

IITB-Monash offers solution for Indian Students

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MUMBAI: Today, we see the continuation of top-quality students leaving India to pursue further education and jobs in overseas universities.

We are also seeing fewer quality students entering PhD programmes in the country as the earning capacity of graduates has increased, thanks to the IT boom that the country is experiencing.

Simultaneously, we are seeing a huge growth in the number of international multinational companies that are looking to relocate their R&D centers to India.

Their rationale is the availability of talent — which, as we know, is dwindling — and lower costs — which will not be valid as attrition rates inevitably increase as these companies poach from each other.

In this scenario, a solution was needed desperately and soon. Enter the IITB-Monash Research Academy, an independent, autonomous, first-of-its-kind research academy.

‘The Academy’, as it is known, is a joint venture between IIT Bombay and Monash University, Australia and offers to exploit the synergies generated by the combined and complementary strengths of both institutions to develop a high-quality international research capability.

A joint PhD programme has been developed which enables doctoral students to receive a joint accredited PhD degree from both Monash University and IIT Bombay. The students will be supported by attractive scholarships that will enable them to spend part of their tenure at Monash University, Australia.

The high-powered Advisory Council which will guide the project includes captains of industry and research luminaries like Narayana Murthy Dr Pawan Goenka (Mahindra & Mahindra), Prasad Menon (Tata Power), Dr V Rao Aiyagiri (Department of Science and Technology), Sir Gus Nossal (Former President of the Australian Academy of Sciences), Dr Ramesh Mashelkar (Former Director-General CSIR), and Dr Megan Clark (BHP Billiton).

Welcoming the initiative, Prof Ashok Misra, director IIT Bombay, said, “This is a major new initiative for IIT Bombay for partnering with a leading international research university like Monash to enlarge our pool of expertise, and help us respond to the needs of industries across the world.”

The research staff and students resident on the campus at the Academy will significantly contribute to the research activities of IIT Bombay.”

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Objectives and aims

The Academy will engage in theme-based, inter-disciplinary, and goal-directed research. This effort would contribute to the quality and quantity of research both at IIT Bombay and Monash University.

The Academy’s research outcomes will be of benefit to India, Australia and the global society. Following are the objectives of The Academy:

1. Developing high-quality research capability to enhance knowledge in various fields of scientific endeavour to benefit India and Australia.
2. Undertaking theme-based, goal-directed and use-inspired strategic research in partnership with government and industry sectors.
3. Building an additional strong cadre of high quality doctoral graduates, who will spend part of their candidature at Monash University in Melbourne.
4. Taking up projects of commercial significance in collaboration with industry in India, Australia and worldwide and creating significant research and commercial impact on a national and global scale.