



Newsletter

Office of International Relations, IIT Bombay
July – December, 2018

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay), being one of the most established science and technology institute worldwide, has strong partnerships with universities around the globe. IIT Bombay recognizes that a multi-cultural experience is necessary for the future graduates to perform better in the global economy. The International Relations office is committed to fortify these relationships as well as expand its international outreach. The office strives to facilitate staff and student exchange, joint research projects and sharing latest information and technological developments, hold workshops and lectures in key areas and much more. Also IR Office, through Indo German Partnership grants has installed video conferencing facility in DD conference room so that it can be used by faculty, staff and students to support and strengthen their collaboration.

New Partnerships

Our endeavour at IIT Bombay is to foster partnerships with institutions with whom we share common goals and aspirations. Over the years, IIT Bombay has developed collaborations with several universities around the globe. These have taken the form of faculty and student exchanges, collaborations for joint research work, memoranda of understanding with multiple partners, membership of consortia to realize our combined potential and so on. We also have special arrangements with certain partners where we are trying out newer models of working together by capitalizing on the best of the two institutions. IIT Bombay has signed MOUs with the following universities in past six months:



MOU signing

- ❖ The Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST), Republic of Korea
- ❖ The High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, Japan
- ❖ Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia
- ❖ North Carolina State University, USA
- ❖ Amirkabir University of Technology, Iran
- ❖ Cracow University of Technology, Poland
- ❖ Kyushu University, Japan
- ❖ The University of Queensland, Australia
- ❖ Samara National Research University, Russia
- ❖ Saint-Petersburg State University, Russia
- ❖ Technical University of Munich (Erasmus + Programme), Germany
- ❖ Dhofar University, Oman
- ❖ University of Edinburg, UK
- ❖ Samarkand State University, Uzbekistan
- ❖ German University of Technology in Oman, Oman
- ❖ Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- ❖ UCSI University, Malaysia
- ❖ Genomics Research Center, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan
- ❖ Tongji University, China
- ❖ University of Auckland, New Zealand

International Visitors

July, 2018

- Prof. Eric Mao, Assistant Dean of Graduate and Advanced Education at New Yorks University's (NYU) campus in Shanghai, China visited on 6th July, 2018.
- Prof. Suresh Bhargava, Associate Pro Vice-Chancellor (India) for the College of Science, Engineering and Health, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia visited on 18th July, 2018.
- Dr. John Bay, Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies; Professor Thomas J. Watson School of Engineering and Applied Science, Binghamton University, New York visited on 30th July, 2018.

August, 2018

- Mr. Luke Wales, Director of International Strategic Engagement & Ms. Wenwei Wu, International Development Manager, University of Birmingham, UK visited on 3rd August, 2018.
- Prof. Rubén Morales Menéndez, Dean (Academics), Prof. Ricardo Ambrocio Ramírez Mendoza, Dean (Research) & Prof. K. D. P. Nigam, IIT Delhi and Distinguished Professor Tech. De Monterrey (ITESM), Mexico visited on 6th August, 2018.
- Prof. Ajayan Vinu, Pro-Vice Chancellor & Prof. Brett Ninness, Pro Vice – Chancellor, Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment, University of Newcastle visited on 10th August, 2018.
- A delegation from Hokkaido University, Japan headed by Prof. Toyoharu Nawa, President, Prof. Yuki Yoshi Saito, Director, Division of International Relations, International Affairs Department, Mr. Takeshi Takano, International Cooperation Manager, Division of International Relations, International Affairs Department & Prof. Takeo Ohgane, Graduate School of Information Science and Technology visited on 14th August, 2018.
- A delegation from University of New Brunswick, Canada including Dr. John Kershaw, Assistant Vice President Academic (Partnerships), Professor of Forestry, Dr. Chris Diduch, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Dr. David Burns (Project Lead), Executive-in-Residence, J Herbert Smith Centre, Professor of Chemistry and former Vice-President Research of UNB, Dr. Dharendra Shukla, Chair, J Herbert Smith Centre for Technology Management and Entrepreneurship, Mr. Hannah Classen (Project Manager), Communications Officer & Mr. Dominic Blakely, Innovation & Entrepreneurship Strategist and Advisor to President visited on 27th August, 2018.



Delegation from Ministry of Afghanistan



Delegation from University of Auckland

September, 2018

- Dr. Robin Forman, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dr. Satyajit Dattagupta, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Dean of Admission, Tulane University, US visited on 4th September, 2018.
- Prof. Tan Cher Ming, Director, Chang Gung University, Taipei, Taiwan visited on 6th September, 2018.
- Dr. Usmonov Botir Shukurillayevich, Vice Rector for Scientific Affairs & Mr. Javlonbek Abdujalilov, Head of International Relations Department, Tashkent University of Information Technologies, Uzbekistan visited on 12th September, 2018.
- A senior delegation from Ministry of Afghanistan headed by Dr. Mohammed Humayon Qayoumi, Senior advisor to President of Afghanistan, Dr. Abdul Tawab Balakarzai, Deputy Minister for Academic Affairs

of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, & Mr. A Ghafoor Hashimi, Head of Cultural Affairs, Consulate General of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Mumbai visited on 12th September, 2018.

- Dr. Patrick Phelan, Dean of Graduate Programs and Professor of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering, Dr. Raghu Santanam, Professor and Chair of the Department of Information Systems & Mr. Holly Singh, Senior Director, International Center, Arizona State University visited on 17th September, 2018.

October, 2018

- Dr. Ted Sargent, University Professor, Canada Research Chair in Nanotechnology, Vice President International, University of Toronto visited on 4th October, 2018.
- Prof. Adil Minoo Dhalla is the Managing Director of Separation Technologies Applied Research and Translation (START) Centre at NTU, Singapore visited on 25th October, 2018.
- Prof. Mark Fox, Associate Director (Research), University of Toronto visited on 25th October, 2018.
- A delegation from Newcastle University including Prof. Richard Davies, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Engagement and Internationalisation, Prof. John Fitzgerald, Head of School of Computing, Dr. Gary Ushaw, Senior Lecturer and Director of Business and Engagement, Dr. Anil Namdeo, Chartered Scientist and Reader in Air Quality Management and Prof. Alison Shaw, David Goldman Visiting Professor visited on 25th October, 2018.
- Prof. Yossi Rosenwaks, Dean, The Iby and Aladar Fleischman Faculty of Engineering, Tel Aviv University visited on 26th October, 2018.



Delegation from University of Bayreuth



Delegation from Iranian Embassy

November, 2018

- A delegation from University of Strasbourg including Prof. Irini Jacobberger, Vice-President for Internal Relations / linguistic, Prof. Philippe Turek, Deputy Vice-President for Internal Relations / condensed matter physics, Prof. Jay Rowell, Director of Research, Deputy Vice-President for Research / political sociology, Asso. Prof. Valérie Lamour, Deputy Vice-President for Research / structural biology and Mrs. Rachel Blessig-Lagala, Head of the Department of International Relations visited on 7th November, 2018.
- A delegation from University of Auckland, New Zealand including Prof. Jenny Dixon, Deputy Vice Chancellor Strategic Engagement, Prof. John Hosking, Dean of Science, Prof. Nic Smith, Dean of Engineering, Asso. Prof. Mark Barrow, Dean of Education and Social Work, Asso. Prof. Partha Roop, Associate Dean International, Engineering, Dr. Sudip Ray, Senior Research Fellow Faculty of Science, Mr. Brett Berquist, Director International, Ms. Miranda Herbert, Deputy Director International and Ms. Elle Freestone, International Manager Engineering visited on 29th November, 2018.
- Ms. Gwen Burrows, Executive Director, International & Ms. Vanessa C. Laufer, Director, International Relations, University of Toronto visited on 30th November, 2018.
- A 11-member delegation from University of Bristol including Ms. Caroline Baylon, Director International, Dr. Kirsten Carter, Academic Director, Centre for Innovation, Dr. Nicholas Howden, Reader in Water and Environmental Engineering, Prof. David Richards, Reader in Physical Geography, Prof. Agnes Nairn, Faculty International Director for Economics, Accounting, Finance & Management, Ms. Beverly Orr-

Ewing, Deputy Director International and Head of Global Opportunities, Ms. Lorna Cuckow, Deputy Director International and Head of International Partnerships and Relations, Mr. Dominic Freda, Faculty Manager, Faculty of Social Sciences, Mr. Devesh Anand, Country Advisor (India) and Mr. Robin Knowles, International Media Manager visited on 30th November, 2018.

December, 2018

- Prof. José Orlando Gomes, Vice President & Treasurer - International Ergonomics Association, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ) visited on 12th December, 2018.
- Prof. Dr. Mukundan Thelakkat, Chair of Macromolecular Chemistry I, Head of the project “Bayreuth-Melbourne Colloid/Polymer Network” (Faculty of Biology, Chemistry and Earth Sciences), Prof. Dr. Torsten Kühlmann, Chair of Business Administration (Human Resource Management, Faculty of Law, Business and Economics), Dr. Arnim Heinemann, Director of the International Office (also representing the Faculty of Humanity and social Sciences) and Ms. Wiebke Dörfler, Managing Director of the BayIND Bavarian-Indian Centre, University of Bayreuth, Germany visited on 12th December, 2018.
- Dr. Vanessa Scherrer, Vice President for International Affairs, Prof. Christophe Jaffrelot, Researcher, Ms. Neha Khanna, Representative to India in Delhi and Ms. Sophie Collet, Representative to India in Mumbai from Sciences Po visited on 12th December, 2018.
- A delegation from Iranian Embassy including Mr. Saeed Avatefi Amjad, Director of Robotics division, Mr. Mohammadreza Jahangiri, Head of Kerman Technical and Vocational Training Organization (KTVT), Mr. Majid Mollamohammdi, Director of Education KTVT, Ms. Mahnaz Najibzadeh - Director of the International Affairs and Dr. Mehdi Salem, Head of Omid Channel in Iran visited on 14th December, 2018.
- Prof. Dr. Mohamed Shoukr Nada, The Cultural Counsellor, Head of the Educational Mission Bureau, The Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in New Delhi, India visited on 14th December, 2018.

Workshops

International Relations Office at IIT Bombay along with signing new agreements also conducts research workshops with various institutes / organizations across the globe. The research workshops form the groundwork to strengthen the collaborations between two institutes / organizations. The main motive of these research workshops is to identify collaborators with common research areas and take ahead the collaboration with a joint research student so that it is more sustainable. The following are the joint research workshops conducted in last six months:

IIT Bombay & National Taiwan University (NTU), Taiwan – 13th & 14th September, 2018:

This two day workshop was conducted at NTU, Taiwan which started with the introductory talk on IIT Bombay and NTU from the respective leaders of the institutes followed by research presentations from professors of Electrical Engineering department of both the institutes. This workshop also had the NTU students participating. The major motive behind organizing this workshop was to strengthen the collaboration of the two institutions for eventually facilitating the existing MOU and the proposed dual degree program. The signing of this agreement is in process.



IIT Bombay & NTU, Taiwan Workshop



IIT Bombay & Curtin University Workshop

IIT Bombay & Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore – 20th Sep, 2018:

This one day workshop was conducted at IIT Bombay and had professors participating from basic sciences i.e., Department of Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics. The group was divided department wise where professors in each group gave their technical talks and interacted with respective counter parts to explore potential collaboration. At the end of the workshop, various ideas on way forward to taking ahead the recent Joint Doctoral Degree Programme agreement signed by IIT Bombay and NTU were discussed by both the leaders.

IIT Bombay & Curtin University, Australia – 5th December, 2018:

This one day workshop was conducted at IIT Bombay where professors from Department of Earth Sciences, Civil Engineering and Biosciences and Bioengineering participated. Faculty members from both institutes gave technical talks on their ongoing research areas to further find common interests for future collaboration. Followed by this was discussion on the proposed dual degree agreement and student exchange agreement between the two institutes. Both the universities showed interest to collaborate by supervising Ph.D. students and research work and publication through combined research projects.

Visiting Contingents

From Taiwan – 19th September, 2018

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Company (TSMC), Taiwan is the world's largest semiconductor foundry, manufacturing 9,920 different products using 258 distinct technologies for 465 different customers in 2017. TSMC has been partnering with National Chiao Tung University – International College of Semiconductor Technology (NCTU-ICST) on many talent programs, including the dual degree programs that it has with premier universities like IIT Bombay, viz. admit pre-selected graduate students for education and research in regard to design flow, physical design, electronic design automation, system and design solutions, and memory solutions at IIT Bombay and NCTU-ICST, followed by career at TSMC. TSMC celebrated "TSMC Day" with its first workshop in IIT Bombay on 19th September, 2018 to introduce how IIT Bombay-(NCTU-ICST)-TSMC collaboration can unleash innovation and change the world. This event had huge number of students from the Electrical Engineering Dept. exploring the opportunity.

From Afghanistan – 4th to 8th October, 2018

India and Afghanistan have strong diplomatic relations in various areas including education. As an outcome of the visit by Ministry of Afghanistan in September, 2018 and to further strengthen this relation, a team of 20 personnel from different universities of Afghanistan had visited IIT Bombay, and Prof. Kannan Moudgalya along with his team imparted training in basics of edX and Spoken Tutorials, and other common topics, such as Scilab. Training on specialised topics of Open edX / IITBombayX was also given to few members of the group considering their area of specialization and work profile. This training will help in the curriculum development and capacity development of teaching staff.



Contingent from Taiwan



Contingent from Afghanistan

From Colombia – 24th October, 2018

A 20 member CEO delegation from Grupo Bolivar, one of the largest and most stable financial services groups from Colombia, South America visited IIT Bombay on 24th October, 2018. The delegation interacted with the professors from Computer Science and Engineering Dept. at IIT Bombay and learnt about the research and great work happening in the department. The visiting delegation were highly experienced with expertise in their respective fields; hence the interaction was very lively.

From Japan – 19th November, 2018

The Asia mission consisting of 7 director level personnel related to the Polymer Technology Executives Society from various Japanese corporations visited IIT Bombay on 19th November, 2018. Besides an overview of International Relations Office and Research & Development Office given by respective Deans, at IIT Bombay they interacted with professors from departments of Chemical Engineering, Chemistry and Metallurgical Engineering & Materials Science and toured through the facilities at Sophisticated Analytical Instrument Facility (SAIF).



Contingent from Colombia



Contingent from Japan

From Netherlands – 22nd November, 2018

The 17 member Netherlands delegation included faculty members from Fontys University of Applied Science. This visit was co-ordinated by personnel from Sogeti Netherlands, a fully-owned subsidiary of the Capgemini Group and a global leader in consulting, technology services and digital transformation. With an overview of activities done under International Relations office they were also exposed to the functioning and research done by Computer Science and Engineering Dept.

From Indonesia - 27th November, 2018

A group of 5 students from School of Business and Management-Institut Teknologi Bandung (SBM-ITB), Indonesia accompanied by their professor visited IIT Bombay. As a part of their Cross-Cultural and Conflict Management course, they visit other institutes to understand the pedagogy used by the institute and also to get acquainted with the culture of the country. To broaden their knowledge on the practices to run business in India, a session was arranged wherein incubatees from SINE shared their experience on technology startups



Contingent from Netherlands



Contingent from Indonesia

From China – 30th November, 2018

As part of International Youth Exchange Programme between India and China, a 100 member Chinese Youth Delegation visited IIT Bombay on 30th November, 2018. This delegation comprised of young university students, entrepreneurs and officials from Ministry and Federations from China. There was a very vibrant interactive session between this delegation and IIT Bombay students, besides a visit to Central Library and entrepreneurship display by Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE).

From Australia – 13th December, 2018

A group of 49 students sponsored by the Australia Government visited IIT Bombay on 13th December, 2018. These students were from several Australian universities: to name a few, University of New South Wales, University of Newcastle and Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology. They were interested in tech and entrepreneurship so a session was arranged with Tata Centre for Technology and Design wherein they were given the overview of the centre and its activities, introduction to the activity on stakeholders' analysis and business model planning on live projects followed by lab visit. Each group was given a Tata Centre project as a case study and was asked to either do a stakeholder analysis or model a business plan around it, based on the End to End Innovation course followed at TCTD. This hands-on activity saw the students interacting with the Tata Fellows and pitching their ideas enthusiastically in front of all. The students were a happy bunch when their groups got applauded for their new learnings.



Contingent from China



Contingent from Australia

International Visits by IIT Bombay Professors & Staff

Visit to Germany: Mr. Arnab Das, Executive Officer from the Office of IR attended and successfully completed the 3rd and final workshop of "Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies (DIES)" at Leibniz University Hannover, Germany from 29th August to 7th September 2018. The training course on Management of Internationalisation in Higher Education is jointly organised by German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Leibniz University Hannover (LUH) and the German Rectors' Conference (HRK). He was selected by DAAD to undertake the training course of duration 12 months which includes two workshops in Germany and one regional workshop in India. During his training he also visited Freie University Berlin and Humboldt University of Berlin and established networking and university collaboration. On 15th November, 2018 for the DAAD network meeting held at Pune, Mr. Arnab Das was invited as a speaker to share the best practices of internationalisation of universities in Germany and India.

Visit to Taiwan: A team comprising of Prof. Rajesh Zele (Electrical Engg.), Prof. Swaroop Ganguly (Electrical Engg.), Prof. Saurabh Lodha (Electrical Engg.), Prof. Apurba Laha (Electrical Engg.) and Prof. Avradeep Pal (Metallurgical Engineering & Materials Science) visited Taiwan in the month of September, 2018. The team spent two days exploring collaborations in the area of semiconductor, integrated circuits, spin electronics to name a few during the workshop between IIT Bombay and National Taiwan University (NTU). Other Taiwanese universities / institutes that the team visited were National Chaio Tung University (NCTU), Industrial Technology and Research Institute (ITRI) and National Tsing Hua University (NTHU). The NTHU is very keen on signing the joint supervised or dual degree Ph.D MOU with IIT Bombay. Besides universities, the team also visited National Nano Device Laboratory, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Cooperation,

Hsinchu Science Park Bureau and Taiwan Technology Arena in order to understand their functioning and collaborate with them, eventually helping in expansion and rise of IITB Research Park.



Visit to Germany



Visit to Taiwan

Visit to Japan: IIT Bombay is a member institution of the STSI Program (International Research Skills Program for Developing Sustainable Transportation System and Infrastructure), a Hokkaido University initiative funded by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) as an Inter-University Exchange Project with Indian Universities including IIT Bombay, IIT Madras and IIT Hyderabad. Prof. Amitava De, Dean (Academic Program), Prof. Sudarshan Kumar, Department of Aerospace Engineering and Mr. Arnab Das, Executive Officer from the Office of IR attended the 2nd steering committee meeting to review the current operation for further improvement of the STSI program, and discussed program certification, future challenges, funding resources after the exhaust of the grant and possible research themes on mutual interest to broaden the collaboration.

Visit to Taiwan: Prof. Krishna P. Kaliappan, Dean Faculty Affairs represented IIT Bombay at Southeast and South Asia and Taiwan Universities (SATU), Steering Committee meeting held at Tainan, Taiwan on 16th and 17th November, 2018. He also delivered a lecture on “Industry-Academia Interactions at IIT Bombay” in one of the sessions and attended the Annual Steering Committee meeting of the members. The steering committee discussed about the need to have more exchange activities of students, faculty and staff among the SATU Institutes / Universities.



Visit to Japan



Visit to Taiwan

Visit to Indonesia: Prof. Prasanna Mujumdar, DD FEA and Prof. Swati Patankar, Dean IR represented the institute at the Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) Executive Meeting from 14th to 16th November, 2018 at Bali, Indonesia. They discussed the activities of the AUA with the members, proposed IIT Bombay activities to be carried out in 2019 and also presented a short talk on student-run activities on our campus. IIT Bombay students, faculty and staff have participated in many AUA activities in the past year and benefited from our interactions with the top universities in the Asian region. We hope to welcome students from AUA partner universities to our campus in 2019!

Visit to Malaysia & Indonesia: IIT Bombay is a member university of Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) from India, officially established on April 2017. The AUA (<http://www.asianuniversities.org/>) mission is to jointly address regional and global challenges, specifically related to higher education and economic, scientific and technological development, by strengthening collaboration among member institutions. Mr. Arnab Das, Executive Officer from the Office of IR under the "AUA staff exchange program" visited University of Malaya, Malaysia in order to enhance communication between AUA staff members and had detailed discussion on the upcoming collaborative activities. During his visit he met with the Head of Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Science and Information Technology and Faculty of Business & Accountancy and discussed on the possible modes of collaboration and soon the agreement of academic and research cooperation and student mobility agreement between IIT Bombay and University of Malaya will be signed. On 13th December, 2018, Mr. Arnab Das, visited Syiah Kuala University, Indonesia as an invited speaker to attend the workshop titled "International Mobility and Collaboration" and interacted with UISYIAH students regarding the mobility opportunities and scholarships availability to study at IIT Bombay.



Visit to Indonesia



Visit to Indonesia

International Students

During the autumn semester 2018, IIT Bombay had 20 undergraduate students from foreign universities for semester exchange and 11 post graduate international students. The orientation program was arranged on 13th July, 2018 for undergraduate students, and 2nd August, 2018 for post graduate international students. This orientation program introduces them to IIT Bombay functioning, rules and regulations. Also the campus had 10 international undergraduate students for semester project work. Currently there are 47 international students doing their post graduation and Ph.D programs. In addition to the international students in our campus we also had 35 students from IIT Bombay going for semester exchange to foreign universities like National University of Singapore, Technical University of Denmark, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology and many others. At the middle of the semester, international students had an adventurous experience trekking the Tikona hill fort near Lonavala. A dinner was hosted by International Relations Office just before Diwali festival which had almost all the international students in attendance for a memorable evening with the Director and Deans joining for dinner.



International Students - Orientation



International Students - Trekking

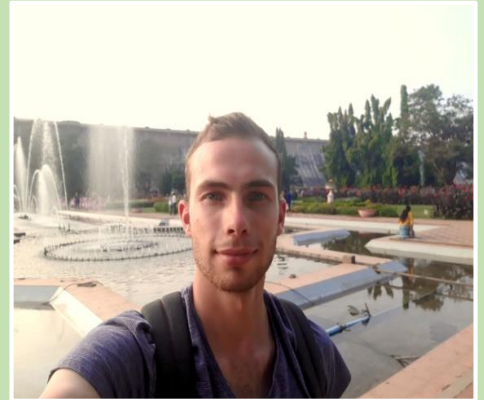
Student Experiences

Leonardo Morlein

Student @ Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany

Exchange @ Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Bombay

In Germany I was taught to take my own responsibility for my studies. I was free to learn, attend and work how I found is the best way for me. In IIT Bombay the professors forced to spend my attention continuously and in depth. I had more lectures, quizzes, exams, home works, projects, vivas and presentations in one subject than I had ever before. To sum it up : In Germany I learned to organize I discovered my potential to handle a huge amount of work.



Alexander Stein

Student @ ETH Zurich

Exchange @ Department of Physics, IIT Bombay

After five intense months on the campus of IIT Bombay, I left Mumbai with some tears in the eyes but a smile in the face, looking back at all the awesome people and experiences. Reaching the campus, I couldn't feel that I am in the biggest city of India. I honestly couldn't imagine a better place to live than in Mumbai. It took a few attempts until I felt comfortable leaving the campus on my own. However I started quickly enjoying the rickshaw drives and the people love to help, in particular, if they see that you are a foreigner! I had to learn that only a few courses can be quite some work including quizzes, projects and homework hand-ins. And you always find some students who work passionate, either for course projects or competitions in cultural or sport programs. The culture club presentations were truly impressive! It was a great choice for my semester exchange!



Ayushi Pangal

Exchange @ Kaist University, South Korea

4th Year Student @ Department of Metallurgical Engineering and Material Sciences, IIT Bombay

I always wanted to explore the Korean culture; hence Kaist became the perfect opportunity for me. With more than 150 exchange students from different parts of the world, I interacted with people from different backgrounds and cultures and also made friends for life! Everyone had a different story, different aspirations and different desires. Balancing the competent academics, I managed to travel across the beautiful country, with the ever changing city vibe, calm islands and their warmly welcoming, kind and harmonious culture, made me feel at home in Korea just by myself. Through the solo escapades, hikings, temple stays and biking trips, I could see myself being more enthusiastic and trying new things and even appreciating the things I already have. Life's a full circle and I'm back to institute again, but I'm definitely not the same person anymore and the experiences gained will be etched in my heart forever. Gamsahamnida korea!

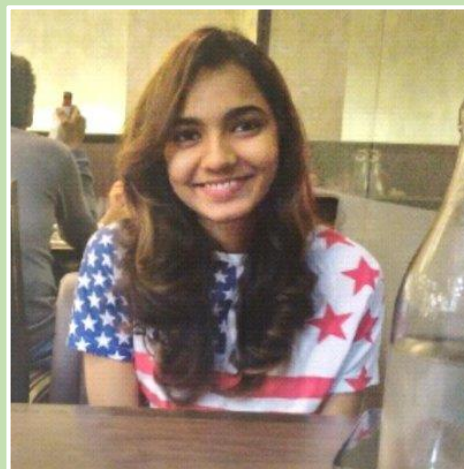


Devyani Verma

Exchange @ Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

4th Year Student @ Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Bombay

On 29th May, a day before my birthday, I got a mail saying I've been accepted by the A4U university. I confirmed the news once again and went on to embark on one of the most beautiful and influencing journey of my life so far. I wish I could say staying alone in a new country with a language you barely spoke, all alone for the very first time out of India was easy but it wasn't. But this proved to be one of the out of world experiences. I am not sure if I will ever have gotten something like this if I hadn't applied for an exchange. I made so many memories here, met so many people, accepting and appreciating the differences, learning to be okay all by myself and most importantly the confidence I gained in the process was priceless. I have made friends here, collaborated with a couple of them for projects, gone to explore Spain with them and exchanged crazy stories while embracing the Spanish culture. I stayed here with a warm Spanish family to integrate into the culture better and it had been one hell of an experience! I think my exchange has made me understand beyond the borders, the people and their culture, where they are different than us and where they are just like all of us. This exchange also enlightened spirits of nationalism in me that I barely knew existed before. I would recommend everyone to go embark on their own journey to find themselves and even if they didn't, you're sure to make the memories you'll always hold dear! I thank god, A4U and my institute to have given me such a once in a lifetime opportunity. I'll forever be grateful! Couldn't have asked for a better exchange!

**Team - Office of International Relations****Prof. Swati Patankar**

Dean - International Relations & Professor, Department of Bio Sciences and Bio Engineering

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