



Being stuck with

the wrong major

WHY CLIMATE JOURNALISM IS VITAL FOR BANGLADESH

SKILLS NEEDED TO PURSUE A CAREER IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

ILLUSTRATION: FATIMA JAHAN ENA



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## ANIME REVIEW

# SUMMERTIME RENDER

does mystery, thriller, and time travel right

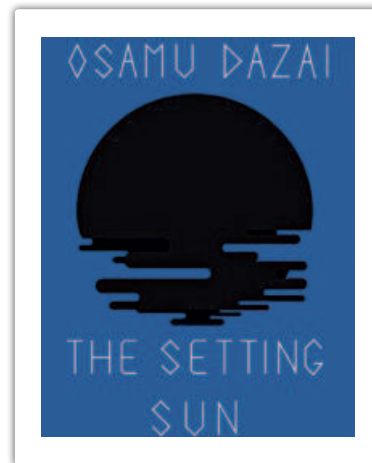
*Summertime Render* takes place on a coastal island with a small population. The main character, Shinpei, returns to his home island following the mysterious death of his foster sister, Ushio. Upon further investigation of her death, all sorts of strange incidents transpire. *Summertime Render* is a testament to good writing and solid direction. While it may not be perfect, it is an ambitious show that will keep viewers on their toes throughout its brief runtime of 25 episodes.



## BOOK REVIEW

# THE SETTING SUN

Dazai's depiction of the dusk after the end of war



*The Setting Sun* is a book of contrasting symbolisms. It draws its philosophies from the conflicting tenets of Christianity and Marxism. "Depravity" becomes another word for "love", and madness and rationality coalesce until they are one and the same. The indomitable will to survive is set against the unshakable resolve to die. The embellishment and affirmation of both are achieved with rare finesse. The book is a cynical account of decay and death but also a touching tale of vitality and life.

## OPPORTUNITIES

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## LETTER

Dear Campus,

In a world that glorifies productivity, we often overlook the benefits of healthy procrastination. Society's obsession with endless to-do lists has turned us into workaholics, but slowing down can actually boost creativity.

Structured procrastination, as advocated by John Perry in the book, *The Art of Procrastination*, can keep us focused and motivated. To distinguish between good and bad procrastination, we need to be intentional and ask if it helps recharge and refocus.

Embrace a balanced approach, and you'll be happier and more productive in the long run. So, fellow procrastinators, let's celebrate our genius and enjoy those sweet breaks!

Best,  
Ashzaheen Fatmi Khan  
High school graduate  
Maple Leaf International School

## RESPONSE

Dear Ashzaheen,

You make a wonderful point. We also agree that sometimes, people get caught up in the hustle lifestyle, and forget to take time off for themselves. You have probably heard the adage that if you don't take time off for yourself, your body will do it by force by falling ill. So yes, it is important to work hard, but we must also remember to rest as much as necessary.

Best wishes,  
Campus

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## The Student





# Why climate journalism IS VITAL FOR BANGLADESH



ILLUSTRATION: FATIMA JAHAN ENA

The Earth Journalism Network, Covering Climate Now, and the Society of Environmental Journalists are among the journalism organisations that provide valuable resources for training climate reporters. These organisations offer resource guides designed to equip climate journalists with the necessary tools to enhance their coverage.

## SOME OF THESE GUIDES INCLUDE

- Reporting from the UN Treaty COPs and Other Climate and Environmental Conferences: Tips for Journalists, from Journalists
- Reporting on Coastal Resilience: A Resource Guide for African Journalists
- How to Use Maps Effectively in Climate and Environmental Journalism

These guides serve as invaluable training materials for journalists, equipping them with essential journalism skills to tackle challenging climate stories.

### USRAAT FAHMIDAH

In recent years, the impacts of climate change have reshaped our world in countless ways. Bangladesh, a nation highly vulnerable to climate-related risks, has experienced profound disruptions to our way of life. Climate journalists report and communicate these transformative changes in our daily lives.

But what exactly does “climate journalism” mean, and what role does it play?

Climate journalists are tasked with reporting on a world where the reality of climate change is undeniable, so their work revolves around documenting the far-reaching consequences of environmental shifts and their intersection with human societies. They document a wide range of topics, including sustainability, biodiversity, natural disasters, renewable energies, environmental policies, initiatives. Their coverage spans a broad spectrum of issues related to climate change and its implications.

The field of climate journalism has seen a surge in popularity in recent years, and prominent newspapers have added a dedicated “Climate” section to their publication. This is a crucial addition for any news outlet, as climate journalists play a vital role in educating their audience about the profound impacts of climate change on our lives and what actions we can take to tackle it.

Climate journalism is not just reporting about the grim issues that we are facing daily, but also reporting on the resilient stories that can inspire people to take climate actions. One such example, covered in *The New York Times*, talks about how the government of Bangladesh is supporting the practice of floating gardens in 24 districts in order to combat the effects of climate change induced flooding.

Although Bangladeshi journalists are already on the ground covering the environmental impacts of climate change, certain challenges persist, such as limited resources, lack of training, and risks associated with reporting on climate-related issues.

In response to these challenges, newsrooms worldwide are establishing new standards and practices for covering climate change, aiming to ensure more

accurate and comprehensive documentation. Effectively communicating the complexities of climate change to the audience is crucial, and both the newsroom and the reporters bear the responsibility for achieving this.

Climate journalism plays a key role in influencing policy decisions, as policymakers rely on the information and insights provided by climate reporters. It is crucial that our climate reporting actively contributes to the development of policies aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change.

To ensure comprehensive coverage of the unfolding climate situation, it is crucial for newsrooms in Bangladesh to develop their own resource guides and

This responsibility is crucial as climate journalists play a vital role in educating their audience about the profound impacts of climate change on our lives, and what actions we can take to tackle it.

conduct training workshops for their journalists. By doing so, they will be aligning with current industry standards and practices, enabling them to effectively document the complexities of climate change in Bangladesh.

The significance of this journalism field is growing. In the next decade, climate change is going to substantially transform our lives. By delivering accurate and compelling narratives, climate journalists have the power to shape policy discussions and drive meaningful action towards climate resilience and sustainability. Their work serves as a catalyst for ensuring that policies effectively address the challenges posed by climate change.

*Usraat Fahmidah is a high school graduate.*





# Skills needed to pursue a career in Biotechnology

RAIAN ABEDIN

Biotechnology focuses on making use of research to develop new techniques to improve biological systems and fight diseases. If there's a chance you might consider a career in this field, there will be certain skills you may want to pick up along the way.

## Scientific and laboratory skills

Having a degree in fields like Biotechnology or Genetic Engineering usually means you'll be spending most of your time working in laboratories carrying out wet lab experiments, DNA sequencing, analysis, or drug design and use. Additionally, writing and reading papers are also significantly important.

Dr. Mohammed Kabir Uddin, Assistant Professor at NSU's Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, shares, "Molecular biology techniques, genetic engineering, bioprocessing and fermentation, along with expertise in biostatistics are all essential skills if you want to focus on Biotechnology. When it comes to working in labs, students should learn to think and communicate scientifically. Effective communication and collaboration are sometimes all you need to create a strong learning environment, and labs are great places to grow and learn new things."

Tahsinul Islam Aurko, a 23-year-old final-year student at NSU and an undergraduate research

Dr. Mohammed Kabir Uddin, Assistant Professor at NSU's Department of Biochemistry and Microbiology, shares his expertise, "Molecular biology techniques, genetic engineering, bioprocessing and fermentation.

trainee at ICCDDR,B, says, "Theoretical knowledge is crucial at all steps. You also need to prepare yourself by reading papers, understanding the methods, and finally the discussions. In many cases, you need to be your own teacher, asking questions every step of the way."

Many who study biotechnology pursue a life in academia. Yet for many others, they find their calling in the workplace. Regardless of the path they choose, biotechnologists can expect to spend long hours carrying out experiments and scientifically analysing problems.

## Technical and programming skills

Biology, combined with the heavy use of certain programming languages, is rapidly becoming popular in the ever-evolving technological landscape. As such, languages such as Python and R play a



crucial role in Life Sciences.

Nayara Noor, a 23-year-old Microbiology graduate from BRAC University, shares her thoughts, "Knowing about statistics and statistical methods is really important when studying biology, especially R and SPSS since those come into play a lot later down the line."

Aanushka Tupur, a 21-year-old final-year student of Bioinformatics and Biotechnology at AUW, says, "Throughout my years, I've gotten to learn that while so much of Biotechnology is based on wet lab work, there are still loads in biotechnology that require some core functionality knowledge of computer science and bioinformatics."

## Communication and teamwork

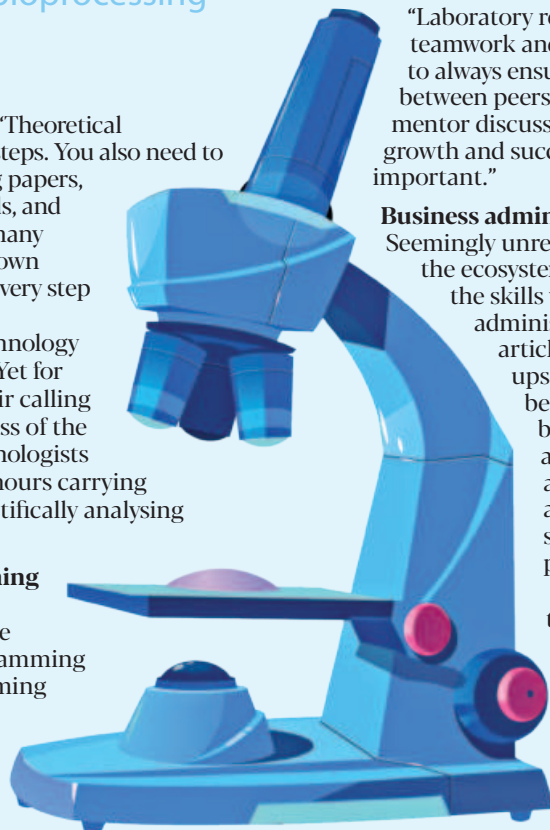
No matter where you are in Life Sciences, effective communication is key. Laboratories always work in groups, with the work being divided among scientists of different fields of interest.

Dr. Mohammed Kabir Uddin shares, "Laboratory research often involves teamwork and cooperation. My target is to always ensure effective communication between peers and then also in peer-to-mentor discussions. For research to see growth and success, this is obviously very important."

## Business administration

Seemingly unrelated, yet very much a part of the ecosystem of Biotechnology, are all the skills we associate with business administration. According to an article by Susan Froshauer, start-ups in Biotechnology might just be the next big thing. And the best way to prepare oneself as an entrepreneur is to be an intellectually honest and ambitious person with a side of networking to ensure proper growth of the business.

Froshauer adds that starting a career in Biotechnological entrepreneurship need not mean the end of research work. Many contemporary start-ups value and make room for research, as this multidisciplinary



## CAREER

### Career pathways to consider with an education in Biotechnology

#### BIONFORMATICS SPECIALIST

Bionformatic Specialists collect and study biological and biochemical data through technology. They are also responsible for creating computer databases and creating algorithms to study and manage data.



#### ENVIRONMENTAL BIOTECHNOLOGIST

Environmental biotechnology focuses on resolving environmental challenges by utilising biological processes. These challenges include reducing pollution, generation of renewable energy, and the production of biomass.



#### FOOD SCIENTIST

Food scientists and technologists use chemistry, biology, and other scientific disciplines to examine the fundamental components of food. This allows them to assess the nutritional components of different food items, discover new sources of food, and find ways to make processed food healthier.

#### GENETIC ENGINEER

Genetic engineers work with the genetics of humans, animals, and plants. They can be involved in research laboratories to develop new genetic variations of plants that yield food or serve as genetic counsellors to assist individuals affected by rare genetic disorders.

#### LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

Many biotechnologists work as lab technicians and their responsibilities include maintaining laboratory equipment, synthesising chemicals, assisting in experiments, and reporting their discoveries.



approach is essential to develop and analyse drugs. Ultimately, much of what we learn retains a level of crossover between one field and another.

#### Reference:

Froshauer, S. (2017). *Careers at biotech start-ups and in entrepreneurship*. CSH Perspectives.

Raian Abedin is a student at North South University.

## EDU GUIDE

# Being stuck with the wrong major

ARANYO RISHI CHOWDHURY AND HASIB UR RASHID IFTI

During university entrance exams in Bangladesh, the primary target for most aspirants is to get into a reputable university. The pursuit involves getting into a particular university rather than going after a major they're interested in. In many cases, students aren't accustomed to the idea of evaluating the course content before choosing the major and end up making the choice based on trends, the job market, or simply what their parents tell them to do.

However, in this day and age where information is so accessible, it might be confusing as to why choosing a university major is such a difficult task. But once we examine the sheer complexity and number of factors that influence this decision, it becomes clear.

Many young people feel that they're not ready to make a decision that's going to dictate so much of the rest of their lives.

"It is a bit unreasonable to expect seventeen-year-olds to decide upon a college degree that takes four years and a career that lasts forty," says Sarika Saiyara, an A2 level student at Academia School.

A majority of people at this young age don't get the chance to develop a passion for any field in particular. No student has the time to shadow a doctor, an engineer, or a lawyer as potential career options while also leading the pressure-filled life of a high schooler.

"My options have been narrowed down to engineering," says Ahnaf Hassan Kazi, an A2 student at SFX Greenherald School, who intends to pursue a career in STEM. "I have to choose between different kinds of engineering, but none have caught my attention as I'd hoped, and I worry I won't be able to display passion in those fields."

Even the process of narrowing down can be difficult for people who go online for help, as the barrage of information can be difficult to handle.

"The ongoing economic crisis, with declining employment rates and relative usable incomes, only

pressure better than me and I was failing to even understand many of the basic concepts, I realised I was in the wrong place," said Farhan Tahmid Ryan, a CSE undergrad at BUET.

Although this might seem like a problem exclusive to people who are uncertain about their passions, even people who know what field they're enthusiastic about have a hard time deciding their majors.

"With a dream to study something related to finance and money, I decided to pursue a career in finance-related fields," said Shaika Zaman Jeba, a student of Economics at Dhaka University. "I had to choose Economics because people said it's a flexible subject and a career related to finance would be possible. But Economics is more than just the study of money. I realised I chose the wrong major."

Upon realisation, students often have no other option but to push through until graduation, because dropping out or changing majors is often not a feasible option. However, many end up changing tracks after graduation or working on a backup career option from student life.

"I intend on changing my core in Masters," continued Zeba. "I'm fortunate that a transition from Economics to Finance is feasible. I might even get an MBA and try for public service jobs."

The majority of people haven't had the chance yet to develop a passion for any field in particular. This can be attributed to a lack of exposure to what these fields actually demand in practice.

"I tried my best to migrate to a different university abroad with a subject of my forte, even as far as trying out as a fresher over there when I was already in my third year," said Benzadid. "However, the plans didn't work out. So, I stayed back and am currently fighting for a decent CGPA that would get me a good scholarship for masters in a different subject."

On the bright side, many students succeed in finding interest in the majors they end up in.

"I had trouble adapting to the subject initially," said Rezvana Saima, a student of Political Science at Dhaka University. "However, as I explored the subject, I realised they were relevant to the past and current world events. Although some of the topics are a bit abstract and boring, there are interesting courses every semester to look forward to."

Being stuck with the wrong major is an unfortunately common experience for many students. While it's a disheartening situation for one to find themselves in, there are always many options open for young students. The trick is to evaluate one's own interests and future prospects with as much objectivity as possible, and keeping a positive mindset even if things don't seem to work out at first.

**Aranyo Rishi Chowdhury is a student of SFX Greenherald School.**

**Hasib Ur Rashid Ifti is a student at Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology.**



## What you can do if you think you're stuck with the wrong major



### CHANGE YOUR MAJOR

If your university allows it, switch to a different major. See if your already earned credits might be transferrable to a new major. If your university doesn't allow this, transferring credits to a different university may be a plausible, albeit complicated option.

### PIVOT

Graduating with a major very rarely means you have only one option leading into your professional life. Find out what alternative career paths lie ahead, and see if your learnings from the subject you have majored in may come in handy in any of these alternatives.

### DEVELOP YOUR SKILLS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

With the abundant resources available on the internet, no skill is unattainable if enough will exists in this day and age. You might be stuck with Business whereas your calling was to become a programmer, so develop programming skills on your own. You may not learn everything a Computer Science graduate knows, but you can learn a lot still.

### CONSIDER HIGHER STUDIES IN A DIFFERENT DISCIPLINE

If you are truly passionate about something, and you can prove it through your work and dedication, there is no reason for a university to say no to your desire to pursue higher studies in a discipline that you haven't graduated from.

### RE-EVALUATE YOUR PRIORITIES

If you think you're stuck with the wrong major, maybe you can seek fulfilment elsewhere, in a hobby or in an interest that you can maintain parallel to your work and studies.



PHOTOS: ORCHID CHAKMA

adds to my concerns," Ahnaf added.

However, once a decision is made, it's difficult for someone to accept the reality that the major chosen might not be suitable.

Benzadid M Gani, a student of architecture at BUET, says, "I thought I had been misled into thinking that architecture was a subject best suited for those with a talent for drawing. This is not the case because in reality, architecture calls for an understanding of how people perceive space."

"Considering how almost everyone was handling the



## NOTICE BOARD

### ACCA Bangladesh Toastmasters Club Launches, Reinforcing Communication and Leadership Skills

ACCA Bangladesh Toastmaster Club has officially been launched with the support from the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) Bangladesh. The inauguration ceremony and first meeting of the club was held at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro on July 21.

The ACCA Bangladesh Toastmaster Club aims to provide a supportive and nurturing environment for members to enhance their public speaking, presentation, and leadership abilities. By



harnessing the proven methodologies and resources of Toastmasters International, this club will serve as an exclusive platform where members can polish their communication and leadership skills, enabling them to excel in their careers and positively impact their communities.

During the inauguration ceremony, several distinguished

speakers highlighted the significance of effective communication and leadership in today's dynamic professional landscape. They emphasised how these skills can open doors to endless opportunities and enhance one's ability to create a lasting impact in both personal and professional spheres.

#### SUB's Pharmacy department develops a potential immunobooster for prevention of infectious diseases and cancers

Researchers from the Department of Pharmacy, State University of Bangladesh, led by Prof. Dr Md. Moklesur Rahman Sarker, Head of Academic & Research Affairs of the Department, has developed a novel immunobooster "Super-Boost", for the prevention of any kind of infections including COVID-19 and cancers. This project was funded by the Ministry of Education under the GARE (Grant for Advanced Research on Education) project.



### ULAB and Climate Strategies publish new research

Climate Strategies and the University of Liberal Arts Bangladesh (ULAB), in a research published on July 24, concluded that Bangladesh's climate policies must integrate Just Transitions to build resilience to increasingly severe climate hazards, boost green employment, and decrease inequality.

Just Transitions offer a sustainable solution for Bangladesh, leveraging a low-carbon economy to uplift communities, create green jobs, and include marginalized voices in decision-making. This approach can transform the ready-made garments sector, improve

conditions, aid climate adaptation for farmers, and promote inclusive education.

Shamsad Mortuza, the project lead at ULAB, explained why a Just Transitions approach will be vital, stating, "The climate crisis has already arrived in Bangladesh. Air pollution is a major health and financial problem, and the nation is facing a future of sea-level rise, increasingly powerful cyclones, floods, and more. Government ministries need to coordinate to enact a just transition to a low-carbon, climate-resilient society that leaves no one behind."



### BRAC Business School hosts 1st International Case Conference on Business and Management (ICCBM) 2023

BRAC Business School of BRAC University organised the 1st International Case Conference on Business and Management (ICCBM) 2023 on July 27.

Mohibul Hasan Chowdhury MP, the Deputy Minister of Education, inaugurated ICCBM 2023 as the Chief Guest. Tamara Hasan Abed, Chairperson, BoT, BRACU and Prof. Mahboob Rahman, Treasurer, BRACU were also present in the opening ceremony. Dr Syed Ferhat Anwar, Professor, Institute of Business Administration, Dhaka University presented the keynote speech in this conference. Dr Mohammad Mujibul Haque, Acting Dean, BRAC Business School presented the opening remarks in the inauguration event.

Mr. Atiqul Islam, the Honorable Mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), delivered his speech through a video message as the Chief Guest at the



closing ceremony, while Professor Imran Rahman, Vice-Chancellor, University of Liberal Arts, Bangladesh, Mominul Islam, Managing Director and CEO, IPDC Finance Limited, Anika Mafiz, Head of Investment Strategy and Organizational Risk Management, BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage, Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Former Governor, Bangladesh Bank and Professor, BRAC Business School were also present.

The ICCBM 2023 aimed to showcase local and international teaching case studies on business and management. These cases are designed as teaching content to empower graduates and professionals in understanding and navigating local business contexts.

## IUB organizes delightful musical evening to celebrate Rabindra-Nazrul Jayanti

A musical evening was organised at Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) on July 27 to mark the birth anniversaries of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam.

Renowned singers Adity Mohsin and Bijon Chandra Mistry performed Rabindra Sangeet and



Nazrul Geeti respectively. IUB's Kazi Nazrul Islam and Abbasuddin Ahmed Research Center (KNIAARC) and the School of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences jointly organised the event.

IUB BoT Chairman Abdul Hai Sarker and BoT Member Towhid

Samad spoke at the event.

IUB VC Prof. Tanveer Hasan, PhD, said, "It is difficult for students to develop human qualities if they do not develop an affinity with Liberal Arts and Humanities and a liking for painting, literature, music, and films."





**OPINION**  
**COMFORT, RELIABILITY, AND SAFETY, WHY PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES NEED MORE BUSES**

**ABIR HOSSAIN**

One thing I admire about my institution – Brac University – is its student transport service. I have used it a handful of times and am yet to be disappointed.

The bus fare is BDT 90 to the university from any destination and vice-versa, which is quite reasonable compared to other transportation modes. Local bus services, while cheaper, don't offer the same level of reliability, comfort, and safety. The university bus service also maintains proper timing.

Availing the services of local buses, on the other hand, is a gamble. Ride-sharing apps and CNGs, while more reliable and comfortable, are



PHOTOS:  
**ORCHID CHAKMA**

which are somewhat inconvenient for me as well as many others. The timings for students to board the bus from campus also have two timings. Introducing a couple of new timings to and from campus would've benefitted the students.

While I am pleasantly surprised by the quality of BracU's transportation services, what I am more shocked by is that not all private universities offer such a service.

Travelling in Dhaka is a harrowing experience and for students, it is no easier. Considering the sheer amount of stress most students are under, the added pressure of having to figure out how to commute to and from university sounds overwhelming. Commuting to certain areas, like Bashundhara Residential Area, is even more inconvenient. So, is the onus not on the institution to help its students overcome this hurdle?

University transport service is a great initiative for students and something that most private universities should try to implement.

*Abir Hossain is a sub-editor at Campus.*

**Travelling in Dhaka is a harrowing experience and for students, it is no easier.**

not feasible for daily use in terms of cost.

University buses are safer as well. My female friends who avail of this service also feel the same. Since the bus is not accessible to outsiders and have other female students inside, they feel safe and comfortable.

Of course, the service is far from perfect. There are too few buses not making enough trips across the routes they offer. There are two timings for students to be picked up, both of

**CAREER**

**Is MBA necessary AFTER BBA?**

**NOUSHIN NURI**

The purpose of an MBA is more than just learning. It sets one ahead in the workplace. Or does it?

It's common for business graduates to enrol in a job right after completing their BBA. Though entry level jobs do not ask for an MBA, senior positions often require further qualifications.

Mosharraf Khan Yaafi, COO at PFEC Global, says, "I did my MBA in the late 2000s. Back then, top management used to think someone needs a Masters' degree to be able to handle top tier positions."

But a lot has changed since.

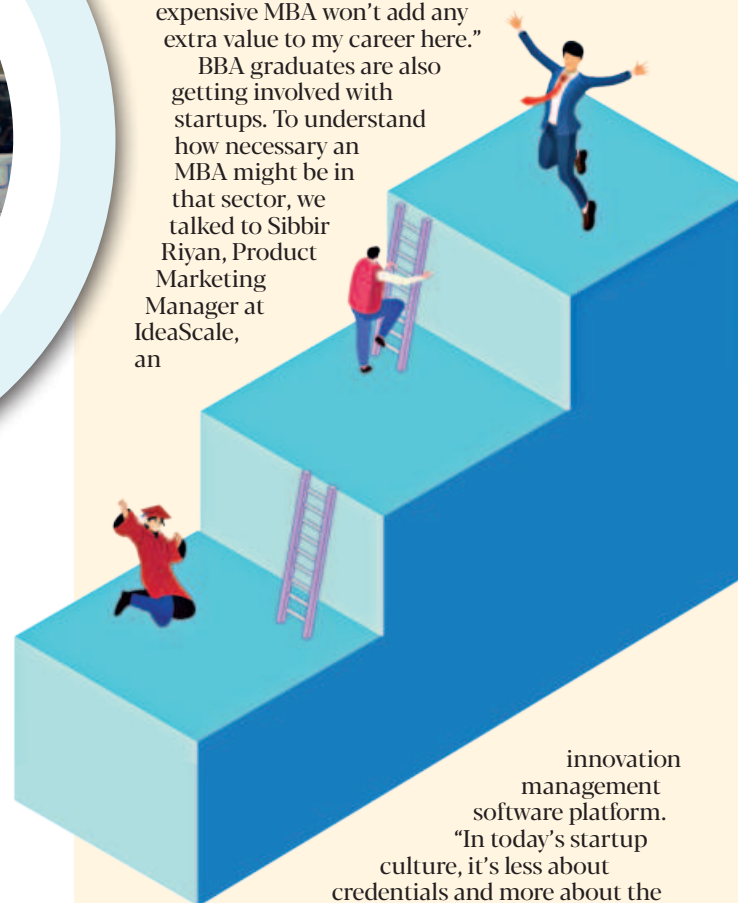
From his years of experience in the corporate sector, Yaafi tells us, "Strong analytical skills, firm decision-making capacity, sharpness, maturity, business acumen, and the ability to demonstrate knowledge and skill matter more than a postgraduate degree."

After BBA, opting for professional certifications instead of MBA is also worth considering.

Nusrat Sharmin Moutusi, Senior Finance Business Partner at Unilever, got the Associated Chartered Accountants (ACA) certification from ICAEW after her BBA.

When asked if she plans to do an MBA, she replied, "I have returned from the UK to Bangladesh to stay in the country. An expensive MBA won't add any extra value to my career here."

BBA graduates are also getting involved with startups. To understand how necessary an MBA might be in that sector, we talked to Sibbir Riyan, Product Marketing Manager at IdeaScale, an



innovation management software platform. "In today's startup culture, it's less about credentials and more about the raw display of skills and delivering successful projects," he said.

For someone wondering if they should get an MBA, the most important question is: what is the best fit for their career trajectory? The answer might be an MBA, some other professional certification, a specialised Master's or even just a BBA degree.

*Noushin Nuri is a student of the Institute of Business Administration, University of Dhaka.*



## STUDY ABROAD

# BEYOND THE USUAL: Lesser-known destinations for studying abroad

SARA KABIR

Studying abroad is something most Bangladeshi students dream of. While destinations like the United Kingdom, USA, Canada, and Australia are the more popular choices, there is a plethora of lesser-known study abroad destinations that we don't usually think about.

A major factor when it comes to picking the "perfect" university and country is the cost of tuition and accommodation.

Ahmed Labib Daiyan, a fourth-year student at the College of Asia Pacific Studies, Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University in Japan, testifies, "When looking into universities abroad, I wanted to avoid popular destinations due to the Bangladeshi saturation in those areas as well as how astronomical the costs could get. I chose Japan because it offered a couple of scholarship opportunities to explore."

"For me, Hungary was the first choice, as it offers some of the best student-friendly opportunities and has an excellent

**The Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship, which I am a recipient of, is one of the many fully-funded scholarships offered by the government for aspiring students in Hungary.**

quality of education, with a multicultural experience, and numerous part-time work opportunities. The Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship, which I am a recipient of, is one of the many fully-funded scholarships offered by the Hungarian government for aspiring students," adds Syeda Mahjabin Tabassum (Rafa), who is currently pursuing a B.Sc in Agricultural Engineering at the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences (MATE).

Moving to a new country and leaving the comfort of your home is a daunting feat – one that can be made less stressful by choosing a country closer to Bangladesh. Countries like Malaysia and Singapore provide the perfect balance of familiarity.

"My main priority was finding a university that was flexible and close to home so it would be easy to travel back and forth. Not only was Malaysia more accessible and affordable, but there was also less paperwork for the application process," shares Anika Rodoshi, who recently completed a Bachelor's degree in Professional Communication from Limkokwing University of Creative Technology, Malaysia.

On the other hand, MD. Yusha Rumman, who will be studying Chemical Engineering at Taylor's University, Malaysia from September 2023, shares, "Because I chose the Malaysian branch of Taylor's University, my tuition fees will be one-third of what it would be at the Australian branch. The plane fare is also comparatively low and since it's close to Bangladesh, my parents can visit me anytime. Malaysia is a Muslim country, so I don't have to worry about haram and halal food. But one downside is that international students aren't allowed to work part-time alongside their studies and

it's very hard to get a scholarship or other aid."

Similarly, Hadiul Islam Navid applied to the Abu Dhabi campus of New York University as they offer a full-ride scholarship with a yearly stipend, and plane tickets to visit his family three times a year. Another compelling factor was the study-away semesters at NYU's other campuses where students get the chance to study in a different country for one semester.

"The diverse community at NYUAD aligns with my aspiration to become a global leader. The prospect of socialising and competing with exceptional students from around the world filled me with excitement. It is not about the country but rather the students and the university culture," adds Navid, who is currently a third-year student majoring in Business, Organizations and Society, and minoring in Applied Math and Legal Studies at NYU Abu Dhabi.

Even within the more popular choices, there are countries that are cheaper and offer a warm atmosphere that appeal to students.

Shams Mohammed Shami, a second-year Software Development and Digital Design student at Edinburgh University shares his experience, "Even though Scotland is under the UK and follows all their rules and regulations, the situation for students is a bit better, specifically when it comes to living conditions and finding good work compared to other parts of the UK."

Beyond the popular study-abroad destinations lies a world of untapped potential waiting to be explored by students seeking a unique and transformative educational experience.

**Sara Kabir is a graduate from North South University.**



ILLUSTRATION:  
ABIR HOSSAIN

## A QUICK GUIDE TO APPLYING FOR A MASTER'S DEGREE ABROAD

Choose your destination and university based on your situation, financial capacity, subject, future job prospects, and other priorities.

Time your applications wisely. The Fall session is the most popular for international students as most funding opportunities are available during this session.

Sort out your finances. Regardless of where you apply or what kind of financial support you receive, the entire process requires a hefty amount, which includes costs for exams and application fees.

You might need to take tests like IELTS or TOEFL and GRE or GMAT. Depending on your timeline, you need to take these tests and collect the results before you can start your application.

Some documents are needed to apply for any degree, such as transcripts, original certificates, grade sheets, and a CV. You'll also need recommendation letters from your professors and/or employers.

As part of the application process, you may be required to write a Statement of Purpose (SOP), a Research Statement, or an essay on a particular topic.

After the selection, document collection and test-taking are done, it is time to apply. Make sure you have a credit card that allows payment in foreign currency to start your application.