



Pursuing an undergraduate degree

in

JAPAN



ILLUSTRATION: OISHIK JAWAD

OISHIK '24

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TV SERIES

MASTERS OF THE AIR

An intimate portrayal of America's aerial warfare on Europe



INQIAD BIN ALI

Chronicling the daring raids of the 100th Bomb Group over Germany and North Africa during World War II along with portraying the infamously heavy losses the squadrons incurred, viewers were treated to a deeply fascinating and engaging storyline. Told

through the eyes of three pilots – Majors Gale 'Buck' Cleven, John 'Bucky' Egan, and Robert 'Rosie' Rosenthal – supported by occasional narration by navigator Major Harry Crosby, *Masters of the Air* presented a rich, multi-layered story. From the pilots' training in Texas, to their lives in the frontlines and later in German prisoner-of-war camps, everything

was represented in detail.

Its storytelling transcended beyond the well-crafted battle sequences. *Masters of the Air* also portrayed the change in social dynamics between the aviators where their strong sense of community withers due to the mounting losses.

The depth of the production crew's attention-to-detail was further underlined by how accurate the props were. The set and prop designs for the group's base in Norwich, East Anglia, the B-17 Flying Fortresses' liveries, and the aviators' uniforms, was depicted with precision. Similarly, the aerial battle scenes turned out to be intense. Of course, none of this would have been possible without the actors. The cast carried out their roles to perfection. Callum Turner and Austin Butler deserve their flowers for their portrayals of Egan and Cleven respectively. The rawness of their emotions, combined with the rugged, nonchalant confidence of an aviator added a new dimension to their characters, and on-screen friendship. All in all, *Masters of the Air* has everything. Much like its predecessors *Band of Brothers* and *Pacific*, *Masters of the Air* has etched its place in contemporary warfare lore.

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■ OFF CAMPUS ■

3 things to make your student life easier IN NORTH AMERICA

PUJA SARKAR

When you're planning to study abroad, you're not only venturing out into the western world of higher studies but also opting in for a new lifestyle. You'll already have a lot to deal with adjusting and assimilating. While in places like America and Canada, people tend to be quite friendly and will help you out where they can (this also depends on luck), sometimes you do feel like a burden on others. At times, you'll be left to figure things out and you might find yourself at a loss. So, here are three things that you should make time for while you're still in the country and in preparing for your trip.

Learn to drive

Everyone says this but I cannot emphasise how important and life-saving this skill is in countries like America. Public transport is either a hit or miss depending on which state you end up in. For instance, in New York City, public transport is cheap and always available but you'll need to gear up with self-defence tools. On the other hand, in upstate New York, which is more on the rural side, you'll never find an Uber after 5 PM, let alone a reliable bus schedule.

To emphasise this skill more, let me tell you about a time I found myself stranded on the highway. When I first got here, I told myself, "Hey, who needs a car? I'll just walk," and walking I did, for forty minutes to a place I was hoping to rent until I found myself stuck at the intersection of the 9G highway. This highway isn't the safest for walking with fast cars driving and no zebra crossing available, let alone pavements. The next thing I knew I was in a random stranger's car who offered to drive me to where I had to go. Let's just say that's how you make it the next day's newspaper headlines but

at that point I had nothing to lose. The trip back was very reminiscent of *King Lear* – stuck in the rain and attempting to walk back until I caved and requested a mate from my programme to come and get me.

All this could have been avoided if I knew how to drive. While getting a car might be tricky, you can always rent cars for when you do need to travel a little far. You could also loan a car from a dealership. While your university might have shuttles, the timings might cause issues. It is likely that the shuttle might not be running whenever you need it,

crucial safety asset to have access to. Endorsing your bank account, so that you have access to funds in Bangladesh when in the States (or somewhere else), can make your life easier.

Student employment comes with a bounty of restrictions and regulations, all of which can make earning here challenging. While it may not make a significant difference, but having a safety fund to fall back on can prove to be useful in dire times.

Invest in suitable

winter clothing

You might think that going to Bongo Bazar and buying winter jackets will be a worthwhile investment

and save you a ton of money. While it may save you money, it probably won't save you from the bone-breaking, spine-crippling cold.

The winter clothes abroad are made to cater to their cold weather and the coats can act as a snow coat, raincoat and windbreaker simultaneously. Speaking for myself, I brought two bags filled with sweaters and jackets. To my pleasant surprise, those are all my summer clothes now.

Bangladeshi winters are equivalent to summer in most North American regions. So, pre-plan a budget to invest in one or two winter coats and/or jackets when you get here.

These are a few things that I've flagged

from my own experiences that would've made my life easier in America. However, wherever you go, talk to people who are already there or have visited the place. Look up Reddit threads and YouTube videos for more information. In the long run or when you're dealing with heavy coursework, these things make your life a whole lot easier.



ILLUSTRATION: FATIMA JAHAN ENA

so you might have to start heading to class two hours earlier to avoid being late. In short, learning how to drive is an essential time-saving skill when living abroad.

Endorse your bank account

If you've been working prior to your departure, you likely have a bank account in Bangladesh. This is a



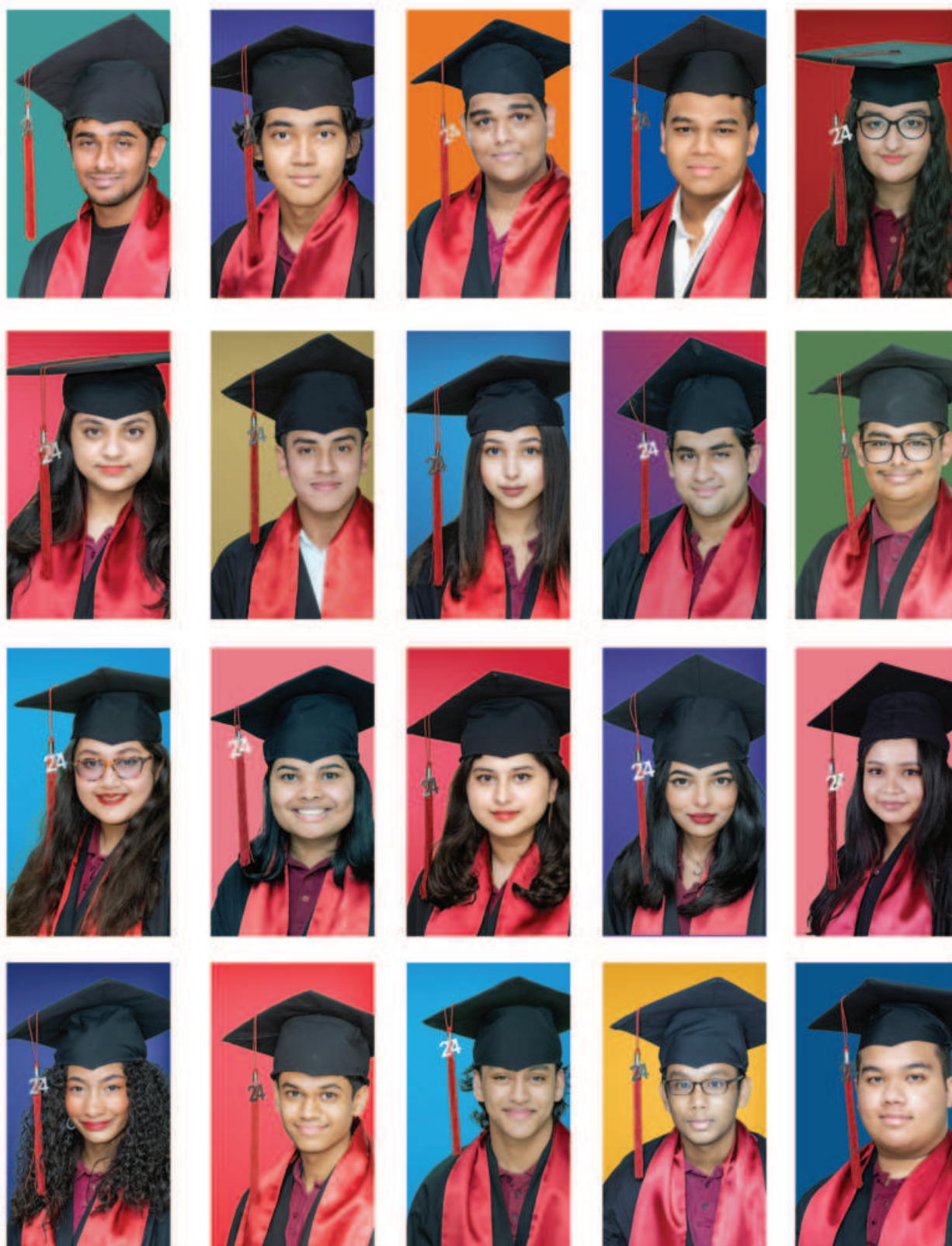
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CLASS F 2024





"I am incredibly proud of the achievement of the graduating Class of 2024. Our diverse group of learners have used their talents and followed their passions to secure places at top colleges around the world. Their experience at ISD has clearly borne success and reinforces our strength as a school that prepares students for academic success and global citizenship. At ISD we are keen to be the bridge between the brightest minds of the country and a world class education. This is why we have introduced a new scholarship program for the best students to access this possibility in our vision of academic excellence and opportunity."

Steve Calland-Scoble
Director, International School Dhaka



"I'm really excited for the next few years in HKBU. I've never been to East Asia, so there's many things for me to explore upon my arrival. I chose to major in Social Work because I've always wanted to help ease the load on the shoulders of the people around me."

"Be it emotional distress or social inequalities, social workers are at the disposition of everyone; I think that is beautiful. I've worked hard to get good grades and get into a good university with financial aid, which resulted in me being the Valedictorian of ISD's class of 2024."

Marcelle Karina Lamarche Valenzuela
Valedictorian, Class of 2024

NOTICE BOARD

Freshman student orientation for Summer 2023-24 at AIUB

American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB) conducted its freshman student orientation on June 1 as a formal induction for all the newly enrolled students of the upcoming semester. The sessions were organised separately for undergraduate and graduate programmes across the four faculties. Representatives from the Office of Student Affairs (OSA) provided the new students with essential information regarding the various policies, services, and regulations of the university. They also outlined the procedures for effectively utilising the university's resources and tools to support their academic journey.

Ishtiaque Abedin, Founder Member and Chairman of the AIUB Board of Trustees, graced the session as the Chief Guest. In his address, he warmly welcomed the students and their



guardians, expressing gratitude for their enthusiastic participation.

The event was also enlightened by the presence of Professor Dr Saiful Islam, the Vice Chancellor of AIUB, who inspired the new students with his words of wisdom.

The Pro-Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Proctor, Deans, and Heads of Departments of the university shared their experiences and guidance with the students, to help them transition smoothly. The event featured the distinguished presence of numerous faculty members, key officials, volunteers, and of course the students and their guardians.

The AIUB Performing Arts Club (APAC) added to the vibrant atmosphere with their amazing musical performances, welcoming the freshmen onboard in their new endeavour.

SMU holds inter-university Chinese language bridge contest

"The Chinese Language Bridge Competition can bring the two peoples of Bangladesh and China closer together and contribute as a language bridge to boost bilateral cooperation," said Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen. He also emphasised the need to build a Chinese-speaking Bangladeshi youth group, so that they can act as China's window to Bangladesh and Bangladesh's window to China.

Ambassador Yao said this in his address as the Chief Guest at a lively event titled "The 23rd Chinese Language Bridge – Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students, Bangladesh Qualifier Round" held at the BCS Administration Academy Auditorium in Dhaka. Shanto-Mariam-Honghe Confucius Classroom organised the Chinese Language Bridge under the joint auspices of the Chinese Embassy in Bangladesh and the Center for Languages Exchange and Education of the Chinese Ministry of Education. The Bangladesh preliminary of the event was co-organised by the Confucius Institutes at Dhaka University and North South University, and the China Power Construction Corporation.

Shanto-Mariam University Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr Md Shah-E-Alam; Rector of BCS Administration Academy Dr Md Omar Faruque; Cultural Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy Li Shaopeng; Power China representative Han Kun; Dhaka Bureau Chiefs of China Media Group and Xinhua News, and Bangladeshi and Chinese faculty representatives from Dhaka University, North South University, and Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology were present at the event among others.

In the welcome speech, Prof. Shah-E-Alam said that the future of Bangladesh-China

relations will be accelerated by the youths of both the countries practicing their own languages. The development of the bilateral relations requires increasing number of Bangladeshi youths being good at Chinese and understanding of China. He expressed the hope that the "Chinese Bridge" can continue to be a bridge of friendship, communication, and cooperation between the two peoples.

The Rector (Secretary) of BCS Administration Academy said in his speech that Padma Bridge, Karnaphuli Tunnel, Payra Power Plant, and other milestone mega projects have been completed in Bangladesh with the direct cooperation of China. Chinese language education is very important to enhance cooperation and exchanges in multifaceted sectors including education, technology and training between the two countries, and Chinese language training courses have recently been launched at the academy as well.

Bushra Mebasswera Mahmud won the title in a fierce competition. Shan Jaareen was second and Aminatun Tayyiba was third. The champion of the Bangladesh phase will later travel to China for the international trophy and the second prize winner will be there as a spectator. Apart from this, the next four will be sent to a free summer camp in China. The ambassador also promised to give special privileges to the other three contestants.

"Chinese Bridge" is a major international Chinese language testing competition for the overseas Chinese language students, organised by the Center for Languages Exchange and Education of the Chinese Ministry of Education. The competition has two stages: preliminary competitions held in different countries, and the finals held in China.



UCB partners with University of Central Lancashire to offer affordable UK degrees in Bangladesh

Universal College Bangladesh (UCB) has recently partnered with the UK's prestigious University of Central Lancashire (UCLan). An exclusive agreement was signed between the two reputed educational institutes with the aim to open up a new avenue for Bangladeshi students to avail affordable UK-degrees without leaving the country.

In this regard, a signing ceremony took place on June 1 at the UCB Campus in Gulshan, Dhaka. Bob Kundanmal, Chairman, Board of Directors, UCB, and Prof. Catherine Jackson, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Central Lancashire, signed the agreement for their respective organisations. The event was graced by esteemed personalities, including Chief Guest Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury, MP, Minister of Education and Guest of Honour Sarah Cooke, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh. Special Guests in attendance included Begum Shamsun Nahar, MP, Deputy Minister of Education; Zarif Munir, Director, UCB, and Manas Singh, CEO, STS Group. Prof. Hew Gill, President and Provost, welcomed the guests at the event.

All activities of the three-year UCLan programme will take place in Bangladesh. The programme at UCB has been awarded 5 QS Stars (Excellent) for internationalisation and inclusiveness. According to The Center for World University Rankings 2023, UCLan ranks in the top seven percent of the universities worldwide. To help students' experience a smooth journey, UCB is providing attractive learning facilities like sports membership, compact campus environment, resource-enabled library etc.

Mohibul Hassan Chowdhury said, "We have to focus on enriching the nation's future workforce by empowering our youth with timely skills that align with the demands of not just the local but the global market. The partnership between UCB and UCLan is an ideal example of recognising the need for global education, one that should be followed by others in the sector as well."

Sarah Cooke said, "Over half a million students globally are currently studying for a UK degree overseas, helping to boost their future job prospects. British higher education institutions are dedicated to providing accessible and high-quality higher education, building a brighter future for students around the world."

With this new introduction at UCB, local students now have another great opportunity to earn a reputable UK university degree from right here in Bangladesh.



EDU GUIDE

Pursuing an undergraduate degree in Japan WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

A.M. FAHAD

Japan, the land of anime, *sakura* blossoms, and *udon* is a dreamscape destination for many across the globe. Though Japan is renowned for its rich culture and beautiful travel destinations, the country also offers extensive opportunities for higher education, making it an increasingly popular choice among international students aspiring to study abroad.

"I sought guidance from several seniors and acquaintances to hear about their experiences before applying. Online workshops hosted by Japanese universities are also extremely helpful in that regard; they are notably informative and are also arranged frequently," says Sharif Mashrafi, an incoming freshman at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU).

Japanese universities offer a diverse range of curricula that provide students with both specialised knowledge and a broad educational foundation. Many of these universities offer courses taught in English, and they typically offer high amounts of scholarships for international students in the form of tuition fee reductions, admission fee exemptions, or both.

Haseen Tabassum, a first-year student at Tokyo International University shares, "The biggest influencing factor for my choosing Japan was the scholarships. My parents could only afford to send me here given that I take care of my expenses. I received a 100 percent scholarship, and the scholarships typically cover from 30 percent to up to 100 percent of your expenses. Jobs are easy to find here. Your visa allows you to work 28 hours a week, and most of the time, it is enough for you to pay your tuition fees while sustaining your living costs, depending on the amount of scholarship you were awarded and the area you live in."

He continued, "However, it is worth mentioning that, to be able to work, you have to know a certain level of Japanese. I didn't learn it when I was in Bangladesh and that has caused me some bumps here and there. But it's always a great idea to get your n5 certification – a test that certifies your understanding of basic Japanese – with the time you have before classes start. It'll also

help you land better part-time jobs when you're here."

The Japanese government also offers a fully-funded scholarship program known as MEXT. MEXT is an extensive scholarship program that covers all the expenses of studying in Japan. There are two ways to apply for the MEXT scholarship. When applying through the embassy track, MEXT recipients are initially screened by the Japanese Embassy. In contrast, when applying through the university track, MEXT recipients are screened by the individual universities they applied to. Details of the scholarship are updated on the Japanese Embassy website.

Other than that, organisations such as JASSO (Japan Student Service Organisation) offer scholarships in the form of financial aid to international students to help cover living costs in Japan. Local governments also provide scholarships to students living in their district and attending schools in their district.

The application system is fairly simple. To apply to a university in Japan, you will need your high-school transcripts, including your O/A Levels/equivalent or your SSC/HSC grades. You will also need your English proficiency test scores (IELTS/TOEFL/Duolingo). Standardised test scores such as the SAT/ACT are welcomed but are entirely optional.

It is also to be noted that most Japanese universities have their own formats for letters of recommendation. Your teacher might be asked to fill up a form containing basic information as well as answer questions that dictate how highly they are willing to recommend you. Most universities will require you to write scholarship essays and two letters of recommendation. Having done everything mentioned above, you'll be mostly set for the application process. If you have inquiries regarding your application or parts of the application process, you can always reach out to the universities through email.

"The Japanese application process is incredibly straightforward. The universities I applied to were responsive via email and were happy to attend to any queries I had. In most cases, they will respond to your queries within 24 hours, except on national holidays," says Farhan Sadeque, a Fall '27 applicant.

One thing most international students mention while transitioning into the Japanese lifestyle is the culture shock. Even though the thought of it may not pose much of a problem during the application period, it is worth mentioning that the Japanese culture takes time to get used to.

"I would say a lot of things are different mainly because of the language barrier, which is what people should prepare for the most. While transportation

here is convenient, you have to learn how to navigate through the systems. Food and culture norms are very different here as well, but that comes with moving to any foreign country. Another thing which isn't as big a deal I suppose is how Japanese people speak. They try to refrain from being direct. So, if they say: 'It's best not to do that,' they might mean don't do it at all. But this is just one of the many cultural elements you will learn to adapt to once you arrive," says Anika Chowdhury, a 7th-semester student at APU.

An important factor worth considering while moving into a new country is its safety. In that regard, Mahir Chowdhury, a third-year student at Hosei University in Tokyo, says, "Problems of racial or ethnic prejudice aren't a concern in Japan, as the Japanese people are known

Japanese universities offer a diverse range of curricula that provide students with both specialised knowledge and a broad educational foundation.

for their hospitality. I will say that Japan is among one of the safest countries to live in. For example, you can leave your belongings in any corner of a public space and still find them in the same place after hours. Petty crimes such as theft and pickpocketing are uncommon to the point that they are seen as a big deal when anyone's belongings get stolen."

"Being a foreigner in a highly homogeneous country like Japan, you will get stares almost every day, but they're not necessarily bad. When it comes work/renting places, often they prefer their own people over the foreigners as they may have had unfortunate experiences with foreigners. With that being said, individual experiences in Japan may vary depending on your university and area of residence," adds Mahir.

At the end of the day, choosing your university is an important decision, and you should take a respectable amount of time to consider the options you have.

"If I were to look back on my application journey, I would say that I should have trusted the holistic process and not been so hard on myself. During this application period, we should be patient with ourselves and prepare for what's next," adds Mashrafi.

ILLUSTRATION: ABIR HOSSAIN



■ OFF CAMPUS ■

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO MOOTING

TARAZI MOHAMMED SHEIKH

Mooting, for Law students, is a powerful tool to level up their legal skills and stand out from the crowd. Having been involved in moot court competitions both nationally and internationally for the past few years, I want to offer a few insights I have gained in my roles as a mooter, coach, and judge through this article.

While I share these experiences intending to steer beginners through their first few moots and avoid the most obvious pitfalls, the best approach is to tailor these tips to individual strengths and adapt them to the specific competition format.

What is mooting

A moot court competition is a simulation of a court hearing, in which participants analyse a dispute, research the relevant legal provisions, prepare written submissions and present oral arguments. Moot problems are generally set in areas of law that are unsettled and debatable or topics with significant contemporary relevance. Moot courts usually provide two grounds of appeal, arguable by each side.

Although mooting shares several common elements with public speaking and debating, it is a unique exercise beyond simply presenting an opinion. It requires a specialised application of the art of persuasive advocacy.

Essentially a mock court proceeding, moot court procedures follow the entering of judges, the mooters bowing before the judges, the court clerks announcing the legal dispute, the mooters giving their appearances and getting called on in turn to present their submissions.

During the oral pleadings, the judges ask questions to the mooters to seek further clarity of their argumentative stance. After the delivery of oral arguments from both parties of the fictitious case, the court is announced adjourned while allowing the judges to deliberate on their decision. After deliberation, the judges return to the courtroom to provide brief judgment and some feedback to the mooters.

Why take part

Mooting offers a competitive proving ground for Law students as they generally go through an internal selection process of their institute to represent their law school in a moot court competition.

Mooting also enables students to engage with and explore deeply complex and topical legal issues. It substantially enhances their advocacy, legal research and writing skills through rigorous training and monthslong preparation. It also allows them to work closely with and learn from their peers, allowing them to develop teamwork skills, patience and the capacity to appreciate different perspectives.

Besides, mooting not only showcases a Law student's passion for legal advocacy and research but also provides a platform to demonstrate their competence as an advocate. Experience in mooting is highly valued by employers in the legal job market.

While intellectually stimulating and ultimately rewarding, mooting can also be nerve-racking and challenging. However, the sense of accomplishment and the opportunity to learn from these experiences make it a truly enjoyable endeavour for most students.

Tips for beginners

Preparation is the most time-consuming part of mooting, one in which mooters need to ensure reading the moot problem thoroughly, understand and specify the expected areas of arguments, and begin assimilating relevant authorities for

discussion.

Mooters should be able to simply address the specific ground of appeals as laid out instead of attempting to show all they know on a topic. It is advised not to depend on a script of arguments to read out before judges, but rather carry a list of bullet points to guide them through the structure. Maintaining a skeleton argument helps to sum up the main points and authorities that they intend to rely on.

Besides an in-depth understanding of the area of law in which the moot is based, it is equally crucial for mooters to be thoroughly familiar with the cases and other authorities they cite to satisfy the judges' queries during the oral rounds. Mooters should also be aware of the time limits and conduct rehearsal sessions to deal with everything in the allocated time while also allowing a few minutes for judicial intervention.

Frequent rehearsal sessions with team members, in front of the mirror or camera is a helpful tactic for developing the set of skills required to engage with the bench, such as maintaining eye contact with the judge, appropriate volume and pace of speech, directly and accurately addressing the questions while also holding the judge's interest, etc.

In a moot court setting, it is not just about what a mooter knows, it is also about how they present themselves. Dressing professionally and maintaining a composed demeanour are crucial elements as these convey professionalism and respect for the simulated court proceedings.

Finally, mooters are highly recommended to take notes on the judges' feedback for it can be instrumental in improving performance in their subsequent moots and to hone their overall legal skills relevant to academic success and future careers in the legal field.



ILLUSTRATION: FATIMA JAHAN ENA



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tarazi Mohammed Sheikh is a final-year Law student at BRAC University. She has recently been appointed as a Student Director on the Board of Directors of the International Law Students Association (ILSA), the home to the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court competition.

Tarazi has participated in different domestic and international moot court competitions since 2020. In 2022, Tarazi won the Best Mooter (Overall) award, with her team emerging as the finalist, and Best Memorialist in Bangladesh Qualifying Rounds of the 63rd Jessup Competition. Her team represented Bangladesh in the global rounds and entered the elimination rounds as the only Bangladeshi team.

Besides mooting, Tarazi has also garnered recognition for her performance in debates, legal research, writing, and journalism. She has a keen enthusiasm for exploring and engaging with issues related to public international law and human rights, and is actively striving to make impactful contributions in these fields.