

# Memoirs of the Vibrant Alumni



## Sachin Rodrigo

I am Sachin Rodrigo from 16.1 UGC Batch, a proud product of the Faculty of Business. I graduated in 2019 with a First-Class Honors in BSc in Logistics Management.

I currently work at the Manitoba Government in Canada as a Digital Engagement Officer. I worked as an intern at Globactiv Logistics Pvt Ltd which was my first stepping stone to gain experience in my professional life. Then I worked at Access Engineering as a Customer Service Executive for 2 years.

NSBM has always been my home away from home. This paradise is filled with endless opportunities for a person to grow as a global graduate.

From the moment I enrolled myself to the degree programme in 2016 until the day I graduated in 2019, NSBM has been by my side by providing me with all the possible opportunities to grow as a student leader while balancing my academics and extracurricular activities.

I would like to thank Prof E. A. Weerasinghe, the Vice Chancellor of NSBM, and the entire team for building this beautiful paradise for all of us. This has become a world stage for all of us to showcase our talents, find what we can do in life, etc. I would like to mention Ms. Thilini De Silva for being the role model behind my success during my time at the university. The friendly academic staff has always motivated us academically and also by teaching about the life ahead of graduation. I held the position of becoming the first president of the Association of Business Management belonging to the Faculty of Business which holds the largest student group in the university. My time serving as the president has been the best days of my life. I was also appointed as the president of the Catholic and Christian Society in which we always stood strong and collaborated with other religious societies showing respect and love for one another.

NSBM shaped me into who I am today. Currently I am in Canada and landed on a good job because of the experiences I gained not only academically but also by doing extracurricular activities to sharpen my skills.

NSBM Green University is the best place to start your higher studies. It comprises of all the facilities and is equipped with the latest technology. Above all, the friendly environment, the culture, the love, respect, peace, and togetherness are valued throughout the whole university.

My advice to the students of NSBM is, be an all-rounder. Level up your academics whilst shaping yourself to be an outstanding character by doing extracurricular activities. Always love NSBM. Make NSBM proud. Raise the flag higher and reach new heights. We as past graduates would always love to see NSBM and you shining in this world!



**Chamila Gunetilleke**

### Experience at NSBM as an undergraduate

NSBM is both a second home and school to me where I learned more than my subject matter; I learnt to work together with my teachers, academic colleagues, and batch mates, to achieve synergies and great relationships which last long beyond successful achievements. In my co-curricular activities: doing athletics, announcing, event organizing and more, I learnt that one must achieve success, respect, and elegance to build on even further.

### How NSBM assisted in excelling in my career

Apart from the lesson material, my lecturers and the NSBM staff taught us solid life lessons, for which I feel very grateful for as I gain more experience. I will always treasure the honest pieces of advice shared by many good people - lecturers, batch mates, managerial staff - all honest and good friends.

### Why do you think a student should study at NSBM

You will be exposed to a strong culture emphasizing teamwork, creativity, persistence, and respect, in the excellent physical and social setting at NSBM. It influences and changes a life for the better.

### Message to current students

There's a difference between studying and learning. The first gets you marks, the second gets you lifelong knowledge.

Discover your passions - for this, do everything, extracurricular activities and studies, talk to your lecturers, and more. Push yourself to the limit and break it.

Build real human connection, not just virtual ones. Stop browsing the phone, and go have a chat with someone. Trust me, people who are confident in themselves and with others, shine in the corporate world. That begins with you getting the guts to start the conversation.

Build credibility - do what you say, and say what you will do.



**Ishani Karunaratne**

I'm Ishani Karunaratne from the 2012 batch, otherwise known as Batch 04 of the Interior Architecture degree programme offered by the National School of Business Management in affiliation with Limkokwing University of Creative Technology, Malaysia. I graduated in 2016, top of my class with the award for best performance of the year for Interior Architecture from the National

School of Business Management and Limkokwing University of Creative Technology.

### What is your current status in the industry?

Since my graduation, I had worked as a full-time lecturer for Interior Design degree programmes offered by the Faculty of Engineering at NSBM Green University until my recent departure for higher studies overseas. I have also been pursuing my passion as a freelance Interior Designer during my spare time over the past five years.

### Experience at NSBM as an undergraduate? (Both academic and extracurricular)

I had a wonderful experience as a Design undergraduate at NSBM, and it sure did shape me into who I am today. We had a well-versed teaching staff with industry exposure. It was not at all teaching in a closed lecture hall. Site visits, field trips and workshops also gave us much-needed practical experiences. I remember forming study circles with my colleagues to visit monumental places with design values within Sri Lanka on our free days, and often, one or two lecturers would accompany us to give their expertise. I believe that showed the extent to which the academic faculty would go to make sure we had a good design sense. Although we didn't have many amenities as the current students do, we still got plenty of extracurricular activities to take part in. A few of my fondest memories at NSBM include the NSBM Got Talent and the annual Open Day Exhibitions.

### How did NSBM assist/support you in excelling in your career?

The student-centred teaching-learning process at NSBM helped

me a lot as a young designer. I was trained to think holistically when approaching a design, and the theoretical and practical knowledge I needed to do that was instilled through the subject material of my degree. I got to experience this process as a student as well as an educator at NSBM, and our graduates have a good reputation in the industry because of it as well.

## Why do you think a student should study at NSBM Green University?

Our current generations are fortunate with the number of opportunities they have for tertiary education. But more opportunities means that your choice needs to be very discrete and the best possible choice for your future. I did my fair share of research through alumni and the internet before choosing NSBM. But what compelled me to start my degree at NSBM was the amount of information and the genuine care NSBM showed me during my first visit before registration. A degree is a stepping stone towards your dream career, and the 19-year-old me didn't really know the first thing about being a degree holder at that time. But my first ever face-to-face information session with NSBM proves to be right even today. A university acts as the bridge between the school and professional world that every degree holder should cross when it's time, and I'm glad I chose NSBM as that bridge. I believe that everyone who's thinking about achieving their goals in life should do as I did.

## Message to the current students.

Students nowadays are very brave for choosing to continue their education during these challenging times. As a past member of the NSBM

academic faculty, I can tell that the lecturers genuinely care about the overall wellbeing of the students, not just the academics. So, talk to your lecturers as they are your facilitators, mentors, and advisors, regarding all things related to your education. Do not let the pandemic or any other matter postpone your education. There are so many extracurricular activities you can participate in through virtual platforms, therefore don't forget to enjoy your university life despite the pandemic. After all, it's the memories we will remember from our university life, not the number of hours we studied. So, make sure to have a memorable university life as much as possible. I wish you all good luck!



## L. Senal Dewanjith Fernando

Throughout my years at NSBM Green University, not only did the university lay my foundation academically but it also enriched my life with experience and advices that enabled me to groom myself into a better and successful person in every way. If at the end of the chapter of your life at NSBM Green University, all that you have gained was a degree certificate, then you have definitely done it all wrong. The way to success isn't just a paper-qualification. It is also about networking and inspiring others, being a leader encouraging change for the betterment of the world; it is

the power that connects you to the future world!

If I start narrating my childhood from the beginning, I should mention that I was able to build a unique personality thanks to my family background and healthy upbringing. Living in Colombo, I studied at Ananda College, did Biology for A/Ls, and then joined NSBM Green University to complete my first degree. I selected the B.Sc. in Management Information Systems (Special) Degree programme approved by the UGC (University Grants Commission) and I selected it because that degree programme provided an ideal environment that catered to the current trends and needs of both IT and Business-related industries in Sri Lanka. Further, this degree programme had an interdisciplinary curriculum that focused on both computing and business aspects. So, I joined as a student for the 16.1 UGC MIS Batch and graduated in 2019 with a Second-Class Upper. My entire journey at NSBM Green University as a student and a Network Instructor was truly amazing and rewarding. It helped me enrich my life with experiences and advices that enabled me to groom myself to be a better and successful person in every way. Thereafter, I completed my Master's studies at the University of West London, UK. I also completed several industry related certifications in order to perform well in the IT Sector. Currently, I'm working as a Senior Associate Functional Consultant for Browns Group IT thanks to the guidance of my beloved lecture panel and back-office staff at NSBM Green University.

## What is your current status in the industry?

- Designation: Senior Associate Functional Consultant (Microsoft D365)
- Current Work Place: Brown and Company PLC – Browns Group IT [ERP]

I started my carrier journey in 2018 after getting an opportunity to work as a Network Instructor at NSBM Green University. Working as a Network instructor for nearly one year was really amazing since I got a wonderful opportunity to teach and supervise students using lectures, demonstrations, discussion groups, laboratory workshop sessions, seminars, and many more during my period as an instructor.

Thereafter I got a great opportunity to work as an Associate ERP Functional Consultant for attune Lanka (Pvt) Ltd. attune Lanka is one of Sri Lanka's biggest IT Consulting companies in the ERP Implementation industry and it transforms the biggest brands in the Fashion and Lifestyle industries with technology-enabled solutions using Cloud Platforms, Web, and Mobile Technologies.

The turning point in my professional life, I think, was in 2020 where I got an opportunity to work as a Senior Associate Functional Consultant for Brown and Company PLC. Brown and Company PLC is one of the biggest conglomerates in Sri Lanka and it's the very first corporate company in the South East Asian region to implement the latest Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central cloud-based solution [SaaS]. I'm so proud to tell you that I'm one of the Senior Associate Consultants in Browns

Group ERP Implementation team, where I have given my valuable contribution and dedication towards the successful completion of cloud-based ERP Project powered by Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business central and CRM Project to facilitate the entire business operation of the Browns Group. With the commitment made with extended hours of work and interest shown in reaching the completion of the given projects, I was also awarded the highest Service Appreciation award in 2021 by the Browns Group PLC.

In this current fast-paced competitive industry, in order to work as an ERP Consultant, you need to have a comprehensive knowledge on IT and Business concepts with functional exposure to various ERP platforms. As a Senior Associate ERP Consultant, I was able to provide consultations on various ERP Platforms like BC D365, S/4 HANA, SAP ECC 6.0, and many more using Sure-Step and Agile Methodologies. Furthermore, thanks to the guidance and tremendous knowledge of my beloved lecture panel at NSBM, I was able to uplift my programming skills and academic capabilities. Because of that, I was able to integrate a fully functional SMS Integration solution for all SBU's in Browns Group with the help of the ERP Team in Browns Group.

## Experience at NSBM as an undergraduate

As soon as I finished my A/L's, I was looking for a university which had a good academic record and with other facilities which any undergraduate would like to have. When I explored the NSBM Green University on the first day, I really had a positive impression of the

cutting-edge facilities, staff members, and senior students at the university. The industrial exposure and a bunch of extracurricular activities pushed me further towards the NSBM Green University and I was really happy about my decision at that time. As an undergraduate during the period of 2016 to 2020, NSBM has challenged me to step out of my comfort zone, work very hard, and develop my potential future to become a successful person in life. The lecturers and the instructors at NSBM Green University are so friendly with the students, and therefore the students can directly consult them and get the advantage of finding answers for all their academic and non-academic concerns. On the other hand, as a senior member of the swimming team, I identified that this university is a very attractive place for all sports and extracurricular activities; during my undergraduate period, I was a member of several societies and clubs like Association of Aviation, DevOps Community, and FOSS Community. Furthermore, I am proud to tell you that I was one of the founding Members of AIESEC in NSBM, and during my undergraduate period at AIESEC, I was lucky enough to become the Project Vice President and the Organizing Committee Vice President for Finance in the Incoming Global Volunteer (IGV) Team. Finally, I want to reassert that this is one of the best places to do your tertiary studies.

## How did NSBM assist/support you in excelling in your career?

NSBM Green University is committed to ensuring that its graduates are not only well-educated but also holistic citizens who are capable of adding value through the companies in which they work or through their own businesses. NSBM, School of

Computing provided me with the right platform not only to excel in my field of interest but also to enhance my skills and abilities to shape my personality, build confidence, and most importantly to make me "Industry-Ready". Selecting NSBM was the best decision that I have made as it widened my horizons by providing me with many opportunities and real-life experiences that assisted me in achieving my career goals.

## Why do you think a student should study at NSBM Green University?

"In short, NSBM is the biggest Green University in South Asia and it's connected with top branded industries in Sri Lanka. It provides highly certified degree and MBA Programmes for Sri Lankan and Foreign Students"

NSBM Green University is a career focused university that has maintained a strong reputation for high quality education closely linked to employment. Furthermore, NSBM inspires students to become more creative professionals, connecting them to exciting and rewarding careers. The university also has a range of highly qualified lecturers, with a wealth of knowledge and experience in their respective disciplines, and strong connections with key industries.

## Message to the current students,

"Don't try to be perfect. Just try to be better than you were yesterday and try to become an expert in your specialization. Everything you need will come to you at the perfect time!"



## Senuli Abeysinghe

I, Senuli Abeysinghe, am a graduate at NSBM Green University representing the first batch of Victoria University Melbourne Australia, with the successful completion of bachelor's in Business Banking and Finance and Financial Risk Management in the year of 2020.

Right after my graduation, the knowledge and expertise I acquired through the professional qualification in Human Resource Management, qualified me to become a Junior Human Resources Executive at Kanrich Finance Limited, which is a fully-fledged finance company in Sri Lanka. The recruitment as a Junior Human Resource Executive was a turning point in my professional life.

I consider it as a great opportunity to gain career experience in onboard processing, the handling of career accounts, preparation of Board Papers, Employee Provident Fund handling, Employee Trust Fund handling, recruitments and other HR related documentation processes for every department and branch at Kanrich Finance Limited. Being a finance graduate, the promotions I received with the

recognition of my performance by higher authorities at Kanrich Finance Limited itself is a great achievement that I have accomplished recently.

The ample experience I gained through the application of theoretical knowledge in practice together with employee relations, analytic skills, team work, and collaboration with my on-the-job-training, contributed tremendously to my successful professional journey.

Being a graduate who has completed a dual major degree covering a vast content of knowledge, I must say that the immense support I received from academic staff of both NSBM Green University and Victoria University was highly admirable. The knowledge content representing every aspect of the finance industry, including banking, investment, and insurance fields of study, groomed VU students to cater towards the needs of the corporate sector.

The experience I gathered through the active engagement in extracurricular activities greatly aided me in unleashing my hidden skills and talents to reach unimagined success while living a well-balanced undergraduate life. University level contributions I have made as the Athletic Girls' Captain, Treasurer of the University Sports Council, University Sports Chief Organizer, Chief Organizer of the Banking-Finance-Insurance Forum 2019, and Secretary of Association of Business Management uplifted my leadership skills throughout my undergraduate life.

The University Colours Awards I've received for Athletics and Chess which make a significant value addition to my profile, bring back the most remarkable memories I have had as an undergraduate.

The guidance and supervision by well qualified lecturers, in enhancing the knowledge of undergraduates together with the cooperation extended towards extracurricular activities, developed a personality with a great capacity to accept challenges in the corporate world and aided with climbing the career ladder.

In addition to the presence of a well-qualified academic staff, the modern infrastructure at NSBM Green University make it more convenient to focus on studies facilitated by a methodical teaching-learning process. Due to the same reason, the NSBM Green University is highly recommended to students with the preference of having a unique and independent personality as a graduate to serve the corporate sector with a higher degree of professionalism.

It is advisable to the current student community at NSBM to become all-rounders with a proper plan who apply the skills, talents, knowledge, and expertise acquired to serve the corporate sector as an exceptional professional. I wish to emphasize that, an undergraduate should prioritise their disciplines, attitudes, and humane qualities, apart from achieving academic excellence.

**Thank you!**  
**Wishing you all the best!**



### Supun Wickramasekara

Hi! My name is Supun Wickramasekara, NSBM Alumni from the batch of 2012. I am delighted and honored to be selected as one of the interviewees for the NSBM Business Dialogue Special Edition 2021 published in celebration for the 5th Anniversary of NSBM Green University Town. When I started my university journey as a freshman in the year 2012 at the School of Computing majoring in B.Sc. in Computer Science, I never thought it would become the biggest turning point of my life. I joined NSBM at a point where I was second-guessing my potential to pursue higher education. I successfully graduated in 2015 with a Second-Class Upper, whilst working as a demonstrator during the last year of my degree.

### What is your current status in the industry?

Currently, I am working as an Associate Business Analyst Lead, in Axiata Digital Lab; an innovative software service provider, offering telco focused digital and IT

services and solutions including Fintech, solution, IoT solution, Big Data Analysis solutions and Machine Learning solutions. I joined Axiata Digital Labs as a Senior Business Analyst in the year 2019 and worked my way towards my current position through the skills and knowledge I gathered under the wings of NSBM as a young graduate. Today I am working as a Business/Product Specialist and a Product Owner/Scrum Master for multiple products (IoT applications) integrated with Axiata-Core IoT Platform globally: from Malaysia, Indonesia, Mongolia, and Sri Lanka, positively influencing collective company goals and personal goals. For the 7 years, I have worked in the industry as a Business Analyst I have gotten the opportunity to handle many local and foreign clients, build sustainable partnerships, and achieve the given targets promptly and efficiently.

During my work years in Synergen Health (PVT) Ltd. (before joining Axiata Labs), I was awarded the best performer award for 2 consecutive years as well.

### Experience at NSBM as an undergraduate?

Life at NSBM was much more than a mere academic experience. I've made lifelong friendships, gathered unforgettable memories, developed strong interpersonal

skills, and simply lived my best life during the four years of my degree period. For me, NSBM was the source where I could find my true self and passion. Experiencing the company of a like-minded community and skilled staff, sustained my urge to discover more and more every day and strengthen my values to present the best version of myself to society. Even though we had fewer resources in comparison to what undergraduates at NSBM University are given today, the administration and staff ensured that each student is supervised and evaluated positively whilst supporting their future goals with guidance and resources. During my undergraduate years, I also had the chance to join the Rotaract Club and work as the Charter Sgt arms of Rotaract Club of NSBM (2012/2013). When I look back at my university life, I am thankful that I chose NSBM as the foundation to build my future goals.

## How did NSBM assist/support you in excelling in your career?

Working as an Associate Business Analyst Lead is a role full of critical responsibilities. As client handling is a key role in my job, I have to always maintain professionalism, possess good communication skills, propose and implement effective strategies, and work

under immense pressure to achieve the targeted goals in the given lead time. I believe that the academic and interpersonal skills I mastered during my university years truly supported in making my job easier and frictionless. The exposure I received through joining the Rotaract club sharpened my communication and event handling skills which in turn reflect on my current work pattern.

NSBM courses always comprised of updated knowledge, which helped us habitually stay updated on every aspect of life. The technological knowledge and skills I use to make my work efficient, productive, and easier today are vastly based on the educational experience I gained from NSBM.

## Why do you think a student should study at NSBM Green University?

Why I believe that NSBM provides the correct foundation for a student to start their higher education is because it offers an overall academic experience while moulding the students to become independent in making major life decisions that require strategical, communicational, professional, and interpersonal skills. Students at NSBM not only excel in academics, but also construct strong networks with the changing world, whilst being responsible citizens who sustain the future growth of the country.

*So, wait no more. Your future awaits you at NSBM!*

**Compiled by Udani Dilrangi & Pramudya Thilakarathne**



