



## Nurturing Talent Through Quality Education AND RESEARCH



**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



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.

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**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

