

TWO SCHOLARS, ONE ALMA MATER

How Presidency University shaped these international academics

AZRA HUMAYRA

Presidency University has, over the years, built a reputation as a hub for cultivating bright, driven minds, individuals who leave its classrooms with academic credentials and the confidence, adaptability, and critical thinking skills needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world. Its rigorous academic programmes have produced graduates who stand out in their chosen fields.

Today, Presidency University alumni can be found across the globe, in research laboratories, corporate houses, lecture theatres, and entrepreneurial ventures. They are scientists, engineers, innovators, educators, and leaders who carry forward the values instilled in them during their formative years at the university. Whether it is breaking new ground in research, teaching the next generation of professionals, or developing solutions to some of the most pressing global challenges, they serve as living proof of the university's lasting commitment.

In this special feature, we turn the spotlight on two such Presidency University alumni whose journeys encapsulate perseverance, ambition, and the power of education. Their paths, from the lecture halls of Dhaka to international classrooms and research centres, demonstrate how far determination and the right educational foundation can take a person.

Dr Md Badiuzzaman

When Dr Md Badiuzzaman speaks about his time at Presidency University, it is with the measured thoughtfulness of someone who knows precisely how each step formed his life. A 2012 graduate of Presidency University's Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) department, he is now a full-time lecturer at the Sydney Metropolitan Institute of Technology and a casual lecturer at King's Own Institute – both respected providers of higher education in Australia.

His journey, however, began much earlier. "I have a diverse academic background that started with a diploma in Computer Engineering, where I focused heavily on



Dr Md Badiuzzaman

programming, digital electronics, and microprocessors," he recalls. This early technical grounding sparked his interest in microcontrollers and robotics, leading him to pursue his EEE degree.

What made this pursuit all the more significant was the fact that Badiuzzaman was self-financing his education. Since 2005, he had been working alongside his studies, supported in part by a 55 percent tuition scholarship from Presidency University.

From 2005 to 2020, he wore many hats in the academic sector in Bangladesh: an instructor, Head of Department, and later Executive Director at the Mangrove Institute of Science and Technology. In 2017, he spearheaded the founding of Imperial College of Engineering under Rajshahi University.

Along the way, he completed a Master of Engineering (by research) in Industrial Engineering and Management from Khulna



M A Hasanath

University of Engineering & Technology (KUET), which ignited his ambition for doctoral research.

That ambition paid off in 2021, when he was awarded the prestigious Scientia PhD Scholarship at the University of New South Wales (UNSW Sydney), one of Australia's top research universities. Completing his PhD in late 2024, he also gained teaching and research experience at UNSW and other institutions.

"A university education does more than just impart knowledge; it sets a direction," Badiuzzaman reflects. For him, Presidency University's state-of-the-art laboratory facilities were central to his growth. His enthusiasm for hands-on learning, particularly in microprocessors and machine labs, found fertile ground there.

Equally important was the mentorship he received. He speaks warmly of faculty

members such as Dr Shahidul Hasan and Dr Tapan Chakraborty, as well as several younger faculty members who inspired him with their own scholarship journeys. Their guidance not only shaped his academic thinking but also showed him what was possible beyond Bangladesh's borders.

Beside academics, Badiuzzaman helped establish the ECE Club at Presidency University, participated in industrial tours, and volunteered at university events. These experiences, he says, honed his interpersonal and communication skills.

Outside the job market, Badiuzzaman believes that his engineering degrees have given him a rare blend of theoretical understanding and practical skill. "As society moves toward an AI-driven and tech-centric future, we still need residual technical skills and hands-on capabilities," he notes. His own journey, from technician roles to more advanced, often leadership positions, proves the point.

When it comes to advice, his words are direct. "My advice is to dream big, but more importantly, act on those dreams," he says. "Many people have aspirations, but few develop action plans and demonstrate the consistency required to realise them. Be less of an overthinker and more of a doer or persistent trier. That approach has worked for me and can work for others too."

M A Hasanath

For M A Hasanath, the path from Presidency University's Civil Engineering classrooms to the cutting-edge research facilities of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Hyderabad has been marked by intellectual curiosity, determination, and commitment to addressing real-world problems through engineering innovation. It is a journey that has taken him from foundational lessons in structural design to pioneering work in environmental sustainability, one that reflects both his personal drive and the solid academic grounding he received at Presidency University.

At every stage, Hasanath has combined technical expertise with a sense of purpose,

seeking solutions that not only advance his field but also contribute to the well-being of communities and the planet.

A 2015 graduate in Civil Engineering with a specialisation in structural engineering, Hasanath is now pursuing his PhD in Environmental Engineering at IIT Hyderabad. His research—developing sustainable technologies for industrial wastewater treatment and valorising byproducts—aims to advance the principles of a circular economy.

Alongside his doctoral work, he serves as a research scholar and teaching assistant in the Department of Civil Engineering at IIT Hyderabad. His dedication has already earned him recognition on the global stage, with presentations at international conferences in Greece, Germany, and India, and a Best Research Poster Award from the International Water Association (IWA) in Germany.

Before receiving a fully funded scholarship to IIT, Hasanath completed his master's at Dhaka University of Engineering & Technology (DUET), began his PhD at Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET), and contributed to academic institutions and engineering consultancies in Bangladesh. Each step added to his expertise and global perspective.

"My years at Presidency University were truly transformative," Hasanath says. The university provided not only a solid engineering foundation but also sparked his passion for research. He credits the environment, inspiring faculty, and peer group for expanding his horizons.

Hasanath mentions that his presentation and public speaking skills were first nurtured during term project presentations at Presidency University. "This is where I truly learnt the value of resilience, intellectual curiosity, and effective communication," he reflects. Hands-on laboratory and sessional courses, under the guidance of some of Bangladesh's most respected professors, gave him the confidence to teach and mentor others.

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A testament to BRACU's promise to empower through the vision of an equitable future

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"During my time at BRACU University, I was part of the first-ever cricket team. Playing sports taught me a lot about handling emotions, teamwork, and ethics—lessons that have served me well in my career. It's inspiring to see that our legacy continues, as the new campus is now equipped with even more sports facilities, offering students a wider range of opportunities to develop both their athletic abilities and team spirit," Zahid continued.

Alongside his athletic endeavours, he also affirmed that BRACU has imparted some very important life lessons, expanding on the values that he mentioned earlier in the conversation. In fact, it was through the time he spent at university that Zahid learned the significance and thus, the practice of self-acceptance, which was backed by the lesson of humility. In addition, the institution also reinforced the value of constantly working on oneself. With self-acceptance, humility, and diligence in his arsenal, Zahid has been able to utilise these skills in both his personal and professional life, underpinning just how vital they are. He further explained that these skills not only helped shape his

career but also aided in his personal interactions as well as community work.

As for the time he spent within the classroom, Zahid recalled that BRACU gave him and his classmates the opportunity to explore an array of different subjects, through which he was able to unearth his inclination for technology and business. "It was during my electrical engineering studies that I realised I was passionate about combining technology with business. This epiphany helped me find a career path that blends both of these areas, leading me to where I am today in a technology-driven business," he explained.

In between the wisdom that he has garnered throughout his time at BRACU University and then at Grameenphone, Zahid shared some advice for his younger self. He said that he would urge himself to get involved in the professional world earlier in his career, as well as take on real-world challenges. Additionally, he reiterated focusing on building skills as early as possible.

When asked to share some advice for the current group of students at BRACU, Zahid directed them to dream big. While he didn't quite specify the magnitude of

the aspirations themselves, he did mention striving for goals that might even seem like they're out of reach. What was particularly endearing about the advice that he had to share with the current students was how much overlap there was with the words he had for himself. It almost felt as though he saw a bit of himself, even amongst his juniors.

"Take on challenges, focus on developing your skills, and keep up with the latest trends and technologies," he concluded.

While the sincerity that Zahid portrayed is in itself a testament to the skills, lessons, and values that BRACU strives to instil in all its students, it also showcased the reverence and respect that he held for his alma mater. This is something that cannot simply be accommodated and realised with education alone. To foster such an attitude amongst students, institutions must extend the same grace towards their pupils and give them the space to flesh out who they already are and wish to be further down the line. It is only through the empowerment of communities and thus, individuals who belong there, that we can begin to envision an equitable shift for all.

Lighting the path: How two World University of Bangladesh alumni are shaping global industries

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Advice for the Next Generation

As accomplished alumni, both Jimmy and Ansar feel a responsibility to guide current WUB students. Their advice, while shaped by different industries, converges on the importance of self-direction and continuous growth.

Jimmy's message is one of resilience and ownership: "Your success is shaped not by where you start, but by how far you're willing to go. Own your growth, seek mentors, build your skills, and keep following the light that your university has handed you."

Ansar's counsel is more tactical but equally visionary: "Prepare early. Ask yourself what skills or knowledge can set you apart. Taking initiative now will place you in a

strong position later in your career." Both perspectives reinforce a key WUB value that learning is a lifelong process, and that graduates must be proactive in seeking opportunities beyond the classroom.


A testament to WUB's mission

Jimmy Majumder and Syed Ansar Ullah represent two distinct outcomes of a shared educational philosophy. One applies robotics to solve global labour and technological challenges; the other drives innovation and quality in one of Bangladesh's most vital export industries. Both have built careers on the pillars of technical mastery, adaptability, and visionary leadership, qualities WUB strives to instil in every graduate.

Their journeys illustrate that while WUB's classrooms, labs, and industrial tours are the starting

points, the real measure of its success lies in how its alumni carry forward the university's mission. Whether in the futuristic corridors of Japan's innovation hubs or the dynamic production floors of Bangladesh's garment sector, the influence of WUB's values is unmistakable.

As the university continues to evolve, investing in advanced facilities, industry partnerships, and global collaborations, it can look to alumni like Jimmy and Ansar as living proof of what is possible when education is coupled with purpose. Their careers are not just personal achievements but contributions to the broader narrative of Bangladesh's role in the global economy and technological progress.



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