

In pursuit of education excellence

> Owais Shafique gained a wealth of new knowledge and skills at AeU

SINCE completing his Bachelor of Business Administration, Owais Shafique, 25, envisioned to serve as an academician because he believes it is the only field where he can leave his mark and do something productive in his life, especially taking into consideration that his city is in dire need of good academicians.

However the Islamia University of Bahawalpur (IUB), the only university in the city of Bahawalpur in Punjab, Pakistan, where he works as a lecturer at the Department of Management Sciences did not offer the Master of Business Administration (MBA) programme and the nearest university offering it was 150km away in Multan city.

Owais felt it would be impossible to continue studies and pursue his career in academia due to

his family responsibilities.

“Just when I thought everything was over I stumbled upon a friend who had recently applied for admission at the Virtual University (VU) of Pakistan (one of the only two universities in Pakistan offering distance learning programmes),” he said.

Owais was ecstatic when he was admitted to VU as he could finally climb a step further to pursue his dream of serving as an academician. He felt privileged he was being taught by the best professors in

Pakistan and was learning a lot of new concepts and their applications while studying at VU.

“I decided then and there I would pursue my PhD from a highly recognised foreign university that thrives through the hard work and dedication of its faculty members who are prized in their field of work,” he said.

Despite VU being one of the best universities in Pakistan, it did not offer PhD in any discipline, but it opened the door for Owais to explore

international horizons.

Owais’ search ended when his teacher and mentor, Najib ur Rahman introduced him to Asia e University (AeU).

“I had always intended to study with an internationally recognised institution, but my responsibilities did not allow me to leave my hometown for further education.

“To my surprise AeU offered a wide variety of programmes completely online, and had a vast number of experienced and renowned faculty members in all fields of studies,” he said.

Owais promptly made the decision to apply for his PhD in Business Administration at AeU as soon as he graduated from his MBA. His application was accepted and he was admitted in the January semester of 2015.

Within a few days, Dr Oo Yu Hock was appointed as Owais’ academic adviser. Oo familiarised Owais with AeU by initiating his study and selecting a good supervisor for his PhD research titled “Impact of Micro-credit Financing on Women Empowerment and Poverty Eradication in Pakistan”.

Soon, Prof Datuk Dr Sayed Mushtaq

Hussain was assigned as his supervisor and Owais admits that he could not have asked for a better supervisor. Sayed has worked for the United Nations for 22 years and is an expert in Economics.

“I had the privilege to meet him during his personal visit to Pakistan, and it proved fruitful for my research thesis. All the guidance I received from him was so prolific I still remembered all his words,” Owais said.

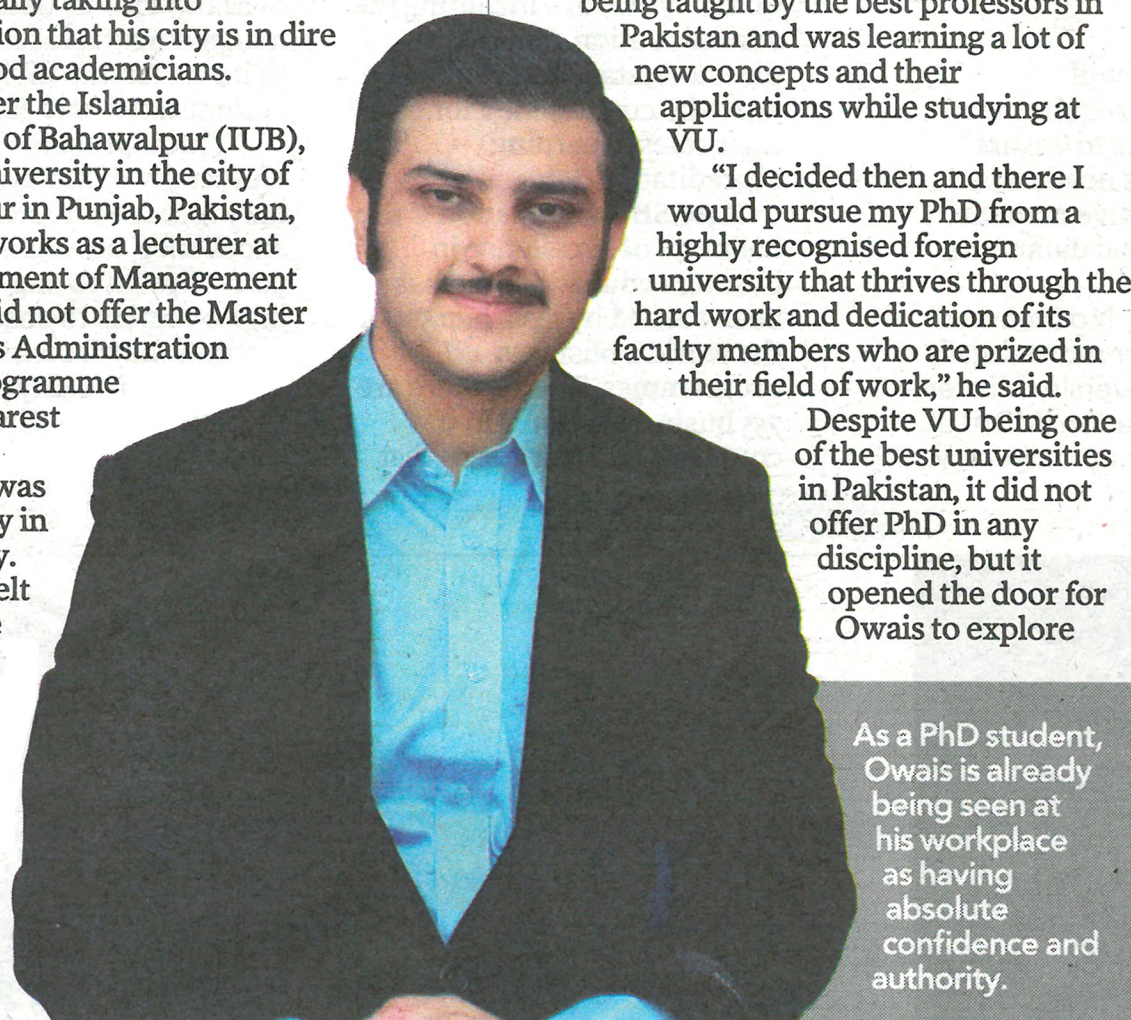
Sayed guided him on how to take his PhD thesis forward and what is expected from his thesis. His priceless suggestions and recommendations helped Owais understand his research. His continuous focus on quality has also helped Owais develop his research skills which are required for PhD in all international universities.

“AeU continuously offered me the opportunity to gain important ingredients of new knowledge economy, develop new skills and see things in a critical manner.

“My PhD study not only sharpens my research skills, but also develops my thinking skills. As a PhD student, I am already being seen at my workplace as having absolute confidence and authority at work,” Owais said.

In his journey at AeU, Owais has gained a wealth of new knowledge and skills in conducting research, data collection, data analysis and thesis writing. It is a journey of self-discovery, personal transformation and self-development.

Owais is expected to graduate by January 2017, and AeU has expedited his quest for academic excellence and lifelong learning.



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