

ERASMUS

The World Awaits

FARHAT LAMISHA

The ambition to study abroad is a familiar one for many graduates in Bangladesh, but for me, it became a personal quest. After my bachelor's degree, I sought a master's that would not only solidify my skills but also ignite a more creative passion for my work. This dream was my guiding star, but the path toward it would be a true test of perseverance.

JOURNEY BEGINS

It took nearly three years to secure a funded master's program. Those years were a relentless cycle of hope and rejection. With each refusal, however, I chose to see a lesson, not a failure.



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FARHAT LAMISHA
Erasmus Scholar



Juggling a full time job with demanding applications and continuous skill development was a challenging yet profoundly interesting experience. This difficult road eventually sharpened my focus onto one goal: the Erasmus Mundus program, drawn by its unique promise of studying at world-class universities across Europe.

Then, on a sunny day in 2024, a single email changed everything. The coordinator for the European Master in Global Studies confirmed I had been awarded the prestigious Erasmus Mundus Scholarship. In that moment, my life pivoted towards a new horizon. The period that followed was a whirlwind of preparation—navigating the maze of visa applications, shopping for a new climate, and managing funds for personal expenditures. Most importantly, I prepared myself mentally

for an endeavour that I knew would shape the rest of my life.

A CLASSROOM WITHOUT BORDERS

The Erasmus Mundus Master in Global Studies is more than an academic program; it is a lens through which to understand our interconnected world. Supported by the European Commission, the scholarship is a comprehensive package covering tuition, health insurance, and living expenses, allowing students to fully immerse themselves in their studies.

But the true value of the program lies in the classroom. I am learning alongside students from 37 different countries, where every discussion becomes a kaleidoscope of global perspectives. This environment has pushed me to express my ideas more confidently, to constantly

challenge my own assumptions, and to grasp complex topics on a much deeper, practical level. Graduates are equipped for impactful careers in international organisations, NGOs, and academia, empowered by a large, active global alumni community that supports us long after graduation.

EMBRACING THE CHALLENGE

The path of an Erasmus scholar is a roller coaster ride. From the initial application to living and studying in a foreign land, the journey tests your resilience. We must adapt to new languages, unfamiliar cultures, and different academic systems, especially as we attend semesters in different countries.

However, these hurdles are an integral part of the learning process. The entire academic journey is a masterclass in communication and adaptability, forcing you to connect with people from all around the world. It's about creating lifelong memories while fostering immense personal and professional development. The program shapes students not just to be experts in their fields, but to be culturally intelligent global citizens ready to contribute to the world.

I feel profoundly honoured to have been selected from Bangladesh for such a highly competitive program. It is a privilege to represent my country on a global stage, and I am deeply grateful for this incredible opportunity.

The writer is an Erasmus Scholar of Erasmus Mundus Master in Global Studies (EMGS).

Universität Leipzig (First Mobility) & Uniwersytet Wrocławski (Second Mobility).

Placing students BEFORE STATISTICS



SHAMS JAHAN FARHAT

Country Manager, StudyIn

For many Bangladeshi families, studying abroad is one of the biggest decisions they will ever make. But with so many agencies focused on numbers over genuine advice, students can easily feel lost. That's where Shams Jahan Farhat and his counselling service step in to prioritise meaningful guidance tailored to each student's goals, rather than chasing volume. In this interview, He shares his approach and explains why the UK remains one of the most popular choices for Bangladeshi students.

The Daily Star (TDS): What was your main goal when you started your counselling service?

Shams Jahan Farhat (SJF): My main dream was to change lives by providing genuine, meaningful advice tailored to each student's career goals. We prioritise quality guidance over application numbers, ensuring students and parents receive the support they truly need for their future.

TDS: How do you ensure students and parents trust your advice?

SJF: We build trust as an authorised agent with British Council-certified counsellors who receive regular university training. We provide comprehensive support for the entire journey from university selection and applications to visa preparation and pre-departure assistance, ensuring a reliable process.

TDS: What are the current hopes, concerns, and trends for Bangladeshi students?

SJF: Students hope for a stable future but are concerned about post-study work and permanent

"We prioritise quality guidance over numbers, ensuring every student receives the support they truly need for their future."

residency prospects. A key trend, due to dependent visa restrictions, is married students applying for MRes programs. This has attracted non-genuine applicants, unfortunately increasing visa refusals.

TDS: What are the main benefits of choosing the UK for education?

SJF: The UK offers globally recognised degrees and shorter programs, like one year master's, saving time and money. Its multicultural environment, combined with the two-year post-study work visa, provides valuable international experience and significantly enhances career prospects for Bangladeshi students.

TDS: What practical information should students know about the UK?

SJF: UK master's degrees are typically one year. Students can work 20 hours/week and stay for two years post-study with the Graduate Route visa. Annual tuition is £11k-£25k; monthly living costs are £900-£1,600. International student scholarships are also available.

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CONTACT US
+880 1806 441 324
+880 1806 441 325

mnglobalconsultancy@gmail.com
www.mnglobalconsultancy.com