



MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

**National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences (FAST-NUCES),
Pakistan**

and

Comilla University, Bangladesh

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter referred to as the “MoU”) is entered into on this day of 17 May, 2026, by and between:

The National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences (hereinafter referred to as “FAST-NUCES”), a chartered university established in 2000 under an Act of Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, having its registered address at FAST House, Rohtas Road, G-9/4, Islamabad, Pakistan, and operating through its six campuses at Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar, Chiniot-Faisalabad, and Multan;

AND

Comilla University, Bangladesh (hereinafter referred to as “CoU”), a public university established under Comilla University Act, 2006 (Act No. 17 of 2006), duly recognized by the University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, having its registered address at Comilla University, Kotbari, Cumilla-3506, Bangladesh.

FAST-NUCES and CoU

PREAMBLE

WHEREAS the Parties share a mutual interest in promoting higher education, scientific research, and cross-cultural understanding between the peoples of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and the people of the Republic of Bangladesh;

WHEREAS FAST-NUCES is recognized as one of Pakistan’s leading universities in computing, engineering, business, and emerging sciences, with an established portfolio of international partnerships across Europe, Asia, and North America;

WHEREAS the Comilla University is committed to advancing teaching, learning, and research capacity in Bangladesh and seeks to enhance the academic and professional development of its faculty and students through international collaboration;



WHEREAS both Parties recognize the strategic value of South-South cooperation in higher education and wish to formalize a framework for sustained, reciprocal engagement;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

Article 1 — Purpose

The primary aim of this MoU is to foster an enduring partnership that facilitates academic and scientific collaboration between the Parties. This partnership shall prioritize knowledge exchange, global learning opportunities, faculty capacity-building, and joint initiatives that advance the educational and research goals of both institutions. All activities shall be guided by the principles of reciprocity, frequent engagement, mutual benefit, and respect for the institutional autonomy of each Party.

Article 2 — Scope of Cooperation

To achieve the purpose set out in Article 1, the Parties commit to pursuing, to the extent feasible and subject to their respective policies and available resources, the following areas of cooperation:

2.1 Faculty and Researcher Exchange

Both institutions shall actively promote short- and medium-term faculty and researcher exchanges for teaching, guest lectures, joint research, and professional development. The host institution shall, to the extent possible, provide local hospitality, office and laboratory access, and administrative support. International travel and insurance shall typically be the responsibility of the sending Party unless otherwise agreed in writing.

2.2 Joint Research Programs and Grant Applications

The Parties shall encourage collaborative research in areas of mutual interest, including but not limited to computing and data science, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, climate and sustainability, public-health informatics, educational technology, and entrepreneurship. The Parties shall jointly pursue external funding, including Erasmus+ (ICM, CBHE, Jean Monnet), HEC Pakistan grants, UGC Bangladesh schemes, SAARC, British Council, DAAD, and other bilateral or multilateral donor initiatives.

2.3 Co-Supervision and Examination of Theses

Faculty from both institutions may serve as co-supervisors, internal or external examiners, and thesis evaluators for Master's and PhD candidates at the partner institution, in accordance with the academic regulations of each Party.

2.4 Student Mobility and Exchange Programs

Selected undergraduate and postgraduate students of both institutions shall be invited to participate in semester-long or short-term exchange programs. Wherever feasible, the Parties shall waive tuition fees for incoming exchange students on a reciprocal basis, with students remaining responsible for their travel,



accommodation, visa, insurance, and personal expenses. Credit earned at the host institution shall be recognized by the home institution in accordance with a pre-approved Learning Agreement.

2.5 Joint Summer and Winter Schools

The Parties shall co-design and co-deliver summer and winter schools, bootcamps, and short executive courses on themes of shared interest, hosted alternately at FAST-NUCES campuses in Pakistan and at the Comilla University, Bangladesh.

2.6 Curriculum Development, Credit Transfer, and Co-Teaching

The Parties shall cooperate on curriculum review and benchmarking, the co-development of courses, credit-transfer frameworks (including ECTS-equivalent conversion where appropriate), and the delivery of joint online or hybrid courses leveraging the digital infrastructure of both institutions.

2.7 Faculty and Staff Capacity Building

FAST-NUCES shall facilitate, where feasible, the participation of the Comilla University's faculty and administrative staff in its faculty-development programs, pedagogy workshops, research-methodology training, and specialized trainings in areas such as outcome-based education, accreditation preparation, and quality enhancement. Reciprocal opportunities at the Comilla University shall likewise be extended to FAST-NUCES personnel.

2.8 Joint Conferences, Symposia, and Academic Events

The Parties shall invite each other's representatives to participate in symposia, conferences, seasonal schools, and other academic or research meetings, and may co-organize such events on a rotational basis.

2.9 Library, Digital, and Research Resource Sharing

The Parties shall explore reciprocal access to selected library holdings, institutional repositories, research datasets, and licensed digital resources, subject to applicable licensing terms and intellectual-property restrictions.

2.10 Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Industry Linkages

The Parties shall explore collaboration between their respective incubation centers, entrepreneurship programs, and industry-liaison offices, including cross-border startup mentorship, hackathons, innovation challenges, and joint industry-engaged capstone projects.

2.11 Joint Publications and Academic Journals

The Parties shall encourage co-authorship of research publications, book chapters, and technical reports, and may explore editorial collaboration on academic journals published by either institution.

2.12 Alumni Engagement and Cultural Exchange

The Parties shall promote alumni networking, cultural-exchange visits, and student-led initiatives that strengthen people-to-people ties between the two countries, including joint language, heritage, and sports programs where appropriate.



2.13 Other Collaborative Activities

The Parties may engage in any other educational, scientific, or technical collaboration as mutually agreed in writing, in alignment with the shared goals of this MoU.

Article 3 — Implementation and Coordination

To ensure effective implementation of this MoU, each Party shall designate a coordinator responsible for overseeing and facilitating the collaboration. Specific activities, programs, or projects undertaken pursuant to this MoU shall be developed through separate implementing agreements (“Annexes” or “Action Plans”) that set out objectives, timelines, responsibilities, deliverables, and financial arrangements for each initiative. Coordination meetings shall be held at least once per academic year, in person or virtually, to review progress and plan future actions.

Designated Coordinator for FAST-NUCES:

Name: Waqar Baig

Designation: Head, International Education Office (IEO), FAST-NUCES, Pakistan.

Email: waqar.baig@nu.edu.pk, ieo.head@nu.edu.pk

Designated Coordinator for Comilla University:

Name: Moshir Rahman

Designation: Head of International Affairs (Acting), CoU, Bangladesh

Email: Moshir.mcj@cou.ac.bd

Article 4 — Financial Arrangements

This MoU does not, of itself, create any financial obligation on either Party. Any costs arising from activities pursued under this MoU shall be addressed in the relevant implementing agreement and shall be subject to the availability of funds and the internal approvals of each Party. Each Party shall bear its own costs for participating in coordination activities unless otherwise agreed in writing.

Article 5 — Intellectual Property

Intellectual property rights arising from activities undertaken under this MoU shall be addressed on a case-by-case basis in the relevant implementing agreement. Pre-existing intellectual property brought by either Party shall remain the sole property of that Party. Each Party shall respect the intellectual property rights of the other and shall not use the other's name, logo, trademarks, or institutional marks without prior written consent.

Article 6 — Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination



The Parties affirm their commitment to equal opportunity and non-discrimination in the selection of participants for activities under this MoU, without regard to gender, religion, ethnicity, disability, or any other protected characteristic, in accordance with the applicable laws and institutional policies of each Party.

Article 7 — Legal Nature of the MoU

This MoU reflects the current intentions of the Parties and does not create any legally binding obligations enforceable at law. Each Party retains the right to reconsider or modify the provisions of this MoU as necessary, subject to the procedures set out in Article 10.

Article 8 — Communication and Public Relations

All communication regarding this MoU shall require mutual agreement between the Parties. Any promotional or public communication about this partnership — including press releases, social-media posts, website announcements, and marketing collateral — shall be pre-approved by both institutions to ensure alignment with shared objectives and accurate representation of each Party.

Article 9 — Data Protection and Confidentiality

Both Parties agree to comply with the data-protection laws applicable in their respective jurisdictions — including, for FAST-NUCES, the applicable laws of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and for Comilla University, the applicable laws of the People's Republic of Bangladesh — and with any other data-protection frameworks applicable to specific activities (such as the GDPR where EU partners or funders are involved). Each Party shall treat as confidential any non-public information disclosed by the other Party in connection with this MoU and shall not disclose such information to third parties without prior written consent, except where required by law or regulation.

Article 10 — Duration, Amendment, and Termination

This MoU shall remain in effect for a period of five (5) years from the date of its signing by both Parties and may be renewed for a further term by mutual written agreement. Any amendment to this MoU shall be made in writing and signed by the duly authorized representatives of both Parties. Either Party may terminate this MoU by providing the other Party with at least six (6) months' prior written notice. Termination shall not affect the completion of activities already in progress, which shall continue until their natural conclusion unless the Parties agree otherwise in writing. Obligations relating to confidentiality, intellectual property, and ongoing student or faculty commitments shall survive termination.

Article 11 — Dispute Resolution



Any difference or dispute arising out of the interpretation or implementation of this MoU shall be resolved amicably through consultation and good-faith negotiation between the designated coordinators and, if necessary, the senior leadership of both institutions.

Article 12 — Entry into Force and Counterparts

This MoU shall enter into force on the date of its signing by the last of the two authorized signatories. It is executed in duplicate in the English language, with each Party retaining one original copy, both of equal authenticity.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this Memorandum of Understanding to be signed by their duly authorized representatives as of the dates indicated below.

Institution	Authorized Signatory	Signature & Date
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**National University of
Computer and Emerging
Sciences (FAST-NUCES),
Pakistan**

Prof. Dr. Aftab Maroof
Rector, FAST-NUCES

Signature:

Date: _____

Place: _____

**Comilla University,
Bangladesh**

**Professor Dr. M. M.
Shariful Karim**

Signature:

Vice Chancellor, Comilla
University

Date: 17/05/2026

Place: COMILLA

Professor Dr. M. M. Shariful Karim
Vice Chancellor
Comilla University, Comilla.

Witness — FAST-NUCES

Witness — Comilla University

Name: Waqar Baig

Name: Mohammad Sayedur Rahman, PhD

Designation: Head of International Education
Office

Designation: Professor of Chemistry &
Director, Institutional Quality
Assurance Cell (IQAC)
Comilla University, Bangladesh

Signature:
17/05/26

Signature:
17/05/26