

Shahrear Towhid | Text Transcript | CSAHS Award Recognition 2020

Dear Sally Humphries, I'm Shahrear Towhid from Bangladesh and a first year master's student at the University of Guelph. I'll be studying Political Science with collaborative specialization on International Development Studies. I'm glad that I have been awarded the Sally Humphries and Leo Smits International Scholarship for this fall session.

Well, I have a story to share about my journey to Guelph. I have spent my childhood in a densely populated area of Dhaka, the home to many stranded Pakistani refugees and economic migrants from the rural areas of our country.

The development projects aiming these communities have traditionally involved health care, sanitation, and education, but organized initiatives for their economic revitalization and social integration have not yet been seen. The governments usually feel political dilemma regarding these issues.

Unfortunately, the public sector and civil societies have not also thought of playing roles here. This is the area where I want to concentrate my research. The probable contribution of the private sector and the civil societies for economic revitalization and social integration of the refugees and migrants.

I'm grateful that the awards committee has duly evaluated my intention and I had some funds shortages to carry on my studies in Guelph. The scholarship has eased the situation for me.

After finishing my master's I want to pursue a PhD in the same field. Later I want to see myself either working in the academia or in the international development organizations to achieve a broader impact of my research works and experiences.

I sincerely thank you for your generosity and I hope that such endeavors will be expanded in the future to support more graduate students who have relevant work experience and research idea to change the lives of the marginalized people in the developing or least developed countries. Thanks again.