



**Announcement:  
Near East and South Asia Undergraduate Exchange Program  
(NESA UGRAD Program)  
FY 2013-14**

The American Center of U.S. Embassy Dhaka is pleased to announce the competition for the 2013-14 Near East and South Asia Undergraduate Exchange Program (NESA Undergraduate Program) in Bangladesh. The NESA Undergraduate Program provides scholarships for one academic year of U.S. study in a non-degree program, funded by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. The goal of the program is to provide a substantive exchange experience at a U.S. college or university to a diverse group of emerging student leaders from non-elite under-represented groups in the Middle East, Sub-Sahara Africa and South Asia.

NESA Undergraduate Program participants must return to Bangladesh upon completion of the program and may not stay on for degree study in the U.S. The NESA Undergraduate Program was developed to meet and refine a large and diverse group of student leaders with in-depth exposure to U.S. society, culture and academic institutions by engaging in substantive academic exchanges at colleges and universities across the country.

This program will provide full scholarships to outstanding students from non-elite, under-represented sectors in countries including Bangladesh, for one academic year of non-degree undergraduate study at accredited U.S. two- and four-year institutions. All academic fields of study are eligible. The program will place participants at U.S. colleges and universities for the 2013-2014 academic year. Scholarships will be awarded for one academic year (approximately 10 months) depending upon the applicant's interests and availability, as well as placement options and availability of funds.

Academic-year scholarship participants will be enrolled full-time in undergraduate course work chosen from a host institution's existing curriculum to allow students ample opportunity for substantive interaction with U.S. faculty and students and exposure to U.S. academic and classroom culture. In addition, to help ensure students are successful in their new academic environments, host institutions will offer tailored instruction on topics including academic research and writing, critical thinking, time management, note-taking, and studying for and taking tests. Participants will live on-campus with American peers.

Participation in community service activities for all students is mandatory. Additionally, an internship component will be offered for all participants during the academic component of the program. Internships will be related to the participant's field of study and/or career plans.

Scholarships will be granted primarily to students who are currently enrolled in an undergraduate degree program in their home country. However, individuals who are about to begin will be eligible to apply for this program. Candidates will be identified and nominated by the American Center, with final selections made by the Department of State in Washington.

January 3, 2013

Candidates should be highly motivated non-elite or underprivileged undergraduate students from colleges, universities and other institutions of higher education who demonstrate leadership through academic work, community involvement, and extracurricular activities. All candidates should have a good knowledge of English. Applicants should have little or no prior experience in the United States or other foreign countries. For more information and application please visit this link- [http://dhaka.usembassy.gov/educational\\_cultural\\_exchanges.html](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov/educational_cultural_exchanges.html)

### **Application Package**

A complete application package will include the following 3 items:

- 1) A completed and signed application form, with the following supporting documents:
  - a. Two passport-size photos, attached to the first page of the application;
  - b. A copy of the data/photo pages of your passport;
  - c. Official transcripts for each year of university study, with certified translation if applicable;
  - d. Official results of the national general secondary school leaving exam (SSC/HSC).
- 2) A signed Supplemental Form, with the requested personal statement:
  - a. As per Item 8 of the Supplemental Form, please submit a 450-word personal statement, in English, describing your interest in the NESAs program, your future plans, and any details that highlight your unique qualifications for the program.
- 3) Two letters of recommendation from professors or teachers, using the approved form.

### **Recruitment Process**

- 1) Application Deadline: Applications are due on or before February 3, 2013  
Please submit your application through e-mail ([ShahidTX@state.gov](mailto:ShahidTX@state.gov)), or submit a hard copy either in person or by courier service to:  
  
The American Center  
Plot No -1, Progati Sharani  
J-Block, Baridhara, Dhaka  
(Opposite from the U.S. Embassy Dhaka, next to Notun Bazar by the Maa O Shishu Clinic)
- 2) Selection and Interviews: Short-listed candidates will be invited to interview at the end of February 2013.
- 3) Additional Requirements: Candidates selected by the American Center for the program will be required to complete medical tests, as well as a test of English-language proficiency such as TOEFL or IELTS. If you already have a valid TOEFL or IELTS score, please submit it with your application; if you do not, please do not schedule a test yourself, as the American Center will do so for all successful candidates. Having a valid score has no bearing on consideration for the program.
- 4) Final Approval: Although candidates will be nominated by the American Center, participation in the program is contingent on final approval from Washington, D.C. and funding availability.

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For additional information, please contact Tahnia Shahid by phone at 8855500, Ext.2808 or by email at [ShahidTX@state.gov](mailto:ShahidTX@state.gov). Thank you for your interest in the program.

Sincerely,

Bilal Faruqi  
Cultural Affairs Officer for Education & Exchanges

January 3, 2013