

Studying global issues

IITB and Monash University combine to initiate a Research Academy to address international issues

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What will be the research areas of focus for the IITB-Monash Research Academy?

The research carried out in the academy will be in the areas of energy, climate, water, health & biotechnology and infrastructure. Within the area of energy, we will be looking at carbon capture and ways to reduce the use of coal fire electricity. Within climate, we will look at predicting the impact of climate change and creating models to do so. Within water, the focus will be on how to make water desalination more efficient. Within health and biotechnology, we will look at doing stem cell research where the Monash Immunology Stem Cell Laboratory will be very active. And within infrastructure, we will look at projects such as mine stability, optimising mobile networks etc.

How did you arrive at these areas of focus?

During our discussions, we decided that we wanted to focus on global issues, which require attention in today's time. We also took into consideration only those areas where we found that the two universities could provide complementary skills.



The IITB-Monash Research Academy will work specifically in the areas of climate, water, health, biotechnology and infrastructure

What are you looking for in prospective students?

The first and foremost requirement is excellence. We are going for brighter students with high academic standards. Apart from this, it is our belief that in order to make a difference, you need to have enthusiasm, a quality education and an opportunity. Hopefully, our Academy will provide the students with challenging pure research PhDs. Selected students will get to spend 6 months to a year at the Monash campus in Australia. We will also provide scholarships and co-supervision.

Will the students be able to choose their own projects?

Yes, the students will be able to choose a few projects after which there will be a negotia-

tion process between the student and the academy.

How many Indian students are you looking at to enroll in the IITB-Monash Research Academy?

Currently there are 30 to 40 PhD students from IIT-B who are part of the programme, but we are looking at increasing the number to 300 next year.

What employment opportunities can students look forward to after doing the programme?

Because of our industry collaboration with companies such as Infosys, CSIRO and Shell India, students can look forward to employment in these companies. In the future, we are also looking at adding 2 to 3 industry partners every year, which will sponsor 5 to 10 PhD students.