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■ RESILIENCE AND NETWORKS

Early hurdles often foster resilience and pave the way for practical learning. Students frequently note that the importance of friendship and networking is irreplaceable. “Strong connections turn campus into a home,” explains Samir Ahamed, who came to study in London three years ago. Mentors’ Education remains optimistic about the expanding range of options and clearer pathways that assist students in transforming their studies into careers. They stated that roughly 10,000 Bangladeshis study in Australia, 9,000 to 10,000 in the United States, 4,000 in Canada, 4,500 in the United Kingdom, 4,000 in Malaysia, and close to 20,000 are spread across Europe and other Asian nations include Germany, Italy, Finland, South Korea, and China. That spread is now a strength. Stricter visa rules and higher costs in some countries have pushed students to seek scholarships, lower fees, and student-friendly environments in places like Sweden, Denmark, and Finland, which makes home routes more realistic and varied.

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Most of the international students see their foreign education both as a dream and an investment. A degree costing 50 lakh feels wasted if returning home means starting over from scratch. We cannot stop the brain drain until the society as a whole brushes off the things they are subscribed to.”

Redwan Uz Zaman Reham, Undergraduate student, The University of Western Australia

■ REINTEGRATION AND CREDENTIAL RECOGNITION

If we are serious about turning aspirations into outcomes, the government must act. They can expand targeted scholarships tied to a required return period. Moreover, they can offer centrally accessible pre-departure seminars before each admissions season, covering money, housing, basic cooking, transportation apps, and workplace rights. Regulating agents and universities and funding post-arrival mentoring is also essential, as clearing credential pathways will make returning graduates employable. Redwan Uz Zaman Reham, an undergraduate at the University of Western Australia, notes, “Living abroad offers safer streets, more reliable services, and a work culture that speeds professional growth.” In this way, the daily demands of independence force students to learn practical skills faster, which builds confidence and makes them more career-ready. Bangladesh’s rising cadre of internationally trained graduates is a national asset. With better pre-departure support, a smarter scholarship design, and stronger international partnerships, we can turn individual risks into collective returns. This will help each student not only survive the first month but thrive for a lifetime. The horizon is bright; with the right supports, our young people will reach it with confidence.

ANNUAL STUDY ABROAD EXPENDITURE

Figures in million US\$

533.2	662.2
2023-2024	2024-2025



English made simple for GLOBAL SUCCESS

MD. NOOR E SHAHRIAR SIFAT, Director, FM Method Ltd.

For decades, English has been seen as the gateway to global opportunities, yet many Bangladeshi students still struggle with confidence despite years of compulsory lessons. Founded in 1986 by Mohammed Feroz Mukul, the FM Method offers a different approach, one that focuses on communication and sentence-building instead of rote grammar. In this conversation, Md. Noor E Shahriar Sifat, who now leads the institute, explains how the method works and why it continues to shape students preparing for higher education abroad.

The Daily Star (TDS): How is FM Method different? Md. Noor E Shahriar Sifat (NSS): FM Method is not a coaching center but a research institute dedicated to teaching English to Bengalis. Founded in 1986 by my father, FM Sir, it simplifies learning by grouping Bengali sentences into three categories based on their last words. Each branch of “FM’s English Tree” has five levels, with formulas for easy sentence construction. Instead of memorising grammar rules, students learn through direct Bangla-English connections, gaining confidence in building sentences. We also hold free workshops so learners can experience the method firsthand.

TDS: How many students from Bangladesh do you think pursue studying out of the country each year and why do you think it occurs? NSS: Some students want to experience different cultures and live abroad, whereas for others, their parents see studying abroad as an investment, because they believe the grass is greener on the other side. In many cases, it is true. From high-quality academics and research facilities to career opportunities with global recognition, studying abroad offers a wide range of advantages that are often missing here.

Every year, thousands of students apply abroad. Their decision is not only driven by education but also by independence, and a chance to transform their future.

“Many students struggle with English as curricula stress grammar over communication skills.”

MD. NOOR E SHAHRIAR SIFAT, Director, FM Method Ltd.

TDS: How does this compare to conventional English teaching in Bangladesh? NSS: Despite learning English as a compulsory subject for about 18 years, many students are still unable to form their own English sentences because the curriculum focuses more on the intricacies of grammar than on the language itself.

Think about it: does a child learn Bangla grammar first and then the language? No! The language comes first. To learn a language, you first need to learn two things: (i) its vocabulary and (ii) its sentence patterns. That is exactly what we do in FM Method.

The conventional system tells students to search for tenses in a sentence before attempting to construct it. FM Method, on the other hand, simply asks learners to look at the last word of a Bangla sentence. This lets learners build sentences creatively and naturally.

TDS: How does FM Method help students with IELTS? NSS: We use our own grading system. A simple sentence like “He learns” is Grade-0, and adding details progresses the grade. By the time students prepare for IELTS, they already have strong sentence building skills, which strengthens writing, speaking, and comprehension. That foundation makes achieving target band scores easier.

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