

# How to be an Olympian Nerd

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I imagine a disgruntled descendant of Aristotle came up with the idea of holding Olympics for nerds. He was probably sick of his muscular halfwit cousins stealing all the glory. Today, Olympiads are basically exams for students who really *really* like exams. The International Science Olympiads are annual events where the most brilliant high school students from all around the world compete to demonstrate their knowledge in various areas of science. But hold your horses – you can't just *drop by* at one of these international Olympiads. Here is how it works.

**Olympiad = Outstanding**  
Bangladesh sends teams to the International Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Astronomy, Informatics and Earth Sciences Olympiads. Consequently, we have national level Olympiads for the aforementioned. Most schools select students and provide some extra coaching to send them to the divisional rounds of these Olympiads. However, don't worry if you're a private student or your school doesn't send students to the divisional rounds, you can register online on the websites of the specific Olympiads. Once you excel in the divisional round you move on to the national round. From there, if you're one of the top scorers, you go to a training camp and then finally to the



International Olympiad. The standards of these competitions are incredibly high and you really must be well versed in your subject of choice if you want to succeed.

#### Olympiad Offers

Why go through all this trouble? It looks stunning on your university application. If you manage to snag a bronze medal or

even an honourable mention at an International Olympiad, you are almost guaranteed admission into the top notch universities from around the world. Even if you don't win anything, the experience is unforgettable. The National Olympiads are usually whole-day affairs: they're not just examinations, they're more like a festival of science. There are lectures,

discussions, Q/As, food and you can meet and mingle with likeminded science nerds. At the end of it, there might not be a wreath of olive leaves for you but I promise it'll be worth your while.

#### Overachieving Olympian

If you're determined to be the best, it's going to be a long and tedious journey. Most of the divisional rounds are already over so you can start preparing for next year. First step, go to the website of the Olympiad you want to participate in and look at the syllabus for your level (SSC/O Level or HSC/A Level). If your school has covered the syllabus, you just have to revise; otherwise you'll need to self-study. Remember, while memorising facts is important, Olympiads test your ability of analytical thinking as well. So it won't hurt to go outside the syllabus to dig a little deeper into the subject matter in order to improve your understanding. Once you've mastered the syllabus, you can practice the papers which are usually available on the website for the Olympiad. For more guidance, tips and help with your preparation you can check out [scienceolympiadsbd.blogspot.com](http://scienceolympiadsbd.blogspot.com). Lastly, keep in mind that Olympiad questions are usually multiple choice and there is negative marking; you should also time yourself while solving papers.

With the Biochemistry Olympiad coming up on March 20, it's still not too late (for the registered students) to start preparing. Good luck!

# IUB AERO FEST 2015

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Encouraging students to invest their interests in the appealing field of Aerial Robotics, School of Engineering and Computer Sciences (SECS) of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) organised "AERO Fest 2015" on March 6, 2015, at the university campus located at Bashundhara. This event, the second of its kind, called out to enthusiasts from all corners of the country to showcase their talents and test their skills in this modern technology.

The event attracted more than 80 participants from 22 organisations. During the course of this daylong event, the participants, who were divided into two categories – Rotary Wing and Fixed Wing, exhibited the creative ingenuity that they put into their projects. For a technology that only originated around five years ago, the amount of interest it generated and the number of people in Bangladesh who were eager to push it forward is astonishing. Even more appreciable, the event drew interest from a wide age range despite little to no formal training yet to be available in the country. Among a crowd of mostly undergraduates, there was Md. Fahim Hossain, a tenth grader of Uttara High School and College, one of the youngest partici-



pants. Expressing his fondness of aviation and flying machines, he said, "Flying is everyone's dream, so I came here for the experience."

In the afternoon, the participants from the "Rotary Wing" category displayed the flying qualities and capabilities of their inventions. Soon, the drones, buzzing in the large hall, captured the attention of everyone present, captivat-

ing both peers and patrons. Following that, participants from the "Fixed Wing" category showed the manoeuvrability of their machines by taxiing – moving their devices on the ground using only the machine's power and control. Each participant was carefully assessed by expert judges – including Fairus Sakib Tanzim (Lecturer, MIST), Dr. Khosru M. Salim (Associate Professor and Head, IUB) and

Dr. Mahady Hasan (Assistant Professor and Head, IUB).

The Dean of Engineering School, Dr. Ali S. Sabbir, started his speech at the closing ceremony to point out what was most evident during the event, "Nothing captures our interest more than the thought of flying." Afterward, VC of IUB, Professor M. Omar Rahman, strongly expressed his appreciation of the level of sophistication achieved by the participants despite the lack of formal instruction. He mused about how "Everything flew!" and acknowledged the drastic development of technology that was presented, saying "A few years ago it might have been out of the realms of even science fiction." Moreover, he stated that IUB, a pioneer in aerial robotics research, intends to uphold the tradition of organising AERO Fests.

The event proved to be a brilliant exhibition of both the resourcefulness of our country's fine young minds, and the curiosity generated by this ever expanding topic. It ended with a prize giving ceremony presided over by the VC. The first prize winning team of the Rotary Wing Category was A.I. Squad (Independent University Bangladesh) and the first prize winning team of the Fixed Wing Category was Flying House (United College of Aviation).