

# A Proud NIITian

By

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<http://www.slac.stanford.edu/~fawad/files/a-proud-niitian.htm>

I have spent almost six months at Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC). I think now it is the best time to share my research and learning experience with everyone at NIIT. My start will be a bit emotional but in the subsequent text I will defend it with my views and experience at NIIT. In the end I will conclude my talk with few mind blowing comments:

**“Last four years of my life at NIIT. First as a Bachelors student and then working with Dr. Arshad Ali in CERN Research Lab, gave me power and confidence to set my vision and goals significantly higher than they would have been otherwise”**

Today I will write what I think is useful to share. May be I am a little bit emotional but believe me every thing mentioned below is a TRUTH.

A general introduction: I did my Bachelors in Information Technology (BIT) from NUST Institute of Information Technology (NIIT) in 2004/2005 with honors and a Rector’s Gold Medal. Currently I am working as a research assistant at Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC), Stanford University USA.

Fawad Nazir, an average student before stepping into the heaven (I mean it, at-least it is heaven for me) of knowledge, kindness, dreams and strength (NIIT). HSSE 787/1100 SSC 617/850, surely less than the average of NUST current students. Graduating from NIIT with 3.60/4.00 way above average, Got a Gold Medal, dream of every NUSTian and currently research assistant at Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC), may God give everyone this life time great opportunity, Amin. The question is what happened to Mr. Fawad in the last four years? Who? How? When? and Why?

*Identify your strength, trust yourself and your abilities, be with the best people, do your level best, pray to Allah for help, make others pray for you and you will find the answers to your questions. Every step here is a challenge.*

*“Identify your strengths”*. Easy to say, but may not be easy to practice. I think I still don’t know what my strengths are. I am sure 80% of us don’t know our strengths, unless half way down the life. General practice in engineering, divide and conquer. Let’s apply. Identify small strengths, like you can hike on hills, you can play cricket very well, you have great painting ideas, you create useful and creative computer programs, you always end up solving problems, you make your fellows work for you, etc. Let’s make it simple, the thing which you always love to do and you will never get tired doing so, that is most probably your strength. After identifying your strengths what ever they are, trust in that. Coming on to the next step *“trust yourself and your abilities”*. Once you have a firm trust and confidence in any of your abilities, they then becomes your real strengths. This is a lifetime asset.

Believe it or not when you say “I can do it”, that actually means you have done it. That’s the only key to success. When you say “I can do it” it means you have all the motivation, courage and confidence to do that task. This is what is required to do anything in this world. Nothing is impossible in this world of wonders; just you need to think it is possible.

At NIIT I got this confidence and trust in myself and my abilities. I have been working with Dr. Arshad for more than three years 3 now. Dr. Arshad always made me think that I can change the world and “I can do it”. He always used to say a small number of motivated people can do wonders. This motivation, making me think that I can do it, feeling confidence in my abilities is all because of which I achieved so much success so far. This is what I think a sincere supervisor or an institution should give its students.

Now let’s come to the next step. “*Be with the best people*”. The best are defiantly the ones who do the best but more importantly, best people are who think the best. Environment at NIIT was always like a family with a motivated, confident and visionary leader Dr. Arshad. NIIT was just a small house in street # 14 in chaklala scheme 3 when I was deciding either to get admission in NIIT or not. One day I came to NIIT with my father and I had meeting with Dr. Arshad in his office. What ever Dr. Arshad said about NIIT was looking like very ambitious but sincere ideas. Dr. Arshad motivated me and convinced my father that NIIT, being in a small house, is the best place to get education. This is again an important step; you have to identify the best people. Best people are not always found in the best places, best people are best because they have the ability to make average places one of the best places on earth. Never judge people by how they look like, what they are doing, where they are, judge the people from what and how they think. I remember once Dr. Arshad came to our class and asked, how many students want to serve the society as scientists?. No hands were raised. After 4 years above 20% students in the graduating class were motivated to do research and wanted to end up doing their PhD’s. The point to make here is not that doing PhD is a success, but the point I want to make is, being with the best people your vision grows and you very well realize, how important it is to add value to things. We being students of NIIT should be proud of our institute and make sure when ever we leave it, we have given something to our institute and always willing to contribute afterwards. This institute will always be our identity and we have to bear with this truth. Why not make this place one the best so that we should be proud to tell everyone that we belong to NUST Institute of Information Technology (NIIT). Believe me, we have all the abilities which any “Big Scientists and Engineers” have in the world, just we need to believe in our selves and work hard.

This point of working hard brings us to the next important step towards success “*do your level best*”. Opportunities are always seeking your way, you need to identify which opportunity is best for you and make proper use of it. CERN Research Lab at NIIT is an example of a great opportunity for the people who want to: be good problem solvers, are challenge seekers, do PhD or excel in education etc. Similarly, there are many other opportunities for students who want to lead organization as CEO’s or CTO’s, become lawyers, become singers or become good sportsmen etc. The most important thing is once you envision the opportunity work hard to achieve it. Put all the resources, efforts, time to achieve it. Hard work always pays off. While working with Dr. Arshad in CERN research lab we always used to have some challenging problems ahead of us to solve, all students in the lab were motivated to solve some, which they think of,

interesting problems. Daily when ever I personally used to leave the CERN Lab I always had learned some thing new and interesting. So another big factor in my way from NIIT CERN Research Lab to Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) was I used to “do my level best” in whatever capacity I am working.

Now once we have identified our strengths, we have firm trust in ourselves and our abilities, we know how important it is to be with the best people and we are motivated to do our level best. *Pray to Allah for help*. While doing all this, we should not forget Allah almighty who has given us power and strength to do all this. We should always seek his help and request him to guide us through the right path. I am a firm believer that if you always pray to God that please guide me and lead me toward the right path, whatever good or bad happens to you is always in some or the other way in your total favor. Always seek Allah’s help this will bring in your self a confidence and a factor of happiness that you can not achieve otherwise.

The last but not the least, *make others pray for you*. We have to live in this world, life is not easy (if not impossible) in isolation, so why not lead a life in which we respect and love others. It is very difficult to progress alone, if we know how to work with people (team work) achieving anything will just become a matter of time. As NIIT is our institute and we all being graduate students have to spend time there, so why not work together and think for betterment of your institute. We should be very polite and helpful to others. We should keep in our mind, our ultimate goals that what ever we are doing at NIIT, it should be helping NIIT in one or the other way. Remember, it is our institute and even if it is better or worse, we still are part of it. We are the only ones who can make this place a heaven. So why not we all start helping each other and make plans to help our institute grow. I am sure Dr. Arshad will be more than happy to entertain any ideas which are for betterment of our institute.

I hope now you all will agree with me as I mentioned in the beginning that “NIIT is a heaven of knowledge, kindness, dreams and strength (NIIT)”. If you still don’t think it is, then I am sure you are the one who can make it so. Come-on we all can do it, our institute needs our efforts. We should give our institute the best we have. Ask Dr. Arshad about his feeling when he think that he along with some motivated people brought NIIT from a small house to a world recognized institute which is now well known around the world. In last four years we have made collaborations with worlds leading laboratories, institutes, companies and universities. What is this? trust of Dr. Arshad in his team, in his abilities, in his strengths and motivation. If we can also play any positive role in the progress of our institute we will always be proud of it. We all should always be “Proud NIITians”.

I think now this will make more sense that:

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Long Live Our Institute  
NUST Institute of Information Technology