The Kazi Nazrul University was established under West Bengal Act XIX of 2012. Assent of the Governor was first published in the Kolkata gazette, extraordinary 16th August 2012. The university has been named as a mark of respect to the rebel poet Kazi Nazrul of India who is also the national poet of Bangladesh (died in Dacca, August 29, 1976). The Kazi Nazrul University has been founded with a vision. The vision is to function efficiently as a university encouraging and providing instruction, teaching, training and research in various branches of learning and courses of study for promoting advancement and dissemination of knowledge, and extending higher education to meet the growing needs of the society.

For a long time there has been a demand for a University in this area. The Kazi Nazrul University was established under West Bengal Act. XIX of 2012 on 10th January, 2013. The first Vice Chancellor Prof. Anuradha Mukhopadhyay joined her post on 3rd Dec, 2012. The Hon'ble Chief Minister Smt. Mamata Bandopadhyay laid the foundation stone of the Kazi Nazrul University at historic Polo Ground in Asansol in the name of the great rebel poet Kazi Nazrul Islam (born 25th May, 1899) at Churulia, 31km away from the city of Asansol. The University is established to promote higher education in Asansol and its adjoining areas. From July 2013 the University has started its journey with about one hundred and twenty students. Post graduation classes have commenced in four subjects: Bengali, English, History and Mathematics in BCW hostel building in a picturesque campus in Asansol. In the academic session 2014-15 four new Post Graduate courses: M.A in Education, Hindi, Political Science & M.Com. are being introduced. Situated in the Damodar River valley, in the hub of coal mines and industries, in the city of Asansol the Kazi Nazrul University is a highly focused source of general education for building careers in Humanities, General Science & Commerce. It represents an effective and significant investment in student's potential development in the evolving context of the Ministry of Higher Education, Government of West Bengal. A specialised centre for general education, the Kazi Nazrul University is now offering two years in four semesters full time programme in Post Graduation Course in Bengali, English, Hindi, History, Political Science, Education, Mathematics & Commerce. The mission of this University is to contribute economic, social, intellectual and cultural development of the country through the pursuit of excellence in teaching and learning and other creative and academic endeavours, pertaining to seminar, symposia, training in various service schemes, progressive research and extensive work. Teaching effort is carefully tuned to enable the students to overcome their weakness, to expand their knowledge and skills, to develop their necessary perspective, and enable them to perform to his/her fullest potential so as to cope with the future needs of the working world.