



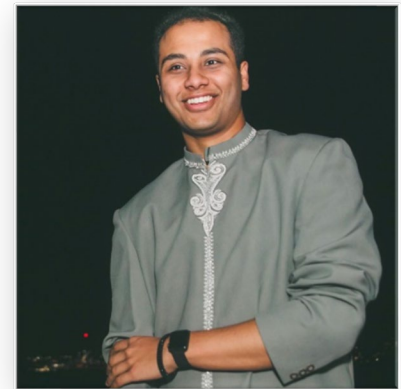
Community Languages Schools

Ambassador Program Alumni Profile



Nehal Nafcy

My name is Nehal Nafcy, and for me, learning a language goes far beyond words and grammar – it is about unlocking new worlds, perspectives, and connections. Language transcends barriers of geography and time, fostering understanding and empathy. Growing up, I was fortunate to be immersed in multiple languages, each shaping my identity and vision for the future. This is what I call *The Multilingual Advantage*.



“Language is not just a skill – it is a gateway to a more connected and compassionate world.”

I began my language journey at the Bangladesh Cultural School in Rockdale, learning Bangla from Kindergarten through to Year 12.

Bangla became the foundation of my cultural identity, deeply tied to art, music, and tradition. I proudly served as MC at cultural festivals, highlighting my linguistic heritage and reinforcing the connection between language and culture. Bangla, named by UNESCO as the ‘sweetest language in the world’, holds a special place in my heart.

In addition to Bangla and English, I have studied German, French, Hindi, Urdu, and Arabic. Each language has opened new ways of seeing the world, and I love how language learning connects me to diverse cultures. Being multilingual fosters inclusivity, breaks down stereotypes, and creates a true sense of belonging.

If I could advise my younger self, I would say: embrace language learning with curiosity. It is not just about communication but understanding the soul of a culture. My dedication has been recognised with awards, including the NSW Minister’s Award for Excellence in Student Achievement, Community Languages Schools, and first place in the SBS National Language Competition. I have taken this passion into university, serving as President of the UNSW Bangladeshi Society, and organising cultural events. I have also been honoured as City of Sydney Young Australian of the Year 2024, recipient of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Long Tan Leadership Award, and a World Literacy Foundation Global Ambassador.

As an NSW Community Languages School Program Ambassador, I am committed to inspiring the next generation of students to embrace the rich tapestry of languages and cultures that make up our society. I continue to advocate for the power of language in fostering global understanding and literacy. To me, language is not just a skill – it is a gateway to a more connected, compassionate, and inclusive world.