

AND WHEN SABA CHANNA EARNED US \$10,000 SCHOLARSHIP FROM A FINAL YEAR PROJECT



Getting a scholarship offer from IBA was like a dream-come-true for me. It was first time in our family that a girl was going outside the hometown in another city to pursue higher studies. Sindh Talent Hunt Program of IBA was offering scholarships to top 20 position holders of all boards of Sindh. I also received the letter from IBA regarding this scholarship with other students. After joining the STHP, I got chance to meet talented students from all over the Pakistan. STHP prepared us for IBA entrance test. They also took us for tour of several multi-national companies. As a girl, at beginning, I was afraid to live alone outside my hometown. People at IBA are so friendly and caring that whenever I was in IBA premises I considered myself safe.

After 2 months training and through immense hard work, I got admission into BS Computer Science Program of IBA with full four-year scholarship from STHP. Computer Science was a new and little strange field for me as I had no background with computer studies before. Most amazing moment in during my study of computer science was when I won in Robot Sumo Competition with my team in a class project. We assembled the robot with our own hands and then programmed it. I had never thought that I will be able touch a robot in my life before coming to IBA.

I did my internship in Pakistan Tele Communications Limited (PTCL) Karachi. In this way, I got an opportunity to experience business and corporate world from closer. I have also been representing NTHP and STHP with my colleagues in schools and colleges of Sindh – particularly a remote school established by TCF in Karachi. I have also worked with WHO and UNICEF in Pediatric Department of Liaquat University of Medical and Health Science, Jamshoro, as an intern. IBA provided me an opportunity to experience almost anything in my academic career. I was the head of Web Designing Competition in IBA Probattle 2013. One of the event, I always remember, is when I invited the Com Mirza, an entrepreneur, to IBA for a lecture. I took this initiative and managed the whole event.

I consider it as milestone of my life when I was selected to study for one semester in Saginaw Valley State University, Michigan USA, on a US Student Exchange Program funded by USEFP. In my family, I was the first girl to study abroad and it became the moment of happiness for my family. I got opportunity to visit several US states on my study trip and it was new learning experience for me. I learnt how US institutes have excelled in the field of education and what we Pakistanis can learn from their educational history. I have a dream to go in the academia and serve the education of Pakistan.

Finally, another milestone, my Computer Science Final Year Project, namely CloudKibo, earned me and my team another scholarship of US \$10,000 to do our MS in IBA. This project was funded and financed by a US client and mentor who, being motivated by our work and success, later offered us job to convert this project into a complete working business model. This project also stood second in our batch. By the grace of Allah, now I am preparing myself to accomplish my MS Computer Science from IBA and at the same time, I am also working with CloudKibo as an employee, endeavoring to make it one of the successful Pakistan-based multi-national corporations.

I am thankful to Almighty Allah for strengthening me, my parents for their trust in me and STHP for scholarship. Whenever, I go back to my hometown, I always promote this program by visiting other girls' colleges and

schools. May Allah make this program grow bigger and bigger. The day of success for me will be when every deserving and underprivileged student will get an opportunity to pursue higher education..