



BRAC UNIVERSITY

Convocation



Chancellor's Message



President
People's Republic of Bangladesh

It gives me immense pleasure to know that BRAC University is going to hold its 2nd Convocation on February 8, 2007. On the occasion of the august convocation, I congratulate all graduating students and the university authority as a whole.

Globalisation, which can be described as a state of total competition, needs competent and knowledgeable persons to face the challenges of the 21st century. Universities are the main sources of producing capable human resources. I hope, the authority of educational intuitions will put their best efforts to provide quality education for the sake of the nation.

I wish the convocation great success.

[Signature]

Professor Dr. Tajuddin Ahmed



Governing Board President's Message



President, Governing Board
BRAC University

On the auspicious occasion of BRAC University's second convocation, I would like to congratulate all the graduating students, their proud parents and the teachers and staff of the university, whose concerted efforts have brought us to the celebration of this milestone.

Only six years ago, BRAC University started with just three departments and around 80 students. Today, we are proud to say that it has grown to five undergraduate departments along with four post-graduate schools for Business, Law, Public Health and Education as well as a Centre for Governance Studies. Over 2,000 students are currently enrolled in BRAC University. This success was inevitable, as the students, teachers and staff have all worked tirelessly to make BRAC University one of the top institutions of higher learning in our country. Today's convocation is a testimony to this.

BRAC University's aim has been to bring about positive change through the creation of a center of excellence in higher education that is responsive to the evolving needs of society. Towards this goal, the university strives to not only produce educated graduates, but individuals who are committed, confident, creative and ethical.

As they leave BRAC University and begin a new phase in their lives, I am confident that, with the knowledge and experience they have gained here, our graduates will go on to provide a high measure of service to society.

I am extremely proud of each one of them and I wish them all success.

[Signature]

Fazle Hasan Abed



Vice Chancellor's Message



Vice Chancellor
BRAC University

February 8, 2007 marks an important day for us at BRAC University. This day is a celebration of success, much of which will rest on the people who make up BRAC University - students, faculty, staff, parents, governing board members, academic council, alumni and our foreign academic institutional partners.

At BRAC University we pride ourselves in providing education, which is beyond 'just academic knowledge'. We support intellectual and personal growth of students, preparing them to become transformational leaders and citizens with sound ethical sense of values.

I am happy to note that our first batch of graduates, who formally received their degrees about a year back, have already started making contributions to different sectors, which reflect positively on the image of our university.

A word of advice to the graduating class of 2007 that you have undoubtedly achieved success today, but your success will be measured by your ability to address challenges that you will face in life. Towards that end hone your problem solving skills, sharpen your enquiring mind, be a good team player and develop a positive attitude.

I am confident that you will prepare for a future of opportunities and take on a world of infinite possibilities.

[Signature]

Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury



Convocation Speaker's Message



Director, Ash Institute
Kennedy School of Government
Harvard University

I write to offer my congratulations and felicitations on your graduation from BRAC University. You are a graduate of a young University, but BRAC already has a world-wide reputation for service to humanity; and as a graduate of that great institution you are the inheritor of a proud tradition of public service and learning.

Your liberal education at BRAC University has bestowed on you the greatest gift that any one can seek - a disciplined and an enquiring mind that you can put to use in any field of human endeavor that you may choose. A disciplined mind is one that can distil information, formulate questions, sift through evidence, marshal arguments, separate the trees from the wood, organize the facts cogently, explain a phenomenon, and draw conclusions based on the evidence. It is the most valuable skill that you will ever acquire; and if you continue to nurture it well, it will remain a life long asset. Liberal education not only trains and disciplines the mind; it inculcates in you the power of rational reasoning, prepares you to become useful citizens of democratic societies and gives you the analytical tools needed for the pursuit of a profession.

The great advantage of an education that trains and disciplines the mind is that it gives you a portable skill and a capacity for life long learning. Your education has taught you to lead a life of reflection and self-examination; the space to discover yourself and to ask yourself who you are and what is important to you; it has put the fire in your belly, enabled you to find your passions and to discover what gives you a purpose in life. And most importantly it has liberated you from the existence of a robot whose mind parrots inherited wisdom and prejudices.

Your education is not only about training the mind and equipping you with skills to operate in a global society; it is also an intellectual preparation and a means to foster social and civic commitments so as to enable you to participate effectively in public life and fulfill your role as a citizen. If you can transcend the self and dedicate yourself to the service of humanity you will have upheld the highest ideals of BRAC. Destiny awaits you.

[Signature]

Professor Gowher Rizvi

Profile of Graduates

BU's first convocation took place only a year ago. Armed with the knowledge and skills gained at BU, our first batch of 115 graduates are working in multinational companies, financial institutions, software companies, telecommunications, media, advertising, non-government organizations, educational institutions, etc. We are justifiably proud of them and we expect that our second batch of graduates will follow and build on their success.

At our second convocation, 199 students are graduating in the following disciplines:

Bachelor's degrees

- Architecture
- Business Administration
- Computer Science
- Computer Science & Engineering
- Economics
- English

Master's degrees

- Business Administration
- Development Studies
- Disaster Management
- Governance & Development
- Public Health

Distinctions

Chancellor's Gold Medal

- Raisa Iffat Afsana (ECO)
- Fahim Muhammad Hasan (CSE)
- Jobair Mohammad Kaiser (MBA)

Vice Chancellor's Medal

- Chowdhury Farah Jabeen (BBA)
- Md. Tarek Habib (CS)
- Fahim Muhammad Hasan (CSE)
- Raisa Iffat Afsana (ECO)
- Jobair Mohammad Kaiser (MBA)
- Md. Quamrul Ahsan (MDS)
- Omar Farook (MDM)
- Asma Dina Ghani (MAGD)
- Nasima Selim (MPFI)

Student Activities

Students at BU participate in a thriving extracurricular arena with 22 active clubs and forums which operate under the auspices of the Student Affairs Office. Each semester kicks off with a Club Fair where all the clubs and forums set up booths showcasing their activities in order to attract new members. The clubs and forums organize seminars, workshops, study tours, film shows, cultural programs, debates, community service, sporting events, etc. They also represent BU at various inter-university and national level competitions. Faculty members play an important role in guiding club/forum activities, and the university encourages participation in extra-curricular activities in order to promote leadership, life skills, and personal development.

BU in the world

At BU, learning extends beyond the classroom. Whether it is exploring Asian architecture in China, participating in a case competition in Seattle, discovering Tagore's humanistic vision at Shantiniketan, or presenting papers at international conferences, BU students have been actively and inquisitively exploring the world beyond BU and leaving their mark on it. Study tours and field trips frequently complement classroom learning, and our students hone their skills by participating in programming contests, case competitions, design competitions, debates, etc. They have published papers in international journals and travelled as far as Canada and the Netherlands to present their research. Our students have also been selected to attend the US State Department funded South Asian Undergraduate Student Leaders Institute. BU encourages intellectual curiosity and involvement with the larger world which will prepare them to be enlightened global citizens.

Mission

To foster the national development process through the creation of a centre of excellence in higher education that is responsive to society's needs, is able to develop creative leaders and actively contributes to learning and creation of knowledge.

fostering development

Steeped in the values inherited from its parent institution, BRAC University aims to educate young people who will be creative and independent thinkers with a deep engagement with the culture and traditions of Bangladesh, a keen awareness of its problems, and the inspiration to work for its development. In their very first year, students are sensitized to these issues through two specially designed courses taken during the Residential Semester in Savar. "Bangladesh Studies" focuses directly on development issues in Bangladesh, and includes field visits to BRAC schools, micro-credit projects, and national heritage sites, so that students acquire more than merely a textbook appreciation of the topics covered. "Ethics and Culture" is another specially designed course that teaches moral and ethical values through an understanding of its philosophical background.

Even outside the classroom, many of the student clubs and forums are concerned with development-related activities and outreach. There are clubs like the BU Social Entrepreneurship Forum and the BU Social Development Forum, which are clearly concerned with social activism, but even other clubs have taken initiatives like raising funds for flood victims and collecting warm clothes for winter-affected people. Their initiative and enthusiasm in responding to the needs of the larger community we are a part of illustrates the kind of active citizenship and willingness to give back to one's community that is encouraged and inculcated by BU.

Finally, the graduate programs at BU are also geared towards providing the education and skills necessary for development work. The goal of the graduate programs like Development Studies, Governance and Development, Public Health, etc. is to train young professionals who will lead Bangladesh in its quest for development.

creative leadership

The challenges of the twenty-first century are complex and formidable, not only in Bangladesh, but in the ever-expanding global village in which we are inextricably bound. To meet those challenges, the leaders of tomorrow must be creative and dynamic, able to deal with any situation that comes their way. BU provides a 'broad-based education' where students are required to take at least a quarter of their courses outside their major field of study, so that they acquire both depth in their chosen field, as well as breadth in terms of general knowledge. This broad-based education makes students well-rounded and versatile, so that they are able to adapt to any environment.

BU emphasizes leadership skills in other ways as well. Most of the academic courses require presentations or group work. Later, in their final year, students are required to write a dissertation or do an internship, which gives them hands-on real world experience. In addition to their academic work, students are also required to participate in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, which help them to develop their communication and leadership skills. Finally, the Residential Semester gives students a unique opportunity to develop as individuals away from their home environment. Removed from the familiar bearings of home and family, students learn how to function independently, as well as how to communicate and cooperate with others. They come away from the experience more confident, independent and articulate, qualities that will hold them in good stead after they graduate from BU.

a centre of excellence

To be a centre for excellence in higher education, a university must offer academic programs that are contemporary and relevant, a top-notch faculty that can deliver high quality education, and modern facilities in line with the latest technology. The academic programs at BU are highly relevant to today's world, and particularly relevant to Bangladesh. Our graduate programs have been developed in partnership with the foremost institutions in those fields. For example, the Centre for Governance Studies has received support from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, the Institute for Development Studies at Sussex, and the London School of Economics, among others. And the School of Public Health was set up in partnership with the public health programs at Harvard, Johns Hopkins, and Columbia, among others.

Along with cutting-edge academic programs, BU strives to recruit faculty who will be able to keep pace with the latest trends in their fields. Faculty development programs are in place to help the junior faculty achieve their full potential. Last but not least, a high quality educational experience needs the support of up-to-date technology and campus facilities. BU is housed in its own buildings, and our classrooms are equipped with networked computers and multimedia. We have a growing library of more than 16,000 books and subscriptions to 20 journals and magazines. All computers on campus have access to electronic journal databases like JSTOR. We have fourteen computer labs, nine design studios, two digital labs, a CISCO lab, a language lab, physics labs, and video-conferencing facilities. Beyond that, our faculty and students also have access to the extended resources and facilities of BRAC throughout the country. And the students in our upcoming undergraduate programs in pharmacy, microbiology, and biotechnology will also have access to the laboratories of the ICDDR,B.

creation of knowledge

In the not too distant future, you might turn on your computer and be greeted by a Bangla version of Microsoft Windows. What you may not know is that the foundations of Bangla computing are being laid right here in the Centre for Research on Bangla Language Processing at BU. Similar ground-breaking research is being done by our Institute of Educational Development, a research institute whose goal is to reform primary and secondary education in Bangladesh by developing new curricula and modernizing education delivery. BU's Development Studies Program was recently selected as one of the four sites of a global research consortium called "Pathways to Gender Empowerment." And the James P. Grant School of Public Health has been pioneering a new model of public health education based on experiential learning in a rural setting where the local resources of Bangladesh become a field laboratory for teaching and research.

BU faculty members publish regularly in national and international journals, and actively contribute to scholarship in their fields. Many of our senior faculty members are recognized authorities in their respective fields. Many of our junior faculty members have won prestigious awards like the Fulbright and have left for higher studies at renowned universities abroad. Our students also get involved in faculty research projects, even co-authoring papers with faculty members, presenting their work at conferences, and publishing in academic journals, both in Bangladesh and abroad.

Institutional Partnerships

James P. Grant School of Public Health

- Carleton University (Canada)
- Harvard School of Public Health (USA)
- Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University (USA)
- George Washington University (USA)
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK)
- Mailman School of Public Health, Columbia University (USA)
- Uppsala University (Sweden)
- Karolinska Institute (Sweden)
- Umea University (Sweden)
- University of Amsterdam (Netherlands)
- ICDDR,B (Bangladesh)

Institute of Educational Development

- George Washington University (USA)
- University of Sussex (UK)
- National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration (India)

Centre for Governance Studies

- Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University (USA)
- Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University (UK)
- Key Centre, University of Griffith (Australia)
- Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore (Singapore)
- London School of Economics (UK)
- University of Bath (UK)
- University of Monash (Australia)
- University of Malaya (Malaysia)
- Institute of Social Studies (Netherlands)

BRAC Business School

- Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand)
- Ohio University College of Business (USA)

Faculty Development and Capacity Building

- Harvard University (USA)
- George Washington University (USA)
- Colorado University (USA)



BU in Brief

Undergraduate programs in Economics, Law, English, Architecture, Business Administration, Physics, Computer Science, Computer Science & Engineering, Electronics & Communication Engineering
Graduate programs in Development Studies, Public Health, Governance & Development, Business Administration, Bank Management, Disaster Management, Biotechnology, English

Undergraduate students:	2392
Graduate students:	478
Faculty members:	204

Financial aid disbursed in 2006: 3.17 crore

Residential Semester

A unique feature of BRAC University is its Residential Semester, during which students live in the fully residential Savar campus, take a specially designed set of courses, and participate in a range of activities that promote holistic development. Being placed in a microcosm away from their families and the familiarity of Dhaka city, they must learn to be disciplined, responsible, and independent. The RS courses take full advantage of the residential setting by emphasizing group-work, presentations and co-curricular activities. The Bangladesh Studies course organizes excursions to development projects and national heritage sites, the Ethics course runs workshops and practical exercises related to ethics and leadership, and the EL-Pro course organizes weekly co-curricular activities to improve communicative fluency in English.

EL-Pro

The English Language Program, or EL-Pro, is a rigorous program spread over two years designed to improve English proficiency. Every student is assessed and placed in one of 8 modules, which means that classes can address the specific needs of students at each level. The program is enriched by visiting faculty from abroad who teach courses and conduct workshops for faculty. A hallmark of EL-Pro courses is creating an enjoyable and student-centered learning environment through fun co-curricular activities like watching movies, designing wall magazines, etc. so that students remain motivated while they learn.

TLC

The Teaching and Learning Centre works to encourage and facilitate a student-centred learning environment across the departments of the university. To this end, the TLC arranges faculty workshops to improve teaching delivery, as well as special activities for students to help them examine their attitudes towards learning.

Career Services

The Career Services Office provides career counseling to students as they near the completion of their studies. In their final year, students go through a nine-week long Professional Skills Development Program which provides training that prepares them to enter the job market. The program focuses on professional conduct, report writing, presentation skills, CV/resume writing, and facing interviews. The Career Services Office also organizes networking sessions which allows senior students to mingle and network with prospective employers in a formal setting.