and activities of Melbourne NSUers. How can an alumni association help the student community on foreign soil?

**NH Fatima Wara:** Due to impact of COVID, Melbourne NSUers have been unable to initiate any events as we've been in lockdown on and off over the last 2 years except for a few effective community calls to support our fellow NSUers during this challenging time. However, we usually host events like 'Career Development Workshop', 'Annual Sports Day', 'Alumni Talk' with distinguished guests from our Alma Mater, 'Annual Cultural Event', 'Social Get Together' like picnics or BBQs, etc. to keep our NSUer community united and active in Melbourne.

In a foreign land, knowing an organization connected to our home side, our university or nationality is an advantage itself. And when that organization consists of people we can look up to, rely on, consult with or simply connect to at times of personal or professional need, it becomes an undeniable blessing. Joining Melbourne NSUers when I first migrated here for my post-grad made me feel I'm at home, connected to NSU and taken care of by my seniors who are exemplary. I must say an alumni association does contribute to an immigrant student's cultural adaptation, career, mental health and to some extent the settlement process too through their generous act of charitable community work.

## International Student Feature

*My name is **Jia Jipeng** from China, a student of EMBA program of School of Business and Economics, and admitted in summer semester of 2021. Before that, I completed my Bachelor's degree of Science, major in Chemistry & Materials at Tianjin Chengjian University of China in 2012. Moreover, it is my pleasure to study in North South University which is the first private and one of the largest independent higher education providers in the Bangladesh; it delivers a wide range of high-quality education with a well-respected global reputation.*

*I have been living in Bangladesh for two years and currently staying in Dhaka. Back to 2019, it was the first time I have been visited to Bangladesh as an employee. Here, I have made the acquaintance of lots of friends and mentors - we are always keeping in communication and discussions; we have visited so many amusing places such as: Chittagong, Barisal, Cox Bazar and Sylhet, etc., have tasted different of Bangladesh foods such as Biryani, Kacchi Bhai and too many others. Up to now, there are still so many things attracted me to further explore, and I will continuously do it in future.*

*I like to stay here and deeply love this amorous land and people with kind hearts, in the end, I would like to express my grateful and best regards to my respected faculty members who are preaching and teaching day-by-day, and kind friends who are always pleased to help each other.*



**Interviewer:** What inspired you to choose North South University for your postgraduate studies among all other universities of Bangladesh?

**Jia Jipeng:** As an international student from China currently studying NSU, I think the NSU delivers a wide range of high-quality education with a well-respected reputation and provides superior education services to all students. Besides that, NSU is first private and one of the largest independent higher education providers in Bangladesh as well as highly recognized in local and global wide.

**Interviewer:** You have received your undergraduate degree in Chemistry & Materials and are pursuing postgraduate in Business Administration. What was the factors that influenced this switch in field of study?

**Jia Jipeng:** I have a chemistry background and started my first job as the technical engineer, after two years I was appointed as the business development manager, and then as the general manager which requires full-scale knowledge to conduct all business activities in a company. Therefore, at that time, I decided to study the EMBA program in NSU to gain the advanced knowledge in business studies, which is not only offering a master certificate but also providing the knowledge in different field such as: accounting, finance, marketing, management, human resource etc., so that it is good for a manager to develop his career by full-scale knowledge.

**Interviewer:** What are your future plans for your career once you complete postgraduate studies?

**Jia Jipeng:** I want to go further in my career and perform very well in the top management level, with superior knowledge and experience I have learnt from NSU, and expecting that all theories will instruct my practical work.

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

**Jia Jipeng:** NSU is providing full package studies in EMBA program, with superior courses design and structure, but I think it is more difficult to earn the master degree from NSU than other universities in Bangladesh due to its preciseness and high standard grading system. However, strict masters produce outstanding students – quoted by a Chinese proverb. I like the warm campus culture of NSU, for instance, when I visited to the NSU campus to know process of application of student visa, the staff of Office of External Affairs gave proper and detailed instruction; when I applied the EMBA program, the staff of the MBA department answered my queries carefully and patiently. I felt warmly welcome at that moment. Since the class started, I got the same norm and culture from faculties as well, the classmates eagerly helped me out; I felt we are in a family.

**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.

**Jia Jipeng:** In line with the government directives to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and keep students safe, the NSU has decided to operate the online education activities. Since I was admitted in the Summer semester of 2021, I have experienced the online classes under the terrible circumstance induced by COVID-19. I think it is suitable for current situations, easy for students to study, and also can ensure all students and faculty members safe. During this period, we are studying and interacting with faculties and classmates very well online, all classes are continuously and smoothly going on, no negative effects for me to gain the knowledge.

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

**Jia Jipeng:** I have visited 7 countries in past few years, among them I do like Bangladeshi people and culture more than others. I have been living here for 2 years and have a special feeling for Bangladesh. The people of Bangladesh are kind-hearted, honest, courageous, persevering and persistent, and happy to help others, moreover, they always like to keep sincere and sweet smile to others, I think it is the most beautiful smile in the world, deeply branded in my heart and I would never forget it.


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


**Jia Jipeng:** Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude and respect to NSU, and wish it will grow more and more prosperous in future. As a student currently studying in NSU, I hope that more numbers of future applicants from abroad and local will come to the NSU for the higher education. I believe that they will gain lots of knowledge and experience from NSU and become an outstanding employee in their careers, owing to its advanced education system, exceptional teaching attitudes, excellent faculties and active campus atmosphere.



**Office  
of External  
Affairs**

zoom

 880(2)-55668200

 880(2)-55668202

 oea@northsouth.edu

 <http://institutions.northsouth.edu/oea>

 Office of External Affairs, Level #5,  
Administrative Building, North South University,  
Dhaka, Bangladesh