



NSU NEWS

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North South University
Center of Excellence in Higher Education

NSU News

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Editorial

Amid the immense loss of lives and livelihood in our country and throughout the world caused by the pandemic, many of us continue to strive to maintain a semblance of normalcy from the confines of our homes. Whether we are teachers or students, administrators or parents, we struggle to perform our duties and obligations, but we continue to do so nevertheless.

The Vice-Chancellor addressed this general atmosphere of stress, anxiety, and fear that has engulfed us all in a message to students to reassure all of them of the support that the management, administration, and faculty will continue to extend during these trying times. He emphasized that for all students, the wide-ranging support services of NSU, including the counselors, health experts, and the faculty, will always be available as the first point of contact in any stressful situation, be it personal or academic. He encouraged all to be brave, optimistic, and patient.

The November 2020 issue attests to our ongoing commitment to our community as new variants of COVID-19 arise. This has once again been reflected by our ability to remain at the #1 position among all private universities in Bangladesh, as ranked by QS World University Rankings Asia 2021. NSU is ranked 228 in Asia, a significant leap from its previous position between 291 and 300. Achieving such a feat is never an easy task and is an accomplishment shared by each and every individual of the NSU family.

In these difficult times, we saw a number of achievements that came as a whiff of fresh air. Dr. Nova Ahmed, Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, became the recipient of a prestigious research grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to explore the intersections of Gender and Technology. This is the first research grant of its kind awarded in Bangladesh. This issue also covers a constellation of webinars on topics ranging from climate change to multilingualism and the Sylheti-Bengali diglossia.

The road to excellence is never expected to be easy, and with the onslaught of a pandemic affecting families forever, goals and purposes can be lost on the way. But, here at NSU, with the support of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and under the leadership of the most experienced Vice-Chancellor in the country, along with an erudite faculty and a robust student community, we will navigate these difficult days and emerge from them stronger than ever.

Be safe.

-Editor



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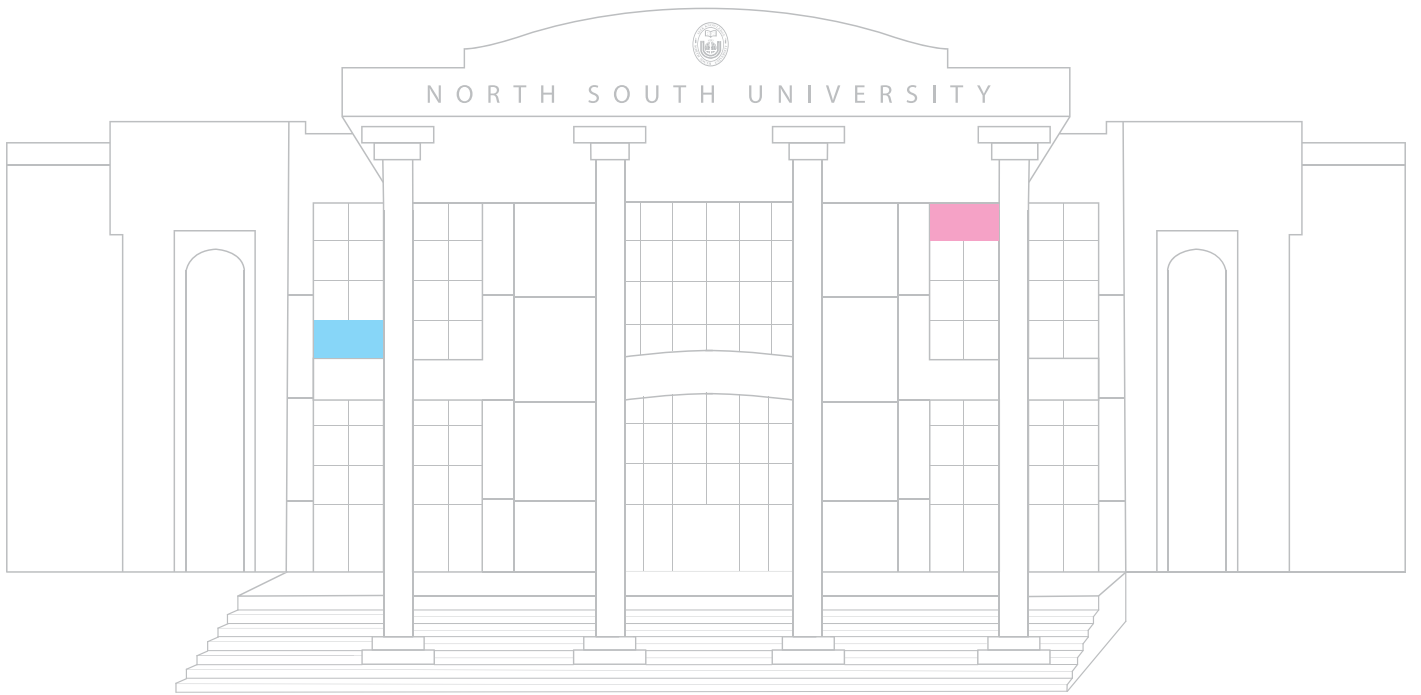


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Father of the Nation



North South University

Center of Excellence in Higher Education

NSU Excels in QS Asia Rankings 2021

In the latest QS World University Rankings - Asia 2021, officially unveiled on November 25, 2020, North South University has proudly held its undisputed spot as the #1 Private University in Bangladesh and has achieved a rank of 228. This is a significant leap from its previous standing of 291-300 in 2020 and 301-350 in 2019. It must be mentioned that NSU is the only university in Bangladesh that has made such a significant improvement. It rose 122 places in the ranks in just two years and has solidified its position as a leader in higher education in Bangladesh.

Overtopping major indicators, North South University has placed among the top 34% in the QS World University Rankings - Asia owing to tough competition between 634

ranked institutions from a pool of over 11,000 universities across Asia. This year, NSU's overall score against the domestic averages was 53%, far more than other universities in Bangladesh, and an extraordinary 43% rise from the previous year. This notable leap illustrates NSU's constant steps to establish excellence in quality

education and completely sets NSU apart from any other university in Bangladesh. With this rising trend, NSU expects to be among the top 200 Asian universities next year and the top 100 universities in Asia the year after.

The Institutional Ranking Cell has been at the forefront of

national and international ranking platforms and striving to bolster NSU as a regional leader.

NSU's next immediate goal is to pursue a superior standing in the World University Ranking of Times Higher Education. Currently, work is underway towards establishing collaborations with potential partners from other parts of the world, especially with multi-national industries and emerging markets, to further NSU's international exposure. Professor Atiqul Islam, the Vice-Chancellor, has emphasized that NSU will continue its teaching, research, and community and industry engagement at the highest level.

NSU is dedicated to the advancement of learning and is committed to promoting research in all fields of knowledge. Having held the ranking as the #1 Private University in Bangladesh since last year, NSU has aggressively continued to close the gap with its regional and global competitors in all academic aspects. NSU shall continue to thrive and move forward to greater heights.



NSU Number 1 in QS World Rankings.

all the coordination on NSU's ranking success. They put in an unprecedented effort to ensure the accurate calculation and submission of data for all the necessary metrics. The Director of NSU's IRC, Mr. Muntasir Mamun Iqbal, has maintained the university's momentum, achieving remarkable milestones across

Vice-Chancellor's Message to the Students of NSU

My Dear Students:

It pains me deeply to see a campus with all its facilities empty of students. Wherever you may be during these distressful times, I hope and pray that you are well, along with your family and friends. This pandemic has already taken away over a million human lives. In its wake, it has crippled economies, increased poverty, and destroyed families and communities. It has disrupted education, at all levels, throughout the world.

Each organization, institution, or enterprise, governmental or non-governmental, private or public concerns worldwide, are all reorienting themselves to survive this crisis. As an educator, it grieves me to think about the lasting damage incurred by my students and faculty members due to this crisis. And, now there are signs of a second surge in some countries, and it seems recovering from an attack of COVID-19 does not necessarily provide immunity from the disease.

Here at NSU, we have tried to do our part to continue to provide a lifeline for the teaching and learning process through online classes. We may have passed through the first wave, but must also brace ourselves and protect our loved ones from the possibilities of a second wave. At the same time, we cannot let this pandemic take control of our lives. Therefore, we must continue with our online classes, organize and participate in online seminars and webinars. Our clubs must keep our students active to keep everyone motivated and in high spirits. As a nation, we have fought

and struggled in the past and have also succeeded. Therefore, I do not doubt that even though this pandemic has set us back much, we will survive it together.

Earlier this year, we managed to finish the Spring 2020 semester with online classes. Our assessment and grading, given the circumstances, had to be innovative and, as always, fair. The decisions we made and the steps we took were very difficult,



Professor Atiqul Islam, the Vice-Chancellor of NSU.

and at times unpopular, but we acted on them nevertheless. Summer was fully online, and Fall seems to be following suit. I acknowledge everyone's ability to rise above and beyond the call of duty over the last eight months, from our students, their parents, our staff, faculty, administration, and the Board of Trustees.

My dear students, a campus life with no meeting of friends, tea

and coffee breaks in the cafeteria, table tennis on the hallways, games in the playfield, gym, library, music, club activities, and exchanges of smiles and laughter can be stifling and particularly hard on young people like you. But, like the rest of the world, we too have a responsibility to adopt the new normal—wear masks, frequently wash hands, avoid crowded places, and, most importantly, take your online classes very seriously. It is not the best of circumstances, but it is the best we can do for the time being.

My colleagues and I are fully aware of what most of you are going through. On the economic front, parents' and guardians' incomes have drastically been affected. The possibility of supplementing income through tuition and other part-time work is no longer an option for most. The scope of getting financial help from friends and relatives has been reduced.

This economic burden, coupled with living in confined spaces, with possibly parents and siblings, and health issues have all led to anxiety and have aggravated the full pressure of studies online (which is never as rich an experience as in-person classes).

I know we Bangladeshis are resilient, and our students are even more so. Still, some of you may likely feel a bit 'down' from time to time, which is understandable, but we must not slip into depression or think that we are alone and that there is no one to help us. We are a community of mentors and mentees. There are faculty members and counselors available

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Dr. Nova Receives Prestigious Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Research Grant



Dr. Nova Ahmed, Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, NSU, with her research team.

Dr. Nova Ahmed, a Professor in the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering of NSU, has received a prestigious Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation research Grant. On November 11, Vice-Chancellor Professor Atiqul Islam signed an agreement with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, making this the very first research award from this prestigious body in Bangladesh. Dr. Nova Ahmed will be leading the 3 crore taka project "Research on Intersections of Gender and Technology." She and her team are hoping to contribute to the greater inclusion of women in the digital financial process. In this interview, NSU News speaks to her about her accomplishment.

NSU News: Please tell us a little bit about your project and how it led to this prestigious grant.

Dr. Nova: The project initiation was sudden and unexpected. We were holding a summer school at NSU where we had speakers and participants from all over the world. Maria May from the Gates Foundation came to meet me there, being curious about my work on women and technology. I worked on a Google-funded project that looked at ways to include more women in technology apart from my interest to support women in computing.

NSU News. What motivated you to pick the topic of gender and technology?

Dr. Nova: Being a computer scientist, a woman, and being a mother of two lovely daughters, and a teacher of all the amazing female students, it became my quest to make an inclusive space for women in technology.

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Prominent Linguists Talk at the DEML Discourse Series Webinars

The Department of English and Modern Languages (DEML) of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences held two webinars in Fall 2020 as a continuation of its Discourse Series of lectures on November 7 and November 21.

Dr. Chris Tang, Lecturer in International Education & Applied Linguistics, School of Education, Communication & Society, King's College, London, spoke at the first webinar on November 7. His speech was titled "The Role of the Sylheti-Bengali Diglossia, Orality, and Multilingualism in Promoting Public Health amongst UK Bangladeshis."

Dr. Tang received his Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics and Public Health Communication from King's College London, University of London. He is also the Co-Founder and Coordinator of the Corpus Research in Linguistics and Beyond seminar series. In addition to his academic work, Dr. Tang has over 15 years of experience of teaching English as a foreign language. He received his M.A. in Applied Linguistics and English Language Teaching in 2009. Dr. Tang's research interests focus on the development and use of applied linguistics methodology and tools in public health communication, risk and disaster communication, and language education contexts, particularly those situated in linguistically and culturally diverse environments. His most recent

work has focused on applications of corpus linguistics and cognitive semantics in the assessment of health literacy within a project seeking to improve health and disaster risk communication about the dangers of heatwaves and cold spells. He teaches in the B.A. English Language and Linguistics, M.A. ELT & Applied Linguistics, M.A. TESOL, and M.A. International Education programs at King's College London, University of London.

Dr. Tang's talk drew upon data from a study that looked at how younger and older members of East London's Bangladeshi community responded to warning and health messages about the risks of heatwaves and cold spells. Participants were given a health literacy assessment: a series of tasks and language activities in Sylheti, Bengali, and English designed to assess how the choice of language and language choices (e.g. heatwave or hot weather) influenced their ability to access, understand, interpret, and evaluate key warning and health messages issued before and during these events. The assessment revealed key differences in how the young Bangladeshis in the study, who had all grown up in the UK, and older Bangladeshis, who had immigrated decades earlier, drew upon their linguistic and cultural knowledge to conceptualize and make sense of risk. The talk concluded by discussing the implications for developing more inclusive and effective communication practices in linguistically and culturally diverse societies.

Dr. Lim Ni Eng, Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies, School of Humanities and Social Sciences,



Dr. Chris Tang, Lecturer, King's College London.

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NSU Provides Financial Aid during the Pandemic

“NSU is freaking expensive”--I know this is a common notion, but the fact is, if you are deserving, NSU will bear your study cost entirely. If you are a student who is intending to enroll at NSU but are unsure about how to bear the expense, and also for those who are currently studying at NSU and are worried about their educational expenses, here is a chance to relieve your anxiety: NSU is now the first and only university that has a formal body for assisting its students financially. The Financial Assistance Committee of NSU has a standing commitment to meet the needs of eligible students.

The Financial Aid Office (FAO) started its operation in 1993. The categories of NSU’s financial aid are as follows: financial aid for the children of freedom fighters (quota-based financial waiver), financial aid based on admission test results (merit scholarship), financial aid based on high academic achievement at NSU (NSU merit-based), financial aid based on financial need (on humanitarian grounds), financial aid based on student employment at NSU (work-study based), and financial aid based on a combination of need and merit. All students who consider themselves deserving candidates should apply, and based on their qualifications, merit, and need, they will be awarded financial aid accordingly.

According to Mr. Jafar Iqbal, Director of the Financial Aid Office, “NSU always values the need of general students. We try our best to encourage our meritorious and needy students with financial waivers so that they feel motivated and inspired. To cater to their divergent merits and needs, we have distinctly redefined the whole process of categorization. There is no common

system for evaluation; for example, a student might be needy but not meritorious, and another student might be meritorious but not needy. We would reward them both based on the individual grounds on which they stand ahead of the rest. The competition is getting tough gradually as more students are working hard to qualify; we keep our students in



Mr. Jafar Iqbal Russell, Director, Financial Aid Office, North South University.

a challenging race of merit so that they keep on trying to get better and better only to achieve a greater financial reward. And, frankly speaking, we do find positive outcomes. Recipients who get a 25% waiver, can try hard to compete to qualify for more; we never disappoint candidates who truly deserve it. Be it in terms of merit, be it in terms of need, we only encourage and support them to carry out their academic functions in a smoother way. A student rewarded with aid finds it as an incentive, as a drive to progress further. Merit is the basic and most important parameter on which we judge; if a student has a consistently good result or shows extraordinary performance,

he won’t be disappointed, and that’s a promise.”

So, there you go; don’t worry, be happy, NSU is always with you!

Good deeds are not always acknowledged. Most people only love to hear rumors and are reluctant to dig out the facts. Truth is often buried and forgotten. We think that North South University is freaking expensive and it only takes money from the student community. No one focuses on the other side of the coin. Nobody wants to take the time to know the facilities and services that NSU provides to its students. Let me tell you how generous NSU is, and how it is responding to the global pandemic and aiding students. Let me congratulate the authorities of NSU, especially Mr. M. A. Kashem, current Chairman of the Board of Trustees, who have been so kind to NSU students. The role of NSU in the waning days of this pandemic is unprecedented and unparalleled. NSU has already spent approximately BDT 104 crore on financial assistance since the inception of this pandemic. 33 students who lost their parents due to COVID-19 have received financial support;

70 other victims of COVID-19 related situations have also been granted a tuition waiver on humanitarian grounds. Moreover, 91 descendants of freedom fighters and 4,425 other students have received financial aid since the beginning of this epidemic in March 2020. The total financial worth of these generous grants is equivalent to 13% of the total budget of the largest public university in the country. This is the glory and the pride of NSU, the largest and highest-ranked private university in Bangladesh.

Mr. Jafar Iqbal Russell
Director, Financial Aid Office
North South University

DEML Holds Book Review Webinar



Sarah Anjum Bari, Editor, Daily Star Books, and the host sharing their insights regarding book reviews at the webinar.

As we grow up, we realize that books are “the tools for communication between two personalities.” An elegantly composed and comprehensive book review can tell us whether a specific book is communication that it is worth our time to engage in. The Department of English and Modern Languages of North South University held an online workshop on book review writing, in affiliation with Daily Star Books, on November 25. Naveed Islam, Lecturer in the Department, expertly hosted the workshop. The Department’s Chair, Dr. AQMA Rahman Bhuiyan, along with a few other faculty members, were also present and contributed by giving their valuable suggestions and feedback to this interactive session.

The environment was instructive yet friendly, with the presence of the distinguished guest speakers, Kazi Akib Bin Asad and Sarah Anjum Bari. The first speaker, Kazi Akib Bin Asad,

is currently working as an Editor-in-Charge for Shout, a popular Bangladeshi youth magazine. The second speaker, Sarah Anjum Bari, is the Editor of Daily Star Books. The speakers shared their incredible experiences and successfully sparked the audience’s interest in seeking out new books and writing reviews.

To sum up our speakers’ advice for those who missed the webinar, they said that most of the reviews usually begin with an introduction to the book followed by a personal review. It is also crucial that a review has an interesting title. A title is extremely important because this will not only attract the readers’ attention but will also tell them what to expect from the review. The title of the review, however, should not be the same as the title of the book. While writing a review of a novel, one must give the reader only a hint about the story to spark their interest and avoid spoilers. However, for non-fiction,

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Professor Tawfique Talks on Climate Change and Communities

An international webinar, "Climate Change and Communities: Lessons from Some of the World's Most Vulnerable," was organized by the Center for Environmental Policy under the School of Public Affairs of American University in Washington, D.C. This webinar aimed to have a discussion as well as advocate for awareness about climate change and its devastating effects on some of the world's most vulnerable communities.

P r o f e s s o r
Sk. Tawfique M. Haque, Director, South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) and **C h a i r**, Department of Political Science and Sociology, North South University, presented a paper at this webinar titled "Promoting Awareness and Transparency in the Fight against Flooding in Bangladesh and Global South."

Professor Tawfique's talk was based on an empirical study of climate finance in Bangladesh that was jointly conducted by the SIPG and American University. The paper focuses on citizens' perceptions of the government's efficacy and citizen views about the different layers (local, national, international) of government and their responsibility in combating

climate change.

The webinar was moderated by Dr. David Simpson of American University. Among the other panelists, Sharaban Tahura Zaman of NSU's Department of Law and Teresa Kramarz, Associate Professor and Co-Director, Environmental Governance Lab, University of Toronto, were present.

Climate change is a very real threat to mankind and it is high time

concerted action is taken to tackle it. North South University congratulates its faculty members for their active participation in tackling the issues of climate change and encourages further participation in future webinars.



Climate Change and Communities: Lessons from Some of the World's Most Vulnerable

Promoting Awareness and Transparency in the Fight Against Flooding in Bangladesh and the Global South

NOVEMBER 4, 9 AM ET

Who is responsible for offering climate adaptation projects, and how do we build awareness on the topic? How might these projects be distinguished from disaster management? How can government accountability be developed? Prof. **Todd Eisenstadt** of SPA's Center for Environmental Policy convenes a discussion moderated by American University's **David Simpson**, featuring Prof. **Sk. Tawfique M. Haque**, **Sharaban Tahura Zaman**, and Associate Prof. **Teresa Kramarz**.

				
R. DAVID SIMPSON Global Environmental Policy, School of International Studies, American University	SK. TAWFIQUE HAQUE Director, South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance, North South University	SHARABAN TAHURA ZAMAN Depts of Law and Environmental Science & Management, North-South University	TERESA KRAMARZ Associate Prof., Co-Director, Environmental Governance Lab, University of Toronto	TODD EISENSTADT Professor and Research Director, Center for Environmental Policy

RSVP AT [HTTPS://AMERICAN.SWOOGO.COM/LESSONS](https://american.swoogo.com/lessons)

Poster of Professor Tawfique on climate change and communities.

Dr. Saiful Islam Wins Interarch 2020 Award

Dr. Saiful Islam, Associate Professor, NSU Architecture Department, recently won a prestigious award from Interarch 2020: Exhibition and Competition of Architectural Projects and Built Works, which is an international architecture design showcase organized by the International Academy of Architecture (IAA) since 1981.

Jamsherpur High School Hostel, the project submitted by Dr. Saiful Islam, was the champion project of the exhibition's 2nd category, Residential Buildings. This year's jury included Juhani Pallasmaa (Pritzker Prize Juror), Richard England, Cesare Maria Casati, Brian Spencer, and Martin Drahovsky. Projects & built works from ten

countries including the USA, Germany, Italy, Russia, Bulgaria, and Romania were exhibited at Interarch 2020.

Jamsherpur High School Hostel is a dormitory for a small group of children in Brahmanbaria who belong to poor families and whose parents are unable to afford their education at home. The hostel accommodates these students as they study to pass the 10th grade Board Exam. Dr. Saiful tried to minimize construction, utility, and maintenance costs and wanted to showcase a vibrant ambiance in the dormitory where the students would live, study, and play.

The hostel was built with brick walls, hinged windows of glass panes on metal frames, metal

sheet doors on wooden frames, passive cooling through both cross-ventilation and stack effects, top lighting through a light/ventilation chimney, diffused side light from the north, and reflected side light from the corridor to the south. A shower facility was intentionally dropped to maintain traditional bathing in the pond and for ecological reasons.

Dr. Saiful Islam is the son of Shafiqul Islam, who studied at Jamsherpur High School in 1961. Mr. Shafiq was motivated to give back to his former school along with another former school-mate in the form of this hostel and Dr. Saiful realized this plan through his elegant architectural design.

Vice-Chancellor's Message Cont'd...

for anyone who needs assistance, be it academic or personal.

Remember, your university cares for you. For help, please take advantage of our facilities. Our Medical Center and the Student Counselling Center are open full-time. They also offer services online. On these hard days, do not bottle up your problems and suppress your feelings. Please share them with someone, maybe your family members, perhaps your teachers, friends, or relatives. Calamities come, but they also pass. The human race has endured many pandemics before, and it will

survive this one, too. Vaccines and antidotes are around the corner. Do not despair.

Finally, I want to emphasize that your teachers and NSU support services can be your first point of contact. They are eager to help you, so do not hesitate to seek their assistance. If they cannot help, they will refer you to someone who can.

Dear students, every cloud has a silver lining. We have been forced to be innovative in our teaching and learning activities. We have learned how to do more with less. Technologies that are

being developed to cope with the situation may be found useful long after the pandemic is gone. We at NSU will soon be having a Learning Management System (LMS) like the world's best universities.

In these dark days, let us be brave optimists and have patience. I pledge to you NSU's total support to our student community.

Stay home and stay safe.

Yours truly,

Professor Atiqul Islam
Vice-Chancellor
North South University

“What’s Next?” - A Webinar on the Career Prospects for English Majors Held

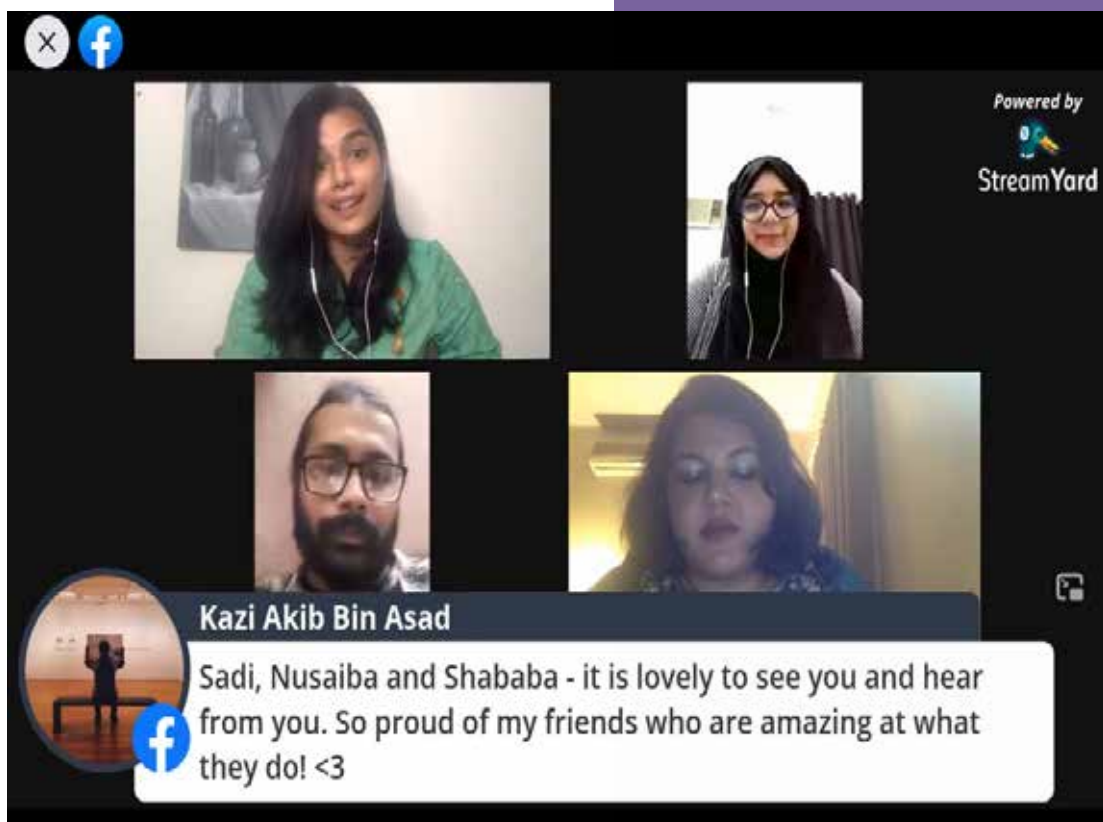
We’ve all faced this question: “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Enthusiastically, we all replied along the lines of celebrities, sportsmen, lawyers, doctors, engineers, and pilots! It is only when we grow up that we realize the reality of the world; the world where, for most of us, a job is essential; virtually every student will, at one point, have to enter the job market. This worry is seemingly more daunting to English majors, who have been led to believe that their career opportunities are limited. To ease that fear and to enlighten English majors about their career prospects, the Department of English and Modern Languages of North South University arranged a webinar on the Career prospects for English majors on November 26 as the first part of its two-part series “What’s Next?”.

It was a great delight to have three of North South University’s own distinguished recent alumni present as the speakers of the webinar. This session featured Shababa Iqbal, Trainee Sub-Editor of The Daily Star, Sadi Mohammad Shahnewaz, Sub-Editor of Stars and Entertainments at The Daily Star, and Nusaiba Mirza, Senior Executive, Project and Digital Engagement at Banglalink Digital. They were kind enough to share their thoughts and experiences regarding the career prospects of English majors.

The speakers argued that, contrary to popular belief, the world is wide open to those pursuing a B.A. in

English, and there are plenty of job opportunities waiting to be grabbed. English students are well versed in communication. They are also great writers. Both of these skills are valuable to most employers. Aside from teaching, English majors are sought out in many areas. To maximize employability, the speakers advised focusing on improving one’s

skills. This means that people should not be focused entirely on their CGPA; the skills they learn while attending university are as important as the marks they receive. The first speaker, Shababa Iqbal, shared her personal experience, how she knew about her desire to be a journalist from an early age. This allowed her to focus on improving herself to achieve her dreams.



Shababa Iqbal, Trainee Sub-Editor, The Daily Star, Sadi Mohammad Shahnewaz, Sub-Editor, Stars and Entertainments, The Daily Star, and Nusaiba Mirza, Senior Executive, Project and Digital Engagement, Banglalink Digital, along with the host discussing the career prospects for English majors at the webinar.

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NSU Participates in Ceremony of International Students' Day 2020



Dr. Chowdhury Mofizur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, UIU, Professor Osama Khan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Surrey, UK, Dr. Fawzia Yusuf H. Adam, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia, and other distinguished speakers speaking at the interactive webinar.

North South University participated in an interactive webinar arranged by the Center for International Affairs and Cooperation (CIAC), United International University (UIU), on November 17. The webinar celebrated International Students' Day 2020. The event was in collaboration with the Edward M. Kennedy (EMK) Center, North South University, International University Bangladesh, BRAC University, the University of Surrey, UK, Macquarie University, Australia, and Somaville University, Somalia. This is the very first time the initiative of celebrating International Students' Day was taken in Bangladesh. The esteemed speakers of the online event were Professor Dr. Chowdhury Mofizur

Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, UIU, Professor Dr. Khawa Ahmed, Director, CIAC, UIU, Dr. Katherine Li, Director, Office of External Affairs (OEA), NSU, Ms. Isabelle Zsoldos, Cultural Affairs Officer, Public Affairs Section, US Embassy, Dhaka, Dr. Fawzia Yusuf H. Adam, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Somalia, Professor Osama Khan, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, University of Surrey, UK, Mr. Jonathan Cartmell, Vice President, International BRAC, and a few others.

The event commenced with a brief introduction of the attending guests. After the introductory session, the guests and speakers were offered the floor to share their valuable thoughts and speeches with the audience. Professor Mofizur Rahman spoke

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Prominent Linguists Talk at the DEML Cont'd...

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, spoke at the webinar titled "Conversation Analysis: On the interdisciplinarity of Linguistics, Communication, and Medicine" held on November 21. Dr. Eng received his doctoral degree in Applied Linguistics from the University of California, Los Angeles. The scope of his disciplinary training includes interactional linguistics, conversation analysis, multimodal discourse analysis, and corpus linguistics. His ongoing interest is on the interactional, sociocultural, and cognitive operations at work in everyday and institutional talk. He is actively involved with the Medical Humanities Research Cluster within the school, in particular with medical communication. Dr. Eng's latest project is titled "Doctoring the Elderly: Doctor-Patient Interaction in a Urology



Dr. Lim Ni Eng, Assistant Professor, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.

Clinic." He has reviewed and published articles in journals such as *Language and Dialogue*, *Discourse Processes*, *Journal of Pragmatics*, and *International Journal of Bilingualism*.

For Dr. Lim Ni Eng, linguistics is the study of how language serves and is shaped by the social nature

of human beings, focusing on the details of how language users interactively utilize linguistic resources in talk-in-interaction to communicate social actions to each other. This is quite different from linguistics approaches that theorize on abstract models of language or how macro-principles of cognition and society affect language use; they depend heavily on the analysts' subjective judgments (etic perspective) and are devoid of language users' immediate situational context. In line with this view of linguistics, Dr. Lim Ni Eng introduced the discipline of Conversation Analysis, its ethnomethodological and emic approach (i.e. the participants' understanding), and its deeply empirical methods of researching naturalistic interaction (i.e. face-to-face conversations) to the field of medical communication.

NSU Participates in Ceremony Cont'd...

on the history of International Students' Day and UIU's motive behind organizing the celebration ceremony. Professor Osama Khan focused on the international community, cultural intelligence, and global values during his speech. Later on, Mr. Jonathan Cartmell emphasized the importance of the internationalization of universities. Dr. Katherine Li shared her memories of being an international student in her student life and the experience of living in Bangladesh as a foreigner. Dr. Li also shared her wonderful experience as a faculty member and Director of

NSU's OEA with the audience. Each guest and speaker appreciated the initiative of organizing such an event and thanked the organizers and collaborators.

The latter parts of the event were comprised of separate interactive segments. One of the segments was dedicated to the EMK Center. Other segments were experience-sharing sessions and cultural performances. The experience-sharing segment included speeches from Ms. Jennifer Hossain, Assistant Director, CIAC, UIU, Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer,

NSU, and a few others. Officers of different private universities shared their experiences of working with international students and international affairs. Afterward, international students studying in different universities shared their experiences studying and living in Bangladesh. The lively and interactive online event concluded with dynamic cultural performances performed by international students attending the participating Bangladeshi private universities.

DEML Highlights the Prospects of Studying Abroad

To have a better understanding and a wider perspective of the world, students often dream of studying abroad. Knowledge can be gained in many ways, but studying abroad allows students to experience cultural diversity. It is a great opportunity to attain knowledge and skills while getting out of one's comfort zone, and foreign degrees are highly valued in Bangladesh. It is a dream and also a challenge for the students of Bangladesh to study abroad. To help its current students pursue this dream, the Department of English

and Modern Languages (DEML) arranged a live webinar to address issues regarding studies abroad. This session was held on November 27. The session was brilliantly hosted by Manoshi Sarkar, a current student of the Department of English and Modern Languages. The Department has some amazing alumni who stepped up to help and support their juniors. The atmosphere of the session was friendly yet informative due to its alumni guests: Qazi Mustabeen Noor, currently working at BRAC's James P. Grant School as a Research Associate and holding an M.A. from McMaster University, Canada, Shahroza Nahrin, who has a thesis-based M.A. in English literature from McGill University, Canada and also she is an independent translator now working as a co-translator on a book by Shahidul Zahir, and Shams Rashid Tonmoy, who received an M.A. in writing literature from Deakin University, Australia.

The speakers shared their experiences and valuable suggestions. They said for studying abroad the first thing you need to do is assess yourself and then apply to universities according to your profile. World University rankings of specific departments will help to select universities to apply to. It is a wise decision to apply to private universities rather than public universities as public universities tend to favor

native students. Our experts said the skill of writing well is very important to get a scholarship abroad. The first impression made by the Statement of Purpose is necessary to prove oneself suitable. Along with grades, experiences in different fields are helpful, but having a good CGPA

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Qazi Mustabeen Noor, McMaster University, Canada, Shahroza Nahrin, McGill University, Canada, Shams Rashid Tonmoy, Deakin University, Australia, along with the host Manoshi Sarkar, a DEML student, highlighting the prospects of studying abroad at the webinar.

and Modern Languages (DEML) arranged a live webinar to address issues regarding studies abroad.

This was the second part of a two-part webinar titled 'What's Next?' and is focused on studying abroad with NSU Talks as an outreach partner. This session was held on November



“What’s Next?” - A Webinar on the Career Prospects for English Majors Held Cont’d...

Sadi Mohammad Shahnewaz suggested that students should write articles for newspapers and magazines to show and to develop their skills that employers outside of teaching and journalism very much appreciate. This can lead to many doors opening up for them. A common confusion of students was addressed as well—whether the concentration, either linguistics or literature, would pose an issue in the job market. To this, Nusaiba Mirza responded by saying that confidence and the skills to back it up are the most important things. They went on to stress the importance of a good CV that should be tailored to match the job in question. Focus on the cover letter is also necessary. Both of them must be kept up-to-date to allow current and former students the best chances of getting hired.

The problem that most Bengali medium students face is speaking and writing in English. Although their other skills are equal to those

of English medium students, they tend to lag due to their weakness in English. As a solution to this, Shababa Iqbal said that watching English movies with subtitles is very effective. She also mentioned that reading a lot of books helps to be a good writer. According to Sadi Mohammad Shahnewaz, when readers start reading for fun they can hardly restrain themselves from doing it more often. He also mentioned the power of media and entertainment. To eradicate the fear of public speaking, Nusaiba Mirza suggested practicing it as much as they can.

Discussing certain stereotypes was one of the most interesting parts of the webinar. A common, sexist stereotype is “English should be studied by females only.” According to Nusaiba Mirza, people have a mindset that, if a male student studies English, he may not get a good job; therefore, the pressure on boys not to study English is always there. To this

issue, Sadi Mohammad Shahnewaz responded that male students should feel comfortable studying English; a lot of male students are majoring in English. He added that there is no shame in majoring in English because it gives both men and women plenty of quality job opportunities.

Overall, it was an incredible webinar. This webinar helped remove the hesitation of students regarding majoring in English and inspired current majors with a vision of a wide variety of quality career paths. Nusaiba Mirza, Shababa Iqbal, and Sadi Mohammad Shahnewaz, the three diligent alumni of NSU’s DEML, were very kind to respond to all the questions of students, and the host, current English major Manoshi Sarkar, handled the webinar efficiently and graciously. This wonderful webinar ended with an amazing song sung by the multitalented Sadi Mohammad Shahnewaz.

Dr. Nova Receives Prestigious Cont’d...

NSU News. What do you believe is fundamental to dismantling the systemic barriers to women’s financial inclusion? What steps do you wish to urge researchers and policymakers to take?

Dr. Nova: There are social, structural, and policy-level barriers for women. Some are straightforward to address; some would require technical, policy-level intervention. I am still investigating, would love to share more once I am further into the research.

NSU News. How has your experience been so far working on this project? What activities have been most enjoyable and what has been difficult for your team?

Dr. Nova: It has been the dream project with my research team working in our new lab NSU facilitated. My most enjoyable moments included many seeing women as fighters challenging patriarchal norms, inspiring us all to the core!

NSU News: Please tell us a little bit about your team.

Dr. Nova: I am leading the team of Rahat Jahangir Rony, who is an NSU graduate who started researching with me as a first-year student; a pair of Aniks—Anik Saha and Anik Sinha—who both were stuck after doing an amazing class project, and Syeda Shabnam Khan who was by me for another project on inclusive technology with Google.

Research and Job Opportunities for NSU Students in Australia



Mostafizur Rahman

Mr. Mostafizur Rahman, Director, Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade), giving insights into the research and job opportunities in Australian universities.

North South University's Office of External Affairs (OEA) organized a webinar, "Higher Studies Opportunities in Australia," on November 18. The seminar was conducted through Zoom and was shared on the official Facebook page of the OEA via Facebook Live. The motive of the seminar was to provide students with a broader idea about how to pursue higher studies in Australia. Information regarding government and other scholarship opportunities offered by Australian universities was also shared with the audience. Furthermore, the speakers gave insights regarding the lifestyle of international students in Australia. The esteemed guests of the information session were Mr. Mostafizur Rahman, Director, Australian Trade and Investment

Commission (Austrade), and Ms. Sarah Hariz, Trade and Investment Commissioner from New Delhi, India. The event was moderated by Ms. Tasnia Azmeri Madiha, the Coordination Officer of the OEA.

The session commenced with greetings and a brief account of educational opportunities available for international students in Australia from Ms. Sarah. After her introductory speech, Ms. Sarah passed the floor to Mr. Mostafizur for a video presentation on the prospects for international students studying in Australia. Throughout his presentation, Mr. Mostafizur discussed the application procedures, academic structures, scholarship schemes, research opportunities, and post-graduation job opportunities in Australian universities. During his

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Constitutional Framework for the Accountability for Public Money



Mr. Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury, Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh, Dr. Nazneen Ahmed, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, Dr. Ishtiaque Ahmed, Chair, Department of Law, NSU, along with other distinguished speakers discussing government accountability for public money under the constitutional framework of Bangladesh.

The Department of Law hosted a webinar in association with the Lawyers & Jurists (a leading corporate law firm) and The Business Standard (a leading English daily) on November 13. Mr. Mohammad Muslim Chowdhury, Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh, spoke on the topic of government accountability for public money under the constitutional framework of Bangladesh. Mr. Mamun Rashid, Managing Partner, PWC

Bangladesh, and Dr. Nazneen Ahmed, Senior Research Fellow, Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies, also extensively discussed the impact of good governance on public money and its relationship to the national economy. Dr. Ishtiaque Ahmed, Chair, Department of Law acted as the Session Chair and Moderator of the webinar. Mr. Nazmus Sakib, Graduate Teaching Assistant at the Department of Law, coordinated the program.

NSU Students to Utilize the NSU Affiliation with the University of Portsmouth



Ms. Anna Bithiah Vaernes, International Student Adviser, University of Portsmouth, discussing the application procedures and scholarship opportunities of the University at the web seminar.

North South University's Office of External Affairs (OEA) hosted a web information session with the University of Portsmouth, UK on November 2. The guests of this session from the University of Portsmouth were Mr. Amran Mofiz, Bangladesh Regional Adviser, Ms. Anna Bithiah Vaernes, International Student Adviser, and Mr. Joe Hall, Global Engagement Officer. The main topics of the information session were the application procedure for the University of Portsmouth and the scholarship opportunities offered by the university. The interactive session was conducted through Zoom and

was shared on Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of the OEA.

The online event commenced with Mr. Amran Mofiz informing the audience briefly about educational opportunities for international students in the United Kingdom and at the University of Portsmouth. While addressing this topic, Mr. Amran mentioned that "among the top-ranking and highly-qualified universities of the UK, the University of Portsmouth is one of the best and has been one of the top choices for international students who are interested to pursue studies in the UK." Mr. Amran also mentioned the

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DEML Highlights the Prospects of Studying Abroad Cont'd...

is still a necessity. They advised prospective students to take at least a one-year break after completing their undergraduate degree to improve their profile. A good score in IELTS is a must for both admission and scholarship abroad. One of the speakers, Shahroza Nahrin, said the minimum IELTS score is 6.00 or 6.50 in Canadian Universities, but a score like 7.50 or 8.00 is much preferable.

Most students prefer the universities of Canada, the UK, and Australia for higher education. Comparing these countries, Qazi Mustabeen Noor mentioned that Canadian universities provide more scholarships than those in the UK

or Australia. Canadian universities can be easier to apply to as there are more opportunities for teaching assistantships and applicants do not need to take the GRE (Graduate Record Examination). Additionally, Canadian universities are more student-friendly and immigrant-friendly. They are also increasing the immigrant cap which means the next 2-3 years will be the right time to enter Canada.

Another important issue of living abroad is the living and food costs which worry the students a lot. Shams Rashid Tonmoy and Qazi Mustabeen Noor discussed these issues. From their experience, a student will need around \$850 per

month in Australia and around \$750 per month in Canada. So, studying in Canada is somewhat cheaper than in Australia. After making all the decisions regarding studying abroad, one must prepare all the necessary documents such as a police clearance certificate, bank statements, and medical forms. Providing a solid bank statement is very helpful to get a scholarship.

The session went tremendously. Thanks to the Department of English and Modern Languages for arranging such a helpful and informative webinar during the pandemic.

Webinar with the University of Portsmouth Cont'd...

affiliation between NSU and the University of Portsmouth. This affiliation allows the students of NSU to gain several advantages when applying to the university and while studying there. Furthermore, the university has its regional office situated in Dhanmondi, where interested students are welcome to contact at any time for application-related information, suggestions, and guidance.

In the latter part of the event, the other two representatives of the University of Portsmouth, Mr. Hall, and Ms. Vaernes, informed students about the academic structure and opportunities offered

by the university. The university offers courses and higher-studies programs in numerous subjects. The university offers sufficient opportunities for research, language programs, post-graduation job placement, and much more. The university also offers campus accommodation and transportation for the convenience of its residential students. It offers adequate scholarships for international students under different criteria and students are always welcome to apply for them. In the last portion of the event, Ms. Vaernes talked about their online classes, assessment,

and other academic procedures during the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic. She mentioned that the university has developed a separate online learning platform to run online academic procedures, and it is running all the university's academic programs smoothly so far.

Numerous students and teachers tuned into the online program to know more about the University of Portsmouth and its opportunities. Many of them asked their questions in the "comments" section of the live session.

Research and Job Opportunities for NSU Students Cont'd...

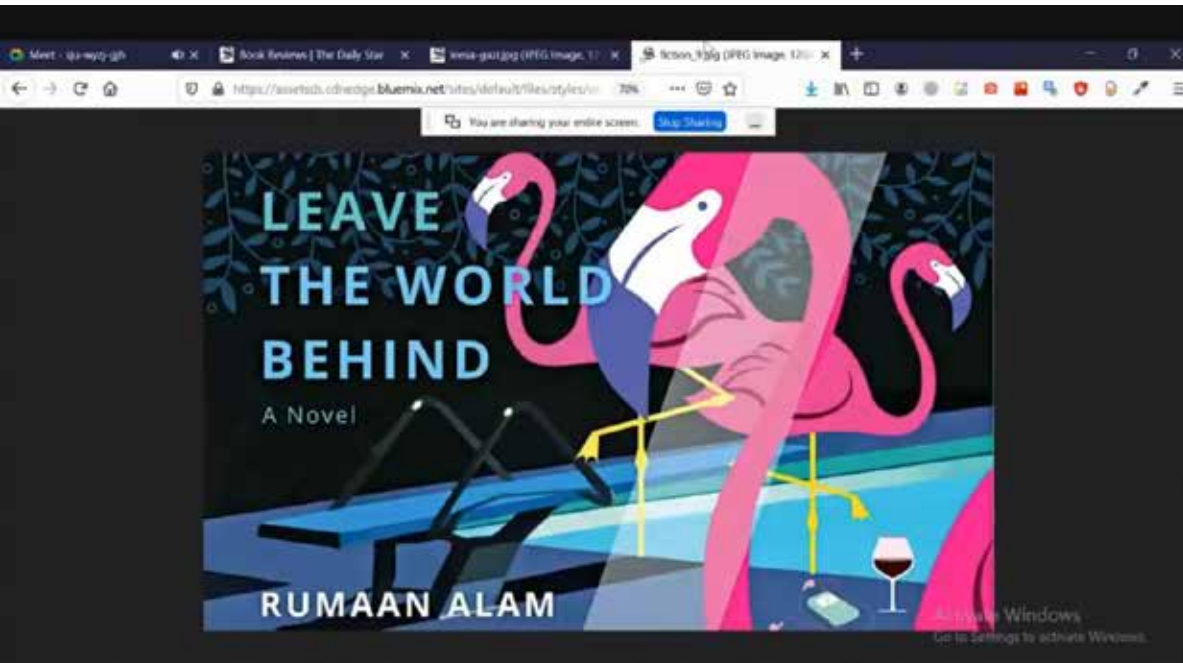
speech, Mr. Mostafizur mentioned that "Australia has one of the strongest economies of the world and the country's economic and administrative structure offers a very international student-friendly environment. This makes Australia the third most popular international student destination

in the world." Mr. Mostafizur also added that Australia has a good number of highly-ranked universities employing world-class and highly-qualified faculty members.

Both Ms. Sarah and Mr. Mostafizur encouraged students of North South University to apply for

top-ranked Australian universities for further studies. Numerous students and teachers tuned into the online program to know more about universities in Australia and the opportunities there. Many of them asked their questions in the "comments" section of the live session.

DEML Holds Book Review Webinar Cont'd...



Kazi Akib Bin Asad, Editor-in-Charge, Shout, sharing his insights regarding book reviews at the webinar.

the review must be more detailed so the readers will know what they are getting themselves into by picking up the book. The review must be written in such a manner that the readers can distinguish between the reviewer's interpretation and the actual writing of the book's author.

Sarah Anjum Bari, an NSU alumna, included that a wonderful reader is also a wonderful writer. A book review is all about the reviewer's reaction to and evaluation of the book, not a summary of the book. The readers should know how well the book has achieved its goal, what the reviewer loved about it, and what they did not. A good review should share analysis and the reviewer's perspective on different parts of the book and should highlight what resonated with them. It should be original and written in a distinctive voice.

Both speakers advised potential reviewers to share their interpretations and write in their language. The book review should include the reviewer's experience with the art created by the author. Writing is a combination of everything. A good reviewer can figure out how authors express their thoughts, ideas, feelings, and emotions through their writings. A reviewer may need to add fresh information to clarify their assessments about the book they are reviewing.

The webinar was an incredible success. The engagement between the speakers and the audience was brilliant. The Department of English and Modern Languages put on an amazing webinar that will help both new book reviewers and existing ones at North South University.

University of South Australia Offers Opportunities for NSU Students

North South University's Office of External Affairs (OEA) hosted a web information session with the University of South Australia (UniSA) on November 11. Mr. Juan Ospina Sarmiento, Manager of International Business Development, UniSA, was the main speaker at the event. Ms. Julie Fleet, Career Adviser, UniSA, and Mr. Jamil Ameen, a distinguished alumnus of both NSU and UniSA, attended the event as Guests. The interactive session was moderated by Ms. Samina Alam Miti, International Affairs Officer, OEA, and was conducted through Zoom and shared over Facebook Live from the official Facebook page of the OEA. The purpose of the seminar was to provide beneficial and relevant information to students interested in applying for and studying at the University of South Australia. Details regarding the application process, application requirements, scholarship opportunities, and advantages offered to NSU students regarding UniSA were shared with the audience.

The online session commenced with Mr. Sarmiento's thorough and informative presentation on the opportunities and programs offered by UniSA. Mr. Sarmiento said that UniSA offers numerous courses and majors in almost all fields and subjects, including Business Administration. During his presentation, he mentioned that "Under Business Administration, UniSA offers programs in Finance and Accounting, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Human Resources Management, International Business, Marketing, Tourism, and more subjects. The University of South Australia has always offered adequate opportunities and benefits

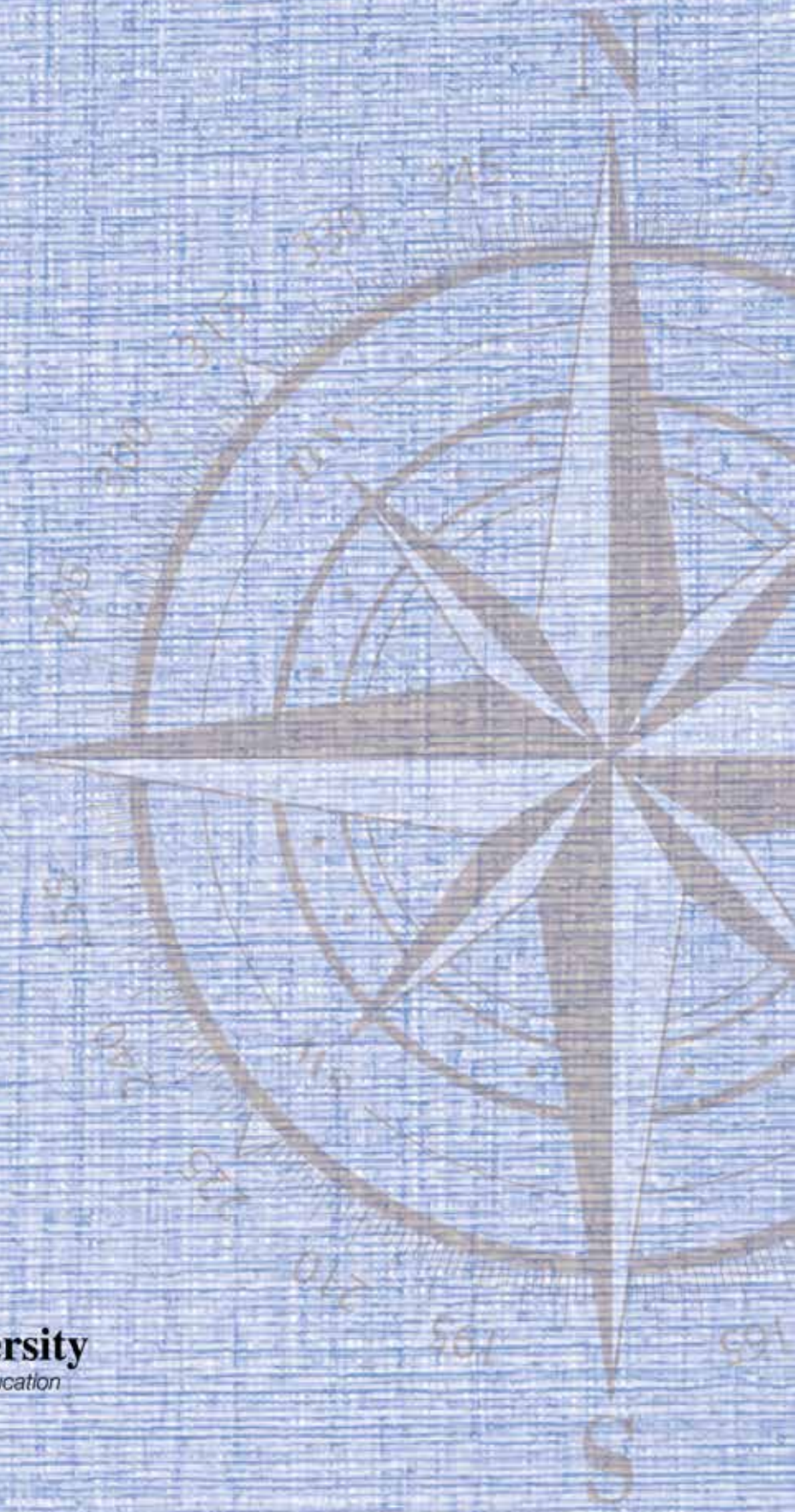
considering the needs and welfare of both local and international students." Mr. Sarmiento hopes to see more NSU students apply to UniSA soon.

In the latter portion of the online event, Ms. Fleet talked about career opportunities possible after graduation from the University of South Australia. She informed the audience about the campus placement opportunities of UniSA and how to initially succeed in the corporate world of Australia. Afterward, Mr. Jamil shared his experience of both studying at the University of South Australia and working with the university's administration. As he studied at both NSU and UniSA, Mr. Jamil also shared his observations on the academic structures of both universities. Mr. Jamil encouraged his NSU juniors to apply to the University of South Australia in the coming days and advised them to make full use of the unique opportunities offered by the university.

Numerous students and teachers tuned into the online program to learn more about the University of South Australia and its opportunities. In the last segment of the session, Ms. Samina took questions from the students in the audience.



Mr. Juan Ospina Sarmiento, Manager of International Business Development, University of South Australia, sharing the scholarship opportunities at the University with NSU students in an online informative session.



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