

Forestry and Climate Science Student Exchange Program 2023

Call for Application

Background

The Community Partnerships to Strengthen Sustainable Development (Compass) Program of USAID Bangladesh and US Forest Service International Programs (USFS/IP) addresses natural resources management (NRM) challenges in Bangladesh. Compass's domains include increasing technical cooperation on forest and ecosystem management, strengthening the capacity of academic and research institutions in natural resource management and resilience, strengthening community capacity, promoting public participation, and establishing Youth Conservation Corps (YCC). Compass emphasizes promoting the evidence-based global scientific-technical exchange of natural resource knowledge and skills to enhance the capacity of institutions and communities to manage natural resources and improve livelihoods through visiting fellows program, student exchange, webinar series, USFS/IP international seminars, and virtual participation in USFS online platforms, forums, and networks.

The College of Life Sciences and Agriculture (COLSA) of the University of New Hampshire (UNH) is a leading USA-based research institution with academic excellence in forestry, natural resources conservation and management, and environmental sciences. The UNH also has state-of-the-art research facilities in both laboratory and field settings and extensive partnerships with regional USFS scientists and practitioners. Compass partnered with the UNH to deliver Forestry and Climate Science (FoCaS) programs consisting of professional exchanges, virtual programming, and graduate study at the UNH, aiming to increase NRM research and education capacity in Bangladesh.

Compass has partnership agreements with the Institute of Forestry and Environmental Sciences of Chittagong University (IFESCU), Khulna University (KU), Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST), Rangamati Science and Technology University (RMSTU), Bangladesh Forest Research Institute (BFRI) for strengthening technical/research capacity and exchange programs. In addition, Compass closely works with the Bangladesh Forest Department (BFD).

Compass and the UNH jointly designed the FoCaS programs to enhance the capacity of faculty members, professionals, and students and create opportunities for research collaborations and forestry education between Bangladesh and US-based institutions.



Program description

The Forestry and Climate Science Student Exchange Program 2023 (FoCaS-SEP) is an educational and experiential visit to the UNH for NRM knowledge exchange. The COLSA of UNH will host about nine students for approximately 10-12 days in June-July 2023. It is a highly competitive opportunity where the students from Compass’s partner universities in Bangladesh will be selected based on merit. The participants will devote some time to outline follow-on activities, which they will continue upon return, and Compass will do regular check-ins. They must be committed to providing programmatic and operational support to the Compass Program, UNH, and their partner institutions as FoCaS programs alumni as and when needed. In addition to academic/research activities, the FoCaS-SEP will include visits to the UNH forestry and climate change-related initiatives, the USFS research stations, forest management institutions, and some forest ecosystems. Through this program, the participants will get exposure to state-of-the-art sustainable NRM activities and will gain practical knowledge on improved NRM in changing climatic conditions. The FoCaS program will cover all expenses related to accommodation, air tickets, ground transportation, per diem, medical insurance, and visa fee.

Deliverables

The exchange students will be required to complete the following deliverables by the end of the program:

- A reflection report [e.g., trip experience, plan on follow-on activity]
- Participation in the FoCaS program webinar series

Duration

The University of New Hampshire (UNH), Durham, USA, will host the FoCaS-SEP 2023. The visit will be for approximately 10-12 days in June-July 2023.

Eligibility Criteria

- ✓ Bachelor final year or Masters student in forestry or, environmental science from IFESCU; Department of Forestry and Environmental Science, SUST; and Forestry and Wood Technology Discipline, KU
- ✓ Demonstrated academic results/research experience/community engagement
- ✓ Innovative and eager to exchange ideas
- ✓ Able to work independently as well as in a multidisciplinary and multicultural team
- ✓ Able to adjust to changing cultural settings and environments
- ✓ Be proficient in spoken and written English
- ✓ Able to participate in all components of the fellowship program
- ✓ Committed to developing and continuing follow-on activities upon return.

Application Instructions

- ✓ Submission of the application form [available here: <https://forms.gle/Z8CvipPPxUSLgyaU9>]
- ✓ Official recommendation letter from the Head of the Department/Director
- ✓ Motivation letter [including, Why do you want to participate in this program? What do you hope to achieve from the visit? How will you put your new skills and knowledge to practice?]
- ✓ An updated Curriculum Vitae (max 3-page)
- ✓ A passport-size photograph taken within the last three months.

Application Closing Date
31 January 2023 | 23:59 Bangladesh Standard Time (GMT+6)

For More Information

✓ Md. Shams Uddin ☎ +88-01936907500 ✉ suddin@compass-bd.org
 ✓ Naeema Jihan Zinia ☎ +88-01720908105 ✉ nzinia@compass-bd.org
 Ventura Iconia, 5th Floor, House # 37, Road # 11, Block # H, Banani, Dhaka-1213, Bangladesh