

## Message for the IUB Students from the Vice Chancellor

Dear students,

As the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to be felt extensively in the country and throughout the world, the importance of a community cannot be overstated. In these unprecedented times, I wish to whole-heartedly thank all the members of the IUB community for their response to this rapidly evolving situation, especially the students for their patience, understanding and their continued trust in IUB. While there might have been some hiccups in the process, rest assured that everyone in the faculty and administration is doing our best to ensure excellent learning experience for you in the days and weeks ahead.

You are all aware that in Summer 2020, IUB offered a varied and personalized approach to financial assistance, acknowledging that all our students were not in the same situation. Some of you were struggling financially, some academically – to a various degree – while some were not struggling at all.

An amount of Tk. 20 Crore had been allocated for scholarship and financial aid for the students in the time of distress, despite the financial constraints the university itself had been dealing with. The semester fee was waived, and the instalment plan was made more user-friendly. I am pleased to inform you that four thousand (4,000) students have been offered scholarship/financial aid/tuition-fee discount in different categories in Summer 2020, which is roughly 300% more than in the previous semesters. Furthermore, new categories of scholarship/financial aid/tuition-fee discount have been added, keeping in view the financial difficulties caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the country. Students who availed any need-based financial aid/tuition-fee discount in Spring 2020 continued to avail the same in Summer 2020 if registered for a minimum of 6 credits instead of the regular 12 credits. The minimum credit requirement was brought down to 3 from the regular 9 credits, in line with our commitment to enable all students to continue their studies in these difficult times.

In addition, due to their parents' job loss, business difficulties, health problems, etc., many of our students would not be able to pay even the minimum required fees and tuition. The Financial Aid Policy was there to help these students, but the current situation required funds beyond those provisions, so we could help more students in Summer 2020. This led to the creation of the IUB Student Welfare Fund (SWF) from the contributions of the IUB management, faculty and staff, along with the contributions from some of the Trustees.


Now, as the Autumn 2020 semester is approaching and the pandemic situation is still a challenge, both nationally and globally, we again had to make the provisions to support our students. We have, therefore, decided that in the Autumn 2020 semester, all the above-mentioned facilities/incentives shall continue, so no student is left behind. **In addition, we have decided to give a 50% waiver on the Admission fees for the new students (freshers) in Autumn 2020 semester.**

So, to summarize, for the **Autumn 2020 semester**, this is what we are offering to our students:

- 1) **50% discount** on the admission fees for the new students, which means they have to pay Tk. 12,500 instead of the regular Tk. 25,000.
- 2) **Waiver of the activity/semester fees** for Autumn 2020, as a large part of activities (if not all) will be conducted online.
- 3) **Improved installment facilities** - Returning students in financial difficulties will be allowed to pay their registration fees in three EQUAL installments (previously, the installments have been 50%, 30% and 20%, respectively). Furthermore, no interest will be charged for the payment of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> installments for Autumn 2020.
- 4) **Installment facilities for the new students** - Freshers in financial difficulties may also pay their registration fees for Autumn 2020 in three equal installments, just like the returning students.
- 5) **Reduced credit requirement** - Students may continue as regular students of IUB with **6 credits** (2 courses) only, instead of the usual 9-credit requirement. In extreme extenuating circumstances, a student may even continue the semester with only 3 credits (1 course).
- 6) **Reduced credit requirement for financial aid** - Students availing financial aid/scholarship have to **register for a minimum of 6 credits only** (instead of the usual 12-credit requirement) to continue with financial aid/scholarship for Autumn 2020.
- 7) **No cancellation of admission** will be executed for students on probation at the end of Summer 2020.
- 8) **Continuation of the Student Welfare Fund** - New applications for financial aid will be processed according to our Financial Aid Policy. To be able to extend financial aid to a larger number of the students, the already established **Student Welfare Fund**, formed with our personal contributions, will continue. In addition, our Trustees are also stepping up by creating endowed scholarship funds for our students in need. One such fund has already been established (The Bilquis Saifuddin Endowed Scholarship Fund) and others are in the making.

As you can see, we are committed to help and support our students as much as the situation permits. Furthermore, we are committed to provide high-quality education for you under the new, uncertain and ever-changing circumstances. Let us all work together to make the best out of an unfavorable situation.

I am looking forward to welcome you all in the Autumn 2020 semester.



Prof. Dr. Milan Pagon  
Vice-Chancellor (Acting)  
Independent University, Bangladesh