



Is it worth getting

## A DOUBLE MAJOR?

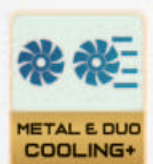
EXPLORING THE GROWING  
FIELD OF DATA SCIENCE

BEGINNER'S GUIDE  
TO EDITING YOUR CV

ILLUSTRATION: SALMAN  
SAKIB SHAHRYAR

**WALTON**  
Smart Fridge

বিশ্বের প্রথম  
**8-IN-1** কনভার্টিবল  
সাইড বাই সাইড রেফ্রিজারেটর



Globally Achieved Safety, Energy & Quality Ensuring Certificates



waltonbd.com

08000016267 (Toll Free)

For Details: 16267



## MOVIE REVIEW

# PALM SPRINGS

Forced to live the same day over and over again, Nyles and Sarah slip into a state of carefree joy as they accept their fate. Throughout the movie is sprinkled with lines on weddings and marriages that might seem cynical such as "Marriage is a seemingly bottomless pit of sorrow that makes you forget who you are".

The unique style of the film carries till the very end, where an ambiguous ending leaves viewers with a range of guesses as to the fate of the protagonists.



## ANIME REVIEW

# HORIMIYA



*Horimiya* is not your typical shoujo love story. It is straightforward with its romance without any complicated plot twists. The characters are the main focus, and their simplistic yet sweet romantic interactions make this show realistic and endearing.

## OPPORTUNITIES

### EARTH · ORG

EO Nature and Wildlife Photo Competition 2024

#### ELIGIBILITY

Explorers, adventure travellers, professional photographers, and photographers working on the front line of wildlife conservation.

Submit high-quality photographs of nature and wildlife that inspire action.

No AI-generated photographs or photographs that have been heavily edited.

Visit [earth.org/photocompetition-2024](https://earth.org/photocompetition-2024) to apply

DEADLINE: APRIL 26, 2024

HR Internship at Augmedix

#### ELIGIBILITY

Bachelor's in Business Administration with concentration in HR or Marketing.

Excellent communication and people skills.

A willingness to travel to different universities and organisations.

Understanding of Confidentiality.

Visit [jobs.lever.co/augmedix/](https://jobs.lever.co/augmedix/) to apply

DEADLINE: NOT MENTIONED

Duke UNIVERSITY

Karsh International Scholarships at Duke University

#### ELIGIBILITY

Students must be international students who are not US citizens or dual citizens of US/another country.

They must not have already obtained a B.A. or B.S. degree prior to their studies at Duke University.

They must have strong academic preparation and documented need for financial aid.

Visit [ousf.duke.edu](https://ousf.duke.edu) to apply

DEADLINE: 1 NOV 2023 / 2 JAN 2024

## LETTER

Dear Campus,

After having lived in the same country for 19 years of my life, being whisked away to Singapore with nothing but two suitcases worth of my belongings was very daunting at first. And with my exchange programs taking me to France and Sydney as well, it meant acclimatising and readjusting to a new culture every other semester. But with the help of my new friends (and my old ones through video call), I was able to make the most of my time abroad. I studied and travelled to so many different corners of the world. And while my university life is over, I hope it's only just the beginning of my life's story.

Sincerely,  
Ajrin Choudhury  
Global BBA Graduate  
ESSEC Business School

## RESPONSE

Dear Ajrin,  
Broadening your horizons during your undergraduate years can be a crucial, albeit difficult, part of the journey, especially when it involves leaving your old life behind to pursue your education abroad. It can be a lonesome journey, but having friends along the way definitely helps. We hope that your undergrad years have been rewarding while preparing you for your future.

Best of luck,  
Campus

Editor & Publisher  
Mahfuz Anam

Deputy Editor of  
Features and Head of  
Content Marketing  
Ehsanur Raza Ronny

Campus Editor  
Azmin Azran

Campus Team  
Faisal Bin Iqbal  
Syeda Afrin Tarannum  
Fatima Jahan Ena  
Abir Hossain

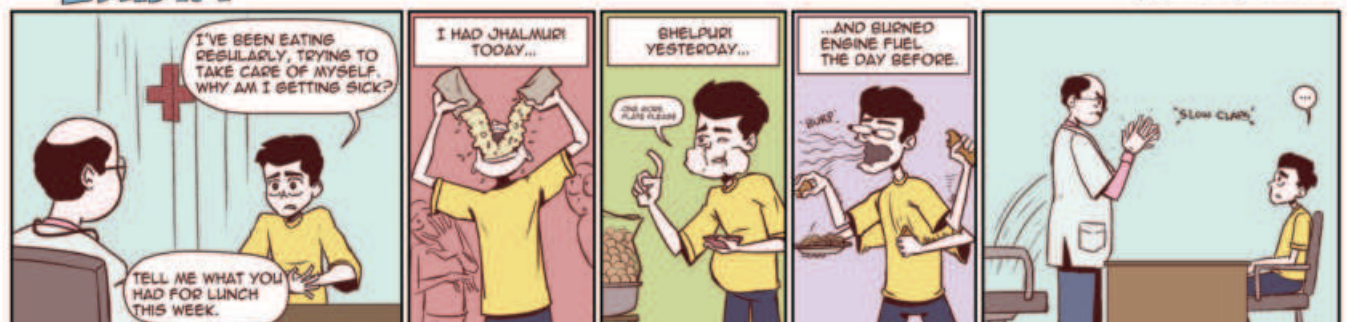
Photographer  
Orchid Chakma

Graphics & Layout  
TDS Creative Graphics

Production  
Shamim Chowdhury

Send your articles,  
feedback, and  
opinion to [campus@thedailystar.net](mailto:campus@thedailystar.net)  
Find our content online  
at [thedailystar.net/campus](http://thedailystar.net/campus)

The Student





## EDU GUIDE

# CHOOSING JOURNALISM as a Major

AZRA HUMAYRA

The process of choosing a major constitutes a challenging endeavour in its own right. Determining the subject that resonates with an individual's vision and mission frequently presents itself as a formidable undertaking. Majoring in journalism is unique due to its potential to empower individuals as informed and influential voices within a rapidly changing global media landscape. I chose to major in this subject because of its broad scope, providing insights into a wide range of themes, and the dynamic features of media.

The common question I get from my peers and relatives is, "Do you want to be a reporter?" Pursuing a bachelor's in Mass Communication and Journalism does not restrict a person to only newspaper jobs, this is a common misconception. Graduates can excel in print, internet, and broadcast media platforms as reporters, journalists, editors, and broadcasters. They can also thrive in public relations, corporate communication, and content development roles for firms and organisations. Media production, scriptwriting, documentary filmmaking, advertising, and social media management are other feasible alternatives. This adaptable degree prepares individuals for success in



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

**Choosing journalism represents a dedication to uncovering and communicating stories that change the world, making it a distinct and influential professional path.**

the fast-paced world of media and communication by providing them with excellent communication skills, critical thinking, research talents, and a comprehensive awareness of media ethics.

The variety of courses available in journalism departments is commendable. Students who have recently transferred are offered introductory courses to expose them to the world of media and communication. Private universities offer both elective and required courses, allowing students to choose their own curriculum, while public colleges have a pre-selected set of courses for their students. The fundamental principles and philosophies of

communication and journalism are covered in these courses. Each semester includes communication and journalism courses as some students prefer communication and others prefer journalism.

The curriculum of the journalism courses encompasses a comprehensive array of subjects including advanced English and Bengali writing, effective news-gathering techniques, reporting skills, meticulous editing practices, a profound understanding of media laws and ethics, page layout and composition, comprehensive insights into broadcasting, proficient video production techniques, photojournalism, specialised training in economic and business journalism, in-depth comprehension of online journalism, honing skills in broadcast presentation, and a range of other essential courses that collectively form an integral foundation for individuals aspiring to pursue a career in journalism.

Communication courses encompass a range of subjects, including but not limited to interpersonal and group communication, research methodologies, gender-focused communication, graphic communication, development communication,

strategic communication, business and corporate communication, economic communication, and a variety of other diverse courses are offered.

Additional, yet significant, courses are offered with the purpose of enhancing students' critical thinking abilities. Detailed discussions cover a range of topics, spanning from critical films to ongoing global events, aiming to maintain a strong connection with the current state of the world. Valuable insights can be gained, encompassing subjects such as the governance techniques imparted by Chanakya and Frantz Fanon's perspectives on the decolonisation of the mind. These learning opportunities are substantial and profound.

Choosing journalism represents a dedication to uncovering and communicating stories that change the world, making it a distinct and influential professional path. It is a good option if you are a risk-taker and want to have an active role as a changemaker in society.

*Azra Humayra is a third-year student at the University of Dhaka, majoring in Journalism.*





## CAREER

# Exploring the growing field of DATA SCIENCE

MASHIYAT NAYEEM

The field of data science has seen exponential growth in the last decade. Since the service industries all over the world are embracing massive volumes of data, the demand for data scientists is trickling in, and Bangladesh is no different.

Originally, data scientists were statisticians rebranded, because a strong understanding of statistics and proficiency in statistical tools and programming languages were needed for the role. However, anyone from a quantitative background will find transitioning into the role relatively easy.

For Afia Ibnath, a data scientist at SSL Wireless, it was curiosity that drove her into the field.

“I was introduced to the term ‘machine learning’ by my undergrad thesis supervisor when I was in my final year. During the pandemic, my university partnered with Coursera and offered us free access to Coursera courses. I enrolled in a course and after completing it, I got really interested in this field and started exploring further,” she says.

Although certainly useful, a background in computer science or statistics is not necessary for successfully breaking into data science. Self-learning is key here and with all the resources and certifications available online, it all boils down to dedication and a thirst for knowledge.

Tahsinul Islam, a data scientist at Pathao and a EEE graduate, got interested in the field at the very end of his university life. He recalls his path, “I took two courses related to Machine Learning and that was my only formal or university training. After graduation, I spent the next couple of months

self-learning Python and SQL and did a bunch of courses and projects from Coursera, DataCamp and other platforms. I eventually applied to a startup. Luckily, they got back to me and I passed the interview. Then I worked as an intern for 3 months till I got a permanent role there.”

Data science is quite an ambiguous field. The multitude of tasks and responsibilities that fall under the data scientist umbrella are also sometimes broken down into different related roles such as business analyst, ML engineer, and data engineer to name a few. There is no common classification structure for these roles across industries so different companies use different classifications for these roles. A data scientist at one company may be called a business analyst at another. The key is to possess common technical knowledge and acquire skills that can be transferred across roles.

While there are hundreds of degree programs, certifications, and online courses now available, no single course can equip you with all the skills that you need to have in your repertoire. Through continuous learning, university students or data science aspirants should gain a solid understanding of the following: SQL for pulling data from databases for analysis, dashboarding and data visualisation tools like Tableau or PowerBI, Google Sheets or Excel to do quick ad-hoc calculations and share small data insights, a programming language like R or Python, libraries such as pandas or Matplotlib for data manipulation and visualisation, ML algorithms, and Git for version control.

Note that this is not an exhaustive list as the

field is constantly changing. Joining a data science community like Kaggle and participating in contests are also excellent ways to put your skills to the test and level up. It is also important to develop soft skills like communication and teamwork. Developing business acumen is another plus, as data scientists are often required to share their insights and influence business decisions.

A typical workday includes several meetings with stakeholders such as business leaders, product managers and engineers to understand project requirements, discuss progress, share insights or plan ahead. The rest of the day is spent working by yourself or hopping on one-on-one calls with coworkers to collaborate or help them with other tasks. Aspiring data scientists also need to keep in mind that behind the glamour and excitement,

**“I was introduced to the term ‘machine learning’ by my undergrad thesis supervisor when I was in my final year. During the pandemic, my university partnered with Coursera and offered us free access to Coursera courses.”**



there is a huge amount of time is spent on the tedious task of data cleaning – the process of removing any corrupt or incorrect records from a data set – before any analysis can be performed.

The field is still relatively new in Bangladesh as most companies are yet to adopt a data-driven culture. Currently, companies with established data science teams are the ones that experience a huge influx of data daily, particularly telecom, mobile finance and ride-sharing companies.

“I would say, the use of data is at an all-time high, more and more companies are trying to leverage their data to improve their business processes. Over the next couple of years, I believe more data analysts, data scientists and data engineering roles will be prominent,” reflected Tahsinul.

Afia also shared similar sentiments, “Companies are recognising the value of data-driven insights and are actively seeking data scientists to help them extract actionable knowledge from their data. The startup ecosystem in Bangladesh is also expanding, and many tech companies are incorporating data science into their operations to gain a competitive edge. These companies are working on diverse projects, ranging from computer vision and natural language processing to customer behaviour analysis. So, it is reasonable to say that there will be more opportunities for data scientists in the future.”

### Reference:

Harvard Business Review (15 July, 2022). *Is Data Scientist Still the Sexiest Job of the 21st Century?*

Mashiyat Nayeem is a student of NSU.

## TOP TIPS FOR STUDENTS PURSUING A DOUBLE MAJOR

### Balance Workload

Be mindful of the workload and course difficulty when planning your semesters. Try to balance challenging courses with ones that are more manageable. Consult with academic advisors in both departments to seek advice on balancing your workload effectively.

### Plan Strategically

Before committing to a double major, research the requirements for both majors thoroughly. Understand the courses you need to take, the prerequisites, and any potential overlap between the majors.

### Prioritise Time Management

Time management is crucial when pursuing a double major. Use tools like calendars, planners, or digital apps to organise your schedule, assignment deadlines, and exam dates.

### Maintain Self-Care and Well-Being

Jumping between two majors can get difficult, but it's essential to put yourself first. Get enough sleep, eat healthy, and engage in regular physical activity.

### Stay Flexible and Open to Adjustments

While planning is important, be prepared for adjustments along the way. Some courses might not be available when you need them, or you might discover new interests that lead you to modify your plan.

## EDU GUIDE

# Is it worth getting A DOUBLE MAJOR?

NAZIFA RAIDAH

Whether you're a shell-shocked first-year student or a moderately seasoned second-year student, you might be asking yourself whether you should do a double major. In Bangladesh, only private university students get the chance to complete a dual degree owing to the open credit system.

As a double major student myself, I have mixed feelings on the issue. Completing a double major looks great on your portfolio and will impress potential employers. However, at the end of my undergrad life, I asked myself – is doing a double major justifiable?

### “Getting a double major gives you an edge for Master’s”

The answer is both “yes” and “no”, depending on the university you'll be applying to.

“In the UK, advisors won't let you do a dual major in a similar discipline. They always recommend getting complimentary degrees so that your second major adds value to your first degree. For example, a computer science degree paired with economics adds a lot of value since, fundamentally, both subjects deal with data in varying fields. But of course, having a double major gives you an edge,” said Prinon Elom, a chemical engineering major at the University of Newcastle.

On the flip side, Anuva Annanya, a Ph.D. student at the Arizona State University School of Earth and Space Exploration, said, “In my experience, it doesn't really make or break anything if you get a double major. I graduated with a double major in Geology and Anthropology in my undergrad. While applying for grad school, some universities did not care about my double major at all. I've also come across planetary scientists, coming from a pure science background, commenting on how valuable it is that I've also majored in Anthropology.”

### “It's easy to get a double major done within four years if you're determined”

The statement is an oversimplification as determination isn't the only requirement. More often than not, universities in Bangladesh are not equipped to provide students with the right ecosystem to complete a double major. Different departments have vastly different metrics under which they consider a dual major to be complete. For a student interested in a double major, the very first order of business should be to clear out the details with the academic advisor.

Secondly, if you are considering a double major, you will not have the option to take things slow if you want to finish within four years. While there will be faculty members and seniors constantly talking about the pros of a double major, as the person having to go through with it, you must practically consider if you can handle the pressure.

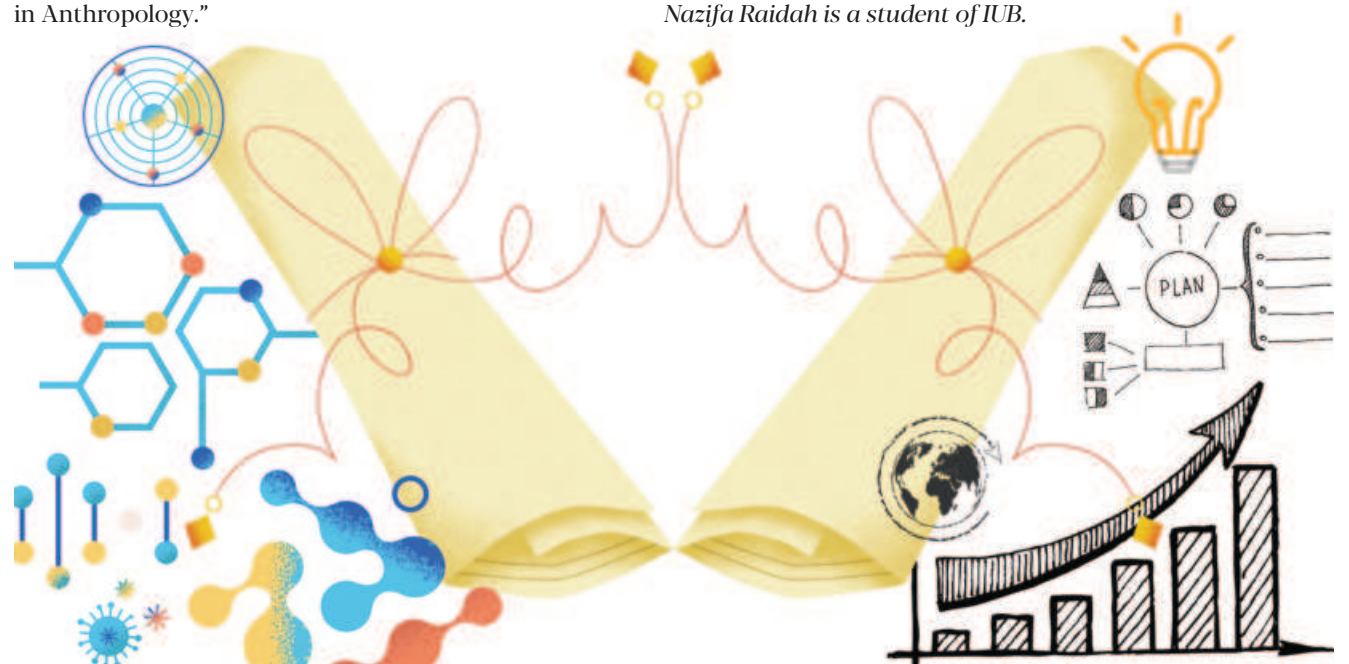
### “A double major helps you develop skillsets in two disciplines”

First of all, consider what your priorities are. If you want to get ready for graduate school as soon as possible, a double major shouldn't be your priority. Rather, focus on maintaining good grades throughout your university life and building skills in your fields of interest.

However, if you're the sort of student who needs to be held accountable, then a double major is extremely helpful since you have to constantly show up for classes and exams.

It must be said that in university, it gets tough to handle one major, let alone two. So, don't beat yourself up if you opt out of getting a second degree as there are many ways to meet the edge that your double major contemporaries have. And for those of you deciding to get a dual degree, drink loads of water and get enough sleep. You'll need it.

Nazifa Raidah is a student of IUB.





## NOTICE BOARD

# Interview with Arun Rajamani, Managing Director at Cambridge University Press and Assessment, South Asia

IRINA JAHAN

**C: In the context of early childhood education, what is your perspective on the potential impact of the Cambridge curriculum on the education sector in Bangladesh?**

**A:** The Cambridge curriculum aims to cultivate confident, curious, and knowledgeable children. It seeks to reform the early education sector by providing a strong foundation for young learners. The goal is to equip children with four key skills: critical thinking, data evaluation, decision-making, and problem-solving.

**C: Could you provide details about the inception of the Cambridge Early Years Program?**

**A:** The program was launched in 2020 in India, where a considerable amount of research and development efforts were invested to create a curriculum that would effectively cater to the needs of young learners. As we proceeded with this new system, we saw its potential to adapt to other neighbouring countries in the region where similarly many curriculums were coexisting. We, therefore, felt positively about expanding it to countries like Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

**C: How does the Cambridge Early Years Program cater to diverse learner needs?**

**A:** Our learning program is very student-centric. In this system, we carefully compile student profiles through digital assessment and test students' critical thinking abilities and capabilities through a story-based assessment approach. We also use a lot of unique learning resources and learning tools since this curriculum puts a lot of focus on non-traditional

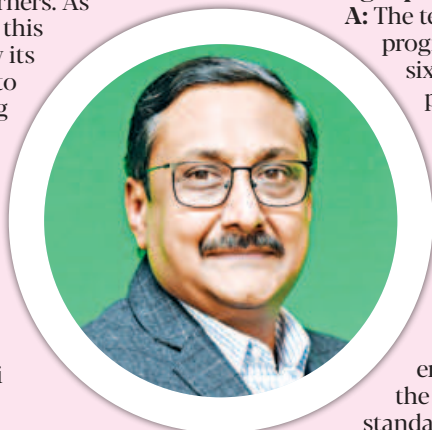
modes of assessment, teachers can identify where a student's strengths and weaknesses lie.

**C: Can you elaborate on the teacher training aspect of the program?**

**A:** The teacher's training program is a three to six-month training period where they focus on early childhood care, children's motor skills and critical thinking development. This is all followed by an assessment for the teachers to ensure they meet the curriculum's standards.

**C: Could you share an anecdote on the positive outcomes of the Cambridge Early Years in other regions it is operating in?**

**A:** The reports that we have indicated a significant positive impact. Children in the program demonstrated better adaptability to the school system which was particularly noteworthy during the early days of the pandemic when many children hadn't attended school for an extended period.



## British Council introduces first-ever GREAT Talks in Bangladesh focusing on climate change

The British Council curated the first-ever GREAT Talk sessions in Bangladesh to discuss and explore discourse aimed at tackling the pressing challenges of climate change. The GREAT Talks sessions on climate change were part of a series that started in India on August 24 and closed in Bangladesh on August 31.

GREAT Talk is a lecture series that celebrates UK professionals from diverse areas, including technology, arts, film, scientists, science communicators, environment, design and creative industries, sports, space, and politics. It is a part of the GREAT Campaign, the UK government's initiative to promote the UK internationally as a GREAT place to visit, study and do business.

In Bangladesh, the GREAT Talk sessions were held at the North South University and the British Council's auditorium in Dhaka.



## "Rise Above All" sets new heights of inspiration and empowerment at its seventh edition

The most awaited public speaking event, "Rise Above All" marked yet another successful chapter in its seventh edition. Organised by Don Sumdany Facilitation and Consultancy, the highly anticipated event took place on August 25 at KIB Complex, Krishibid Institution in Dhaka with a participation of over 3,000 people.

Berger presents Rise Above All 2023 powered by Daraz, one of the largest and most influential platforms for fostering career development and skill enhancement among students, young professionals, emerging entrepreneurs, and showcasing the extraordinary potential. This year's event featured a remarkable lineup of distinguished guest speakers, entrepreneurs, and visionaries who shared their insights and experiences, inspiring the audience to overcome challenges and seize opportunities.

Among the esteemed guest speakers were, Adil Hussain Noble, Chief Enterprise Business Officer of



Robi Axiata Limited; Rubana Haque, Vice Chancellor of Asian University for Women; Shehzad Munim, MD & CEO of British American Tobacco; Ayman Sadiq, Founder & CEO of Ten Minute School; Ali Reza Iftekhar, MD & CEO of Eastern Bank Limited; Rupali Chowdhury, MD of Berger Paints Bangladesh; Syed Iqbal Mahmud Hossain, Sales Director of Nestlé Bangladesh Limited; Sabrina Shaheed, Principal of Sir John Wilson School; Zara Mahbub, CEO of Dun & Bradstreet Data & Analytics Pvt Ltd; Nazifa Tushi, a film actress; and Rakin Absar, an online content creator.

## AWS Startup Day Bangladesh 2023 to be held on October 5 for the first time in Bangladesh

Amazon Web Services Startup Day Bangladesh 2023 is being organised for the first time in Bangladesh on October 5. The day-long program will teach hands-on how to transform a startup design into a billion-dollar company using the Amazon Web Services (AWS) platform.

This is an immersive all-day event aimed at Students, Startups and Entrepreneurs in Bangladesh who aspire to build the next billion-dollar company. It's a journey into innovation and collaboration, designed to shape the next generation of pioneering



companies. Through immersive workshops, attendees will gain practical knowledge on harnessing the AWS platform's potential for cloud-native applications, software as a service, analytics, and machine learning. This event offers the chance to connect with industry experts, foster valuable connections, and equip individuals with the tools to propel their startup to remarkable success.

All these were informed in a "Meet the Press" program organised in auditorium 71 of Daffodil Tower. Mohammad Mahdi-Uz Zaman, Leader of Amazon Web Services, Solution Architecture, Startups, Dr Mohammad Nuruzzaman, CEO, Daffodil Family, Md. Anwar Habib Kazal, Senior Assistant Director (PR) of Daffodil International University, and Md. Jahir Uddin, Managing Director, Bangladesh Venture Capital Ltd. Spoke in the program to journalists and media representatives in detail about the event.



## Beginner's guide to editing your CV

TASNIM ODRIKA

Let's start off by saying that the correct way of editing your CV is knowing that there is no single right way to do it. Instead, it's adapting your content to align with the requirements.

There are two pivotal aspects to consider when editing your CV. The first one is the content, and the second is the arrangement of the content.

Let's start by assessing what you're putting in it, then. There is no need to include every single thing you have ever done. The purpose of the CV is to showcase yourself as an individual who is a good fit for the position that you are applying to. So, if you are applying for a professional position, include information that is relevant to the skills required for the position. Similarly, if you are applying for an academic role, it is important to highlight how you excelled in the subject that you are applying for.

Now, let's do a little debunking for extra-curricular activities. Although being able to show that you have varied interests does make you an interesting candidate, it's best to not let this section take up too much space unless they are somehow directly related to your desired role.

Now that you have the content ready for your CV, you need to arrange it.

When you are arranging the content, put yourself in the mind of the recruiter or get someone you trust to read it for you. At first glance, what does the CV say about you? No recruiter will spend hours analysing a CV. If nothing stands out to them, your CV will just get lost in the pool of countless others.

Start by not having an entire paragraph worth of information about your personal and familiar details. Have your name in a large font and below, your contact information, which can include your phone, email, and LinkedIn.

This very next paragraph below your contact is going to be crucial. This is where you will put down the information that makes you the most suitable candidate for the role. It is the first thing that the recruiter will be reading about you and it will essentially decide whether they will proceed any further.

When you are putting down your professional experience, writing down the designation of the position will not suffice. Elaborate on the responsibilities by drawing parallels to the new position that you are applying for. If you don't have professional experience yet, don't fret. Put down your academic results but highlight the courses that most accurately depict what makes you a good fit.

Tasnim Odrika is a drug development analyst at Renata Limited.

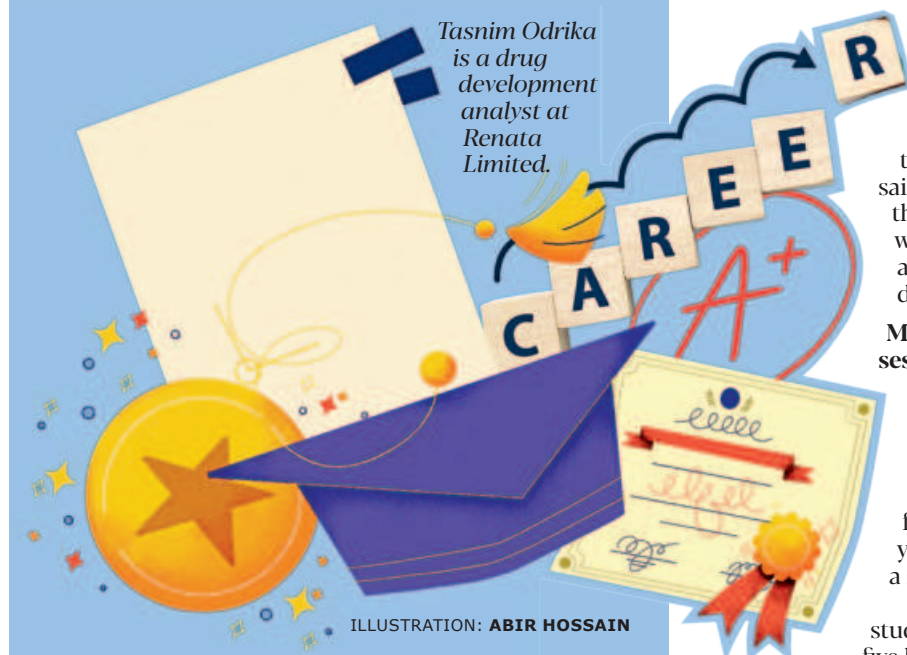


ILLUSTRATION: ABIR HOSSAIN



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

### CAMPUS LIFE

## Three tips for an effective

# GROUP STUDY SESSION

FAISAL BIN IQBAL

The idea behind group study sessions always seems quite interesting in theory. However, it is only when you try to make the most of these sessions that you begin to realise that it's easier said than done. So, how exactly do you make a group study session effective?

### Keep the group small

The smaller your study group, the less chaotic it's likely to get. Don't just have your friends or acquaintances over simply because they want to join. Make sure they can at least contribute in one manner or another.

Of course, there will always be those friends who might not know anything about the course or lesson at all. In such circumstances, make sure that they try their best to understand said course or lesson before joining the session. That way, they'll know what you or others in the group are talking about during the discussions.

### Meet regularly and keep the sessions short

The American Psychological Association reports that if you have to study something for 12 hours, do it in segments of three hours each week over a period of four weeks. What it means is that you shouldn't cram everything into a single study session.

The same goes for your group study. Instead of studying for four or five hours at a stretch, you can instead

study two hours a day and meet up twice or thrice a week.

Short study sessions ensure better focus. Meeting regularly will help you cover all the topics or subjects in an optimal manner.

### Prepare an agenda and ask group members to come prepared

As discussed in an earlier point, everyone participating in the group study should try to contribute in one form or another. For instance, if you're studying Calculus, one or two members could help the others understand Integral Calculus while another member can help the group with Differential Calculus.

**The American Psychological Association reports that if you have to study something for 12 hours, do it in segments of three hours each week over a period of four weeks.**

You can also decide on an agenda, like a set of problems or a common topic that you're all struggling with, and then hold the group session to discuss that particular topic.

However, even in this case, everyone should come prepared by trying their best to understand said topic or problem. Only then will the discussion be fruitful as everyone can share their insights and what they have understood.

Faisal Bin Iqbal is a sub-editor at Campus.



## STUDY ABROAD

# Things to know if you want to

# STUDY BUSINESS ABROAD

TAASEEN MOHAMMED ISLAM

If you're a BBA student fresh out of university, or a jobholder feeling like you've reached a career ceiling, an MBA feels like a natural career progression. While there are excellent local MBA programs to enrol in, more and more students are opting to study abroad. While applying abroad seems like a long and strenuous process, it isn't that difficult in reality, keeping a couple of things in mind.

### Decide whether you want an MBA or a Master's in Business

The terms "Master of Business," and "MBA" are often used interchangeably, but they aren't the same thing. So, what's the main difference between an MBA and a Master's degree in Business? The main differentiator is that an MBA is done in general business administration, while a Master's degree in Business is more concentrated on a specific academic field. Secondly, an MBA caters to working professionals, aiming to elevate their position in the corporate workplace, whilst a Master's degree is geared toward individuals inclined towards academics or research. Therefore, it's important to consider your long-term personal and career goals and find the best fit before applying to a program.

### Do your research

When considering studying abroad, the usual American, Canadian, Australian, and British options come to mind first. However, there's a lot more the world has to offer. From Scandinavia to Singapore, there are plenty of excellent schools and programs to consider. Before applying, it's ideal to do your homework on the country you're aiming for and consider if it's a good fit for you, culturally and financially speaking. It's beneficial to know about the costs of living, as well as Visa and work permit laws.

After deciding on where you want to pursue your higher studies, it's important to create a list of schools or programs that appeal to and interest you. After that, consider investing time in researching your list of schools. Consider everything from location, ranking, scholarship opportunities, and acceptance rate to research endowments and average cost of attendance. Also keep application

deadlines in mind when setting out to apply, as most intakes happen bi-annually in Winter and Fall. If self-research feels too complicated for you, be on the lookout for educational fairs, information sessions, or enlist the help of a study abroad consultant for a smoother experience.

### Know the degree requirements

Start researching the program requirements once you've settled on a country and institute. Most university websites will have class profiles with information on their degree attendees and their stats, which can give you an idea of the required undergraduate CGPA, work experience, ECAs, and standardised test scores for enrolling in your chosen program. Knowing the degree requirements can give you an idea of how you compare to an enrolled student and can help you gauge your chances of acceptance. Furthermore, it's better to ensure that you meet the universities' required criteria and don't waste time, money, and energy on an otherwise lost cause.

### Know what documents you need

Similar to undergraduate admissions, higher degree applications require numerous academic, financial, and legal documents. While specific requirements are school-specific, all degrees will ask for your undergraduate transcripts, and some institutes may even ask for your high school transcripts. Similarly, all programs will require a Statement of Purpose, which is a personal statement outlining your motivation and expected outcomes for pursuing a higher degree.

Depending on the program you choose, you may need to provide your GMAT or GRE scores and answer a couple of essay questions similar to an

undergrad application essay.

Additionally, you may need to provide your resume, as well as two to three letters of recommendation from

academic or professional contacts. As non-native English speakers, it's also important to submit your English language Proficiency scores, whether it be IELTS, TOEFL, or even Duolingo.

As for financial documents, you may need to submit bank statements, affidavits of financial support, and income tax returns to your prospective institute. Some of the legal paperwork that you'll need obviously include your passport and birth certificate, as well as paperwork related to your institute and country. Many of these documents can

**After deciding on where you want to pursue your higher studies, it's important to create a list of schools or programs that appeal to and interest you. After that, consider investing time in researching your list of schools.**

be difficult to obtain, so it's best to have essential documentation on hand by the time application windows start opening.

Pursuing a business degree abroad can be an enriching and transformative experience, opening doors to career and personal growth opportunities. While the process may seem intimidating at first, as long as you have your priorities clearly set, and your research properly done, you can expect a smooth sailing moving forward.

*Taaseen Mohammed Islam is a student at NSU.*

ILLUSTRATION: FAISAL BIN IQBAL