



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

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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?



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.

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.

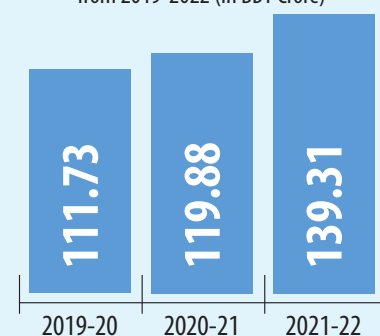
According to the 49th annual report of the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (UGC),

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.

Research Allocation in Private Universities
from 2019-2022 (in BDT Crore)



SOURCE: UGC 49TH ANNUAL REPORT, 2022

worth BDT 233 million for research in 2023-25. Several active research centers hosted by the university engage in diverse fields, including climate change, environmental studies, green energy, the blue economy, endangered languages, industrial automation, robotics, the Internet of Things, astronomy and astrophysics, pedagogy, public health, culture, and literature. “The emphasis on research is evidenced by the specialized centers and institutes and an environment conducive to innovation and scholarly pursuits,” stated Prof. M. Tamim, Vice-Chancellor of IUB. The university boasts state-of-the-art laboratories for life, environmental, and social sciences. The IUB Library houses over 250,000 e-books and offers access

