



# AULA MAGNA



Official Publication of the Office of International Affairs & Collaborations, MAHE

## From the Vice Chancellor's Desk: Internationalization in the Context of NEP 2020

Among the many advances in the higher education sector, internationalization has emerged as one of the key drivers for the growth of an organization. Internationalization of higher education has earned its place among educators, especially after the inclusion of education as a service sector under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) and the World Trade Organization (WTO). It is only natural that as long term strategy, governments and other apex agencies have been devising policies, designing strategies, and investing concerted efforts to facilitate the process of internationalization. As a nation, India must surely propel itself to a position of strength in the field of higher education.

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 as we understand is a step in the right direction signaling new normal. NEP 2020 clearly states that internationalization is one of the major objectives to promote knowledge and cultural exchange. What is exciting about NEP is that the government has realized that India can be a hub of a world-class education with the pursuit of excellence. Some of the major reforms recommended are facilitating research/teaching collaborations and faculty/student exchanges with high-quality foreign institutions and the signing of MoUs with foreign countries for mutual benefit. High-performing Indian universities will have an opportunity to set up campuses in other countries. Likewise, those from among the top 100 foreign universities will be invited to operate in India. NEP allows the credits transfer system as per the requirements of each HEI for the award of a degree. Furthermore, research collaboration and student exchanges between Indian and global institutions will be promoted through special efforts. The sole purpose is to promote India as a global study destination provi-



**Lt Gen Dr M D Venkatesh**  
Vice Chancellor  
MAHE, Manipal

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**“ Multidisciplinary learning as part of the new policy is a way forward especially for inbound international students who are looking for varied courses in the university. ”**

ding premium education at affordable costs.

Multidisciplinary learning as part of the new policy is a way forward especially for inbound international students who are looking for varied courses in the university. NEP has the potential to put India on a long-term growth trajectory. MAHE had long recognized that without internationalization we cannot move to world-class standards. The Government of India has recently launched the 'Study in India' program, which encourages foreign students to study in Indian universities. MAHE has largely benefited from these schemes, which promote access, equity, quality, and excellence in the Indian higher education system and institutions. As per the All India Survey of Higher Education (2018-19), the Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in higher education is 26.3. Although lower than the global average of 36.7 percent GER,

at 26.3 percent compares India favorably with other lower-middle-income countries with an average GER of 23.5%. NEP envisions expansion with quality and access and almost double the GER to 50% by 2035.

Undergraduate enrolments account for close to 80% of all enrolments in India, postgraduate programs are a distant second at 11% and PhD enrollment is less than 0.5% of the total student enrolment. In addition to a low rate of postgraduate enrolment, many of the postgraduates opting to study abroad point to a serious need to improve both the quality and capacity of postgraduate programs in India. Among the many advantages of recruiting international faculty, it ensures restructuring of the PhD program, offers newer insight to research and teaching, garners superior and effective research output, and has a favorable bearing on world university rankings.

Internationalization leading to meaningful research collaborations benefit organizational growth. As much as student exchange is important, faculty exchange and research collaborations are as well important for sustaining internationalization. Partnerships are critical to driving the internationalization agenda. Given the breadth of institutions and the level of internationalization as well as the ever-growing range of partnerships, one size fits all would not address the nuances and realities of internationalization of higher education. A very robust ecosystem and a culture of innovation are central to the imagination of higher education. Higher Education is poised for a giant leap in India. I am excited by the new NEP 2020 that envisages a total overhaul of the education system from school education to higher education and has recognized internationalization as a key component of its success.

## SICI: Promoting Bilateral Ties between India and Canada

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) is a unique bi-national educational organization with 154 member institutions of higher learning throughout India and Canada. In its 52 years of existence, SICI has been instrumental in building and strengthening intellectual and cultural linkages through research, dialogue and exchange between India and Canada.

The Institute was founded through a mutual proclamation of the governments of Canada and India. It was named after Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, one of the most prominent and dynamic Prime Ministers of India. The promotion of university-level studies and research on India in Canadian educational institutions was the Institute's initial purpose. With its early focus on the humanities and social sciences, the Institute devised various programmes including fellowships and



**Dr Prachi Kaul**

Director

Shastri Indo- Canadian Institute

providing books and journals pertaining to India to the libraries of the three founding Canadian members of institute - McGill University, University of British Columbia, and the University of Toronto. For many years, SICI's membership was open only for Canadian member institutions and it was in the year 2005, a landmark year in SICI's history, that the Institute became a truly bi-national organization supported equally by both the governments. With offices in New Delhi, India and Calgary, Canada, it is the only organization in the Canada-India higher educational exchange corridor that has 114 institutional members in India and 40 in Canada, all of which are premier universities with a reputation for excellence.

The Institute provides funds for collaborative research, mobility, and programme development for lecturers, researchers, students, artists and youth from the two countries. These programmes may last from two months to an entire year and the participants return to their home countries with the knowledge to share and relationships that further facilitate bi-national collaboration in studies and research. MAHE is officially inducted as a new Member of SICI. This is a new beginning for closer collaboration between MAHE & Canadian Universities.

### Vision

To nurture linkages and facilitate academic exchanges, partnerships, and networks between India and Canada, thus enriching the relationship between two of the world's great democracies.

### Mission

To improve the quality of life of the people of Canada and India by building and strengthening intellectual and cultural connections through research, dialogue and exchange.

### Goal

To further the bi-national ethos through diverse programmes facilitating scholarly research and exchanges among Indian and Canadian universities, cultural organizations and government bodies.

## Celebrating 10 years of Alliance Française de Bangalore-Manipal Chapter



**Rahul Putty**

Head

Department of Languages, MAHE

This year's 14th July, National Day of France, was indeed a special one for MAHE. What made it memorable was that it also marked 10 years of the Alliance Française in Manipal (est. on 10th July 2010), a testimony to the ever-deepening relations between India and France, particularly in the field of Education and Culture. The online mode that the pandemic had imposed did not deter us from celebrating this momentous occasion with any less zest. The invitation to join the virtual celebration of the National Day by M. Emmanuel Lenain, Ambassador of France to India, was indeed an honor and was met with great eagerness. On Bastille Day, all social media networks came to life, joining hands to mirror the dynamism of the flourishing ties between the two countries.

On 10th July, to mark the decade-long journey of Alliance Française de Bangalore-Manipal Chapter, among other activities, such as a special quiz on the Alliance Française itself and a French-Kannada reading of Jean Racine's play *Phèdre*, a webinar on *La Francophonie à l'étranger* was also organized by the Department of Languages and AF Manipal with Ms Samantha Cazebonne, Member of the Commission for External Affairs of France, drawing participants from across the country.

At Manipal, the Alliance Française diffuses French language and culture to around 900 students across various disciplines and faculties each year and is an important partner of MAHE's Department of Languages to broaden the scope of French and foreign language studies in India. MAHE also fosters vibrant exchange programs with prominent French universities and welcomes a significant number of French exchange students annually. Congratulatory letters received from esteemed dignitaries on this important milestone and MAHE's journey so far by Ambassador of France to India, M. Emmanuel Lenain, as well as members of the Commission for External Relations of France, Senator Richard Yung and Ms Anne Genetet, only inspire us to pursue our endeavors with added fervor.



## Enhancing Internationalization through Corporate Relations

MAHE envisions to be the prominent research/co-development partner for the Corporates in India and abroad. The resource pool consisting of distinguished scientists, engineers, paramedics and other professionals, several of them are key opinion leaders (KOLs) in their areas, can add a lot of value in collaborations built around your specific objectives. With this goal in mind, MAHE has established the Office of Corporate Relations (OCR) under the directorship of Dr Raviraja N.S., who has more than 15 years of experience in academic research in India and abroad as well as more than a decade experience in the corporate sector.

OCR aims to build and sustain a relationship with Corporates to promote Corporate Affiliate Research Programs, attract Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds/foundation grants to enhance research/community outreach programs, and support commercialization of the technologies developed at MAHE. OCR has facilitated the signing of collaborative agreements between MAHE and two corporates outside India. They are ESCO ASTER Pte Ltd., Singapore and Curio Biotech SA Switzerland.

OCR encourages faculty and researchers to pursue research and development at foreign universities/corporates thereby promoting student engagement with corporates to promote internship, mentoring and placement opportunities. Dr Raviraja N S has recently resumed the position of Director Corporate Relations, MAHE and is keen on bringing in newer research and corporate collaboration for the university.

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## Alumni Connect- Pathway to Globalization

Alumni as brand ambassadors are the key to an institution's growth. They project the academic brand of MAHE and in turn facilitate in creating a rewarding culture and measurable impact of their alma-mater. It is intuitive that international alumni who effectively engage with their alma-mater often help in its advancement; which is synonymous for activities like institutional fund raising, international student's mobility, graduates' placements, mentoring to face the global marketplace or the growing phenomenon of 'multiple affinities' between alumni and their alma-maters. The time is right for a focused approach towards, international alumni relations across our global network.

Dr Rohit Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Kasturba Medical College, Manipal is the Director -Alumni Relations, MAHE, Manipal. The office is making every effort to stay in touch with their alumni and keep them close to their memories. We believe that one step from the alumni towards their alma-mater will make a huge difference to MAHE in general and its students in particular.

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## Climate Change in the Era of COVID-19

The Centre for Climate Studies, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, was set up in 2018 to research for end-to-end solutions on climate change, and to create a pool of researchers to serve the growing need for sustainable climate policy, governance and diplomacy. Dr Anish Warriar is the Centre's coordinator, and Dr Dhanasree Jayaram, the co-coordinator. The Centre is currently engaged in research on a range of themes related to climate change and sustainability. They recently organized a webinar series on Climate Change, Environmental Security, and Politics Risks, in partnership with Covert Overt Intelligence Solutions (COVINTS), and Political Risk and Intell-



Screenshots from the webinar

igence Services Management (PRISM), a division of COVINTS, Bengaluru. The speakers in the webinar series were: Sujatha Byravan, Sudhir Chella Rajan, Cleo Paskal, Ulka Kelkar, Jai Kumar Gaurav, Tushar P Ghate, Dhanasree Jayaram, and Vignesh Ram.

The objective of this four-webinar series was to analyze the social, political, and economic risks that arise from climate change, and discuss frameworks that exist to combat these risks, and how they affect individuals, businesses, regions, and countries. It was organized primarily against the background of the COVID-19 crisis that the world is currently undergoing. Although the COVID-19 crisis and the climate crisis share several similarities, the former has essentially put the discussions on climate governance on the back burner for the time being, as most countries are struggling to cope with the uncertain consequences of the pandemic situation.

Among the sectors that have been affected include the ones critical to the world's transition to a low-carbon economy as well as to building climate-resilient systems. However, there are calls from several quarters to use this opportunity to usher in reforms that may bring about a reinvigorated focus on 'green recovery'. Several stakeholders (from academia, research, business, non-governmental organizations, etc.) have voiced their opinions on the best way forward (also in terms of "building back better") but the policy inertia and muddle continue to hamper much-needed action on this front.

The webinar series attempted to address these issues by looking into opportunities for "planetary solidarity" given the multiple crises that the humankind confronts. At the same time, the series elucidated on the existing geopolitical and geo-economics fault lines that exist in the world that may hamper cooperation on climate change. It traced several recent trends on global collective action as well as the fossil fuels industry, and the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on them, in addition to exploring the options for post-COVID-19 pandemic green recovery. Special attention was paid by the speakers to the existing and potential initiatives, tools, mechanisms, and risks associated with climate finance and technological initiatives that could help spur this green recovery. The speakers focused on sectors such as transportation, renewable energy, and agriculture among others. The speakers tried to share light on the threats, risks of implementation, and mechanisms to overcome.

## MAHE-Réseau Figure Partnership



**Jean-Pierre Gesson**  
Vice-President  
International Relations  
Réseau Figure

The Réseau Figure is a trademark for a network of universities established in 2012 for the implementation of innovative training courses by the French government. The "Cursus Master en Ingénierie" (CMI) was born out of the desire to offer an engineering training program, different from that of engineering schools, closer to research laboratories. Like the honours programs, it is based on bachelor's and master's degrees with 20% more content over the 5 years. It is selective, based on active teaching, and meets a benchmark that includes at least 20% acquisition of soft skills. An important feature is the accreditation process for universities to deliver the CMI label (students obtain a bachelor's and a master's degree from their home university). This process, based on a program and quality assurance system established according to the best European standards, has been approved by the national agency Hcéres.

The international dimension is important for the network. International mobility of at least 3 months and a minimum level in English language are mandatory for students. The network also wishes to accredit foreign universities interested in the CMI. After the USA, the network wanted to partner with a limited number of institutions in India. MAHE was the first institution concerned in 2019 because of its international reputation in different disciplines. The objective is to promote student mobility in research laboratories in India and France. The network coordinates the applications of CMI students who remain under the exclusive responsibility of the institutions concerned. Applications from MAHE students are circulated in the laboratories that have CMIs. The first exchanges were disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic, but the network is keen to ensure that mobility can take place in 2021 and that the MAHE-Figure partnership is strengthened, both in research and training.

## Milestone of GTEC/ GLP Center at MCON, MAHE

On 3 September 2020, a meeting was conducted involving Dr Shashidhara Padapura, Director of GTEC, HEE, NHS, UK, Dr Anice George, Dr Raghu AR and Dr Elsa Sanatombi Devi. The discussion was regarding an upgrade of the IELTS center to a GTEC/GLP Center with an aim to provide a web-based training for one hour each day, along with two hours of study. Students will receive coaching and free resources such as Reach IELTS (50 hours, IELTS familiarization, step-by-step guide and practice, and two months online access), the "Ready for IELTS" textbook, and Guided e-learning IELTS Test Practice (50 hours with two months online access)

We need our Center's commitment to the training and join NHS for a minimum of 3 years. Students will get access to a laptop with internet for at least three hours a day. Manipal will be the first site where they will start the coaching in this new venture.



**Dr Elsa Sanatombi Devi**  
Coordinator  
GTEC/ GLP/ IELTS  
MCON, MAHE

A brief meeting chaired by the Vice Chancellor MAHE was held on 9 September 2020 to discuss regarding the future perspective of GTEC/GLP activities along with branching out its activities to Sikkim Manipal campus. Dr Anice George, Dr Raghu A R and Dr Elsa Sanatombi were part of the meeting.

On 24 September 2020, an online orientation engaging the final year students was streamlined from HEE ZOOM lab, UK. A total of 75 students participated. Students were instructed to take the Rapid Screening Test to get enrolled for the first phase of the training session. Since students are taking their university exams, as of now, only 14 students have done the RST. The center will be able to afford 40 candidates at a time. Sessions are likely to begin from November 2020 after the university results are announced.

## Post Pandemic World Order: Navigating the New Normal



**Dr Nanda Kishor M S**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Geopolitics and  
International Relations, MAHE

The international conference on 'Post Pandemic World Order' aimed at understanding the world order with the alterations the pandemic has brought in the sphere of foreign policy, Geopolitics, globalisation and leadership across the world. The program was well conducted to emphasize the wider perspective of how COVID-19 pandemic has altered the geopolitical scenario across the globe. All forms of governments across the world have been under stress. The failure to find a vaccine has questioned the human progress in science and technology.

The conference witnessed scholars from all over the world, who deliberated on the probable scenario in the post Pandemic World Order by reflecting upon their respective nations and the continents represented. During this session, issues of Non State Actors were brought to light

and the exploitation of the pandemic scenario to the fullest. Africa and West Asia have been the worst hit due to the violence unleashed by the violent Non State Actors. Boko Haram in West Africa stepped up attacks in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad and the restive northern part of Egyptian Sinai peninsula. ISIS mouthpiece Al-Naba noted that this pandemic was a punishment of lord Almighty to punish China for their violence on the Uyghur population. The terrorist organisations indulged in hate speech, fake news and disinformation propaganda to call the people to conduct attacks and seize the opportunity. This scenario has put the national states to a litmus test.

There was an accepted notion about human centrality being brought back after a long time since the material order and neo-liberal world was at play. The pandemic has brought a massive halt to the lives and has disturbed the momentum with innumerable deaths across the world. COVID-19 has the potential to bring international players together and work for humanity beyond borders and put down regressive nationalism.



## Erasmus + International Credit Mobility - Groningen Exchange

I am Aaditya Bajaj, a chemical engineering graduate from the batch of 2020. As a part of my bachelor's project submission, I was fortunate to receive an opportunity to pursue research at the Department of Chemistry, in the University of Groningen, Netherlands. The program was facilitated by the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility program, and was locally managed by the Office of International Affairs and Collaborations (OIAC), MAHE.

The magnificence of the prestigious Dutch Institute is very well-known. From producing Nobel Laureates like Ben Feringa to providing world class research facilities to its students and staff, University of Groningen has a plethora of opportunities to offer. This caught my attention and attracted me to the mobility in the first place. As a research assistant I worked on the modification of potato starch molecules improving its thermal and mechanical properties and obtaining greener alternatives to plastic.

Like the rest of the world, I also wasn't aware of what future had in store for me. 2020 took the whole world by storm. As a result of the outbreak in Netherlands, I was not allowed to attend the lab for more than 5 days. There was nothing I could do but wait for things to get better. With little working experience and hands on induction, the fear of not being able to finish my project started dawning upon me. Soon my visa also expired and the international flights were still banned. Managing all this with the ever-increasing academic pressure started getting out of hand at one point.

Fortunately, my Dutch guide Mrs Laura Boetji and Dr Krishna Bandaru, Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering at Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT), were a constant support, and I was thus able to provide valuable contributions to the research activities remotely. My final report was remarked to be of high quality.

In this whole chaos, I always had the support of OIAC, making it easier for me to undergo this experience. I express my heartfelt gratitude to Dr Raghu Radhakrishnan and Ms Shantala D Pai from the OIAC, for helping me out with the visa and flight issues to regular check-ins. They have never missed a single opportunity to help me out.

Overall, it was one of the best learning experiences of my college life. From achieving academic excellence to shaping my character, these three months have made me tougher and more resilient than ever. I got opportunities to network with people from different walks of life, which helped me shape my ideas better and mould perspectives of my own. Today I am a proud master's student at the Imperial College of London, moving ahead in my journey towards absolute academic and professional excellence.



**Aaditya Bajaj**

Chemical Engineering Graduate' 20  
Manipal Institute of Technology, MAHE

## Actualizing Dreams at Indiana University



**Lubna Subu**

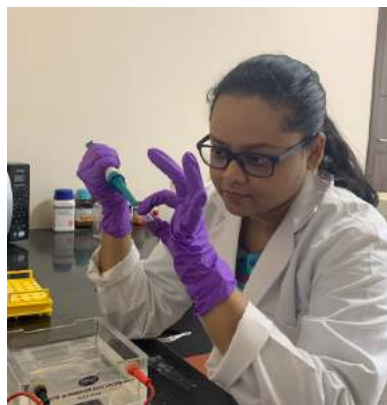
BSc Health Information Management  
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The two semesters at the School of Informatics and Computing (SoIC) at Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis (IUPUI) in the United States, were a valuable contribution to my education and self-actualization. I was given the opportunity to go to IUPUI as a foreign exchange student in my final year of BSc Health Information Management along with two of my classmates.

It was a 9-month exchange program, starting from August 2019. At IUPUI, I took a total of 31 extra credit hours (9 subjects) and did my final year project. One of the major benefits of this program is that IUPUI is a CAHIIM (Commission on Accreditation for Health Informatics and Information Management Education) accredited University, which allowed me to appear for the Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) certification examination administered by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA), which I took in June 2020.

The IUPUI Department of Health Information Management provided all the necessary training and support to prepare for the RHIA examination. The RHIA certification is a highly acknowledged and preferred qualification for a Health Information Management professional, and it was a dream come true for me to appear for this examination and clear it. One of the biggest challenges I faced as a foreign exchange student was adapting to the new lifestyle and education system. The academic activities conducted at the IUPUI were technology-based and placed great emphasis on projects and assignments. These aspects helped me improve my problem-solving, time management, and critical thinking skills. The exchange program also helped me network with professionals from my field, allowing me to gain a deeper understanding of the workings and opportunities of the HIM industry in the United States. This enriching experience helped me appreciate and understand various cultures and instilled in me the confidence to face any challenges that the future may hold.

## Newton-Bhabha Fellowship at the University of Aberdeen



**Ms Supriti Ghosh**  
PhD Scholar  
Manipal School of  
Life Sciences, MAHE

Ms Supriti Ghosh, PhD Scholar at Manipal School of Life Sciences, MAHE, Manipal was one of the 27 fortunate DST-INSPIRE fellows to be selected as recipients for the prestigious Newton-Bhabha Ph.D. Placement Fellowships 2018-2019. This fellowship is jointly funded by Department of Science and Technology (DST)/ Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India and British Council to candidates who meet their exacting criteria from the field of STEM.

She has been working under the guidance of Dr K Satyamoorthy (Professor and Director, Manipal School of Life Sciences, MAHE) and Dr Ranjitha S Shetty (Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine and Coordinator, Centre for Indigenous Population, KMC, Manipal) in the field of viral screening for prevention of cervical cancer among the women of Udupi district. In

view of this, we opted for the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, UK, where Professor Margaret Cruickshank and her group has been working on management of women with lower genital tract intra-epithelial neoplasia and the impact of human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination on HPV-related diseases.

Ms Supriti Ghosh spent four months (March to June 2019) in Aberdeen and worked primarily at the Aberdeen Centre for Women's Health Research (ACWHR) but also travelled for various conferences and meetings to Edinburgh, Inverurie, Perth and Stirling. She was also placed at Queen's Medical Research Institute (QMRI), Edinburgh, where she carried out the experiments for her project. Prof Cruickshank and her colleagues at ACWHR and University of Aberdeen were very encouraging and accommodating for her to visit and observe the functioning of the various departments including the departments of cytology, pathology, and global health.

Through the fellowship, she worked on an exploratory study on the type and pattern of HPV infection among young women immunized against the virus. The study helps to compare the finding from two different settings: one with minimal screening and vaccination and the other with regular cervical screening and prophylactic immunization. The collaborative work, therefore, indicates the need for implementation of regular screening and vaccination in India, especially among vulnerable populations, to control the high prevalence and incidence of cervical cancer among our women.

Recently, their study compiled over several weeks as a collaborative effort by nine people from four different specialties over three cities, has been selected as one of the three studies to be featured on the global website of British Council as a part of their Impact Case Study. The testimonial can be found at: <https://www.britishcouncil.org/education/science/news/indian-scholars-receive-boost-vaccine-research>

Ms Supriti Ghosh is grateful to MAHE, DST and British Council for this incredible opportunity and she feels blessed that she got to work with some of the best scientific minds in India and Scotland. It has been a tremendous learning experience and has considerably enhanced the breadth and outlook of her insight as a PhD scholar.

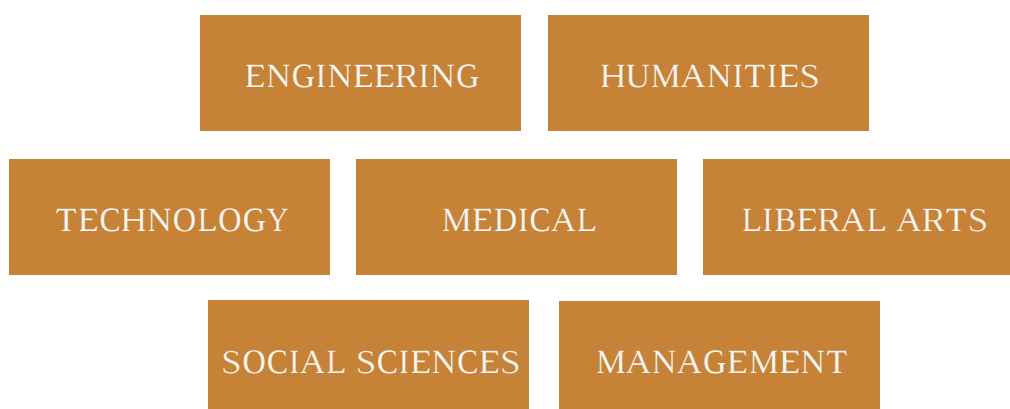
## Manipal Academic Exchange for Student Traineeship and Research Outreach



Manipal Academic Exchange for Student Traineeship and Research Outreach (MAESTRO), is an initiative of the Office of International Affairs and Collaborations (OIAC), to facilitate the academic exchange for student traineeship and research outreach process for its applicants.

MAESTRO is one of the activities of the Campus Ambassadors Manipal, where they facilitate and promote the projects uploaded on the MAESTRO portal under the supervision of Dr Karunakar Kotegar.

The primary responsibility of the team is to generate projects and liaise with the OIAC through the nominated OIAC representatives. MAESTRO unites the 28 institutions of the university to provide projects to students from foreign universities. Through the online portal the students have the opportunity to peruse the lists of available projects from different colleges and select one to their liking. These internships provide a learning opportunity as well as a chance to nurture interpersonal skills, networking skills among an international population and to work under an exceptional array of faculty and research facilities at MAHE. The research internship projects are from various disciplines such as:



Keeping the global pandemic in mind, we also offer remote internships which can be completed albeit virtually from the comfort of the student's home. A virtual or remote internship is the one where the candidate can do his college internship from a remote location, without the need to be physically present on the campus during office hours. It is a unique opportunity in such unprecedented times allowing us to use whatever resources we have to the maximum. It helps our students and faculty members to continue to shine through with their accomplishments, despite the current situation.

With over 240 projects, our portal contains offers from various colleges of MAHE like Kasturba Medical College to Manipal School of Architecture and Planning. With new projects being added to the portal every day, students all over the world are open to opportunities to intern in Manipal. MAHE is home to more than 31 disciplines, with 28,000 students from 57 nations. Come, experience the hospitality of MAHE in Manipal.

**Website:** <http://maestro.manipal.edu>

**Email:** [maestro@manipal.edu](mailto:maestro@manipal.edu)

## Manipal's Beacon of Light for the International Students

Universities are havens of knowledge with scores of teenagers coming from various countries, going in-and-out of lecture halls and hostels as the years pass by. Apart from the live-in student crowd, international students come to the campuses for various internships, electives, etc. In an attempt to cater to their doubts, to get them to adjust to the new environment, campus/university ambassador bodies are set up.

MAHE's organization, Campus Ambassadors Manipal (CAM), ensures that the ever-increasing crowd of international students feel welcomed in the college town of Manipal through cultural festivities and programs, similar to a standard campus representative body's job. But beyond that, CAM is responsible for other projects like managing the university newsletter-Aula Magna, university-run exchange program: MAESTRO, Manipal-centric social media handles etc.

Most university ambassador programs worldwide, as well as in India, focus solely on campus tours and excursions, whereas CAM seeks to do more with their other endeavours. The newsletter is published every quarter, with a myriad of articles ranging from interviews to research achievements to alumni testimonials. The MAESTRO exchange portal - operated by CAM members - provides internship opportunities to international students, bringing to them one of the top qualities of projects by professors across different institutions of MAHE. The tie-up with AIESEC, makes the reach of the program even wider, facilitating it immensely. The running of both these ventures serves as a key distinction of CAM from other similar bodies.

The organization is run directly under the guidance of the Office of International Affairs & Collaborations (OIAC), and guarantees the professional standard of the work undertaken by its members.

CAM understands the cultural differences and challenges that are faced by international students and aims to help with the smooth transition of settling in a new university, in a new country. We are a team of dedicated individuals who want to make MAHE a memorable experience for these students and support them in this new journey.

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