

Dean's Diary

Internationalization of IITH

An international community of students and faculty adds diversity to IITH Campus

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It is my utmost pleasure to share the information about various activities undertaken by the International Relations (IR) office at IITH. IITH is now one of the paramount institutes globally recognized through its various international accomplishments.

IITH, as a premier 2nd generation institution, has been very forward in its thinking since the day of its inception back in 2008. IITH very quickly recognized the potential of Internationalization and the benefits of connecting to its Alumni all over the world. The Institute introduced the Dean's Office of International and Alumni relations in 2015 to build partnerships all over the world and connect with their alumni to tap the Alumni resources. They would like to compete with other premier institutes or higher education institutions by promoting their strengths internationally.

We have come a long way to envisage that internationalization at IITH plays a very important role and emphasizes more on research collaboration, involving faculty and researchers to contribute to the international community. It is very important to have a vision for internationalization. With this background, we have been very recently separated as the Office of International Relations from the combined Office of International and Alumni Relations. I am the first Dean of the newly formed Office of International Relations and aspire to elevate the Internationalisation of the Institution to the next level.

We are a vision-driven team of four members currently in the Office and are willing to expand further going forward. **We have identify two main verticals to streamline our activities under International relations as "International Admission and International Collaboration."** For "International Admissions," the Indian government (Ministry of Education) has taken measures in recent years to attract international students to take up higher education in India. There are initiatives by GOI like Study in India (EDCIL-SII), ASEAN, and ICCR to enable Internationalisation.

IITH has an exclusive program called FIRST@IITH (Fellowship for International Research Scholars in Technology) to attract International applicants with an attractive fellowship and liberal contingency grants who are interested in pursuing doctoral studies at IITH.

We are hopeful that the FIRST program will be successful in achieving the stated goals in the future. We are also interested in promoting IITH aggressively and looking out for more International students by participating in education fairs in foreign countries and intend to travel to neighbouring countries to promote our programs in the future.

Building strong research and academic collaborations with international partners has been at the forefront of our international relations strategy. Towards this end, we now have two ongoing joint doctoral programs with two Australian Universities, namely Swinburne University of Technology (SUT) and Deakin University (DU). While the JDP with SUT was initiated in 2017, the JDP with Deakin U was established in 2021. Currently, we have 56 scholars doing their research work & 14 scholars have already graduated under IITH-SUT JDP. We have 11 scholars who joined in 2021 and 10 students offered this year under IITH-Deakin University JDP. To attract bright students to these JDPs, we are advertising separately.

IITH has a very strong research collaboration with Japan through JICA. Recently we have established Japan Desk as a one-stop service to facilitate the various IITH-Japan bilateral activities. FRIENDSHIP 2.0 program is started to establish a sustainable research collaboration network between IITH and Japanese universities and industries. Thereby it will contribute to the human resources development and value creation that meet not only the social requirements of both countries but also Sustainable Development Goals.



I believe we can speak with one voice.

**- Hon'ble Prime Minister of India
Shri Narendra Modi**

We are also initiating a discussion with National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan to expand the collaboration between IITH and NTHU and enable the Joint Doctoral Program.

International Collaboration is an important aspect and responsibility of the Office of International Relations. We would like to concentrate more on faculty collaborations and Smart Research mobility by Introducing more Joint Doctoral programs, promoting Joint supervision programs along with foreign researchers, and research exchanges. By hosting more International Faculty thru' initiatives like SPARC, VAJRA, and GYAN, we hope to increase the International faculty and students' footprint on our campus. Faculty and students play an important role, and we look forward to their continuous support.