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A fresh graduate's guide to WORKING AT AN NGO



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MUSIC

Chromakopia sees Tyler, the Creator at his most transparent

RAIAN ABEDIN

After the sudden and enigmatic release of a snippet from the opening song of this album, there was a veritable excitement in the air for a new project by Tyler, the Creator. Be it 2017's *Flowerboy*, which saw him showcase the more sublime parts of his character, or 2019's *IGOR*, which found him desperate and heartbroken, the variety and growth Tyler shows with every new album is, in itself, something to behold.

Chromakopia, his eighth offering so far, had a high bar to climb. Fortunately, the music presented in this album is largely fantastic, albeit with a few duds. More than that, though, it's Tyler's songwriting that keeps bringing me back to *Chromakopia* – as the lyricism on this makes it one of the most open, self-critical, and mature albums he's put out thus far. Not without an edge though, as Tyler, the Creator is nothing without a little bit of braggadocious energy.

His energy is infectious throughout a considerable chunk of the album and is aided by a West Coast production style that also happens to take inspiration from the likes of The Neptunes and early Kanye West (when he



was actually listenable). Inspirations like these are evident in tracks like "Darling, I", which in itself is a wonderful cut with Tyler speaking about his relationships. In fact, relationships are perhaps the biggest theme in this album – though for Tyler, the relationships he is more concerned with have less to do with romance and more to do with familial love, his love for his art, and the relationship he has with his audience.

What works in this album is Tyler's

vulnerability, and his ability to not always paint himself in the most positive light. The album very neatly caps off with "I Hope You Find Your Way Home", a beautiful final track that looks back at all his experiences and proceeds to move forward for everything life has to offer. By the end of it all, I am left wanting more.

Raiyan is a student of Biochemistry, a poet, and a contributor at *The Daily Star*.

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■ INTERVIEW ■

How PrimeAcademia is looking to TRANSFORM ACADEMIC BANKING

In conversation with M Nazeem A Choudhury, DMD, Prime Bank PLC

PrimeAcademia is a banking solution offered by Prime Bank PLC tailored for academic institutions, teachers, and students across the country. The solution seeks to address the diverse financial needs of the academic community, offering features such as simplified and efficient fee management for institutions, payroll banking for more streamlined payroll services for academic staff, and student savings accounts with special benefits for student savers.

M Nazeem A Choudhury, the Deputy Managing Director (DMD) of Prime Bank PLC, shares his thoughts on PrimeAcademia and how it can benefit students and educational institutions across the country.

Could you tell us a bit more about PrimeAcademia?
PrimeAcademia is a bundled financial solution centred around academic institutions. There are multiple stakeholders involved with an academic institute like the institution itself, teachers, students, and their parents. PrimeAcademia addresses the diverse financial needs of every stakeholder offering a range of services including fee collection services, payroll services for academic staff and teachers, institutional accounts with attractive interest options, savings accounts with added insurance coverage for teachers, savings accounts for students, student file services, loans for parents to support their children's higher education, and Small Medium Enterprises (SME) loan facilities for academic institutions. The solution is available in both conventional and Islamic banking modes. PrimeAcademia is set to transform the financial landscape for stakeholders of educational institutes by providing the convenience of one-stop banking.

The increasing demand for efficient fee management systems, payroll solutions, and specialised financial services for academic institutions, along with the need for affordable savings and lending options for teachers, students, and parents, led to the introduction of PrimeAcademia.

What kind of services are you providing through PrimeAcademia?

For academic institutions, it provides the profit or interest-bearing current accounts with a competitive rate of four percent per annum. It also facilitates fee collection through multiple channels, enabling online payments via mobile financial services like bKash, as well as debit and credit cards, prepaid cards, and internet banking, while maintaining offline payment options at branch counters. Institutions can benefit from institutional internet banking services for salary disbursements, fund transfers – both bulk and single – and payments of government dues such as VAT, taxes, and customs duties. Development-focused loan and investment facilities,



PHOTO: COURTESY

along with payroll banking solutions that include dedicated support and preferential loan rates for teachers and staff, are also part of the offering.

Teachers can access savings accounts with profit or interest rates of up to five percent per annum, along with added insurance coverage based on their average account balance. Investment and loan facilities are available to support their financial needs. Students are offered student savings accounts that include a five percent per annum profit or interest rate for those under 18 and four percent per annum for those aged 18 and above, alongside student file processing services. Parents can take advantage of educational investment and loan facilities tailored to cover their children's educational expenses.

Why did you feel the need to introduce a platform like PrimeAcademia?

We live in an age of instant gratification where one-stop service is the new norm. Prime Bank introduced PrimeAcademia to meet the unique and diverse financial needs of related stakeholders through a single service window. Prime Bank identified the need for a tailored banking solution that could address all these stakeholders' requirements.

The increasing demand for efficient fee management systems, payroll solutions, and specialised financial services for academic institutions, along with the need for affordable savings and lending options for teachers, students, and parents, led to the introduction of PrimeAcademia.

Why should educational institutes take your service?

Educational institutions should adopt PrimeAcademia as it is a one-stop solution designed specifically for academic institutions, addressing all their financial needs. The platform offers multiple channels for fee collection, including branch counters, online portals, and QR code-based payments. Students can pay through bKash, Nagad, Visa, MasterCard, and even internet banking, making it convenient for institutions and reducing administrative burdens.

Besides, PrimeAcademia provides institutions with a dedicated payroll solution that includes real-time disbursement and reporting, ensuring timely and hassle-free salary payments for staff. Institutions can also access investment and loan opportunities to support the growth and development of their institutions. Teachers, parents, and students can also benefit from tailored lending options.

Teachers can enjoy savings accounts with added insurance coverage while students benefit from attractive savings accounts with competitive profit and interest rates, free debit cards, and other facilities.

How can students who plan on going abroad benefit from PrimeAcademia?

PrimeAcademia offers dedicated student file services that assist students in the financial aspects of pursuing higher education abroad. This includes facilitating foreign currency transfers and managing tuition payments for international institutions, simplifying the financial processes involved in studying overseas. Moreover, PrimeAcademia provides tailored educational investment and loan facilities for parents to cover their children's tuition and other education-related expenses. This ensures that financial barriers are minimised for students aiming to pursue their studies abroad.



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CAREER

A FRESH GRADUATE'S GUIDE TO WORKING AT AN NGO

ALLIN MOHANA BISWAS

"Development work is inherently people-centric and involves collaborating with diverse internal and external stakeholders, so having 'people skills' is essential for success," shares Nusaiba Naseer, a programme analyst at BRAC. Fresh graduates aspiring to build a career in the non-governmental organisation (NGO) sector need a solid academic background alongside empathy, expertise, and adaptability to navigate the ever-changing landscape of development work.

"Having a relevant academic background, such as my undergraduate degree in Anthropology, made my resume stand out for entry-level positions," says Kamrul Hasan Shawon, a research and knowledge management specialist at Plan International Bangladesh.

However, a Social Science degree is not a prerequisite. "People from diverse academic backgrounds work in the development sector. Regardless of your field of study,

strong academic results can give you an advantage in this increasingly competitive sector," explains Afsara Tasnim, a development trainee at CARE Bangladesh.

"The NGO sector is highly dynamic. Leveraging new technologies and mastering data-driven tools provide a competitive edge," Nusaiba emphasises. Technical skills such as report writing, data analysis, and proficiency with data-driven tools are indispensable. When paired with certifications in project management or specialised areas, however, it enhances career prospects by offering practical skills and networking opportunities.

Additionally, soft skills such as strategic thinking, effective communication, and problem-solving abilities are essential to overcoming the diverse challenges of development work. "There is no denying that every successful initiative in the development sector is the result of effective teamwork. The same applies to my workplace, where the local team, the project design team, and the implementation team all work

together seamlessly to achieve the ultimate outcome," says Afsara.

Extracurricular activities (ECAs) and volunteering during student years can also significantly boost a fresh graduate's profile. "ECAs build leadership and teamwork skills – attributes which are invaluable in the workplace," Nusaiba remarks. Shawon himself identified his interest in programme design, research, and knowledge management through volunteering for NGOs, which is how he started his career.

Afsara adds to this saying, "Volunteering is the most effective way to gather skills that will help you



ILLUSTRATION: ABIR HOSSAIN



reach the door to the development sector and also give you a better picture of the overall development scenario." Having experiences in volunteering and relevant ECAs provides clarity about where your passion lies. They also offer practical exposure to the realities of development work, preparing you for the challenges ahead.

While there is a list of qualifications, skills, and attributes that are required to work at an NGO, how do they translate to the workplace? Shawon describes his role at Plan International, "I lead and coordinate ongoing research activities, oversee studies conducted by external consultants, and manage our knowledge management systems. Collaboration with both internal and external partners is a significant part of my role."

"I am working on a project which focuses on community-led innovation to build adaptive measures that are resilient to the impacts of climate change. It involves collecting and sharing the stories of marginalised communities from climate-vulnerable districts and witnessing firsthand how the project has significantly impacted their lives," shares Afsara.

For professionals like Auntrara Tonny, a data collector officer at the Norwegian Refugee Council, the work is more data-intensive.

"I collect quantitative and qualitative data under three frameworks, ensuring adherence to the guidelines of the organisation's core products. I monitor ten countries with sixteen humanitarian crises. Working remotely, I coordinate with a global team to share insights and enhance data collection efforts," she explains.

There are a number of positions that NGOs offer. The question for graduates, however, is where they get started.

Emerging fields like monitoring, evaluation, accountability, and learning (MEAL) are gaining prominence in the development sector. Mysha Sadman, a hub MEAL officer at the Bijoyee Project by Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC), considers MEAL an excellent starting point for fresh graduates, "It provides a balance between technical work and hands-on community engagement. For young professionals, it offers a thorough understanding of how the development sector operates while building expertise in data-driven decision-making."

The rewarding nature of NGO work often comes with significant challenges. One of the primary hurdles is adapting to the physical and emotional demands of fieldwork. "Before turning 30, I visited 46 districts in Bangladesh, many of which I might never have seen if not for this job. While it was fulfilling to witness the impact of our work firsthand, frequent travel and staying in remote areas can be exhausting," says Ahmed Moosa Isty, a private sector engagement specialist at ACDI/VOCA Bangladesh.

Working with diverse socioeconomic groups can also be demanding but deeply enriching. Shawon reflects, "You'll be interacting with various stakeholders, from community participants to funders. Balancing their diverse expectations can be challenging but is essential for success."

Resource constraints and tight deadlines are other common issues. "There are days when you wonder if you're in the right field," Shawon admits. "But when you see the positive changes your work brings, all of the



TIPS FOR ACING YOUR FIRST JOB INTERVIEW

PREPARE THOROUGHLY FOR COMMON QUESTIONS

Research the company and the role in depth to tailor your answers. Practice responding to basic yet crucial questions like, "Tell us about yourself." Align your response with the role's requirements, emphasising your relevant education, training, and experience to create a positive first impression.

DEMONSTRATE PASSION AND PURPOSE

Avoid generic answers about needing a job. Instead, articulate your genuine interest in the position and how it aligns with your career goals. Showcase ambition and passion by using the "show, don't tell" technique to illustrate your skills and commitment.

ARTICULATE A CLEAR CAREER PLAN

Employers value long-term commitment. Discuss your goals and ambitions confidently to reflect your independence and purpose. Ensure your responses indicate a genuine interest in the role and passion for excelling in it.

challenges feel worthwhile."

Furthermore, the uncertain nature of funding-dependent projects can create career instability. Isty cautions, "Most development projects rely heavily on external funding. This means job security can be unpredictable unless you secure a permanent position."

Despite the challenges, the opportunity to create

tangible change is what draws many to the NGO sector. "I worked with data to evaluate participants' progress. One of the beneficiaries from Kurigram used grants and training to transform her life, gaining respect in her community. Witnessing such economic and social transformations affirms the profound impact of our work," said Nusaiba while sharing a success story from BRAC's Ultra-Poor Graduation Programme.

Afsara highlights the broader impact of development work saying, "Regardless of all the advocacies, knowledge sharing, and other outreach efforts, people outside the development sector still have not completely comprehended the role it plays in the civic community, mostly for the vulnerable. These projects are changing lives gradually, giving them the means to fight back, trying to make them self-sufficient."

The nature of work and opportunities varies

between international NGOs (INGOs) and local ones. Shawon outlines the distinction saying, "INGOs like Plan International focus on strategic-level partnerships and broader development agendas. In contrast, local NGOs are often at the forefront of implementing projects on the ground."

For fresh graduates, both pathways offer unique advantages. INGOs provide exposure to global frameworks and larger-scale operations, while local NGOs offer immersive, community-centric experiences. Choosing between them often depends on one's career aspirations and preferred working style.

Working in the NGO sector is as much about mindset as it is about skills. Isty emphasises, "This field is a lifestyle, requiring you to navigate impediments and uncomfortable situations. You need a genuine urge to make an impact on people's lives."

Like any career, working in the development sector has its pros and cons. If you're passionate about creating meaningful change and making a difference in people's lives, this field can be incredibly fulfilling. If you're unsure, however, take the first step: volunteer and explore. In the process, you could just stumble across a path that resonates with you.

NOTICE BOARD



Daffodil International University organises oath-taking ceremony against violence on women and children

To draw attention to the issue and call for action to eliminate all forms of gender-based violence against women, Daffodil International University (DIU) organised a three-day long oath-taking ceremony against violence on women and children in observance of the 16-day international campaign to end violence against women from December 26 to 29.

The oath text, provided in a government directive, was recited during this programme to reaffirm their commitment to ending violence against women and children.

Dr Sharif Sultana, Chairperson, Compliant Committee to Prevent Sexual Harassment, DIU, was present as the Chief Guest. Dr Md Sarwar Hossain, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, read the oath text provided by the Ministry of Education.

The function was also addressed by Prof. Dr Liza Sharmin, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Dr Md Hannan Mahmud Khan, Head, Department of Civil Engineering, and Asma Alam, Member, Compliant Committee.

Faculty of Business and Economics of EWU receives prestigious accreditation

The Faculty of Business and Economics of East West University (EWU) has been granted accreditation by the Accreditation Council for Business Schools Programs (ACBSP) without any condition on December 17, 2024. This prestigious recognition from ACBSP underscores EWU's commitment to excellence and continuous improvement in business education.

The accreditation allows programmes to gain international recognition. It provides greater marketability for students, giving them a competitive advantage in the job market as well as higher studies abroad.

Vice-Chancellor of East West University, Prof. Dr Shams Rahman, shared his excitement about this achievement. He said, "We are incredibly proud of this milestone. It opens up new opportunities for our students and faculty members to engage with the global business community and reinforces our commitment to continuous improvement."



CSCSS international conference wraps up at North South University

The second day of the international conference on "China - South Asia Civilization and Connectivity: History and Contemporary Issues", jointly organised by the China-South Asia Center for Sociocultural Studies (CSCSS) of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance (SIPG) at North South University (NSU), Bangladesh, and Yunnan University, China, concluded successfully with discussions across key themes addressing historical, cultural, geopolitical, and socio-economic aspects of the region.

The opening ceremony was graced by distinguished guests, Md Touhid Hossain, Adviser for Foreign Affairs of the Interim Government of Bangladesh, as the Chief Guest, and Yao Wen, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Bangladesh, as the Guest of Honour. Professor Abdul Hannan Chowdhury, the Vice Chancellor of NSU, graced the occasion as Session Chair.

The ceremony began with a warm welcome speech by Prof. Sk Tawfique M Haque, Director of SIPG and CSCSS, followed by remarks from Prof. Mohammed Nuruzzaman from NSU as the Conference Convener. Special Guests Prof. He Ming from Yunnan University, Han Kun, Deputy Country Manager of PowerChina, and Zhao Shibo, Vice President of the Overseas Chinese Association in Bangladesh, highlighted the importance of fostering deeper socio-cultural and academic collaboration between China and South Asia.

The second day featured thematic sessions on political and diplomatic dynamics, media and communication, economic and trade connections, AI and cyber diplomacy,



and health and medicine, fostering robust dialogue and insights on regional challenges and opportunities.

Discussions were held on the Rohingya crisis, security dilemma, and counterterrorism centred on the humanitarian and security challenges posed by the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh. Md Mahbubur Rahman analysed the socio-political impacts of the refugee influx, while Md Rashidul Islam Rusel emphasised the need for ethical frameworks to address these challenges. Dr Shabana Fayyaz explored integrating counterterrorism strategies with economic development to protect the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) projects.

The public perceptions and bilateral relations sessions highlighted the role of media narratives and public sentiment in shaping regional relations. Presentations

by Muhammad Ahmad Khan, Akram Hossain, and Syed Shahnewaz Mohsin underscored the need for ethical journalism, improved media literacy, and cultural diplomacy to foster stronger ties among South Asian nations. Discussions explored the strategic significance of the Indo-Pacific and Bay of Bengal regions amidst growing geopolitical rivalries. Imtiaz A Hussain and David Jiang analysed the interplay between economic initiatives like the BRI and security concerns, emphasising the need for regional cooperation and stability.

Participants examined how the BRI could strengthen cultural ties and promote mutual understanding. Presentations emphasised leveraging historical legacies for modern connectivity and aligning BRI goals with local priorities to ensure sustainable development.

The concluding session, chaired by Prof. Abdur Rob Khan, Treasurer and Pro Vice-Chancellor of NSU, featured a summary of key outcomes by Prof. Mohammed Nuruzzaman. Li Shaopeng, Cultural Counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka, emphasised the value of academic collaborations in fostering regional prosperity and connectivity.

The two-day event hosted over 125 participants, including scholars, policymakers, and international experts, reflecting NSU's commitment to fostering academic dialogue and regional cooperation. The conference underscored the importance of building bridges between China and South Asia to address shared challenges and opportunities.

■ CAMPUS LIFE ■

Lack of institutional transportation: A NIGHTMARE FOR PRIVATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

RAIAN ABEDIN

Of the many plights students, university students particularly, are having to face today, transportation remains a recurring issue. Commuting has always presented itself as a set of multifaceted issues for students in private universities. Over the last few months, however, these issues have come up time and again. One thing is clear: the roads are far less friendly to daily commuters. With reckless driving, road accidents, and cases of attacks and harassment on the rise, those who have to travel long distances using public transportation have to deal with a lot of different issues. The big question, then, is to wonder if universities are taking any steps to help their students. While the issues surrounding commuting are hardly something that universities can completely deal with all by themselves, many students argue that their respective universities have certain roles to play here.

Abrar*, a fourth-year student at North South University (NSU) commuting from Eskaton, shares his experience, "Every day, my commute either requires me to change buses at least once since there are no direct bus routes, or I have to pay exorbitant amounts for an Uber or a CNG. Neither of these are feasible in the long term and this holds true especially for buses. Buses have always been reckless, but nowadays it feels like they do whatever they want. Commuting in the mornings is the worst. I almost had accidents on two different occasions because the bus driver dropped me off in the middle of a busy road."

The safety of students has, thus, become a huge concern. It was merely a few months ago when an employee from NEXT Ventures was killed in a fatal collision against a bus as she was trying to cross the road. Regardless of how much time has passed, these stories, more of which have surfaced since, continue to haunt daily commuters. Despite the Road Safety Movement that pervaded the country in 2018, little – if anything – has been done to reshape our roads. As such, it is imperative to take the question of their safety seriously.

Another side to this is, of course, the factor of cost. For students, most of whom operate with extremely limited budgets, the rising costs have proven to be of grave concern. This rising cost has also diffused into transportation services, where the fare has seen an increase. Even without the increase in fare, it needs to be noted that for many, affording convenient and comfortable transportation on a daily basis can be very difficult.

Raya Adiba Ahmed, a third-year student at International University, Bangladesh (IUB), shares her daily experience commuting from Shantinagar to Bashundara Residential Area.

"Instead of a CNG or an Uber, I usually take a bike, which comes with its own set of problems. However, given how costly the fare can get, especially during rush hours, it's just not feasible to spend that much on commuting alone. Buses are also not an option I can consider, as I've had multiple terrible experiences while trying to commute using the bus. So really, I'm out of options," she says.

However, even with the exorbitant fare, many choose to take an Uber or a CNG simply due to it being more convenient and safe. Safety has become a topic of considerable interest, and the last couple of months have shown that no one, not even students, is safe out on the roads.

Narmin*, a third-year student at NSU commuting daily from Shyamoli, speaks out about this, "After hearing news of a student's death near Kuril, I had no option other than opting for CNG or Uber services. Nowadays, I mostly commute using ride-sharing groups where three to four people split the bill. Even then it's a bit expensive on some days when the weather conditions aren't favourable. However, the ride-sharing experience has, overall, been very safe for me despite its inconveniences."

With all the problems discussed and put to light, the big looming question now remains: what can we expect universities to do about this? In fact, what are students

private universities have campuses on the outskirts of the city, where the commute is already difficult. Hence, university authorities have taken it upon themselves to provide transportation for the students. Should the same not be expected of other private universities as well?

Students at NSU have recently made demands asking for transportation services, to which the authorities have responded positively, but have issued no update on the matter since. Abrar states, "Conversations around providing transport have been going around for at least a few years now, to no avail. While commuting for me is difficult, I know many who live even further away. It's about time universities start taking action to help the students out."

Meherun Nesa Milla, a fourth-year student at East West University, sheds more light on the topic, "I live in Jamtala, Narayanganj. Given the distance, cost, and safety concerns, having transport services provided by our university would be immensely helpful. Most of the



PHOTO: MOHAMMAD TASAWAR ISLAM

expecting from their respective universities?

For students, their safety is their primary concern. As Raya states, "Having transportation services provided by the university not only reduces the problem associated with looking for transportation but also feels a lot safer. Not to mention, the overall cost will likely be well within a manageable range. It might come with its own setbacks, but I'm sure transportation will be a net positive for most students."

As of today, several private universities across Dhaka offer transport services in one way or another. Some universities including BRAC University, United International University, and Daffodil International University amongst others all provide their own buses, which offer a big relief to the students as they are strict about not permitting outsiders to use the bus services. One other important thing to note here is that some

women I know have been through several traumatic incidents while using a public bus. Still, many continue to travel by bus because it is simply too expensive to use any other mode of transportation."

For universities, the challenges that hold them back still remain a bit of a mystery to the students. To shed light on this situation, *Campus* contacted officials from two renowned private universities in Dhaka. The response, however, has been mostly silence. All this does is raise questions about the need for secrecy around such a matter. Clearly, this has become a pressing issue that private universities, especially the ones located in areas that are notoriously difficult to travel to, need to address sooner rather than later. Failure to do so would only result in the continuation of the struggles students face every day.

*Names have been changed upon request.

■ SKILLS ■

How to use AI efficiently and ethically for studying



PHOTO: ORCHID CHAKMA

ANICA BUSHRA RAHMAAN

The subject of using artificial intelligence (AI) for studying is a controversial one, to say the least, even though this practice has been going on for quite some time now. The unease surrounding AI usage in one's studies is understandable. However, students often blur the lines between academic integrity and genuine learning when it comes to using AI. Whether it's due to time constraints, multiple assignments piling up, or just procrastination, AI often becomes a 'quick-fix' tool of sorts rather than a tool to help one learn better or faster.

Even so, as much as some teachers would sternly advise us to steer clear of AI when it comes to academic obligations, it cannot be denied that AI, with its instantaneous responses, can serve as a crucial tool when it comes to learning. Hence, to find a proper balance, here are some efficient tips for using AI which will not compromise your learning.

Personalised learning

Everyone's learning curve is different. While some are able to learn with textual content, others thrive with visuals. With rapid advancements in AI, more and more tools are being unveiled to support and sustain your learning. As a result, no matter what your learning style is, finding the right method will ensure that you are thoroughly understanding the concepts and actually learning instead of using AI as a crutch to get a passing grade.

Summarising content

For writing-heavy tasks requiring you to go through

textbooks and documents, AI can come in handy with summaries, especially if it's in a chapter-wise format. That way, you can decipher which bits are relevant to your learning and go back and peruse those sections from your reading materials. This way, you can optimise your time while also getting the actual reading done.

Making study planners

If you are overwhelmed with overlapping academic tasks and have no clue where to begin, asking AI for study planners can be extremely fruitful. Not only will you be provided with detailed timely breakdowns for each task, coupled with well-needed breaks, but also tips on how to stay on track and what to prioritise. This step prevents you from succumbing to the pressure and helps you stay focused.

Asking for feedback

Before AI, whenever you got stuck at a coding problem or weren't exactly pleased with the style of your essay, your only option was to wait around for a teacher to get back with their assistance or feedback. However, with AI's constant availability, you can get instantaneous solutions, whether it's finally understanding how to restructure your writing or knowing what went wrong in your balance sheet. Thus, you can very easily learn where your weaknesses and strengths lie.

Using AI-powered flashcards

Through this method, complex concepts are broken down into simpler fragments to aid your comprehension. As you progress, the difficulty of the flashcards is adjusted. You can also instruct the AI to make flashcards in the form of quizzes or games to aid your learning. Writing down the content from the flashcards can also serve as a note-taking strategy, enabling you to remember the content better.

It is evident that AI will only evolve with time, and there is no way to ignore its impact. However, as students,

Before AI, whenever you got stuck at a coding problem or weren't exactly pleased with the style of your essay, your only option was to wait around for a teacher to get back with their assistance or feedback. However, with AI's constant availability, you can get instantaneous solutions, whether it's finally understanding how to restructure your writing or knowing what went wrong in your balance sheet.

we must understand that consistently relying on AI to speed through homework and assignments without truly engaging in the learning process ultimately does more harm than good. Such dependence will only dwindle our creativity, problem-solving skills, and genuine curiosity. Hence, a middle ground is necessary, to ensure that AI only serves as a supplement and not a replacement to actual learning.

Anica Bushra Rahmaan is a student of Economics at BRAC University. Reach her at anicarahmaan@gmail.com

Using ChatGPT for summarising research papers

Start by dividing the research paper into sections, such as the abstract, introduction, methodology, results, and conclusion. Copy one section at a time and paste it into ChatGPT with a clear prompt, like "Summarise the main points of this section in five sentences".

If you want to emphasise specific aspects, include detailed instructions, such as focusing on key findings, objectives, or implications. Once all sections are summarised, review the output to ensure they accurately reflect the original content.

Finally, integrate the section summaries into a cohesive overview, refining transitions to ensure clarity and readability.

Always remember to cross-check the key points, especially numeric data, with the original paper to ensure accuracy and completeness. Don't solely rely on the AI to fetch data for your research as ChatGPT is known to often provide inaccurate findings since it cannot fully understand which sources are trustworthy and accurate, and which ones are not.

