

Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (SUMS) Newsletter



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Shiraz University
of
Medical Sciences

SUMS MBBS Degree Gains Global Recognition

**MBBS Graduates of SUMS
Now Eligible for ECFMG Certification
and USMLE Exams**

What This Means for Our Graduates?

- Eligibility to Apply for Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) Certification
- Officially Listed in the World Directory of Medical Schools (WDOMS)
- Access to USMLE Step Exams

Ready to Go Global?

[Explore Our MBBS Program](#)

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Greetings From Vice-Chancellor



Dr. Manica Negahdaripour, the Vice Chancellor for Global Strategies and International Affairs at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (SUMS), earned both her Pharm.D. and Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Biotechnology from Shiraz University of Medical Sciences. she obtained her MBA in Strategic Marketing from the Industrial Management Institute in Tehran from 2012 to 2014. She has been recognized as one of the top 2% most-cited scientists in the world from 2023 to the present, as annually announced by ESI.

Dr. Manica Negahdaripour

Vice-Chancellor for Global Strategies and International Affairs

It is with great honor and heartfelt enthusiasm that I reach out to you as the Vice Chancellor for Global Strategies and International Affairs for the first time through the Newsletter of Shiraz University of Medical Sciences. Our university's global community of students, alumni, and partners continues to be a source of pride and inspiration. As we navigate an era of rapid change in medicine, biological sciences, and education, our international engagement remains at the heart of our mission—bridging cultures, advancing knowledge, and preparing future health professionals to make a meaningful impact across the world.

Looking ahead, we are entering an exciting phase of growth. Together, we aim to expand the frontiers of international engagement through conducting cutting-edge research, empowering our students, and fostering dynamic joint academic collaborations with institutions worldwide. We are committed to creating an environment where our students are not only learners but leaders—equipped with the skills, confidence, and global perspective to make meaningful contributions to humanity. I invite you, our valued students and alumni, to remain engaged, share your journeys, and contribute to building this vibrant, inclusive, and forward-looking global community. Please remember that SUMS international students are always part of our great family, and our faculty and staff are always here to support you in the many ways you aspire to grow. Together, we are more than an academic institution. We are a network of innovators, caregivers, and changemakers shaping the future of global health and medical science. We can transform challenges into opportunities and continue to advance health and knowledge without borders.

Let's keep the momentum alive.

With warm regards,

Dr. Manica Negahdaripour

Vice Chancellor for Global Strategies and International Affairs

Shiraz University of Medical Sciences

Journey Through Medicine: Insights From SUMS International Graduates



Dr. Dian Islamiati

Salam! Hi! Hello!

I'm Dian, from the Emerald of the Equator—Indonesia. At the age of 20, I set foot in the land of Persia to pursue my medical studies at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences. I joined the university in 2017 as part of the 96th cohort, according to the Iranian calendar.

The early years of university life were far from easy. Like many students, I had to navigate a challenging transition—adjusting to a new environment, a new society, a new culture, and a new language. Most of my time was spent commuting between the university and the dormitory, trying to find my footing in unfamiliar terrain. But once I became more fluent in Farsi, I began to truly enjoy conversations with Iranian people and felt more connected to the world around me.

Outside of academics, I found joy in reading books, sightseeing, cycling, spontaneous travel, and meeting new people. Entering the clinical stage brought another wave of challenges, especially when language barriers resurfaced and led to moments of breakdown. But I chose to rise again—and eventually joined the clinical stage with my peers.

Seven years is not an easy journey to devote to a single degree, and it's hard to capture the full experience in just a few lines. But one feeling that surpasses all is how proud I am to have reached this point. The process was filled with ups and downs, anxieties and doubts. I'm deeply grateful to my parents, family, friends, professors, and colleagues who stood by me throughout this path. This journey has been more than just about becoming a doctor; it's been about growing through every twist and turn.

To my surprise, I found myself genuinely enjoying the internship and hospital rotations—embracing both the sweet and bitter moments like a mix of flavors in a nano-nano candy. Every step came with its own share of setbacks. Some wounds weren't visible, but they pushed me to rise again. What truly kept me going was the appreciation from patients—their kindness was the greatest remedy.

One moment I'll never forget: a middle-aged woman was hospitalized, and her son handed me a small piece of paper. To my surprise, it was a handwritten note reading terima kasih—"thank you" in Indonesian. That simple gesture filled me with warmth and hope. Amid their suffering, they took a moment to make me feel seen and accepted. In that instant, I knew that everything I had done made a difference.

As I turn this page and step into the next chapter, I carry with me not just a degree—but a journey shaped by resilience, gratitude, and the quiet power of human connection.

Message From Students



*Dr. Muhammad Ali Naqi,
M.D. Graduate*

This institution has not only shaped my professional identity but also left an indelible mark on my personal growth. Reflecting on my seven-year journey at SUMS, I am filled with immense gratitude for the comprehensive education, clinical exposure, and mentorship received—from pre-clinical foundations to demanding clinical rotations in Shiraz’s teaching hospitals—that molded me into a confident and compassionate clinician.

The diverse patient population, culture of academic excellence, and devoted faculty prepared me for the global medical stage. For current students: cherish your time at SUMS, embrace the challenges, seek mentorship, and immerse yourselves in learning beyond textbooks. You’re part of an institution that imparts knowledge, resilience, and integrity essential for the path ahead.



*Ali Abd Ali and Abdallah Abd Ali
M.D. Students*

Standing out as a top medical university in Iran, SUMS is renowned for its rigorous academic programs, cutting-edge innovations, and a commitment to excellence. Its faculty comprises highly qualified professors who are both experts in their fields and dedicated educators, ensuring students receive quality education and preparation to lead in healthcare.

Faculty involvement in groundbreaking medical innovations enriches the classroom with real-world experience, while a supportive environment helps students overcome obstacles, gain practical skills, and develop empathy. The University also offers well-equipped dormitories, providing a calm setting in convenient proximity to the medical school and affiliated hospitals. In sum, SUMS is a beacon of excellence in medical education, healthcare, and practice.

Messages From Students



*Haani Abbas
MBBS Graduate*

My decision to pursue MBBS at SUMS was driven by its strong national and international reputation in medical education and research. Consistently ranked among the top medical universities in Iran, SUMS offers a rigorous curriculum supported by experienced faculty and a diverse academic community, ensuring a high-quality education essential for a career in medicine.

Equally important was the University's integration of clinical training into early medical education. With access to well-equipped teaching hospitals, students gain hands-on experience and develop practical skills in real healthcare settings. Studying in Shiraz adds a culturally rich backdrop, blending tradition with modern living and offering opportunities to engage with Persian culture, cuisine, and community alongside academic growth. Overall, SUMS promises academic, personal, and professional development in a dynamic environment.



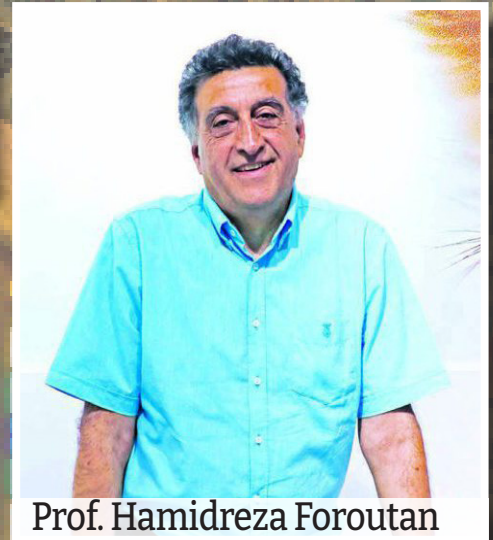
*Mustansir Mushtaq
MBBS Graduate*

SUMS stands out for hands-on medical education, strong clinical exposure, and a vibrant campus life. It blends rigorous academics with rich cultural activities that enhance communication skills essential for medicine. The University's proximity to hospitals enables direct clinical application, while clinical rotations provide practical experience in diagnosis and treatment under supervision.

Overnight shifts in final years build resilience and composure. Professors condense key topics into concise notes, saving time and aiding understanding. Despite a demanding workload and personal challenges, the supportive environment, inspiring faculty, and numerous opportunities create a well-rounded, fulfilling experience.

Faces of SUMS

Healing the Unborn: SUMS Trailblazer in Pediatric and Fetal Surgery



Prof. Hamidreza Foroutan

I graduated with my MD from Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, where I also completed my training in General Surgery and Pediatric Surgery. For the past 32 years, I have served as a Professor of Pediatric Surgery at Shiraz University, dedicating my career to the care of children, surgical innovation, and medical education.

For over 15 years, I have led the Laparoscopy Research Center and the Fetal Surgery Team at Shiraz University. My work has focused on advancing minimally invasive techniques and pioneering fetal interventions, significantly improving outcomes for our youngest patients.

Throughout my career, I have gained extensive experience in pediatric surgery, pediatric urology, and fetal intervention, training and collaborating at some of the world's most prestigious medical centers. My professional journey has taken me to the University of Cape Town, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children, Texas Children's Hospital, the University of Miami, and Boston Children's Hospital at Harvard University. These experiences have enriched my practice and allowed me to bring the latest surgical advancements back to my home institution.

I am passionate about academic medicine and have published more than 60 peer-reviewed papers in the field of pediatric surgery. I have been actively involved in training and mentoring medical students, general surgery residents, and pediatric surgery fellows, helping to shape the next generation of surgeons. My commitment to excellence in patient care, research, and education continues to drive

International Association Memberships:

- British Association of Pediatric Surgeons
- Asian Association of Pediatric Surgeons
- Pacific Association of Pediatric Surgeons

From Ice Rink to Medical Realm: The Journey of Basharat Ahad Mir



Meet Basharat Ahad Mir, an 22-year-old trailblazer from Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir—a young man who made history as the first Kashmiri ice skater to win an international title and is now pursuing his dream of becoming a physician at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (SUMS).

Early Struggles and Dedication

Basharat's journey began at age 12, when he started training in the harsh winter conditions of Gulmarg. With no formal coaching, he taught himself through online videos and relentless practice—cycling over 80 kilometers in freezing cold, training on makeshift ice, and overcoming significant health challenges. Largely self-taught through persistence and online resources, he overcame the absence of professional coaching to master the sport.

International Achievements

In 2019, Basharat earned a spot on the Indian team and competed in Belarus, where he helped secure the International Skating Union (ISU) Trophy, marking a historic milestone for Kashmiri sport.

Beyond ice skating, he has excelled in roller skating, skiing, cycling, and long-distance running, amassing 87 national and state-level medals—a testament to his endurance and versatility.



From Ice Rink to Medical School: The Journey of Basharat Ahad Mir

Triumph Over Adversity

With limited access to resources, Basharat often rented equipment—sometimes with rusted blades—from the Gulmarg authorities.

His breakthrough moment came after a surprise call following trials in New Delhi: “You have been selected for Europe.” What began as disbelief soon turned into a life-changing reality.

His inspiring story has been featured in major newspapers and TV programs across India, including India Today and Zee News.

A Visionary Athlete

Basharat is a true multidisciplinary athlete, with achievements across several endurance and adventure sports. Alongside his sporting career, he is also pursuing his MBBS at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences, balancing athletics with a deep commitment to academics.

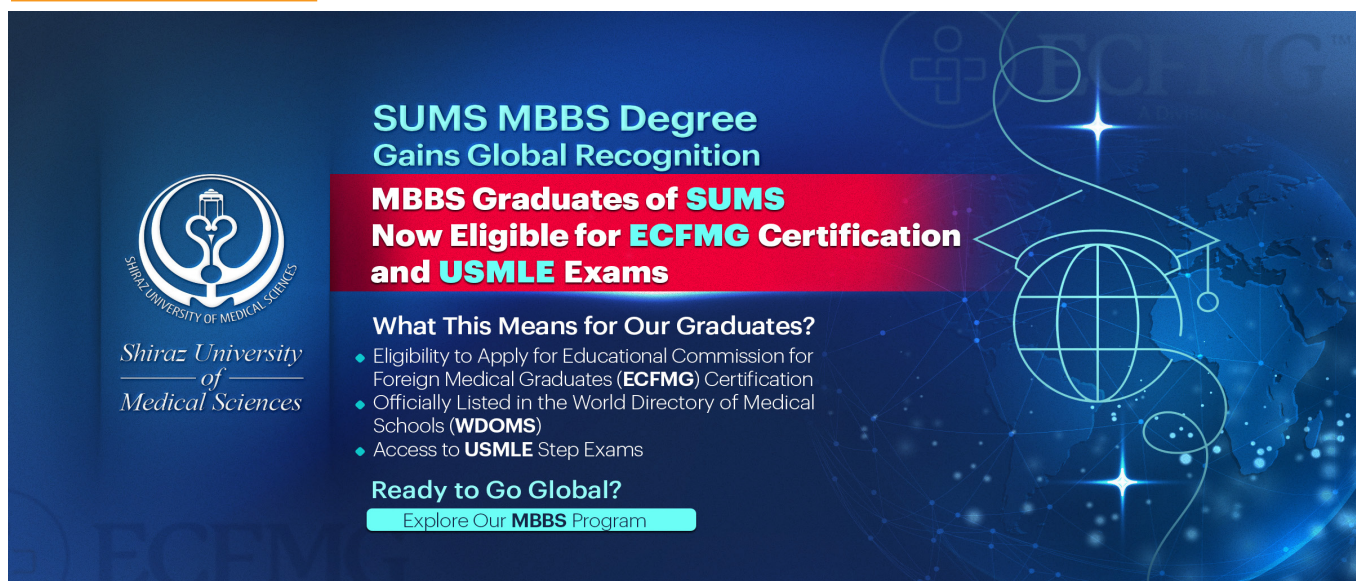
He is motivated by a desire to inspire youth, raise awareness about mental health, and prove that passion and perseverance can overcome even the toughest obstacles.

Quick Facts at a Glance

- Name: Basharat Ahad Mir
- Hometown: Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir
- Key Achievement: ISU Trophy Winner, Belarus (2019)
- Sports: Short-track ice skating, roller skating, skiing, cycling, running
- Education: Burn Hall School, Srinagar | MBBS student at SUMS



Campus Updates: What's New at Our Alma



SUMS MBBS Degree Gains Global Recognition

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Shiraz University of Medical Sciences

Shiraz University of Medical Sciences MBBS Program Gains ECFMG Approval and Internal Accreditation

Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (SUMS) has secured formal approval from the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates (ECFMG) through the issuance of its official Sponsor Note for the university's MBBS degree. This milestone enables graduates of the SUMS MBBS program to pursue ECFMG certification and sit for the United States Medical Licensing Examination (USMLE).



Shiraz University of Medical Sciences

5 YEAR Accreditation Awarded to SUMS MBBS PROGRAM

Recognized for Excellence in International Medical Education

In a parallel achievement, the university has been granted a five-year accreditation by Iran's Ministry of Health for its international Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) program — a distinction highlighting SUMS's sustained commitment to high-quality medical education.

The MBBS — short for Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery — is one of the most globally recognized and prestigious medical education pathways. In Iran, the program holds particular importance for the training of international students and is offered exclusively to non-Iranian applicants at a select number of medical universities.

SUMS Rises in THE World University Rankings 2026



Shiraz University of Medical Sciences (SUMS) has advanced to the 601–800 band in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings 2026. The THE World University Rankings, published annually in late September or early October, assess institutions worldwide based on teaching, research quality, research environment, industry income, and international outlook.



Professor Seyed Basir Hashemi, Chancellor of SUMS, highlighted the significance of this progress. “For four consecutive years, SUMS’s global ranking remained in the 801–1000 band,” he said. “This year’s upward movement reflects improved performance across several key indicators. Despite ongoing challenges, the university continues to demonstrate strong potential for further advancement in global rankings.”

Elaborating on THE’s WUR 2026 evaluation criteria, Dr. Manika Negahdaripour, Vice-Chancellor for International Affairs, emphasized the University’s strategic efforts to identify and strengthen influential areas of performance. She added that continuity in this path will lead to further elevation of SUMS’ global standing, ultimately fostering broader international engagement and cooperation.

Campus Updates

SUMS Graduation Ceremony 2025 for International Students



We are honored to announce that in this ceremony, 18 M.B.B.S. students, and Four fellowship candidates in Abdominal Transplantation and Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) Surgery, Minimally Invasive Surgery (Laparoscopy Surgery) and Spinal Surgery celebrated their qualification.

To submit stories and photos for future newsletters, please email us at newsletter@sums.ac.ir.



Shiraz University
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