



# PREPARING THE UNDERGRADUATES FOR THE WORLD BEYOND

**Mr. Kasun Dissanayake**

Head-Student Affairs

**Extra-curricular activities are an integral part of undergraduate life-especially in moulding a holistic graduate. How does NSBM Green University facilitate this aspect for its large student community?**

Here at NSBM Green University, our goal is to offer holistic education to create global graduates. To achieve this, we rely on the 3-H concept – Head,

Heart and Hand. So, a successful global graduate must not only possess the required subject knowledge, but also the skills and attitudes needed to face life's many challenges. While co-curricular activities equip students under the 'knowledge' pillar, extra-curricular activities inculcate right attitudes and vital soft skills such as leadership skills, team spirit, collective responsibility, and decision-making skills. As the Student Affairs Unit, we are responsible for promoting and coordinating all the extra-curricular activities among our student community. So, as the Head of Student Affairs Unit, I

would say that we are in the crucial process of nurturing students to grow into such holistic graduates.

**What opportunities the students are given through the Student Affairs Unit? How does the unit cater into the various talents and skills of the students?**

Well, currently we have 43 clubs and societies under Student Affairs Unit.



**I am very happy to say that student participation for all the extra-curricular activities is very high. One thing we have noted when we analysed our student base was that our students are more forward, talented and they love sports and aesthetics.**



Among these clubs and societies, we have 18 activity-based clubs, 4 religious societies, 16 sports clubs and 5 international clubs. All these clubs are led by students under the guidance of academic advisors and membership is on voluntary basis. So, there are ample opportunities available for students to join or form a club they want, pursue their passions, and improve their soft skills.

Also, I must mention the world-class infrastructure facilities we have at NSBM Green University to carry out all these extra-curricular activities. The Recreation Centre located within the premises, includes a swimming pool, outdoor sports ground, cricket nets, observation deck, a pavilion and a multi-purpose indoor sports



building including a basketball court, badminton court, table tennis court, and a gymnasium. So, our students have all the facilities they need to engage in all these sports.

### **How would you describe the student participation of non-academic events in the university?**

I am very happy to say that student participation for all the extra-curricular activities is very high. One thing we have noted when we analysed our student base was that our students are more forward, talented and they love sports and aesthetics. So, our management foresaw this back in 2015 (that was even before we opened the NSBM

Green University for students), and it was this foresight that led to the establishment of the Student Affairs Unit.

And, as anticipated, our annual calendar is filled with many exciting events. Hardly a week goes by without any event or activity organized by a club. U-Sports, Sports Fiesta, Green Flames, Green Fiesta, and Siyapath Siya Udanaya are a few major events that our students look forward to participate in every year.

### **What are the main challenges faced by the Student Affairs Unit and what are the future plans the Unit has at the moment?**

Well, I should begin with the challenges we overcame in the last few years. 2020 and 2021 were tough years for us, as for the rest of the world, but we didn't give up. We adapted to the new situations and continued our activities despite all the challenges. Amidst the pandemic, we were able to conduct more than 200 events. From webinars to student forums to virtual musical shows, drama competitions, and digital Vesak celebrations, we adapted accordingly and continued our activities.

Our main goal for year 2022 is to conduct all the major events we missed during the last two years due to the Easter attack and the pandemic. We hope to make 2022 the best year in NSBM Green University's history in terms of extra-curricular activities. We are also planning to organize several inter-school and inter-university competitions through our clubs

and societies. As a university, we want to provide as many opportunities as possible for students across all ages to showcase their talents.

Also, I am happy to share the news that, under Phase II construction, NSBM Green University will be adding a new state-of-the-art sports complex to its many facilities. And on the day of the 5th anniversary of NSBM, we are planning to officially declare the playground area in Phase II open for students. This will be a great value addition to the university and to our students.

### **What is the message you would like to share with the undergraduates?**

What I always say is that a graduate should not only possess academic knowledge. For an undergraduate to become a successful graduate, he or she should be able to grow into a good professional. This is where the students will need their soft skills. So, my message to the undergraduates is to think of this time you spend in the university as the last chance you would get to perform and engage in the extra-curricular activities you love. Every student must try to pick and engage in at least one activity that they like as the university has presented them with ample opportunities to pursue their passion.

---

*By Narmada Balasuriya & Thisal Yatawara*