

Empowering Students to Tackle Challenges and LEAD PROGRESS

PROF. M. TAMIM

Vice Chancellor, Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB)



My immediate priorities include strengthening academic programs to align with industry demands, enhancing research capabilities, and promoting international collaborations.

The Daily Star (TDS): As the new Vice Chancellor of IUB, what are your initial impressions of the university and its community, and what aspects of IUB stand out to you as its core strengths?

M. Tamim (MT): Since joining IUB in December 2024, I have been thoroughly impressed by the university's commitment to academic excellence and its vibrant campus community. The emphasis on research is evidenced by the specialized centers and institutes and an environment conducive to innovation and scholarly pursuits. The quality of student life is exemplary, with over 50 active student clubs catering to a wide range of interests, including arts, culture, sports, and technology. They enhance the student experience, and nurture leadership and teamwork skills. Our students have consistently produced outstanding results in sports, earning accolades in national and international competitions. They have a high propensity for innovation and creativity in science, technology, and entrepreneurship. Their projects address some of the most pressing real-world challenges through sustainable solutions. The dedication of the faculty, the enthusiasm of the students, and the strong support system provided by the university collectively highlight IUB's strengths in offering a holistic education and a culture of continuous learning.

TDS: What are your immediate priorities for the university, and how do you plan to engage with faculty, students, and other stakeholders in shaping IUB's future direction?

MT: My immediate priorities include strengthening academic programs to align with industry demands, enhancing research capabilities, and promoting international collaborations. Engaging with faculty, students, and stakeholders is crucial; therefore, I plan to establish open communication channels and encourage participatory decision-making processes. This collaborative approach will ensure that the university's strategic initiatives are inclusive and reflective of the community's aspirations.

TDS: What is your vision for IUB in terms of contributing to the development of higher education in Bangladesh, and how do you plan to leverage the university's existing strengths to achieve this?

MT: I envision IUB as a leading institution that not only imparts quality education but also contributes significantly to national development through research and community engagement. By leveraging our experienced faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, and strong



industry connections, we aim to develop programs that address contemporary challenges and produce graduates who are well-equipped to drive progress in various sectors of Bangladesh. I want to encourage research that focuses on local problems. Local application of research outcome will bring more satisfaction to the students and faculties.

TDS: How do you plan to approach challenges in the higher education sector, such as aligning academic programs with job market demands and fostering an

environment that promotes research and innovation?

MT: We regularly consult with industry experts about bringing our curricula up to speed with the latest industry trends and needs. The Career Guidance and Placement Office prepares students for the workforce by organizing workshops, mock interviews, career fairs, and skill development programs. We have a university-wide strategic approach to engage with industry players through partnerships, internships, and collaborative projects. These engagements provide students with hands-on experience and valuable exposure to real-world scenarios. We also invest in professional development for faculty to adopt innovative teaching methodologies. The Institutional Quality Assurance Cell at IUB, led by some of our most accomplished academics, ensures that our academic programs meet international standards and produce graduates equipped with critical thinking and problem-solving skills. To promote innovation, we are strengthening our research centers by providing them with the necessary resources to create an environment that encourages cutting-edge research. By prioritizing these areas, we aim to cultivate a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, empowering our students to be leaders and problem-solvers in their respective fields.

Private Universities Are Leading the Way

FROM PAGES 1

Offering a wide range of programs and degrees, these universities cater to the diverse aspirations of students seeking quality education. With a strong emphasis on specialization, modern curricula, and the building of solid reputations, private universities have gained considerable momentum. Their increasing popularity is evident not only in the rise of student enrollments but also in their growing preference over public universities in many cases.

"Curriculum flexibility and consistent adherence to academic calendar are among the strengths of private universities. They also have the freedom to hire foreign faculty, unlike public universities, which are limited by the 1973 Act in appointing foreign scholars or members of the diaspora for teaching. In terms of international outlook, private universities are leading the way by offering opportunities such as credit transfers to foreign universities and hiring international professors for specific semesters. These practices foster the exchange of global knowledge," says Dr. Shamsad Mortuza, professor of English at Dhaka University, a board member of ULAB, and former pro-vice-chancellor at ULAB.

Students choose universities based on their personal preferences, aiming to receive an education that aligns with their aspirations and dreams. The choice of institution plays a crucial role, influenced by factors such as quality faculty members, well-designed courses, research opportunities, and laboratory facilities. Additionally, students consider job market trends, both locally and globally, when making their decisions.

"IUBAT offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs tailored to meet the evolving demands of the national and global job market. From Business Administration and Agriculture to Computer Science, Public Health, Engineering, Nursing, Tourism and Hospitality Management, English, and Economics, each program with a forward-thinking curriculum is designed to build professional skills and foster an appropriate mindset for career advancement," shares Professor Dr. Abdur Rab, Vice-Chancellor of IUBAT.

Dr. Saiful Islam, Vice Chancellor of the American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB), says, "The courses of different programs are periodically updated to keep pace with the continuous changes in the engineering, technological, and computational worlds and to meet the evolving requirements of industries, the corporate world, and other employers. Global trends in the subjects are important factors, which are carefully monitored and taken into account while updating the course syllabus."

Currently, the majority of students in private universities are pursuing degrees in science and business studies, with universities providing strong support to ensure quality education. According to the UGC report, engineering and technology account for the



largest share, representing 43.90 percent of total enrollments in the academic session. This is followed by commerce education at 22 percent, arts and humanities at 11.07 percent, law at 6.09 percent, and social sciences at 3.49 percent in private universities.

As institutions of higher education, private universities are increasingly attracting significant interest from international students. According to the UGC report, the number of foreign students enrolled in private universities is nearly double that of public universities. This highlights private universities as hubs for cultural exchange, fostering the sharing of ideas and perspectives among both local and international students—an essential aspect of education in today's globalized world. However, educationists emphasize the need to further enhance opportunities and the academic environment to attract even more foreign students.

The affiliation of private universities with foreign institutions, centers, and local higher research organizations is creating significant opportunities for students, including potential credit transfers and future research prospects.

"Our Business Department recently earned accreditation from the ACBSP, a prestigious North American accreditation body. Furthermore, we have signed MOUs with institutions such as the Asian Institute of Technology, Macquarie University in Australia, and a university in the United States," shares Prof. Shams Rahman, Vice Chancellor of East West University.

"IUB has MoUs with a number of local and foreign universities and institutes

such as Kobe College (Japan), University of Hyogo (Japan), University of Maribor (Slovenia), Vellore Institute of Technology (India), Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Dhaka, Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB), Lanka-Bangla Finance, and more," according to the Media and Public Relations Office of the Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB).

Private universities are predominantly located in the cities of Dhaka and Chattogram, attracting students from across the country with the advantages of urban amenities. Following the directives of the University Grants Commission (UGC), most private universities have relocated their campuses to permanent sites, offering enhanced infrastructure and facilities conducive to education.

Additionally, some private universities now provide hostel accommodations, particularly for female students coming from outside Dhaka and Chattogram. Notably, private student hostels and affordable rental options near many private universities have significantly alleviated accommodation challenges for students.

In today's world, global university rankings serve as a benchmark for academic excellence and institutional performance, providing students and parents with valuable insights when considering potential enrollment in private universities. A review of the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings reveals a notable increase in the number of Bangladeshi universities featured. By 2025, 15 Bangladeshi universities are listed, compared to four in 2023 and just

two in 2022. Among these, approximately 50 percent of the universities in 2025 and 2024 are private institutions.

The rise of private universities in global rankings is a result of their continuous efforts in academics, with significant investments in programs, research, publications, and overall institutional growth. "A university's foundation lies in quality education, which requires faculty members who have studied both locally and abroad," says Kazi Tareq Ullah, Acting Dean of the School of Business Administration.

He goes on to explain, "Recently, more than 50 PhD-holding faculty members have joined our university across various departments. Furthermore, in 2024, Uttara University was ranked 276th among the top 300 universities globally in innovation by the WURI rankings. It also achieved an impressive 12th position worldwide in the Student Support and Engagement category among the top 100 universities." He further emphasized that Uttara University provides free transport for its students.

Scholarship opportunities significantly enhance students' academic journeys, making their experiences more inspiring and manageable. Currently, private universities in Bangladesh offer a wide range of scholarships based on academic performance, tuition fee waivers, and other financial benefits. Additionally, many private universities provide scholarships specifically for women, marginalized groups, and students with disabilities, ensuring access to higher education for diverse student populations. Moreover, some universities maintain more affordable tuition fees to further support

students from varying socioeconomic backgrounds.

"Starting in 2024, students admitted to the university will receive scholarships for all four years based on their results, unlike many universities that require maintaining specific academic marks. This ensures financial clarity for guardians throughout the period. In addition to scholarships for freedom fighters and the Adibasi quota, we also support students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds and those with relatives who have studied at our university," says Mohammad Omar Faraque, Director (In-Charge) of Outreach & Public Relations at the State University of Bangladesh.

The availability of advanced lab facilities, opportunities within business groups, and strong university connections to business conglomerates significantly influence students' choice of universities and their preference for subjects aligned with the universities' areas of focus, especially to become skilled professionals.

"To address the growing demand for skilled professionals in the country's Textile, RMG, and Fashion industries, BUFT offers a diverse range of undergraduate and graduate programs spanning Textile Engineering & Management, Industrial Engineering, Apparel Manufacturing & Merchandising, Knitwear Manufacturing, Fashion Studies & Design, Business, Environmental Science, and English. Additionally, the university provides certificate courses in Apparel, Knit, Woven & Sweater Merchandising," shares Prof. Engr. Ayub Nabi Khan, Acting VC of BUFT.

"We prioritize the engineering, business, and English departments. Students have easy access to the state-of-the-art labs provided by the Abul Khair Group. Those who achieve outstanding academic performance are often offered job opportunities at the Abul Khair Group. Last year, approximately 300 students from our university were recruited by the group, including 140 from the Civil Engineering department alone," mentions Jahid Hasan, Deputy Director & Head (Acting) of Admission, Promotion & PR, Presidency University.

Despite the growing presence and influence of private universities in Bangladesh, challenges in consistently maintaining high educational standards continue to be a concern for many educators.

"In our country, both public and private universities often struggle to maintain consistent educational standards. These challenges require targeted initiatives to improve the situation. While a handful of private universities meet qualitative benchmarks, the majority face significant difficulties in upholding these standards," says Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Professor Emeritus at BRAC University. "It is crucial to prioritize educational quality, implement effective student assessment methods, and ensure efficient university management. These efforts are essential to enhance graduates' competitiveness and prepare them to meet the demands of the modern age," he adds.



FUTURE READY

The Daily Star
DHAKA SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2025
MAGH 19, 1431 BS

S3

BRIDGING ACADEMIA with industry and global practices

PROF. DR. SHAMS RAHMAN

Vice Chancellor, East West University (EWU)



We have introduced a Data Science and Analytics program and are in the process of launching cutting-edge programs in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Cybersecurity, Environment and Climate Change, and a technology-oriented MBA.

The Daily Star (TDS): What makes your university the ideal choice for prospective students?

Shams Rahman (SR): Ideally, a university is a place where knowledge should be created and exchanged. And that's exactly what East West University is dedicated to. More specifically, we are committed to academic excellence, an innovative learning environment, and a holistic approach to student development. We have a beautiful campus in an excellent location, in the heart of Dhaka city which makes it easy to commute to the campus. We have an exceptional faculty, as we believe the intellectual property they share in the classroom is critical for developing students' skills and competencies. All our labs are equipped with modern tools and research equipment, enabling hands-on training for students. We emphasize extracurricular and co-curricular activities through various clubs.

Students should consider this holistic package—classroom education and research, extracurricular activities, and outside-the-classroom engagements—as our university's key approach.

TDS: Please share details about the programs and courses tailored to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in today's dynamic job market.

SR: We are aware of the changing global needs driven by technology and environmental concerns. Our programs are designed to incorporate technologies associated with Industry 4.0, and we are transitioning swiftly into Industry 5.0. Let me highlight some of the critical findings of the recent report by the World Economic Forum.

According to this report, big data analytics, climate change, and cybersecurity are expected to be the biggest drivers of job growth. Analytical thinking and creative thinking will be the most important skills.

To address these issues, we carefully design our programs and courses to ensure our students are equipped with the skills and knowledge required to excel in today's fast-paced and ever-evolving job market. For instance, recently we have introduced a Data Science and Analytics program and are in the process of launching cutting-edge programs in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Cybersecurity, Environment and Climate Change, and a technology-oriented MBA. Our Civil Engineering program integrates technology into its curriculum, a specialization attractive to engineers seeking international opportunities, especially in the Middle East.

Our Business Department recently earned accreditation from the ACBSP, a prestigious North American accreditation body. Furthermore, we've signed MOUs with institutions like the Asian Institute of Technology, Macquarie University in Australia, and a U.S. university.

TDS: Could you tell us about the dynamics of your teaching staff?

SR: We have a clear strategy when it comes to recruiting and developing faculty members. For junior faculty—lecturers, senior lecturers, and assistant professors—we focus on recruiting fresh graduates with some experience. Our approach involves recruiting, retraining, and retaining them.

For senior faculty—associate professors and professors—we ensure their dedication to



teaching, active involvement in research, and ability to take on leadership roles within the university. To retain them, we provide incentives such as research grants through our Center for Research and Training and additional financial benefits for publishing in top journals.

TDS: Can you tell us about the university's research facilities.

SR: Providing robust research facilities and nurturing research capabilities among academics are critical priorities for us. We encourage and motivate all our academics to apply for research grants, conduct research, and publish their findings. Last year alone, a commendable number of articles were published.

We are also working to build a research culture by introducing the concept of a "Research Day," which is new in Bangladesh. We fund student-led research, allowing master's and final-year students to publish in top journals.

TDS: How does the university nurture the inner

potential of its students through extracurricular activities such as clubs, job fairs, and competitions?

SR: We have two entities dedicated to student development: the Department of Student Welfare and the Career Counseling Center, which helps with presentation skills, mock interviews, and CV writing. Our 21 active student clubs, including Photography and Debating, nurture leadership, teamwork, and negotiation, often leading to national-level victories and lifelong passions.

TDS: Could you provide an overview of tuition fees, scholarships, and waivers offered by the university, as well as other initiatives aimed at supporting students in achieving their academic goals?

SR: Our university is affordable for middle-class, upper-middle-class, and lower-middle-class families, offering various scholarships. These include merit-based scholarships, academic performance scholarships, Trustee Board Director and Medha Lalon scholarships, employee scholarships for children of university staff, and financial assistance for students facing hardship. We also offer a District Quota Scholarship for top students from each district. Recently, we awarded 10 full scholarships to female students from Gaza, covering both tuition and living expenses at the request of the Palestinian embassy.

In conclusion, I would like to highlight that when it comes to learning, teaching, research, and innovation, our approach is holistic, and our strategy is simple: 'inside out and outside in.' This means that what we teach and research on campus, we take to the industry, while also bringing knowledge from the industry into the classroom.

How Are Private Universities Shaping the Future of Research?

FROM PAGE S4

Prof. Dr. Md. Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Vice Chancellor of Presidency University, emphasized, "Every year, faculties are getting the exposure they deserve in international journals for their outstanding contributions to societal growth. This inspires students to accept real-world challenges and enhances their creativity and confidence."

Uttara University aims to make a global impact through research, tackling both local and global problems. "To receive incentives and acknowledgment for their accomplishments, faculty members and students are encouraged to participate in international conferences and publish their



The integration of research within the educational framework of private universities in Bangladesh is not just enhancing the quality of education but is also driving social change, fostering innovation, and preparing students to face global challenges.

research in esteemed, indexed journals. This not only raises the university's academic standing but also ensures that Uttara University will continue to play a significant role in advancing technology and knowledge worldwide," noted Prof. Eaysmin Ara Lekha, Vice-Chancellor of Uttara University. The university takes pride in its existing research and innovation facilities.

At IUBAT, the Miyan Research Institute drives impactful research focused on real-world issues, such as renewable energy and healthcare solutions. Prof. Abdur Rab, Vice-Chancellor of IUBAT, remarks, "IUBAT is committed to fostering a culture of inquiry and creativity. Its research facilities and innovation labs play a pivotal role in this mission. The Miyan Research Institute finances research funds for teachers and students and leads the university's research

efforts." IUBAT's commitment to high-quality research is evident in its achievement of 4th position in SCImago (2024) for SCOPUS-indexed publications. The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre at the university fosters student innovation, equips them with entrepreneurial skills, offers financial aid for product prototyping, supports patenting, and encourages business ventures.

Prof. Dr. Abdul Awal Khan, Vice-Chancellor of International Standard University (ISU), stated, "The university is focusing on a range of research topics, including socio-economic development, food security and sustainable development, artificial intelligence, innovative human management processes, and the socio-economic impact of COVID-19." The university's policy-oriented research covers a wide range of fields, from artificial intelligence to socio-economic development.

On societal progress, Prof. Dr. Nawzia Yasmin, Vice-Chancellor (in charge) of the State University of Bangladesh (SUB), noted, "From conducting pioneering research in renewable energy to developing community-centric healthcare models, our university prioritizes impactful projects that benefit society." The university promotes advanced research in diverse fields, from technology and health sciences to business and renewable energy,

through its research centers to address real-world challenges with innovative solutions. Additionally, the university provides labs equipped with modern tools and technologies that support practical learning. Students are encouraged to participate in funded research projects, hackathons, and competitions, further enhancing their skills and confidence.

In conclusion, the integration of research within the educational framework of private universities in Bangladesh is not just enhancing the quality of education but is also driving social change, fostering innovation, and preparing students to face global challenges. Their efforts highlight the growing emphasis on research as a fundamental aspect of university life. By investing in state-of-the-art research facilities, providing substantial funding, and promoting collaborations, these universities are not only creating new knowledge but are also shaping future leaders equipped with the skills and insights needed to address real-world problems. As Bangladesh continues to develop, the commitment of its private universities to research will play a crucial role in fostering sustainable development, technological advancements, and societal progress, ensuring that the next generation is ready to lead with creativity, innovation, and a deep sense of responsibility.

BDT 233 million
in research and grants in
2023-25

1,450+ publications
by IUB faculty in the
last 4 years

128
PhD-holders in the faculty

BDT 270 million
in scholarships and waivers
in 2023-24

47%
female students

19,000+
Alumni

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WEAVING the Textile Future of Bangladesh

PROF. DR. ENGR. AYUB NABI KHAN

Acting Vice Chancellor, BGMEA University of Fashion & Technology



Our university offers industry-aligned programs in textile engineering, supply chain management, fashion, apparel technology, merchandising, industrial engineering, and computer science.

The Daily Star (TDS): What makes your university the ideal choice for prospective students?

Ayub Nabi Khan (ANK): Our university is a specialised institution designed to meet the critical demands of the textile, Ready-Made Garments (RMG), and fashion industries. With a significant shortage of skilled professionals in areas like processing, industrial engineering, merchandising, quality control, and sustainability, our need-based curriculum fills these gaps. Unlike general academic programs, we focus on high-demand fields, ensuring our graduates are highly employable.

Another unique aspect of our university is our strict maintenance of quality education. To ensure better education and proper knowledge dissemination, we have highly qualified, foreign-educated teaching staff and an industry-aligned curriculum. We always strive to create manpower that will steer the helm of our industries.

By offering a unique, industry-focused education under one umbrella, we empower students with the skills and knowledge to thrive in both local and global job markets.

TDS: Please share details about the programs and courses tailored to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in today's dynamic job market.

ANK: Our university offers industry-aligned programs in textile engineering, supply chain management, fashion, apparel technology, merchandising, industrial engineering, and computer science. With vast job opportunities in the RMG and textile sectors, our education addresses skills mismatches, preparing students for success. We focus on sustainability and CSR, with Circular Textiles introducing Bangladesh's first CSR-focused curriculum. Our graduates

find opportunities in countries like Cambodia, Vietnam, Germany, Turkey, and the Middle East. With a high employability rate exceeding 90%, our programs equip students with the expertise to excel in local and global markets.

TDS: Could you tell us about the dynamics of your teaching staff?

ANK: We have a dedicated faculty team of over 250 members, catering to a student body of more than 6,000. This results in a teacher-student ratio of 1:24, slightly above the standard ratio of 1:20. We place great emphasis on the qualifications of our faculty, ensuring that we recruit individuals with a minimum CGPA of 3.5, typically in the range of 3.5 to 4.00, to maintain academic excellence. Furthermore, we prioritise

We have 55 state-of-the-art laboratories across various disciplines, including textile, fashion, engineering, and computer science, equipped with modern tools for hands-on learning. The university continuously upgrades its equipment to stay ahead in technology. These labs foster innovation, supporting education and societal progress by addressing future challenges in 4IR Technology.

candidates with relevant academic backgrounds and experience, including at least one year of teaching experience at the lecturer level or industrial expertise.



TDS: Can you tell us about the university's research facilities?

ANK: Our university is guided by a Board of Trustees of 21 textile industry owners, emphasizing practical skills for real-world challenges. We have 55 state-of-the-art laboratories across various disciplines, including textile, fashion, engineering, and computer science, equipped with modern tools for hands-on learning. The university continuously upgrades its equipment to stay ahead in technology. These labs foster innovation, supporting education and societal progress by addressing future challenges in 4IR Technology. Additionally, BUFT maintains academic and research partnerships with national and international organizations and universities, further enhancing our educational resources and opportunities.

TDS: How does the university nurture the inner potential of its students through extracurricular activities such as clubs, job fairs, and competitions?

ANK: With 22 student clubs across various fields—including textile, innovation, fashion, business, social science, and sports—students can develop their skills beyond academics. Each year, we host a job fair featuring over 300 companies, providing direct employment opportunities for graduates.

This year, BUFT organised one of the largest National Career Fests, creating significant job opportunities. Our debate club has won multiple national awards and recently hosted a competition with 64 universities and colleges. We also held a national entrepreneurship expo with 35 stalls from 15 universities.

BUFT students have excelled in international fashion design contests and won accolades like the National Film Award in fashion design. Many of our fashion designers, apparel technologists, and textile engineers hold leadership roles in multinational companies and major retail brands across Asia, Europe, and Bangladesh.

TDS: Could you provide an overview of tuition fees along with details of scholarships and waivers offered by the university and other initiatives, aimed at supporting students in achieving their academic goals?

ANK: We offer affordable tuition fees, ensuring that education is accessible to all. The Board of Trustees' financial aid, scholarships, and waivers are available for students, including those from disadvantaged groups, freedom fighters, employees' children, and female students. Accommodation is also available for female students. Additionally, the university hosts national debate competitions to encourage student engagement. With strong representation from rural students from regions like Rangpur, Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Cumilla, Netrokona, Sylhet, Mymensing, Noakhali, Feni, and Rangamati, the university is committed to making education accessible for all.

How Are Private Universities Shaping the Future of Research?



In Bangladesh, private universities have made considerable strides in cultivating a research-driven environment, aligning with their mission to equip the next generation for the challenges ahead.

SAUDIA AFRIN

Research is typically seen as the primary driver of new knowledge, and its integral role in universities is well-established. Yet, the connection between teaching, learning, and research is often overlooked—each component supports and enhances the others in the pursuit of new insights. This interconnected approach not only elevates the quality of education but also nurtures critical thinking, drives social change, and fosters innovation. In Bangladesh, private universities have made considerable strides in cultivating a research-driven environment, aligning with their mission to equip the next generation for the challenges ahead.

According to the 49th annual report of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC),

the allocated amounts for research in private universities for the fiscal years 2019-20, 2020-21, and 2021-22 were BDT 111.73 crore, BDT 119.88 crore, and BDT 139.31 crore, respectively.

Referring to research as critical, Prof. Shams Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of East West University (EWU), stated, "A university cannot be a university just by teaching. It must conduct research, and only through research can a university transform into a true academic institution. A university exists to create knowledge and disseminate it. Research creates new knowledge, which we can then share. Providing research facilities and nurturing research abilities among academics is critical."

Over the past few years, EWU has ensured that every academic applies for research grants, conducts research, and publishes their findings.

EWU's Center for Research and Training (CRT) is at the forefront of promoting academic and applied research, striving to create and disseminate new knowledge. Over the past sixteen years (2007–June 2024), CRT has allocated around BDT 50 million to support faculty research, publications, conferences, seminars, and workshops. The university also houses a fully equipped Research Hub, featuring 17 desktop computers, 6 laptops, 4 tablets, and various recording equipment, all designed to facilitate faculty research and data analysis.

American International University Bangladesh (AIUB) sets as its primary goal the fostering of a research mindset to explore and enhance curriculum development. The university encourages both faculty and students to publish their work in renowned journals and present at international conferences. "The university administration is providing significant funds for research within its capacity and financing participation in both international and national conferences," said Prof. Dr. Saiful

Islam, Vice-Chancellor of AIUB. The Dr. Anwarul Abedin Institute of Innovation (D2A2I), design studios, physics labs, and chemistry labs are key avenues for fostering knowledge gathering and innovation at AIUB.

Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) is committed to nurturing an environment that promotes research and innovation, contributing to sustainable development. The university has allocated and received funds

to prestigious resource platforms, including ABI Global (ProQuest), Cambridge University Press Journals, EBSCOhost, Emerald Journals, IEEE Xplore, JSTOR, the Literary Encyclopedia, National Geographic, and SpringerLink Journals.

Bangladesh University of Fashion and Technology (BUFT) is home to state-of-the-art classrooms, labs, and research facilities that equip graduates with practical skills to tackle real-world challenges. As part of its commitment to research, BUFT actively engages in international research projects such as DelPHE, Nuffic NICHE, and SMART 2020. The university has established 55 state-of-the-art laboratories across various disciplines, including textile, fashion, industrial engineering, mechanical, and computer

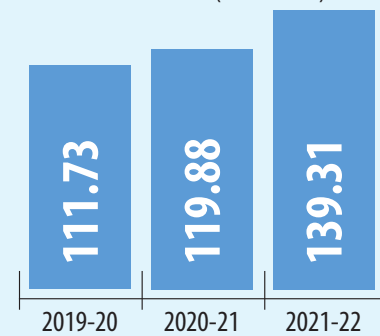
science, all equipped with modern, technology-based tools that foster hands-on learning and innovation. The equipment is continuously upgraded to ensure students have access to the latest technology. "These research facilities and innovation labs play a critical role in enhancing education, encouraging innovation, and contributing to societal progress by providing students with the resources to tackle current and future challenges," said Professor Dr. Engineer Ayub Nabi Khan, Pro Vice-Chancellor of BGMEA University of Fashion & Technology.

The Presidency University Research Centre (PURC) is another beacon of innovation, fostering collaborations between faculty and students and driving research that addresses critical challenges.

SEE PAGE S3

Research Allocation in Private Universities

from 2019-2022 (in BDT Crore)



SOURCE: UGC 49TH ANNUAL REPORT, 2022



Degrees That Deliver Your Ticket to a Thriving Career

MIPTAHUL JANNAT

In a rapidly evolving job market, choosing the right degree can make or break your career. With over half a million graduates entering the workforce every year, Bangladesh's education system faces a major challenge: equipping students with skills that are in high demand. While public universities may have a long-standing reputation, private universities in Bangladesh have also emerged as key players in preparing students for success.

The Changing Landscape of Higher Education

The global job market is evolving at a pace that many traditional degree programs cannot keep up with. Fields such as technology, business, and healthcare are booming, creating an insatiable demand for graduates who possess cutting-edge skills. In response, private universities in Bangladesh have stepped up, offering innovative programs designed to meet the needs of the modern workforce. By focusing on industry trends and career-readiness, these institutions are ensuring that their graduates are not only employable but also competitive on the global stage.

"We regularly update our curricula with industry input and prepare students through workshops, mock interviews, career fairs, and skill programs. Our strategic industry partnerships, internships, and projects offer hands-on experience and real-world exposure," mentioned Prof. M. Tamim, Vice Chancellor, Independent University, Bangladesh.

What Makes Private Universities Stand Out?

Private universities in Bangladesh have set themselves apart by emphasising industry-specific skills, practical training, and employability. Modern labs, libraries, and research centers enhance learning, while collaborations with corporations provide real-world exposure through internships, projects, and networking. This ensures graduates are both academically strong and equipped with the practical skills employers seek.

Regarding this, Mohammad Omar Faraque, Director (In-charge), Outreach & Public Relations Department, State University of Bangladesh mentioned, "We collaborate with industry leaders and HR professionals to tailor our courses to job market demands, ensuring graduates are career-ready. Our workshops cover CV writing, interview skills, and career strategies, featuring top CEOs and experts who share insights on navigating and succeeding in a competitive job market."

Moreover, the global exposure offered through exchange programs and internships abroad further enhances students' job prospects. This blend of academic rigor and industry exposure makes private universities a top choice for those looking to make a mark on the international stage. "The global trends in the subjects are very important factors which are carefully monitored and taken into account while updating the course syllabus of different subjects," added Prof. Saiful Islam, Vice-Chancellor, American International University-Bangladesh.

In-Demand Degrees and Where to Find Them

Engineering
The tech industry is exploding worldwide, and Bangladesh is no exception. The demand for professionals in fields such as artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity, and software development is higher than ever. As companies and organisations around the world continue to generate vast amounts of data, the need for data scientists and analysts is surging. These degrees provide the skills necessary to interpret complex data sets and extract valuable insights, making it a goldmine for job seekers.

"The Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) program focuses on cutting-edge areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and data science. By aligning curriculum with industry trends and emerging technologies, IUBAT ensures graduates are not only employable but also capable of driving innovation in their respective fields," added Prof. Abdur Rab, Vice-Chancellor, IUBAT.

Engineering programs including electrical and electronic engineering (EEE), computer science, mechanical and industrial engineering offer students the tools to thrive in this digital age. "Our programs are designed to incorporate technologies associated with Industry 4.0, and we are transitioning swiftly into Industry 5.0. We offer cutting-edge programs in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Analytics, and

Cybersecurity. In addition to basic law degrees, we provide specialised master's programs in areas like law and the environment or law and cybersecurity—fields gaining significant importance today," commented Prof. Shams Rahman, Vice Chancellor, East West University

Business and Finance

The business world is always looking for the next generation of leaders, innovators, and entrepreneurs. With the rise of fintech, corporate leadership, and the start-up culture, degrees in Business Administration are more valuable than ever. Kazi Tareq Ullah, Dean (Acting), School of Business Administration, Uttara University remarked, "Our business school offers a unique Professional Skill Enhancement (PSE) course, mandatory for graduates to develop market-driven skills. With 30% of business students interested in entrepreneurship, we design specialised courses and collaborate with institutions like the Global Entrepreneurship Network to create opportunities and foster their entrepreneurial growth."

From finance to marketing to operations, BBA and MBA programs prepare students for diverse roles across sectors. "Our business programs in accounting, marketing, finance, supply chain management, and MIS are highly marketable. With hands-on training, our engineering and business graduates gain a competitive edge, securing opportunities in top companies with strong employability and career resilience," highlighted Jahid Hasan, Deputy Director & Head (Acting) of Admission, Promotion & PR, Presidency University.

Textile and Fashion

Bangladesh's position as one of the world's largest garment exporters makes Textile Engineering a highly relevant field of study. Universities offer courses in textile production, garment manufacturing, and fashion technology. With a significant shortage of skilled professionals in areas like processing, industrial engineering, merchandising, quality control, and sustainability, graduates from these courses easily secure impactful careers.

Dr. Engineer Ayub Nabi Khan, Acting Vice Chancellor, BGMEA University of Fashion & Technology said, "Our university offers industry-aligned programs in textile engineering, supply chain management, fashion, and industrial engineering, ensuring high employability. As the first in Bangladesh to introduce a CSR-focused curriculum, we emphasise sustainability. With a 90%+ employability rate, our graduates secure opportunities worldwide."

Law, Agriculture and Social Sciences

Legal education remains a prominent field, with private universities offering Bachelor of Laws (LLB) and Master of Laws (LLM) programs. Students learn about corporate law, human rights, constitutional law, and international law, which are essential for careers in both public and private sectors. Expansion of corporate sectors requires legal professionals for compliance and regulatory needs.

"We offer rigorous law programs and a significant number of students in the Bar Council are from our university. Recently, many of those who qualified for the Bar Council were our students. With their seniors already established in the council, they benefit from guidance and support, enhancing their professional development," stated Mohammad Omar Faraque from State University of Bangladesh.

Additionally, studying agriculture and social sciences subjects like economics, sociology, political science, provides a deep understanding of society, governance, and sustainable development. Agriculture, in particular, plays a crucial role in food security and rural development, making it essential for addressing

PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATE STUDENTS FROM PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES AT DIFFERENT DEGREE LEVELS IN THE LAST 5 YEARS

DEGREE LEVEL	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Undergraduate (Pass), Undergraduate (Honours) & Post-graduate	72.29	61.71	64.05	54.81	56.27
Undergraduate (Honours) (Vocational & Technical)	26.69	36.48	34.90	43.26	41.50
Post-graduate (Vocational & Technical)	1.02	1.81	1.05	1.93	2.23

SOURCE: UGC 49TH ANNUAL REPORT, 2022

Private universities have set themselves apart by emphasising industry-specific skills, practical training, and employability. Modern labs, libraries, and research centers enhance learning, while collaborations with corporations provide real-world exposure through internships, projects, and networking.

global challenges. "Our Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (BSAg) program emphasises sustainable agricultural practices and modern technology to prepare students for challenges in food security and environmental conservation," commented Prof. Abdur Rab from IUBAT.

These disciplines equip students with analytical, policy-making, and problem-solving skills, preparing them for impactful careers in research, public service, and industry. With growing concerns over climate change, resource management, and social inequalities, social sciences offer the knowledge and tools needed to create sustainable solutions and drive meaningful change in both local and global contexts.

Prof. Shams Rahman, Vice Chancellor, East West University mentioned, "Our Economics Department offers specialised programs, including Environment and Climate Change, to address pressing global challenges. These programs equip students with the knowledge and skills needed to analyse environmental policies, sustainability strategies, and economic impacts of climate change."

What Students Should Consider

Beyond Job Titles – Choosing a degree

is not just about a future job; it is about long-term growth. Considering faculty expertise, university reputation, and career support ensures long-term success.

Financial Aid Matters – Many private universities offer scholarships and funding options, making quality education more accessible and reducing financial strain.

Future-Proof Your Career – Fields like AI, cybersecurity, entrepreneurship and sustainability are growing rapidly; choosing programs in these areas can provide a competitive edge.

Think Global – A degree from a reputed institution can open doors to opportunities both in Bangladesh and abroad.

Strategic Decision-Making – The right choice today can define your career path, so invest in a program that aligns with your ambitions.

Private universities in Bangladesh are evolving to meet market demands, aligning curriculum with emerging trends. By bridging academia and industry, these universities are shaping a workforce ready to thrive in the job market.





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PROF. DR. SAIFUL ISLAM

Vice Chancellor, American International University-Bangladesh (AIUB)



AIUB has a strong Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), established as per the mandate of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Bangladesh and the Ministry of Education Bangladesh, which has been operational since 2015.

TDS: What makes your university the ideal choice for prospective students?

Saiful Islam (SI): The university has a beautiful campus with a sufficient number of multimedia projector equipped classrooms and well-equipped laboratories for each of the science and technology-based departments. For non-engineering departments, laboratory facilities are provided wherever necessary. The laboratories are equipped with multimedia projectors. All of these rooms are fully air-conditioned. Internet Wi-Fi connections are available throughout the campus.

The university has a sufficient number of experienced teachers in all the departments. The university has good library and reading space facilities. Indeed, the university has a superb teaching and learning environment. Cafeteria facilities are available for both students and teachers. Outdoor seating arrangements are placed at different locations on campus for the relaxation of students. The university has one fully equipped auditorium and three multipurpose hall rooms for international conferences, seminars, large meetings, and various cultural programs. The university also provides playgrounds for different outdoor games and sports. In addition, indoor game facilities are available. A gymnasium equipped with modern fitness equipment is available for students. A swimming pool is also accessible for students. All of these features make the university an ideal choice for prospective students.

TDS: Share details about the programs and courses tailored to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in today's dynamic job market. Include how these courses align with industry demands and future trends.

SI: The courses of different programs are periodically updated to keep pace with the continuous changes and evolutions in engineering, technology, and computation, as well as to meet the shifting requirements of industries, the corporate sector, and other employers. Global trends in these subjects are essential factors that are carefully monitored and considered while updating the course syllabus for different subjects.

TDS: Could you tell us about the dynamics of your teaching staff, particularly in areas such as professional development, teaching methods, and research and development? How do these contribute to upholding and enhancing the quality of education at your university?

SI: The university has a strong Institutional Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), established as per the mandate of the University Grants Commission (UGC) Bangladesh and the Ministry of Education Bangladesh, which has been operational since 2015. The IQAC, through its various activities throughout the year, provides necessary training and guidelines on teaching and learning methodologies to faculty members and relevant personnel. This is one of the strongest mechanisms through which the



university enhances and upholds the quality of education.

TDS: Can you tell us about the university's research facilities and innovation labs, and their role in fostering innovation, enhancing education, and contributing to societal progress?

SI: The university has always been committed to encouraging both teachers and students to engage in research activities from the very beginning. Initially, this was not an easy task, but the university has now attained significant success in promoting research. Teachers and students in every department are now strongly motivated to participate in research activities. Most faculty members are continuously engaged

in research and regularly publish their work in reputed journals. The university authority provides substantial funding for research within its capacity and finances participation in international and national conferences.

TDS: How does the university nurture the inner potential of its students through extracurricular activities such as clubs, job fairs, and competitions?

SI: AIUB has a large number of student clubs that organize various programs throughout the year. Job fairs are held regularly. Various extracurricular activities, including sports events, debates, drama contests, photography competitions, exhibitions, programming competitions, hackathons, project showcases, poster exhibitions, and subject-based competitions, are also hosted by the university. AIUB strongly encourages and supports all these activities, ensuring that students have opportunities to develop their skills beyond academics.

TDS: Could you provide an overview of tuition fees, along with details of scholarships and waivers offered by the university and other initiatives aimed at supporting students in achieving their academic goals?

SI: Scholarships are provided in different categories, following the guidelines of UGC and the government. Apart from these, scholarships are also granted, after proper evaluation, to students who unexpectedly face financial hardships due to family crises or other difficulties.

Higher Education Made Affordable A Scholarship Guide for Aspiring Students



Many institutions now offer robust financial aid programs that reflect their commitment to quality education at an affordable cost.

AYMAN ANIKA

Whether you've just completed your Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) or have been planning to enrol in a reputable university, the journey ahead is filled with excitement and challenges. Amid dreams of higher education and professional success, one critical concern looms for many: the affordability of private universities. While these institutions offer state-of-the-art facilities and a diverse array of programs, tuition fees can sometimes feel prohibitive.

The good news? Scholarships and waivers can turn these challenges into opportunities. These financial aids don't just make education more accessible – they empower students to focus on their goals without the weight of financial stress.

Making higher education accessible

Private universities in Bangladesh are increasingly acknowledging the financial hurdles faced by students and their families. Many institutions now offer robust financial aid programs that

reflect their commitment to quality education at an affordable cost.

"We are committed to making quality education accessible to all," says Professor Dr. Navzia Yasmin, Vice-Chancellor (in charge) of the State University of Bangladesh. "Our tuition fees are competitive, and we offer scholarships and financial aid tailored to diverse economic backgrounds, including merit-based scholarships, need-based waivers, and special provisions for academically outstanding students from underserved areas."

Additionally, Prof. Dr. Engr. Ayub Nabi Khan, Acting Vice-Chancellor of BGMEA University of Fashion & Technology (BUFT) states, "We are empowering youths with not only education but also practical skills. Our tuition fee is reasonable, and we provide scholarships like the Trustee's Scholarship and Freedom Fighters' Scholarship."

Dr. Khan's statement reflects the broader shift

among private universities toward accessible education that goes beyond academics, equipping students with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

The scholarships can range from partial tuition fee waivers to full coverage of all expenses, including accommodation and library fees. High CGPA requirements – typically above 3.7 – ensure these scholarships go to the most dedicated learners.

Extracurricular achievements are also recognised. Universities value accomplished individuals and may offer financial aid to students excelling in sports, arts, or community service.

Unveiling opportunities: Types of scholarships
Higher education is a stepping stone to professional success, but the costs associated with private universities can be daunting. Tuition fees, lab charges, library fees, and other expenses add up quickly. For many students, waivers and scholarships transform dreams into reality by reducing these financial burdens.

Waivers and scholarships come in various forms, catering to diverse student needs. For example, merit-based scholarships are awarded to students who excel academically. These scholarships primarily cover partial or full tuition fees. High CGPAs and stellar academic records are usually the key criteria. Institutions like East West University (EWU) and Presidency University have

structured programs to recognise high achievers.

"We award 100 per cent scholarships to students with a GPA of 5 in their HSC exams," explains Prof. Dr. Md. Abdul Mannan Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of Presidency University. "Our tuition fee for engineering is quite reasonable, between 3 to 4 lakhs, and we offer additional scholarships for the children of freedom fighters and tribal communities."

For students from low-income families, need-

based financial aid provides a lifeline. These programs often include tuition waivers, interest-free loans, or stipends to cover living expenses. At EWU, 12.74 per cent of the university's total earnings are distributed as financial aid to more than 20 per cent of its students, according to Dr. Md. Shams-Ur Rahman, Vice-Chancellor of EWU.

"We have adopted a policy of using a significant portion of our operating surplus to nurture merit and provide financial support to students in need," Dr. Rahman notes. "This includes scholarships for freedom fighters' children, family concessions, and our district quota, which provides full-tuition and lodging scholarships for one deserving student from each district."

As a premier institution for fashion and technology, BGMEA University of Fashion & Technology (BUFT) is offering merit scholarships during admission, as the university's website details, candidate scoring a GPA of 5.00 (excluding 4th subject) in the most recent Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations will get 50 per cent waiver on tuition fees.

Likewise, universities like Uttara University also focus on accessibility. "Through our comprehensive scholarship programs, we ensure financially constrained yet meritorious students can pursue higher education," says Professor Dr. Eaysmin Ara Lekha.

"Our founder, Dr. M. Azizur Rahman, envisioned providing affordable education to transform lives. These efforts include need-based waivers, scholarships for freedom fighters' families, and district quotas to ensure inclusivity."

That said, many institutions offer fee waivers for siblings studying simultaneously, reducing the financial burden on families and equally rewarding students who have exceptional extracurricular achievements, such as sports, arts, or leadership roles.

The application process: Turning dreams into reality

Securing a scholarship or waiver can be a transformative step in your academic journey, but the process requires strategic planning, sincerity, and effort. Unlike the general admission process, applying for financial aid demands additional attention to detail, careful preparation of documents, and a clear understanding of each university's requirements.



FUTURE READY

The Daily Star
DHAKA SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2025
MAGH 19, 1431 BS

S7

UPHOLDING INTELLECTUAL, Emotional, and Social Growth of Students

PROF. DR. MD. ABDUL MANNAN CHOWDHURY

Vice Chancellor, Presidency University



The Presidency University Research Centre (PURC) is the backbone of innovation and excellence at the university. Here, faculty members and students collaborate on groundbreaking research that addresses critical challenges and provides sustainable solutions across various sectors.

The Daily Star: What makes your university the ideal choice for prospective students?

Md. Abdul Mannan Chowdhury (MAMC): At Presidency University, our goal begins with education and extends toward empowering our students through vision and values.

Situated in the heart of Dhaka city, we go beyond textbooks and academic excellence, ensuring the personal and professional growth of every individual. The fast-evolving world demands individuals with sound knowledge in critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical ability. This is assured by our esteemed faculty members and strong administration. Presidency University witnesses the transformative power of education—nurturing young minds and motivating them towards innovation.

Moreover, our vibrant campus life cultivates a sense of belonging and connection. Students from diverse backgrounds come together to exchange ideas, promoting cross-cultural understanding and mutual respect. This diversity makes Presidency University the ideal choice for students who are constantly striving to become change-makers around the world.

TDS: Please share details about the programmes and courses tailored to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in today's dynamic job market.

MAMC: Presidency University offers a wide range of 13 programmes under seven departments, keeping the evolving needs of the job market in mind. The course curricula are designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary for their professional success.

Our emphasis on industry-based learning sets us among the leading universities in Bangladesh. Their journey does not end after completing their education; later, they get opportunities to collaborate with industry leaders through internships, live projects, and case studies—bridging the gap between the theoretical and practical worlds. We are constantly updating our programmes so that students do not miss out on any opportunity and remain competitive in any field they choose.

Going beyond the conventional boundaries of academics, we ensure the intellectual, emotional, and social growth of our students. Our facilities include well-equipped laboratories, an established library, and interactive learning spaces, all specially designed to inspire creativity and collaboration among students.

TDS: Could you tell us about the dynamics of your teaching staff and how they enhance the quality of education at your university?

MAMC: Our faculty members are leaders in their respective fields, bringing a wealth of expertise and passion for teaching. They ensure that our students receive a world-class education and are well-prepared to compete in the global job market.

TDS: Can you tell us about the university's research facilities and innovation labs and their role in fostering innovation, enhancing education, and contributing to societal progress?

MAMC: The Presidency University Research Centre (PURC) is the backbone of innovation and excellence at the university. Here, faculty members and students collaborate on



groundbreaking research that addresses critical challenges and provides sustainable solutions across various sectors.

I take immense pride in sharing that every year, our faculty members gain international recognition for their outstanding contributions through publications in reputed journals. This not only advances societal progress but also inspires students to accept real-world challenges, enhancing their creativity and confidence.

TDS: How does the university nurture the inner potential of its students through extracurricular activities such as clubs, job fairs, and competitions?

MAMC: We firmly believe that education should not be confined to the classroom. Recognising the importance of extracurricular activities in shaping well-rounded individuals is as important as academic growth. Our campus is a hub of clubs

where students get the opportunity to explore their passions, develop new skills, engage in social activities, and form everlasting connections.

Additionally, to ensure a smooth transition into professional life, we arrange annual job fairs, career workshops, and competitions that bring students face-to-face with industry leaders and potential employers.

Our goal is to ensure that every student leaves Presidency University not only with a degree but also with the confidence and capabilities to excel in life.

TDS: Could you provide an overview of tuition fees, along with details of scholarships and waivers offered by the university and other initiatives aimed at supporting students in achieving their academic goals?

MAMC: Accessibility and inclusivity are the cornerstones of our mission at Presidency University. Financial barriers should never stand in the way of a student's life and success—I believe this from the core of my heart.

To mitigate this, we offer a range of scholarships from 10% to 100% and financial aid programmes, including merit-based scholarships and waivers for female and indigenous students, as well as special initiatives for students from underprivileged areas, depending on their previous academic results.

Our tuition fees are structured competitively to ensure affordability without compromising quality. In addition, those who struggle to access quality education are supported through our partnerships with non-governmental organisations, conglomerates, and other outreach programmes.

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PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN BANGLADESH AT A GLANCE

1992

The government enacted the Private University Act, 1992.



1992

The first private university, North South University (NSU), was established.

1998

The Private University (Amendment) Act, 1998, amended the 1992 Act.

2010

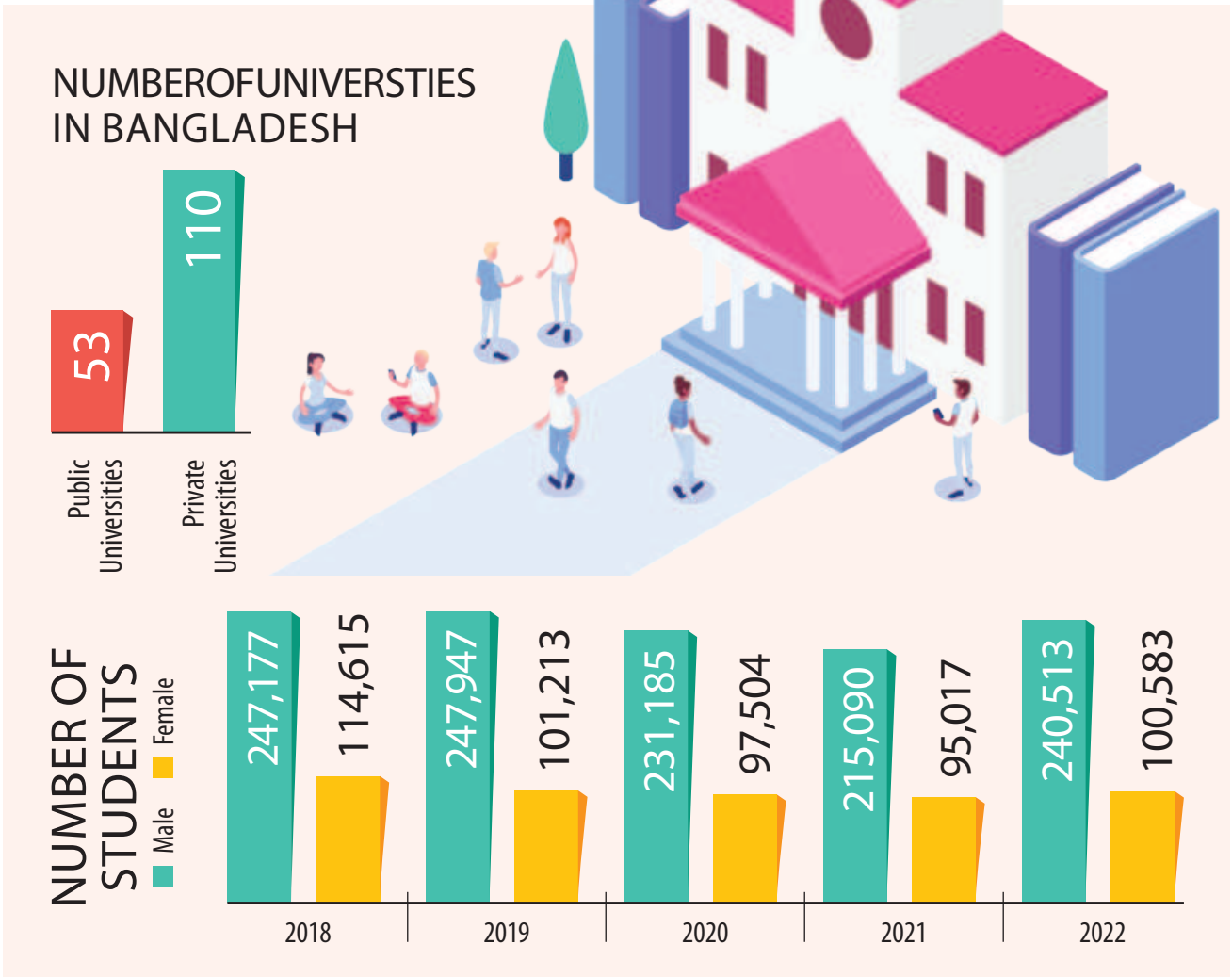
The Private University Act, 2010, was enacted.

2010

The government ordered private universities to establish their own campuses.

2024

There are 110 UGC-approved private universities in Bangladesh.



Expenditure on Research by Private Universities

(Amount in Lac Taka)

2019-20

2020-21

2021-22

11,17311,98813,931.48

NUMBER OF TEACHERS IN PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Male

Female

Total

11,341

5,167

16,508

Ratio of Teacher and Student

1:21

SOURCE: UGC ANNUAL REPORT 2022

DIVISION WISE PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN BANGLADESH

Division

Number of Private University

Dhaka

69

Chattogram

17

Rajshahi

9

Khulna

5

Barishal

3

Sylhet

5

Rangpur

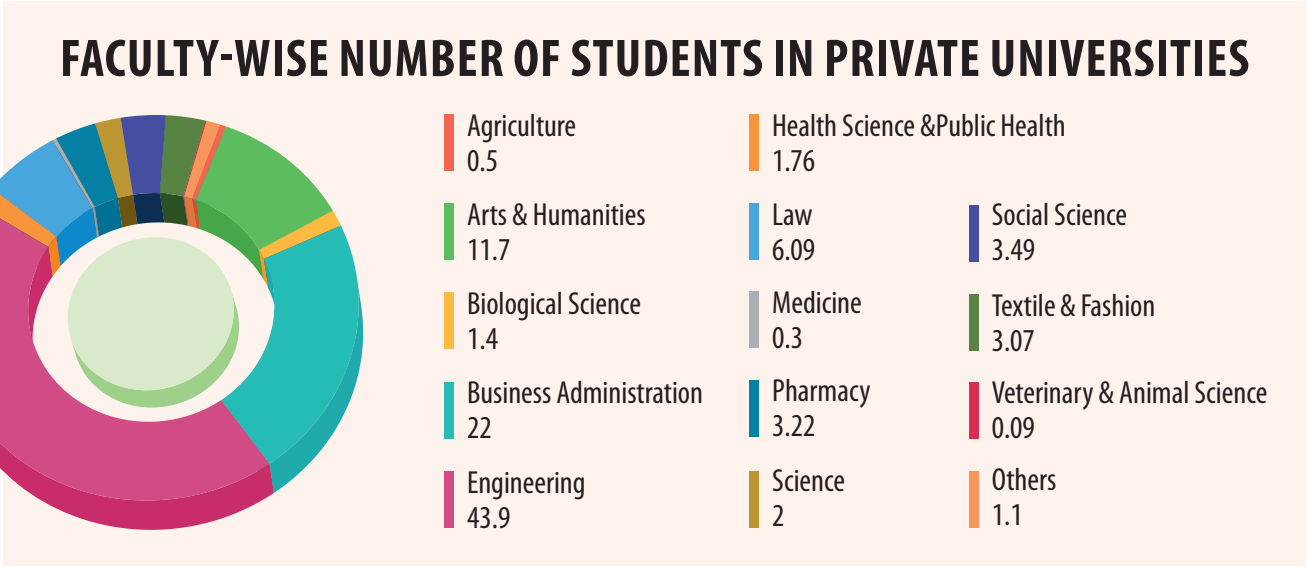
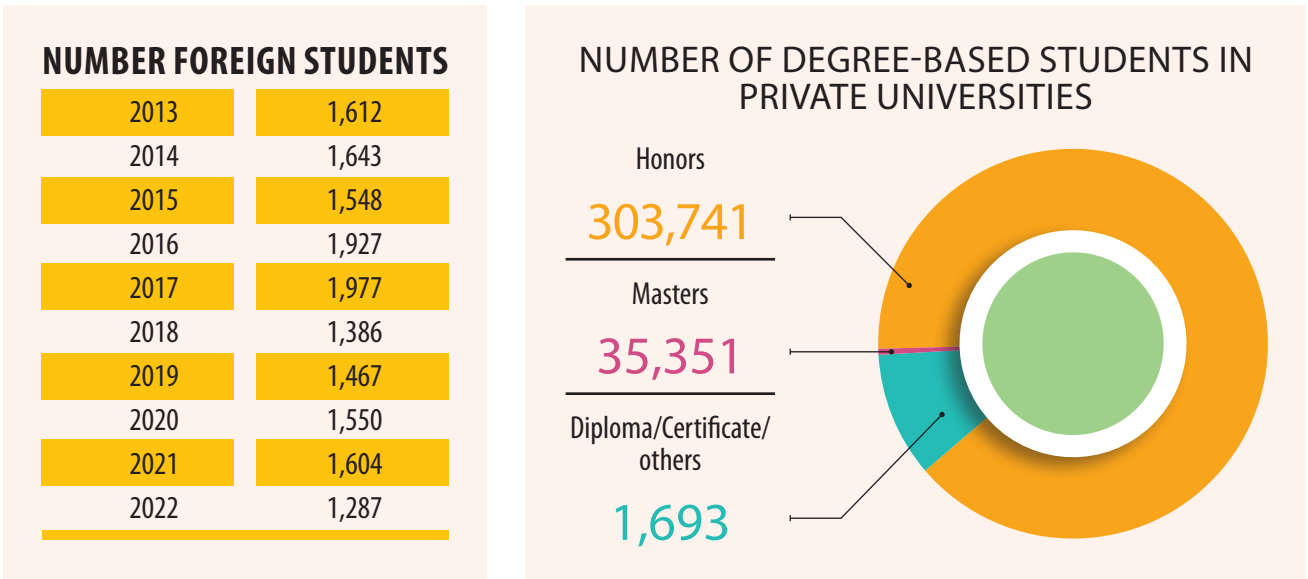
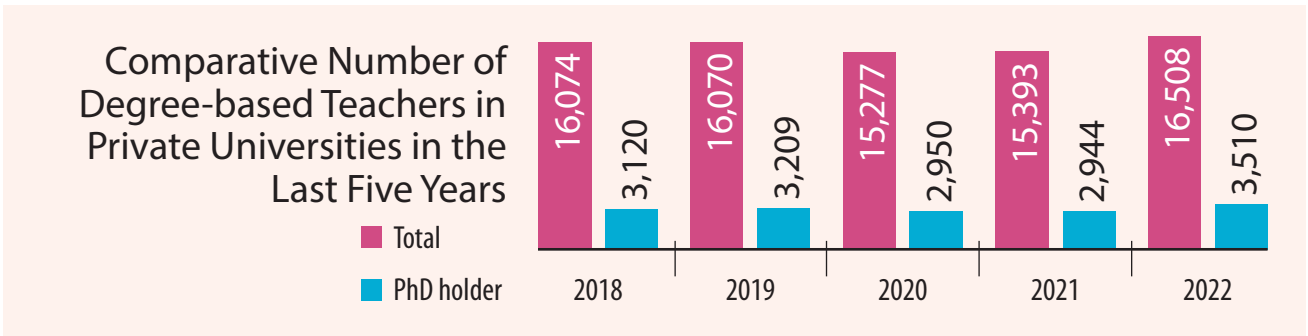
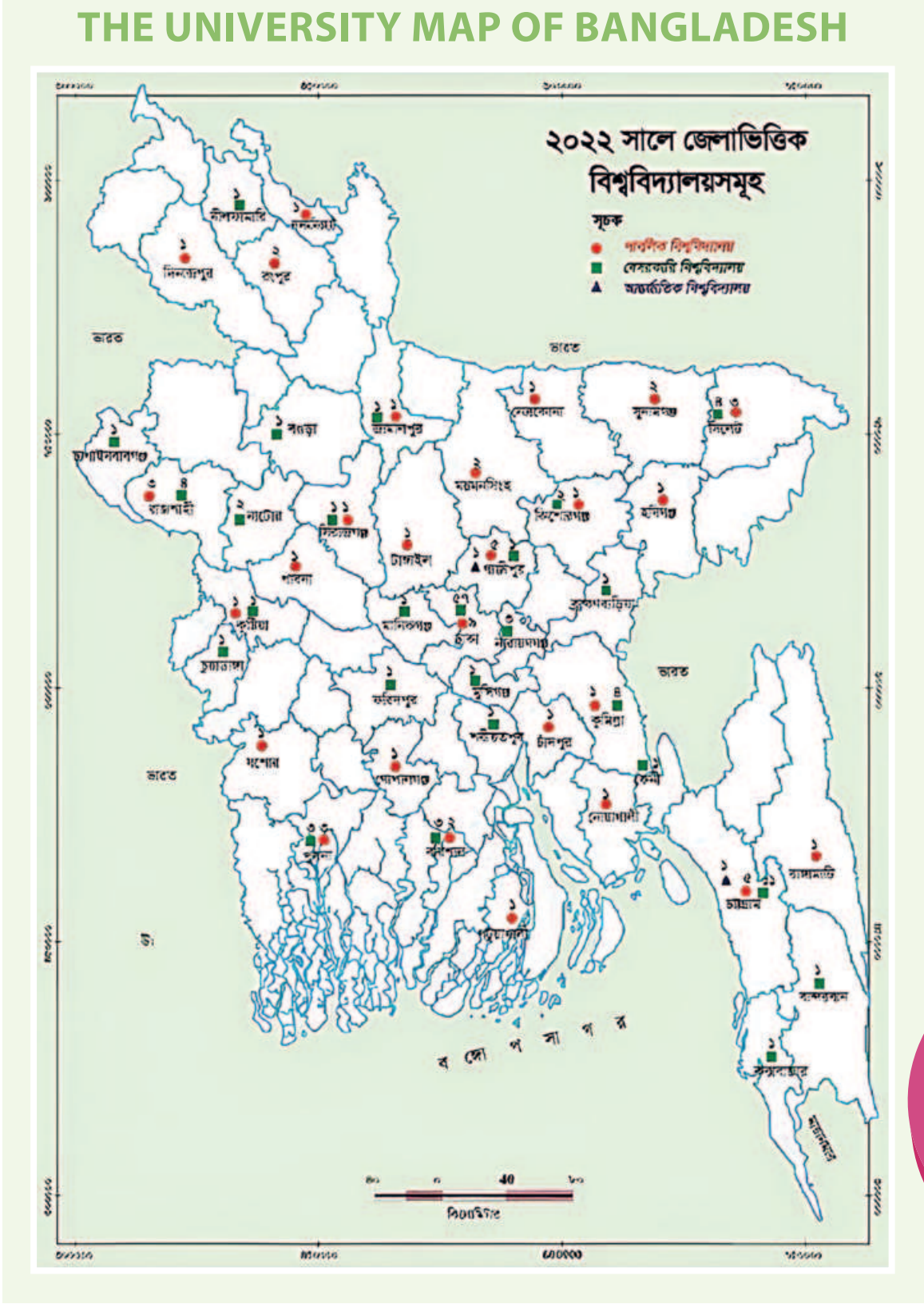
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Mymensingh

1

Total

110





SHAPING FUTURE Leaders with Job-Focused Academic Programs

PROF. DR. EAYSMIN ARA LEKHA

Vice Chancellor, Uttara University



“To stay ahead of industry trends, our courses integrate industry-relevant updates, certifications, and soft-skill development components within a comprehensive academic framework.”

TDS: Why should potential students choose your university?

Eaymin Ara Lekha (EAL): Uttara University offers the perfect balance of a peaceful, focused learning environment and easy access to the vibrant city life of Dhaka, thanks to its prime location in Uttara. The institution is equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, including modern labs, classrooms, and a specialized bus service that makes it convenient for students to commute across the city.

What sets Uttara University apart is its highly skilled faculty, many of whom hold degrees from prestigious international institutions and bring diverse global perspectives to the classroom. This enhances the quality of education and provides students with exposure to global knowledge.

Additionally, Uttara University fosters holistic development through a range of extracurricular activities, including leadership courses, student organizations, competitions, and career fairs. These initiatives enable students to acquire essential skills beyond academics, preparing them for successful careers and personal growth.

TDS: Provide information on the courses and programs designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge required to succeed in today's competitive job market.

EAL: Uttara University is committed to offering academic programs that align with the evolving demands of the modern job market. Our curricula are designed to blend theoretical knowledge with practical applications. Students engage in specialized skill-development training through lectures, workshops, and hands-on learning experiences.

To stay ahead of industry trends, our courses integrate industry-relevant updates,

certifications, and soft-skill development components within a comprehensive academic framework. Furthermore, our strong partnerships with various industries and businesses ensure that students gain valuable internship and job placement opportunities, giving them a competitive edge in the workforce.

TDS: Could you describe the dynamics of your faculty?

EAL: Our faculty members are instrumental in upholding the university's high academic standards. Many of them have advanced degrees from internationally renowned institutions, bringing diverse perspectives and global best practices to their teaching.

To ensure continuous professional development, Uttara University regularly organizes faculty training programs, including workshops, seminars, and academic conferences. Instructors employ innovative teaching methods, such as interactive lectures, laboratory-based learning, industry visits, and case studies, to create an engaging and experiential learning environment.

Additionally, the university strongly encourages both faculty and students to participate in research and development projects. This commitment to expanding knowledge and fostering innovation further enhances the educational experience at Uttara University, bridging the gap between academia and industry.

TDS: Could you describe the university's innovation laboratories and research facilities and their role in fostering innovation, improving education, and advancing society?

EAL: Uttara University takes great pride in its advanced research and innovation facilities, which



are equipped with cutting-edge technology and resources to support groundbreaking research. Our innovation laboratories serve as incubators for new ideas, products, and solutions that contribute to technological advancement and societal development.

We actively encourage faculty members and students to participate in international conferences and publish their research in prestigious, indexed journals. These efforts not only enhance the university's academic reputation but also reinforce Uttara University's commitment to driving technological progress and knowledge generation on a global scale.

TDS: How does the institution utilize extracurricular activities such as clubs, job fairs, and competitions to help students develop their inner potential?

EAL: At Uttara University, we place immense value on the all-around development of our students. To cater to a wide range of interests and talents, we offer a variety of extracurricular activities, including student clubs, competitions, and career fairs.

These activities help students develop essential leadership, teamwork, and communication skills,

which are crucial for success in professional environments. Students can explore their interests through clubs focused on business, technology, culture, and sports.

Additionally, we frequently organize networking events and job fairs, providing students with opportunities to connect with potential employers, gain industry insights, and secure valuable employment prospects. These initiatives ensure that our students graduate as well-rounded individuals, fully prepared to excel in their respective fields.

TDS: Could you provide an overview of tuition fees, university scholarships, waivers, and other financial aid programs designed to support students in achieving their academic goals?

EAL: Uttara University understands the financial concerns of students and their families, which is why we offer a competitive tuition structure alongside various scholarship and fee waiver programs to support students in their academic pursuits.

We provide merit-based scholarships ranging from 20% to 100%, with an additional 5% grant for female students. Students who have completed both O and A levels are eligible for a 90% reduction in admission fees. Our scholarships are awarded based on three key criteria: academic merit, financial need, and special consideration for students from underprivileged or rural backgrounds.

Furthermore, Uttara University actively works with numerous foundations and organizations to provide additional financial aid, ensuring that students can complete their education without facing undue financial hardship.



A scholarship guide for aspiring students

FROM PAGE S6

One of the keys to success is starting your preparations early. As you begin shortlisting universities, research their scholarships and waiver options comprehensively. Most private universities offer detailed information on their websites about the types of financial aid they provide, eligibility criteria, and application deadlines.

Additionally, each university and scholarship program has its own set of criteria, which may include academic performance, extracurricular achievements, financial need, or a combination of these factors. Make sure you meet the requirements before investing time in the application process.

And remember – some scholarship programs require an interview as part of the selection process. This is an opportunity to make a strong impression and demonstrate your enthusiasm.

After submitting your application, don't hesitate to follow up with the university if you have any questions or concerns. A polite email or phone call can help you clarify any doubts and show your proactive attitude.

"Dedicated counsellors at our university guide students through

the application process," notes Dr Yasmin from the State University of Bangladesh. "We ensure students can access the resources they need to realise their potential."

Additionally, keep an eye on any communication from the university, such as requests for additional information or updates on your application status.

After submitting your application, don't hesitate to follow up with the university if you have any questions or concerns.

Tips for success

Securing financial aid is competitive, but with the right approach, you can increase your chances. Many scholarships prioritise academic performance. Focus on achieving high grades throughout your educational journey. Highlight extracurricular achievements, community involvement, and leadership skills. Universities often look for well-rounded candidates.

And don't hesitate to reach out to university officials or mentors

for advice. Their insights can be invaluable in refining your application.

Beyond financial aid

While waivers and scholarships ease financial burdens, they're not the only pathway to an affordable education. Many students work part-time to support their education. Universities often have on-campus opportunities that are flexible and convenient. Moreover, banks and financial institutions offer student loans with favourable terms. Be sure to understand the repayment terms before committing.

The pursuit of higher education is a journey of discovery, growth, and transformation. While the cost of private universities may seem scary, waivers and scholarships are a testament to the accessibility and inclusivity of these institutions. By investing time in research, preparing a strong application, and staying persistent, you can make use of the opportunities that pave the way for a brighter future.

As you stand on the cusp of this exciting new chapter, remember that financial aid is more than just a helping hand – it's a bridge to your aspirations. Step forward confidently, and let your academic dreams take flight.

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Global Ranking

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Ranked **#1401** in the world
Ranked **#621-640** in Asia
Ranked **#186** in Southern Asia
Impact Ranking 2025
- WORLD GREEN METRIC**
2nd Position in Bangladesh
126th in Asia
241st Globally
Impact Ranking 2024
- WORLD UNIVERSITIES WITH HIGH IMPACT**
#109th Position in the Global Top 300 Innovative Universities
Impact Ranking 2024
- SCIMAGO INSTITUTIONS RANKINGS**
2nd in Research Innovation among Private Universities in Bangladesh
Impact Ranking 2022
- THE HIGHER EDUCATION RANKINGS**
Ranked **#601-900** in the world
Impact Ranking 2024
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APPROXIMATE PRIVATE UNIVERSITY RANKING 2023
ASEAN+
RANKED **#6**

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The Daily Star
DHAKA SUNDAY FEBRUARY 2, 2025
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S10

Leading the Way in EDUCATION AND INNOVATION



PROF. DR. ABDUR RAB

Vice Chancellor, International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT)



By aligning curricula with industry trends and emerging technologies, IUBAT ensures graduates are not only employable but also capable of driving innovation in their respective fields.

The Daily Star (TDS): What makes your university the ideal choice for prospective students?

Abdur Rab (AB): As the first non-government university in Bangladesh, founded in 1991, the International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) has established a legacy of excellence in higher education. With a vibrant community of 8,000 students and an ambitious annual target to enroll 2,000 new students, IUBAT is a hub of knowledge, research, innovation, and opportunity.

TDS: Please share details about the programs and courses tailored to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in today's dynamic job market. Include how these courses align with industry demands and future trends.

AB: IUBAT offers a wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate programs tailored to meet the evolving demands of the national and global job market. From Business Administration and Agriculture to Computer Science, Public Health, Engineering, Nursing, Tourism and Hospitality Management, English, and Economics, every program with a forward-thinking curriculum is designed to build professional skills and an appropriate mindset for career advancement.

For instance, the Bachelor of Science in Agriculture (BSAg) program emphasizes sustainable agricultural practices and modern technology to prepare students for challenges in food security and environmental conservation. Similarly, the Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) program focuses on cutting-edge areas such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and

data science.

Additionally, partnerships with local and international industries enable students to gain hands-on experience through internships, workshops, and collaborative projects. These opportunities bridge the gap between academic knowledge and practical application, making IUBAT graduates highly competitive in the job market.

TDS: Could you tell us about the dynamics of your teaching staff?

AB: At the heart of IUBAT's success is its dedicated and dynamic teaching staff. The university boasts a team of highly qualified faculty members who bring a blend of academic excellence and industry experience to the classroom. Faculty members are encouraged to engage in continuous professional development through advanced degrees, training, and participation in international conferences. This commitment ensures that teaching methods remain innovative and effective, incorporating the latest advancements in pedagogy.

IUBAT's emphasis on research and development further elevates the quality of education. Faculty-led research projects often involve students, fostering a collaborative learning environment.

TDS: Can you tell us about the university's research facilities?

AB: IUBAT is committed to fostering a culture of inquiry and creativity. Its research facilities and innovation labs play a pivotal role in this mission. The Miyan Research Institute finances research funds for teachers and students and leads the research endeavor of the university. In 2024, IUBAT achieved 4th position in SCImago among



private universities in Bangladesh for publishing an impressive number of papers in SCOPUS-indexed journals, underscoring its commitment to research excellence. The university is home to state-of-the-art laboratories equipped with modern tools and technologies that support interdisciplinary research.

For instance, the Miyan Research Institute conducts impactful research, while the university's engineering labs provide students with hands-on opportunities to develop and test prototypes, fostering innovation in areas such as renewable energy and automation. The IUBAT Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centre inspires students to engage in innovation activities, trains them in entrepreneurship skills, provides financial assistance in developing new product prototypes, assists in patenting innovative products, and encourages them to undertake business ventures.

TDS: How does the university nurture the inner potential of its students through extracurricular activities such as clubs, job fairs, and competitions?

DAB: Recognizing that education extends beyond the classroom, IUBAT actively nurtures the inner potential of its students through a variety of extracurricular activities. The university hosts over 20 student societies (clubs), ranging from cultural and sports clubs to technology and entrepreneurship. There are also the Debating Club, BNCC, Rotaract Club, local chapters of professional societies, and the Volunteer Forum.

Annual job fairs, organized in collaboration with industry partners, offer students direct access to employment opportunities and networking events. Competitions, such as hackathons and business plan contests, encourage innovation and critical thinking while allowing students to showcase their talents on national and international stages.

TDS: Could you provide an overview of tuition fees along with details of scholarships and waivers offered by the university?

DAB: IUBAT is committed to providing accessible quality education for all, with a focus on merit-based and need-based financial aid. Tuition fees remain competitive while reflecting the institution's high standards. The university offers various scholarships and waivers to support students from diverse backgrounds. Special initiatives and awareness campaigns reach out to students from rural and underserved areas, ensuring they are informed about financial aid opportunities to pursue their academic goals.



Holistic Development Through Extracurriculars

MUJIB RAHMAN

Globalisation shapes modern education, emphasising holistic growth beyond academics. Today's universities integrate leadership development, soft skills, networking, job fairs, industry exposure, and corporate visits to cultivate global citizens. The distinctiveness of private universities is especially evident in their extracurricular activities, which are thoughtfully tailored to enhance both the inner and outer development of students.

BGMEA University of Fashion & Technology (BUFT)

BUFT emerged in the second decade of the 21st century, and as the name suggests, it is associated with the textile revolution in Bangladesh. It is dedicated to meeting the growing demand of the apparel industry both domestically and internationally, while focusing on the development of specific segments of Bangladeshi youth. As highlighted earlier, BUFT is a unique institution that also guides students through various extracurricular activities. Acting Vice-Chancellor of BUFT, Dr. Engineer Ayub Nabi Khan, aptly notified the extracurricular activities in following ways,

"BUFT hosts 21 vibrant student clubs encompassing a wide range of interests, including debate, cultural activities, English language, fashion, apparel, textiles, social progress, environment, sports, and media.

Among them, the BUFT Debate Club has achieved remarkable success, winning multiple National Debate Competitions." These clubs play a pivotal role in engaging students in extracurricular activities, promoting holistic growth. Additionally, students actively participate in international fashion shows, design



competitions, and cultural events, showcasing their talent on a global stage.

International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT)

Acknowledging that education extends beyond academics, IUBAT places significant emphasis on unlocking the potential of its students through diverse extracurricular activities. The university hosts over 20

student societies, encompassing cultural, sports, technology, and entrepreneurship clubs. Notable organisations include the Debating Club, BNCC, Rotaract Club, Volunteer Forum, and local chapters of professional societies. These platforms empower students to pursue their passions, develop

leadership skills, and strengthen teamwork. In this regard, IUBAT VC, Prof. Dr. Abdur Rab mentioned,

"Annual job fairs, held in collaboration with industry partners, connect students directly with employment opportunities and networking events. Additionally, competitions such as hackathons and business plan contests inspire innovation and critical thinking, providing students with

SEE PAGE S11

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FOSTERING CRITICAL Thinking, Innovation, and Ethical Leadership

PROF. DR. NAWZIA YASMIN
Vice Chancellor (in-charge), State University of Bangladesh (SUB)



“From conducting pioneering research in renewable energy to developing community-centric healthcare models, our university prioritizes impactful projects that benefit society.”

TDS: What makes your university the ideal choice for prospective students?
Nawzia Yasmin (NY): The State University of Bangladesh is the epitome of excellence in higher education, where academic rigor meets holistic development. Our university offers a vibrant learning environment that blends modern teaching methodologies with personalized attention, ensuring every student's growth. With a steadfast commitment to fostering critical thinking, innovation, and ethical leadership, we prepare students not only for successful careers but also for meaningful contributions to society. Additionally, our centrally located campus, state-of-the-art facilities, and diverse student community make us a unique hub for academic and cultural exchange.

TDS: Please share details about the programs and courses tailored to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in today's dynamic job market. Include how these courses align with industry demands and future trends.
NY: Our university offers a wide array of programs designed to align with evolving industry demands and global trends. From technology-driven disciplines such as Computer Science and Engineering, Data Science, and Artificial Intelligence to business-focused areas like Marketing, Finance, and Entrepreneurship, we ensure that our curricula stay relevant and forward-thinking. In health sciences, our Public Health and Pharmacy programs are structured to meet the growing needs of the healthcare sector. To bridge the gap between academia and industry, we regularly collaborate with leading

organizations to update our courses, ensuring students gain practical skills through internships, case studies, and project-based learning. Emerging trends like sustainability, digital transformation, and AI are embedded into our programs to make students future-ready. Specialized certifications, career counseling, and exposure to real-world scenarios through workshops further enhance their employability.

TDS: Could you tell us about the dynamics of your teaching staff?
NY: Our teaching staff comprises accomplished academics and industry professionals who bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the classroom. They are committed to continuous professional development, regularly attending national and international conferences, workshops, and training programs. This dedication enables them to stay updated on the latest teaching methodologies and technological advancements.

Innovative teaching methods such as flipped classrooms, experiential learning, and technology-enhanced instruction are integral to our approach. Faculty members actively engage in research and development, contributing to academic excellence and societal progress. Their collaborative projects and publications in leading journals ensure our students receive education grounded in cutting-edge research.

TDS: Can you tell us about the university's research facilities?
NY: The State University of Bangladesh is home to advanced research facilities and innovation labs that foster creativity and critical thinking. Our

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research centers in technology, health sciences, and business provide a platform for students and faculty to address real-world challenges through innovative solutions. From conducting pioneering research in renewable energy to developing community-centric healthcare models, our university prioritizes impactful projects that benefit society.

Our labs are equipped with modern tools and technologies, enabling hands-on experimentation and innovation. Students are encouraged to participate in funded research projects, hackathons, and competitions, further enhancing their skills and confidence.

TDS: How does the university nurture the inner potential of its students through extracurricular activities such as clubs, job fairs, and competitions?
NY: At the State University of Bangladesh, we believe in the holistic development of our students. Our vibrant extracurricular ecosystem includes diverse clubs focusing on debating, photography, robotics, cultural activities, and entrepreneurship. Regularly organized job fairs, industry visits, and competitions provide students with invaluable networking opportunities and real-world exposure.

Events such as interdepartmental sports tournaments, leadership workshops, and cultural

festivals foster teamwork, creativity, and resilience. By engaging in these activities, students develop essential soft skills like communication, problem-solving, and leadership, which are vital for their personal and professional growth.

TDS: Could you provide an overview of tuition fees along with details of scholarships and waivers offered by the university?
NY: We are committed to making quality education accessible to all. Our tuition fees are competitive and reflect our dedication to providing value-driven education. To support students from diverse economic backgrounds, we offer a range of scholarships and financial aid programs. These include merit-based scholarships, need-based waivers, and special provisions for academically outstanding students from underserved areas.

For students from rural or marginalized communities, we conduct outreach programs to raise awareness about our financial aid opportunities. Dedicated counselors guide them through the application process, ensuring they can access the resources needed to achieve their academic aspirations. Our commitment to inclusivity and affordability ensures that every student has the opportunity to unlock their full potential and contribute meaningfully to society.

In conclusion, the State University of Bangladesh stands as a beacon of academic excellence, innovation, and inclusivity. Through our student-centric approach, we empower individuals to excel in their chosen fields while making a positive impact on the world. We invite prospective students to join us in shaping a brighter future together.



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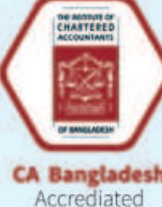

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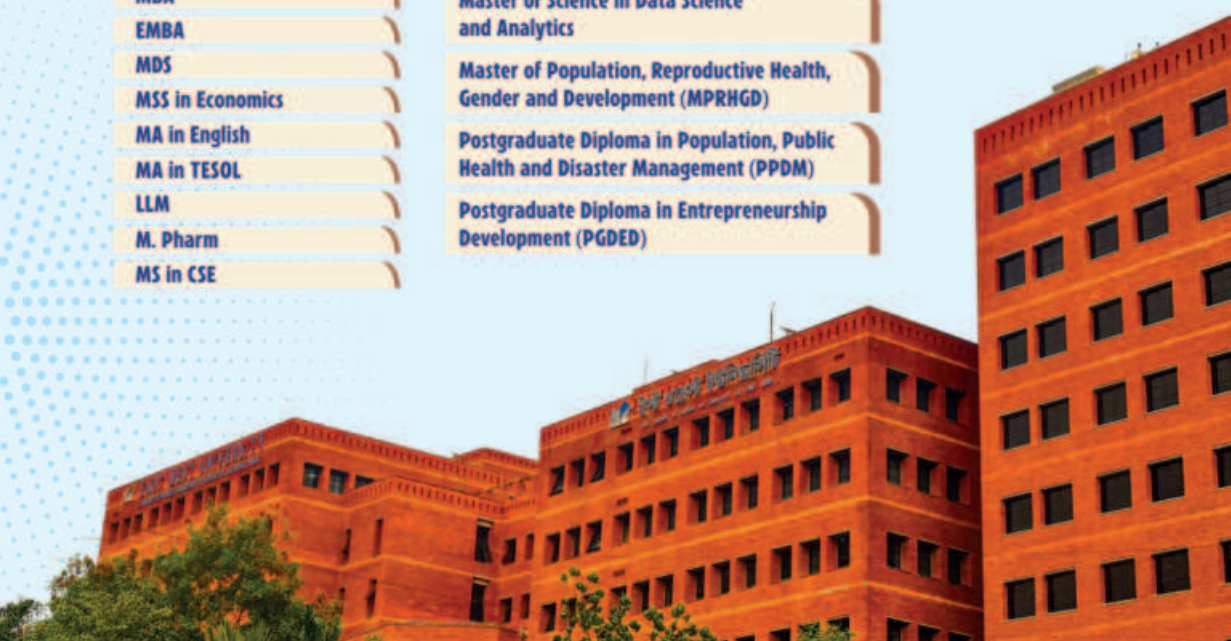
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