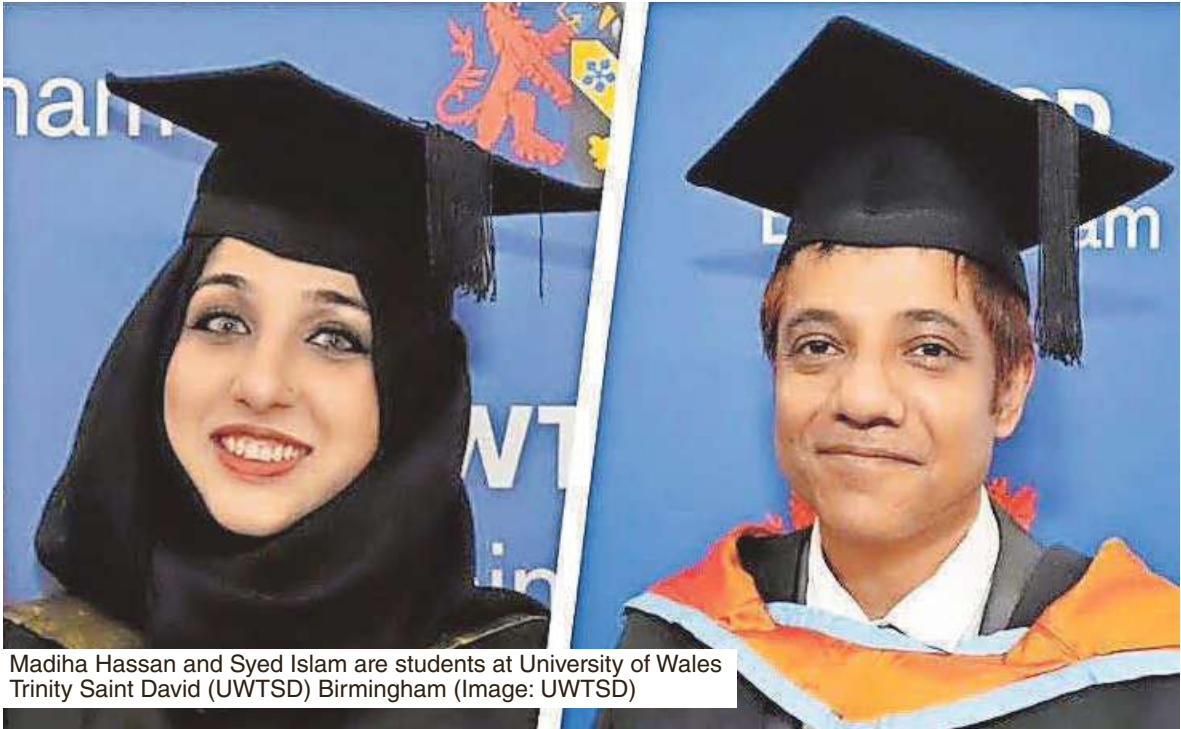


Students thank UWTSD for helping them accomplish their dreams

UWTSD STUDENTS MADIHA HASSAN AND SYED ISLAM SHARED THEIR INSPIRING STORIES AT THE GRADUATION CEREMONY THIS WEEK



Madiha Hassan and Syed Islam are students at University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) Birmingham (Image: UWTSD)

TWO hard-working students have thanked University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) for boosting their confidence and changing their lives.

Madiha Hassan and Syed Islam shared their inspiring stories at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) Birmingham graduation ceremony on June 27.



MADIHA HASSAN

Madiha came to the UK from Pakistan for her education at UWTSD Birmingham Campus. But her journey wasn't a smooth one.

She said: "I started from scratch. I left Pakistan and came to university to prove that girls and women from my country can achieve more than what they are led to believe.

"People in my past told me that my role was simply to have children and claim money. It always made my blood boil. So, I did something about it. I arranged to take an exam that would get me into university, and I got accepted."

But getting to the UK turned out to be the easy part...

Madiha continued: "At the start of my time at UWTSD, I lost my home. I had three children, and I was completely heartbroken

and without a roof over my head, so naturally that impacted my mental health.

"Some of the modules on the course actually helped me with that – to understand myself a bit better and ease the mental strain a little by learning about it.

"But my goal was still a burning fire inside me, so I just got on with it. I had to become something, to inspire my daughters and many girls like me, and show them what they can achieve against all odds."

Fast forward a few years and, against all these odds, Madiha did succeed. Now a Bachelor of Science graduate in Health and Social Care, she was awarded a First Class degree which gave her a "wholesome feeling".

Now, Madiha looks to the future: "I'm aiming for a Masters, but it's a step-by-step process, so I'm pleased I've built up the functional skills needed to get me closer to this goal.

"University totally changed me – a girl who, once upon a time, could not even speak to strangers, can now give whole presentations alone. I recommend UWTSD 100% to everyone."

SYED ISLAM

Syed graduated with an MBA in Banking and Finance this week and has already signed up for his next course – a diploma in teaching.

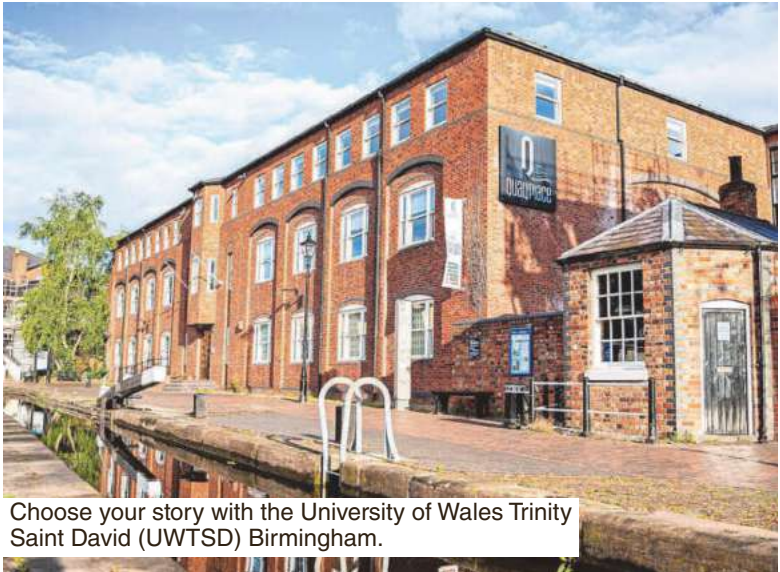


He explained: "My father had an Indian restaurant, so I learnt a lot – from being a chef to learning how to run a business.

"However, it was not enough. I wanted to open my own business."

Syed spent seven years driving a taxi, and then an opportunity came up to open his first Indian Restaurant in Birmingham with a friend.

He said: "Again, I learnt a lot but I still wanted a university degree. In 2018 my business partner told me about the new campus that had opened in Birmingham Sparkhill.



Choose your story with the University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD) Birmingham.

"I sold my restaurant and enrolled at UWTSD's campus in Birmingham."

Syed chose Leadership and Management Skills for Workplace because he "knew it would add value to my business background".

He admitted: "My first few weeks were very daunting. I felt my fellow students had better communication skills and were more competent. I felt like a fish out of water.

"Nevertheless, I chose to stay and give myself a chance. Encouraged by my lecturers and peers, I overcame my fears, and after nine months, I settled in quite comfortably."

In 2021, Syed graduated with a BA in Leadership and Management, earning a distinction.

He said: "That gave me enough confidence, and I enrolled on the new MBA Banking and Finance programme offered by the university, from which I've just graduated.

"It's very difficult to describe the excitement and how emotional it feels that I have now accomplished my dreams."

He has now enrolled on a teaching course, Diploma in Education and Training (DET.)

He concluded: "My ambition is to become a teacher. I also assist with mentoring students on the Birmingham campus, and I am helping new students with any issues they are facing.

"Ultimately, I want to pass on my newfound wisdom to the next generation and inspire them with my journey."



UWTSD celebrates Birmingham graduates of 2023



THE University of Wales Trinity Saint David's (UWTSD) Birmingham campus graduation ceremony took place at the city's Eastside Rooms on Tuesday (27th July)

With two campuses - Sparkhill Campus on Stratford Road and Quay Place Campus in the city centre - UWTSD Birmingham offers opportunities for people of all backgrounds to enter Higher Education.

Sparkhill and Quay Place combine to form a thriving campus where Home and International students can learn new skills for the workplace, develop existing skills, build confidence, and meet others with similar goals.

Addressing the graduands, Dr John Deane, Dean of UWTSD's Institute of Inner-City Learning Birmingham campus said:

"The graduation ceremony marks the climax in the academic career of our students.

"It is the result of hard work and commitment, but we should also remember the support given by family and friends.

"You all graduate with the skills and attributes you require to make a difference in your chosen career.

"I trust, as you look back at your time as a student at the university, that you take with you the many friendships and happy memories of our time here, and that your experiences at UWTSD will serve you well throughout your life.

"I wish you all success for your future and remind you that, as alumni of this university, we will endeavour to support you and hope that you will continue to stay in touch with us."

It's no wonder that Madiha and Syed were so keen to talk about how UWTSD's friendly and lively atmosphere helps its students develop their potential to the full.

For more information about the Birmingham campus or to discuss the programmes, email birminghamadmissions@uwtsd.ac.uk or call 0121 229 3000. You can also find out more on the website: www.uwtsd.ac.uk/birmingham

