

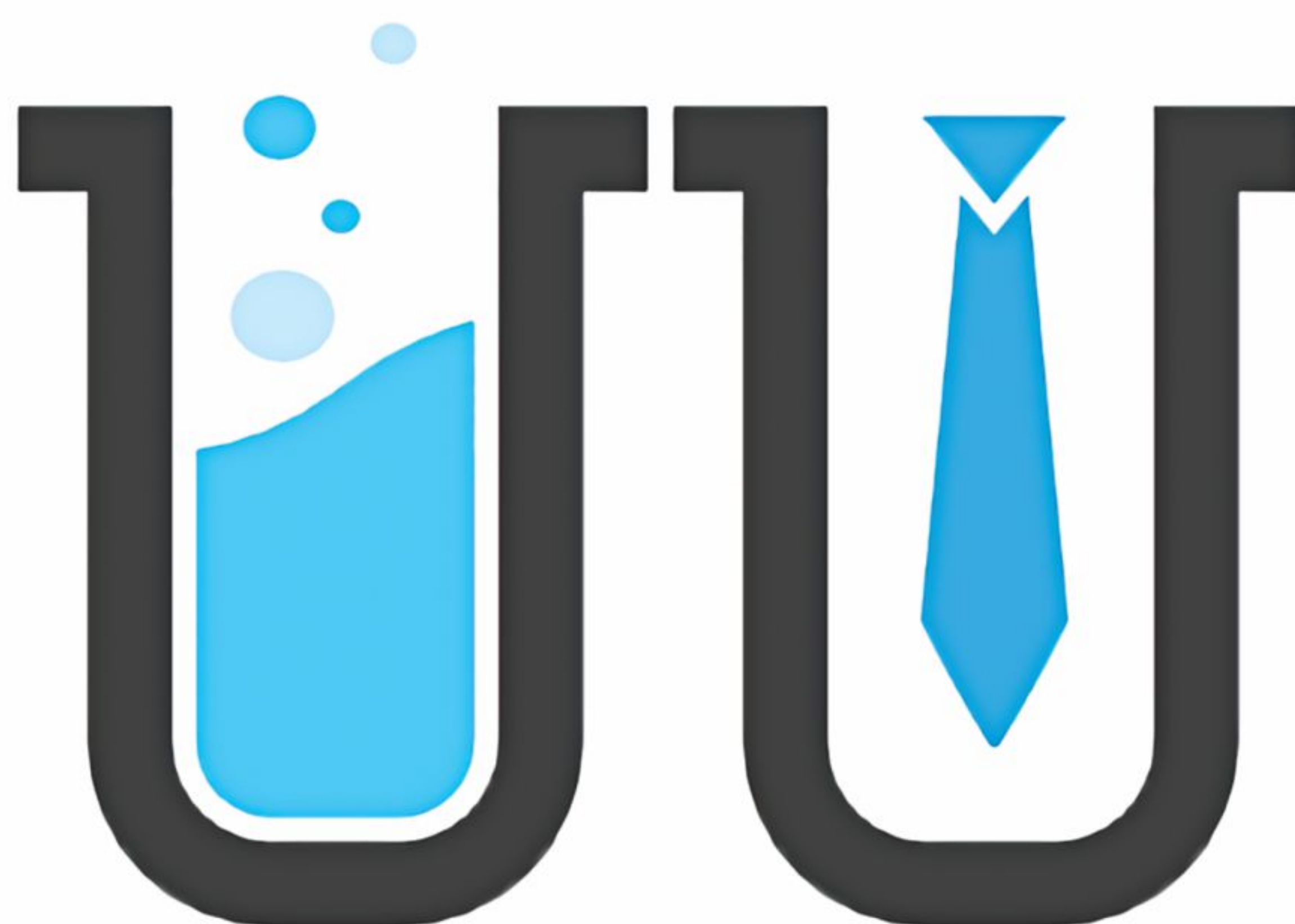
# Struggles of a combined student

MASHIYAT NAYEEM

When the time came for me to choose subjects for my O Levels, I was completely confused. Not only was I clueless about the direction I want to steer my life towards, I was also disinterested in a lot of the subjects offered. After a meticulous cost-benefit analysis and several conflicts of interest with my family, I emerged victorious, holding the selection form that was now accessorised with scribbles and a lot of strikethroughs. I had chosen to go half science and half business.

I'll have a well-rounded education, I thought. I will win at life, I thought. I don't have to think about specialising in a certain field for the next 2 years, I thought, sighing with relief. I was oblivious about the challenges that come with this path I had taken.

Of course, I cannot walk into a class or study group without being met with surprised gasps and the same old "Since when do you have [insert subject]?" Each time I wearily launch into the usual explanation about my choices. Some people are



awestruck by the diversity in my palette of subjects, while others shake their head at the lack of the term "pure science" or "pure business".

Science and business are poles apart.

They require completely different approach to studying and learning. While in Physics I was etching into my brain the formulae of electricity, I was justifying taking a risk by analysing a firm's finances

and market position in Business Studies. One approach doesn't work for the other. Every time, I needed to switch gears to progress in my classes. While this is sometimes mentally exhausting, it does help you be more analytic and efficient.

There are my business friends who fiercely shame me for knowing the molecular structure of polyethene and being ignorant of the mighty balance sheet. Then I have my science friends who roll their eyes for knowing all the types of tax but not the difference in the length of the small intestine and large intestine. Give me a break.

Needless to say, I still spin around in a whirlpool of confusion. I can branch off to a whole array of careers but the question is which options do I keep and which do I eliminate? Now that subject selection for post O Levels is fast approaching, as exciting as it is, wish me luck.

*Mashiyat Nayeem has a genuine phobia of onions and has mastered the art of scavenging for beresta in her biryani. Learn more at [mashiyat.nayeem@gmail.com](mailto:mashiyat.nayeem@gmail.com)*

## Extra-curricular activities for law students

RAIHAN RAHMAN RAFID

Tedious long classes early in the morning, clocking library hours immersed in cases and law reports, deciphering the riddles that are law books — all this comes free with infinite depression in law school. Then again, law school offers so much more. Especially since there are plenty of opportunities when it comes to extra-curricular activities. Not only do these activities round out your skill set, but they also make your CV truly shine. Here are a few suggestions you may consider the time for.

### DEBATE

Debating always comes first as an extra-curricular activity suggestion for new law students. Nothing provides a better platform to hone your analytical skills than debate. It helps you get rid of your stage fear, and most importantly debate makes you a good orator that every law students need to be.

### MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Moot court competition gives you a sneak peek into a real court room, allowing you to argue before a judge on a fact presented beforehand. It is an excellent opportunity to apply your legal knowledge and develop research skills. Mooting expands your reasoning and flourishes the speaker in you.

### WRITING

You can always pitch your opinions, breathe life into your thoughts and express yourself better through writing. There are



lot of blogs, online portals and even newspapers that publish student written articles. If you can discover the writer in you, it can always be a good extra-curricular activity for a law student.

### MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Model United Nations (MUN) has gained

quite the traction in Bangladesh in the last few years. If international affairs fascinate you, and you enjoy diplomacy then MUNs can be a good use of your time as a law student. MUNs help negotiation, analytical, and speaking skills of the participants.

### VOLUNTEERING

A law student can volunteer anywhere, starting from law firms to different kinds of organisations. Plenty of opportunities await those who want to get involved in the development sector. International NGOs and local organisations all provide volunteering, internship and other positions that a law student can consider.

### CASE SOLVING COMPETITIONS

Although generally thought to be a business students' competition, students from any background can apparently participate in some case solving competitions. The objective of such competitions is to solve a case within a time limit and present the most feasible solutions. Participation in these events can also provide valuable experience for a law student.

Being able to write and speak efficiently are the two most sought-after skills in a lawyer. Extra-curricular activities sometimes help build these professional skills that a classroom cannot always foster. But as the importance of such activities goes beyond saying, the most crucial thing is to get involved in something enjoyable that fits you. One should explore and find out what they are good at. Sticking to that one or two particular activity would help personal growth, while on the other hand, trying to do everything at once would only end in a mess.

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