

## Bangladeshi Students Community in Denmark: Sharing Perspectives

We, current and former Bangladeshi students at Danish universities, wish to express our deep concern about recent developments regarding Bangladeshi student admissions at Roskilde University and the broader public discourse in Denmark.

Bangladesh is home to a youthful population, with over 66% in the productive age group (15–64)<sup>1</sup>. Around 60.000 students from the country are currently pursuing higher education abroad, with a significant number receiving fully funded study opportunities. The years 2024-25 saw over 250 Bangladeshi students receiving prestigious Erasmus Mundus<sup>2</sup>, Swedish Institute<sup>3</sup>, Chevening (UK)<sup>4</sup> and Australia Awards<sup>5</sup> scholarships. With around 27.000 students studying in the USA, Bangladesh ranks among the top 10 sources of international students<sup>6</sup>, highlighting the youth's commitment to educational excellence and international engagement.

The global achievements are also mirrored in Denmark, where Bangladeshi academics and researchers have cultivated scholarly footprints across major Danish universities: DTU, UCPH, Aarhus, Aalborg, and ITU. Beyond academia, Bangladeshi professionals have earned positions in Denmark's prominent workplaces, including Novo Nordisk, Danfoss, Maersk, Danske Bank, Danish Refugee Council, and the UN City. These trajectories demonstrate consistency in academic, innovation, and societal contribution.

The combination of visible academic and professional success, supportive post-graduation policies, and strong community recommendations has led to a recent surge in applications from Bangladesh to Danish universities. At the same time, we recognise that academic systems in Denmark and Bangladesh differ, particularly in terms of resources and pedagogical approaches. It is therefore essential to safeguard the integrity of Danish higher education by maintaining an admissions process for international students that weighs academic merit, preparedness, and alignment with the values of the Danish welfare state.

We respectfully call on the respective Danish authorities and universities to review intermediary agencies' involvement in student admissions. Such a measure should aim not only to address existing concerns but also to establish clear guidelines for external recruitment partners and regular audits as proactive safeguards to prevent future misuse. Education must remain a pathway for genuine academic pursuit accessible to all internationals, not a vehicle for immigration nor a commercial enterprise for institutions, agencies, or employers.

As these measures are considered, we emphasise the importance of affirming that the actions of a few do not unfairly affect the broader community of Bangladeshi citizens in Denmark, who are committed to academic integrity and respectful of Danish values. We trust that Danish authorities, in their efforts to uphold national interests and academic standards, will continue to take appropriate measures to ensure that all students are treated with dignity and respect.

Should you wish to provide input regarding this matter, please contact Ahmed Al Farabi (aahmedalfarabi@gmail.com), Md Akter Husain (akterhusain81@gmail.com), Asadur Rahman Chowdhury (archowdhuryasad@gmail.com).

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unfpa.org/data/world-population/BD>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.newagebd.net/post/country/273146/ugc-congratulates-159-erasmus-mundus-scholarship-recipients?>

<sup>3</sup> <https://si.se/app/uploads/2025/04/si-scholarship-recipients-2025.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.bssnews.net/others/309842>

<sup>5</sup> [https://australiaawardssouthasiamongolia.org/wpcontent/uploads/2025/05/190525\\_Year\\_In\\_Review\\_2024\\_Bangladesh\\_MR.pdf](https://australiaawardssouthasiamongolia.org/wpcontent/uploads/2025/05/190525_Year_In_Review_2024_Bangladesh_MR.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/btn/25\\_0605\\_2024-sevis-btn.pdf?](https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/btn/25_0605_2024-sevis-btn.pdf?)