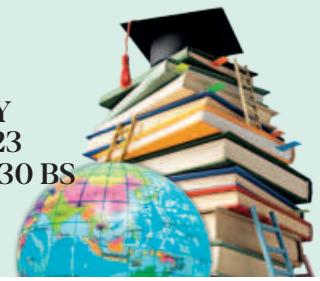


# PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES PAVING THE PATH for the BANGLADESHI YOUTH

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## WALK THE TALK

In conversation with leaders of private university education in Bangladesh



**Prof. Dr Abdur Rab**  
Vice Chancellor,  
International  
University of Business  
Agriculture and  
Technology (IUBAT)

International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT), established in 1991 by noted academician Dr M Alimullah Miyan, is the first non-government university in Bangladesh.

Aiming to produce at least one professional graduate from each village or ward under the theme of "education for every qualified person", IUBAT has been providing financial support to meritorious students in need of financial assistance. So far, IUBAT has students and graduates from all 64 Districts and from 540 out of 550 upazilas in Bangladesh.

IUBAT is the ideal choice for graduates because of its forward-thinking approach to education. Our curriculum is designed to be relevant to the current and future job market, keeping in view the fourth and fifth industrial revolutions. Our emphasis on practical, hands-on, experiential, and ethical learning and close industry connections sets us apart, providing our students with a competitive edge.

IUBAT has achieved an outstanding position of 1,411 in the prestigious QS World University Rankings 2024 and 511-600 in the QS Asia Rankings 2024. In the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2022, IUBAT was ranked in the 601-800 position, which evaluates universities' contributions to the SDGs.

Through partnerships with global institutions, exchange programmes, and a culturally diverse student body, we prepare students for success in a globalised world. IUBAT has memoranda of understanding with 113 higher education and professional institutions across Europe, North America, Australia, Asia, and Africa for student and faculty exchange, joint research, credit transfer, higher studies, and internships. At present, about 100 international students are studying at IUBAT.



**Prof. Dr Qumrul Ahsan**  
Vice Chancellor,  
University of Asia  
Pacific (UAP)

The university is maturing as we strive to establish its strong reputation. We have been listed in the QS World Rankings. Professors from Bangladesh and abroad have formed an international advisory group to provide us with guidance on how to advance our university. To obtain approval to offer PhD education, we are now trying to improve our research sector.

Our goal is to draw students with our varied and recognised programmes. For example, our Civil Engineering programme has accreditation. Our pharmacy department has achieved the best employment rate and is nationally acclaimed and accredited. The Bangladesh Bar Council also recognises programmes offered by the Department of Law and Human Rights.

We concentrate on enhancing our student's soft skills. Our programmes are designed to assist students in developing their critical thinking skills. For fourth-year students, we provide research projects along with internship and job placement services. We inked memorandums of understanding with several organisations to improve our students' careers and academic paths.

We are improving the quality of education by implementing the Education 4.0 approach. With over 50 clubs, we provide an extensive range of co-curricular and extracurricular activities. We provide excellent career advice, including job fairs and student walk-in interviews.

Mental health counselling is the most important service we offer in this fast-paced setting. Students choose to use this facility, and we maintain records of each student's progress.

We work to ensure that students have an easy transition from high school to college. We also make sure that there isn't any gender inequality within our institution.



**Prof. Dr  
Chowdhury  
Mofizur  
Rahman**  
Vice Chancellor,  
State University  
Bangladesh (SUB)

Our long-term goals are broad and challenging, with the goal of becoming one of Bangladesh's top private universities. This aim includes raising the social perception index in addition to becoming recognised in global indices like QS and THE.

Ensuring that our graduates are employable and highly sought after is a major goal of closing the industry-academia divide. Our goal is to produce graduates who can quickly pick things up, are behaviourally flexible, and are cognitively resilient in order to meet the demands of the fourth industrial revolution. We want to prepare our graduates for export to nations with negative population growth, where there is a great need for educated, technically proficient youth.

We have critically scrutinised the knowledge gap between leaving students and the ideal background knowledge students need to start university-level education. In our country, this knowledge gap is high at times. The teaching-learning process experienced by our students in high schools and colleges is not always suitable for university-level education. These factors put our students into big challenges when they start university-level education, and cause a large percentage of dropouts. We are trying to address this gap for a smooth transition to tertiary-level education.

We engage faculty members as mentors for our students. We also engage the students in different extracurricular and co-curricular activities, leading to a unique campus life experience. As an education provider, the end result we want to see in our students is that they have acquired skills in communication, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration.



**Prof. Dr Md.  
Abul Kashem  
Mia**  
Vice Chancellor,  
United International  
University (UIU)

United International University (UIU), started its journey in 2003 under the patronage of United Group with only 76 students. UIU's vision is to become a centre of excellence in teaching and research in the entire South Asian region. The UIU campus has a large playground on 18 acres of land with lush green open spaces for outdoor recreation. It has the largest green campus in Dhaka city.

UIU has been striving to improve the quality of higher education in the country in a different way and at a unique level. UIU has been consistently ranked as one of the top private universities in Bangladesh in the QS Asia University Rankings from 2019 to 2023. UIU ranked third among private universities and fifth among all universities in Bangladesh in the QS World University Rankings 2024.

There are more than 100 international-quality multimedia, air-conditioned smart classrooms. UIU has more than 45 labs for different departments. The syllabus for all our subjects is prepared timely and modified according to industry needs. On the curriculum committee, representatives from the respective industries always give their valuable input and suggestions.

Maintaining transparency, accountability, and integrity in the overall activities of UIU is a unique feature of this university. The biggest thing is the quality of education at the university. We are always striving to satisfy the students through the teaching and sincere efforts of skilled and experienced teachers. In this way, we want to move forward and take a position among the top universities in the South Asia region.

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