

**Venue:** British Council, Dhaka

**Time:** 5pm to 7:30pm

**Format:** Informal



The much awaited agents networking event had been organised on the evening of 17 December 2014 on the lawns of the British Council office in Dhaka.

The event was moderated by M Jahir Uddin, Project Manager – Services for International Education Marketing (SIEM) - British Council Bangladesh. Brendan McSharry, OBE Country Director-British Council Bangladesh and Robin Davies, Director Partnerships and Programmes, British Council Bangladesh were present during the event which had 30 agents participating.



Certificates were handed over to the agents who successfully completed the Global Agents Training programme in the first batch. The list of agents is given below:

1. Anindya Chowdhury of [Mentors Study Abroad](#)
2. Farhana Yesmin Roji of [Australia Bangladesh Education Consultants \(ABEC\)](#)
3. Israr Ahmed of [Pinnacle Counselling Centre](#)
4. Juwel Chandra Banik of [Australia Bangladesh Education Consultants \(ABEC\)](#)
5. Kazi Shahinul Hasan of [Imperial Consultancy Services](#)
6. M. A. Woahab of [Global Education Counseling Center](#)
7. Masudur Rahman of [H & I Council](#)
8. Md. Abdur Rahman Khan of [N & N International Consultancy Ltd](#)
9. Md. Ashak-Un-Nabi of [Center for Foreign Studies \(CFS\)](#)
10. Md. Ikhtedar Hassan Murad of [Australia Bangladesh Education Consultants \(ABEC\)](#)
11. Md. Zainal Abedin Joy of [JRI Education](#)
12. Mohammad Sha Alam Patwary of [CF International](#)
13. Narayan Chandra Das of [Cubic Education](#)
14. Rabiul Hossain of [H & I Council](#)
15. Shariful Khan of [The Professional Network \(TPNL\)](#)
16. Sheik Ahmed Al-Hasan of [Mavens Education Consultancy Pvt. Ltd.](#)
17. Tasnuva Akbar of [Pinnacle Counselling Centre](#)

The details of agents have been published on the [Global Agents List](#).





Brendan McSharry welcomed the agents in the networking event and acknowledged their immense contribution in promoting and uplifting the profile of UK Education in Bangladesh.



Robin Davies greeted agents who have successfully completed the Global Agents Training programme. He responded to queries from agents on recent visa issues and how the British Council is working with the UKVI at the country and regional levels in improving the situation. Later he handed over certificates to the agents.




### Interesting market updates shared in the networking event

- Over the last year, Bangladesh is among the ten largest markets in both growth rate and total growth for sponsored UK study visas. And currently Bangladesh is holding the fourth position globally and first position in South Asia.
- The number of sponsored applicants for UK study visas, as well as the number of visas issued to these applicants, has grown rapidly in 2014.
- The number of applicants sponsored especially by UK HEIs never declined.
- Growth from 2013 to 2014
  - 24.5% in Tier-4 student visas issued
  - 27.4% in Sponsored applicants
  - 32% in Sponsored HE applicants
- After a long period of decline, the number of long-term visas issued to students from Bangladesh is on the rise again, increasing at an annual rate of nearly 25 per cent in 2014.
- The number of sponsored applicants from Bangladesh for UK study visas is on the rise.
- The number of applicants sponsored by HEIs is far more stable than other applicants.
- The portion of UK study visa applicants sponsored by HEIs is growing, signaling the maturation of Bangladesh's outbound student market.

### Feedback from the agents

- From 2013 to 2014 agents have seen a positive growth in number of students going for UK education.
- Due to visa refusal issue and delays, there is a drop in numbers for September 2014 session, though the total number of students going to the UK this year is likely to be higher than last year.
- Agents found it more suitable to work with UK institutions than institutions of other countries.
- Some agents commented that they only work with UK institutions.
- Application process in UK institutions is still comparatively easier than other countries.
- The agents appreciated British Council's role in providing necessary information and guidance to them on regular basis and they also appreciated the contribution of British Council in boosting up the market despite the challenging environment.



Next session of Global Agents Training programme starts from 5 May 2015.

Agents are only eligible for the training if they meet the following conditions:

Agent has agreements with 2 UK institutions that are either

- on the UKBA Register of Highly Trusted Sponsors
- A British Council accredited Language School

Agents are required to provide scanned copy of their agreement or reference letter from the partnered UK institution.

UK institutions may encourage their agents to do the Global Agents Training programme with the British Council to keep up the global standard. Interested agents are required to submit expressions of interest through <http://bit.ly/Servicestoagents>.

### **Contact information**

M Jahir Uddin

Project Manager - Services for International Education Marketing (SIEM)

Tel: + 88 09666773377, +880 (2) 861 8905

Email: [jahir.uddin@bd.britishcouncil.org](mailto:jahir.uddin@bd.britishcouncil.org)

Sarker Asif Iqbal

Project Coordinator- Services for International Education Marketing (SIEM)

Tel: + 88 09666 773377; +880 (2) 861 8905

Email: [asif.iqbal@bd.britishcouncil.org](mailto:asif.iqbal@bd.britishcouncil.org)

Shegufta Ahmed

Project Coordinator- Services for International Education Marketing (SIEM)

Tel: + 88 09666 773377; +880 (2) 861 8905

Email: [shegufta.ahmed@bd.britishcouncil.org](mailto:shegufta.ahmed@bd.britishcouncil.org)