

IIT KANPUR

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

NEWSLETTER

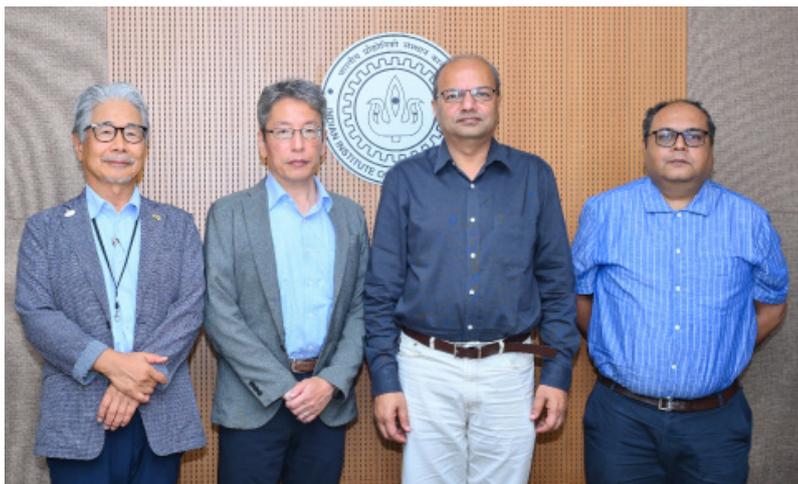


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HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ 70+ foreign students currently enrolled in various programs
- ▶ 12 MoUs signed with international universities
- ▶ 9 international students graduated in 2025
- ▶ JAM waiver for foreign students
- ▶ New hostel for international students
- ▶ Joint Master's Program with foreign universities: Approved by the Senate

Visits by Foreign Delegations



New Partnerships

IIT Kanpur established several new partnerships with prestigious universities in Asia, Europe, and North America. Over the past six months, the Institute has signed MoUs with the following universities worldwide:

- Johns Hopkins University, USA
- Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany
- University of Technology Sydney, Australia
- Osaka University, Japan
- FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, USA
- L. N. Gumilev Eurasian National University, Kazakhstan
- University of Nottingham, UK
- Kyoto University, Japan
- Nara Women's University, Japan
- National Institute for Materials Science, Japan
- Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation, Moscow
- Chiang Mai University, Thailand

Delegation from the Japanese Science & Technology Agency Visits IIT Kanpur

A delegation including Mr. Yuji Nishikawa, Advisor for International Relations and Cooperation for the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) Sakura Science Program, and Mr. Takashi Konishi, Program Officer at JST, visited Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur on 6 August 2025 to explore new opportunities for research collaboration. The delegation was welcomed by the Prof. Manindra Agrawal, Director, IITK and faculty members from various departments. The purpose of their visit was to strengthen joint

research efforts by fostering collaborations and building networks between IIT Kanpur and Japanese institutions, and to discuss the newly launched LOTUS Program (India-Japan Circulation of Talented Youths in Science Programme).

The LOTUS Programme is a new initiative under the Japan Science and Technology - Sakura Science Programme. The program supports talented young researchers from India to participate in joint research exchanges in Japan.

Visit of Universiti Malaya Professors to IIT Kanpur

On 11 July 2025, Prof. Suhana Binti Mohd Said, Executive Director for Research Management, Deputy Vice-chancellor for Research and Innovation and Professor at the Department of Electrical Engineering along with Prof. Mohd Faizul Bin Mohd Sabri, Deputy Dean of Research at the Faculty of Engineering

and Professor at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Universiti Malaya visited IIT Kanpur.

They were welcomed by Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations, and Prof. Mousami Prasad from the Department of Management Sciences, IIT Kanpur.





Office of Naval Research Global Delegation Explores Research Collaboration at IIT Kanpur

A delegation from the Office of Naval Research Global (ONRG) visited IIT Kanpur on 28 January 2025 to explore potential research collaborations. The delegation included Prof. Joel Goodman, Science Director, ONRG, US Embassy Singapore, and Dr. Tripti Johri, Associate Science Director, ONRG, New Delhi. They held discussions with Prof. Manindra Agrawal, Director, IITK; Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations, and Prof. Mohammed Ibrahim Sugarno, Department of Aerospace Engineering. The meeting focused on strengthening academic partnerships, fostering innovation, and identifying mutual

research interests.

As part of the visit, a faculty interaction session was held on 29 January 2025, beginning with a welcome address by Prof. Ateeq. Prof. Sugarno hosted the session and delivered a presentation on the ongoing research and potential areas for collaboration. Dr. Johri and the ONRG team further elaborated on ONRG's research initiatives, funding opportunities, and key focus areas. The delegation also visited various research laboratories, gaining insights into ongoing research projects at IITK and discussing avenues for future collaborations.

Campus France Visit

On 2 April 2025, Ms. Aayushi Nagpal, Manager, Campus France, New Delhi, visited IIT Kanpur to deliver a seminar for students, shedding light on the higher education opportunities in France. She also provided

detailed guidance on application procedures, scholarships, and the visa process, offering students valuable information to help them navigate their academic aspirations abroad.



Chiang Mai International Engineering School (CM-IES) Delegation Explores Academic Collaboration with IITK

In a significant step toward international academic and research partnerships, a delegation from Chiang Mai International Engineering School (CM-IES), Thailand visited IIT Kanpur on 26 March 2025, to explore research collaborations and academic exchanges. The delegation was led by Prof. Korrakot Yaibuathat, Associate Dean and Director of CM-IES; Dr. Faifan Tantakitti; Prof.

Nakorn Tippayawong; and Prof. Watchapon Rojanaratanangkle.

The delegation was welcomed by Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations, and Prof. Ashish Garg, Head of Sustainable Energy Engineering.

The discussions with the visitors focused on faculty and student exchanges, joint research, and other collaborative programs.



Visit of Prof. Arun K. Somani, Iowa State University

Prof. Arun K. Somani, Senior Associate Dean for Research of the College of Engineering at Iowa State University (ISU), USA, visited IIT Kanpur (IITK) on 11 August 2025 to discuss the dual degree Ph.D. program between IITK and ISU. During the visit, Prof. Somani met with Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations, along with faculty members to explore avenues of academic and research collaboration. This was followed by his visit to the FlexE Centre and C3iHub. He also interacted with IITK students regarding pursuing a joint degree, as well as gave a presentation titled: "An innovative pathway to get opportunities in the USA", while sharing valuable guidance on skill development, career planning, and exploring global opportunities. This visit further strengthened the academic relationship between IITK and ISU for future collaborations.

Other Delegation Visits

- Cardiff University, UK
- Yale University, USA
- University of Miami, USA
- University of Melbourne, Australia

Official Visits for Internationalization

Prof. Vaibhav Arghode Represents IIT Kanpur at the Heritage Network Meeting in Germany

Prof. Vaibhav Arghode from the Department of Aerospace Engineering represented IITK at the Heritage Network Meeting held at TU Dresden, Germany, from 12-15 May 2025. The main sessions on 13 May brought together faculty from leading Indian and European institutions. Prof. Ercan Altinsoy (TU Dresden) highlighted the network's 16-year journey, connecting 30 academic institutions equally from India and Europe. He emphasized on collaboration through

joint degree programs, faculty/student exchange, and joint research proposals. Successful ongoing programs include a joint Master's with IIT Madras, TU Dresden, and RWTH Aachen, and a joint PhD with IIT Madras and IIT Dhanbad. Prof. Juer-gen Stamm (TU Dresden) presented the Trans Campus IITM initiative focused on Sustainability (water, environment, climate), Microelectronics, Transport Science, Medicine and Technology transfer.



During the visit, Prof. Arghode interacted with students enrolled in the joint degree program between IIT Madras, TU Dresden, and RWTH Aachen, who shared positive feedback about their academic and cultural

experience. He emphasized the scope for IIT Kanpur to enhance its engagement in the Heritage Network, particularly through joint academic programs and collaborative research initiatives.

IITK Visits to Leading Universities in Vietnam and Thailand

In a significant stride towards fostering global academic collaboration, the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur) formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Chiang Mai University (CMU), Thailand, on 2 June 2025. The MoU was signed between the Faculty of Engineering and Faculty of Science, CMU, and IIT Kanpur.

and vision for international collaboration. Prof. Tongchai Fongsamutr, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, CMU, delivered a keynote speech and signed the MoU on behalf of CMU. Prof. Ashish Garg, Head of the Department of Sustainable Energy Engineering, represented IIT Kanpur in this partnership. The MoU aims to promote joint research, academic exchange, and long-term institutional cooperation. The ceremony concluded with a photo session and informal discussions among the delegates. Following the MoU signing,

The event began with welcoming remarks and video presentations from both institutions, highlighting their academic strengths



Prof. Ashish Garg, along with Prof. Amit Prashant, Dean of Research and Development, IIT Gandhinagar, undertook an academic outreach visit to Vietnam from 2-18 June 2025. The delegation engaged with over 20 universities and institutions across Ho Chi Minh City, Da Nang, and Hanoi, including prominent names such as Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology and Education (HCMUTE), International University – VNU-HCMC (HCMIU), University of Science and Technology – Da Nang (DUT), and Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST).

Discussions during the visit centered on collaborative research in emerging fields like Artificial Intelligence, semiconductors, sustainability, and Fintech, as well as student and faculty mobility programs. The team also met with key stakeholders from the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI), the Banking Academy of Vietnam, and representatives from the Ministry of Science and Technology (MoST) and the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), reflecting a multi-sectoral approach to academic and innovation partnerships.



Short Term Courses



Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme



The ITEC program, run by the Government of India, offers training and capacity-building opportunities to professionals from partner countries. It promotes knowledge sharing, skill development, and international cooperation across sectors like IT, management, and sustainability.

In 2024-25 IIT Kanpur organized three significant courses under the ITEC initiative by the Ministry of External Affairs, India. The first course, focused on Robotics, was led by Prof. Ashish Datta and Prof. K.R. Guruprasad from the Department of Mechanical Engineering. With participants from nine countries, including government officials, diplomats, and researchers, the course aimed at enhancing technical skills and theoretical knowledge in robotics. The program's opening ceremony was graced by Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations, who welcomed the delegates on behalf of IIT Kanpur and the Office of International Relations. The second course, on Industrial and Electronics Waste Recycling and Management, was held from 10-15 March 2025 and led by Prof. Arunabh Meshram, an expert in non-ferrous extractive metallurgy and industrial waste management. This program, focusing on waste recycling and management, brought together 25 participants from 15 countries, including professionals from

government and research sectors. The third course, on Space Mission Design, Analysis, and Operations, was held from 28 July to 9 August 2025 was led by Prof. Dipak Kumar Giri. The course was designed to help the participants develop essential competencies required for mission planning, orbit determination, designing orbital maneuvering campaigns, relative dynamics, spacecraft docking, supervised lab visit and operations.

All three programs reflect India's commitment to global capacity building and technical collaboration. IIT Kanpur expresses its sincere appreciation to the Ministry of External Affairs for their continued support in organizing these courses that align with India's vision of fostering international partnerships in key sectors. These ITEC-funded workshops not only provide valuable knowledge and skills but also reinforce India's role as a prominent development partner on the global stage, strengthening cooperation in technology, sustainability, and innovation.

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On behalf of the ITEC Class of 2025, I express heartfelt thanks to the Government of India and IIT Kanpur for this enriching program on Industrial and Electronic Waste Recycling and Management.

This experience has provided valuable knowledge, fostered international collaboration, and inspired us to drive sustainable change in our countries. Special thanks to Prof. Arunabh Meshram and the IITK team for their exceptional support and hospitality.

To my fellow delegates, your insights and camaraderie have made this journey truly special. As we part ways, let's carry forward the lessons learned and continue working toward a greener future.

Osben F. O. Momoh
Nigeria, Africa

International Students



International Students Orientation

During Semester I of the academic year 2025-26, 21 new international students joined IIT Kanpur in full-time degree programs. To welcome them, an orientation program was held on 12 August 2025, featuring informative sessions aimed at helping the students integrate smoothly into their academic journey and campus life.

The event began with a presentation by Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of the Office of International Relations, who introduced the work and activities of the International Relations Office, highlighting the various initiatives, services, and opportunities available for international students. This was followed by an

engaging session with two senior international students, who shared their experiences and insights on academics and campus life at IIT Kanpur. Their tips and personal stories offered valuable guidance to the newcomers, helping them prepare for both the academic journey and the vibrant campus community.

Currently, IIT Kanpur has 70+ foreign students enrolled in various programs. We are excited to welcome students from a variety of diverse countries, including Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, the United States, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Mauritius, Rwanda, Somalia, Malawi, Zambia and Sri Lanka.

Convocation 2025

On 23 June 2025, 9 international students proudly graduated at the 58th Convocation of IIT Kanpur, marking a day of pride, joy, and cherished memories.

Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations, felicitated the graduates with tokens of appreciation, celebrating their achievements and encouraging them to stay connected as alumni and make a lasting impact globally.

Graduates:

1. Shibani Thakur, MTech, *Management Sciences*
2. Prince Banini, MTech, *Sustainable Energy Engineering*
3. Provati Sutradhar, MTech, *Aerospace Engineering*
4. Suraj Kumar Mandal, MTech, *Aerospace Engineering*
5. Ishan Kumar Sarraf, MBA, *Management Sciences*
6. Deepen Shrestha, MTech, *Computer Science and Engineering*



7. Komal Yadav, MTech, *Computer Science and Engineering*
8. Rasha Mdllal, MTech, *Biological Sciences and Bioengineering*
9. Atanu Shuvam Roy, MTech, *Computer Science and Engineering*

JAM Waiver for Foreign Students

With growing interest from foreign students in pursuing MSc at IIT Kanpur, OIR put forward a proposal for waiver of the JAM exam required by foreign students for admission in this program. The Senate at IIT Kanpur recently approved the proposal to allow foreign national admissions in MSc programs starting from the academic year 2025-26.



New Hostel for International Students

IIT Kanpur is pleased to announce the opening of new hostels for International Students, designed to offer a welcoming and comfortable living space for our global student community. The facility features 32 fully furnished, air-conditioned rooms, equipped with modern amenities and a well-equipped kitchen to ensure a pleasant stay. This new accommodation is a part of the institute's continued commitment to enhance the campus experience for international students, providing them with a supportive environment to learn, grow and thrive.

Internships & Exchanges



Three undergraduate students from IIT Kanpur — Ms. Nandita Mittal, Mr. Mayur Agarwal, and Mr. Sankalp Mittal had been selected by the Office of International Relations (OIR) for a semester exchange program at Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Lausanne (EPFL) for Semester I, 2024-25.

Mr. Sankalp Mittal

“As my semester exchange draws to a close, I am deeply grateful for what has been an enriching and transformative journey. Over the past four months, I had the privilege of studying at one of the world’s top universities while also exploring 11 countries and immersing myself in diverse cultures. Academically, this exchange broadened my perspective through different teaching methodologies and helped solidify my decision to pursue higher studies. Beyond academics, living and traveling across Europe gave me space to reflect on my goals, and the opportunity to connect with students from around the world made this journey truly unforgettable.

I am immensely grateful to the Office of International Relations for facilitating this exchange program, making such an incredible experience possible. This semester has had a profound impact on me, and I hope more students will take advantage of such opportunities to explore, learn, and grow beyond the classroom.

Mr. Sankalp Mittal, Computer Science and Engineering

IIT Kanpur Students Commence Research Engagement at Kyoto University

As a part of the prestigious KU-STAR Program for India 2025, two IIT Kanpur students – Mr. Sarthak Sarkar (Economics) and Mr. Aman Shukla (Materials Science and Engineering) – have commenced a 59-day research engage-

ment at Kyoto University, starting May 20.

The program offers a blend of academic and cultural immersion, including hands-on research in university labs and industry exposure, fostering practical

insights and global perspectives. This collaboration not only enhances students’ academic growth but also strengthens IIT Kanpur’s international presence and research partnerships.



IIT Kanpur Participates in Kyoto University’s KU-STAR India Program 2025



Lois Wiszniewski
Summer Intern, Newcastle University

“I had such an incredible time at IITK. Everyone was so welcoming and it was so great to experience life as a student in Kanpur. Working with our supervisors, Dootika and Arnab, on research projects was an invaluable opportunity. It was very interesting to see different teaching styles and learn real life applications beyond the statistical methods. We are so grateful to have had this opportunity and to have met such amazing people during our stay!

Thank you so much for being so accommodating!

Student Activities



Holi Celebration with International Students!

On 12 March 2025, the Office of International Relations, IIT Kanpur, celebrated Holi with international students, creating a vibrant and joyful atmosphere on the campus. Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations, joined the celebrations along with the foreign attendees enrolled in the ITEC program adding to the festive spirit.

It was a wonderful opportunity to immerse international students in Indian culture,

let them experience the Holi celebration, and make lasting memories. The atmosphere was lively and joyous, splashing colors (gulal) on each other, enjoying traditional sweets like gujiya, and immersing in the festive spirit of music and dance.

The event highlighted the spirit of unity, joy, and cultural exchange, strengthening the bond between international students and the IIT Kanpur community.

Hindi Language Classes

The Office of International Relations facilitated the second batch of short Hindi language course for international students aimed at enriching students campus life and facilitating smoother day-to-day interactions with the locals, recognizing the importance of language in building a sense of com-

munity and belonging. The inaugural session on 23 January 2025 at IIT Kanpur was graced by Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations, and Prof. Kantesh Balani, Department of Materials Science and Engineering and Coordinator of the Shivani Centre.



Prof. Kantesh Balani and Prof. Bushra Ateeq with the second batch of Hindi classes



Eid Celebration

The Office hosted a post-Eid ul-Fitr celebration, bringing together international students, staff, and Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations. The festiva of Eid ul-Fitr marks the joyous ending of the month-long fast during Ramadan. This celebration served as a

wonderful occasion to reflect on the spirit of Eid and foster cross-cultural connections within the campus community. Students from diverse backgrounds came together to enjoy traditional Eid delicacies, share experiences, and exchange warm greetings of Eid Mubarak.

Happy Hour

On 15 February 2025, the Office of International Relations organized a vibrant volleyball match under its “Happy Hour” initiative to foster camaraderie among international students. With enthusiastic participation from students representing various countries, the event provided a fun and informal setting for cultural exchange, teamwork, and friendship. It reflects OIR’s commitment to building an inclusive global community and enriching the student experience on campus.



Student's Corner

Resilience Across Borders: My PhD Journey at IIT Kanpur

Pursuing a PhD is never easy, but doing so thousands of miles away from home while raising two daughters, adds a depth to the experience that I could have never imagined. I am Aya Aljaradat from Jordan, and by the end of this year, I will proudly complete my PhD at IIT Kanpur.

This journey has been profoundly transformative—in- tellectually, emotionally, and personally. Being away from my daughters in Jordan while in India hasn't been easy, but the warmth and support of the IITK com- munity, especially the Office of International Relations (OIR), have bridged that distance. From housing

and administrative help to simply being there to talk to, the OIR has been a constant pillar of support.

"There were moments I felt torn between two worlds: my heart in Jordan with my children and my mind here in India focused on research. But every challenge became a lesson in perseverance."

I've been fortunate to work under Prof. Sandeep Kumar Shukla, a brilliant and compassionate mentor whose guidance has greatly supported both my aca- demic growth and personal well-being.

During this experience, I have authored and co-au-

thored several research pa- pers, some currently under review or in publication. Writing, revising, and pre- senting my work has helped me grow both as a research- er and a communicator, learning to make complex ideas clear and impactful.

"Motherhood didn't slow me down; it gave me purpose. Every paper I wrote, every presentation I delivered, I did it with my daughters in mind."

Looking back, this journey was more than earning a de- gree—it was about courage, sacrifice, and resilience. It meant staying rooted while embracing a new academic and cultural world, and



believing that with the right support, one can truly thrive. *"Being an international scholar is not just about research; it's about adaptation, strength, and carrying a part of home wherever you go."*

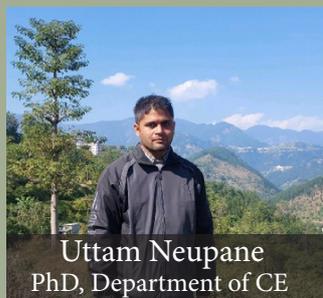
I hope my story encourages oth- er international scholars, espe- cially mothers, to dream boldly and pursue their passions, no matter the distance.

Aya Aljaradat
PhD, Department of CSE

Student Experiences

With a Civil Engineer- ing background from Nepal, joining the presti- gious IIT Kanpur for my PhD a year ago has been an enriching and transformative journey.

One of the most notable aspects of IIT Kanpur is its well-structured and uninter- rupted academic calendar. Classes, examinations, and academic events ensure con- sistent progress. The institute also provides ample oppor- tunities to participate in conferences, seminars, and international collaborations which enhance academic exposure.



Uttam Neupane
PhD, Department of CE

Campus safety is a significant advantage. Whether studying late in the library or attend- ing early morning labs, I've always felt completely secure. The reliability and availability of academic, administrative, and recreational resources are exceptional.

From the heart of Africa, where the values of service and excellence were instilled in me through my training in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Zambia, my path has led me to the scholarly grounds of IIT Kanpur.

Leaving my home country for the first time came with its fair share of trials. Yet, amid the unfamiliar, I found quiet beau- ty: sunsets that soothe the heart, and mornings greeted by the soft cooing of pigeons perched on my window.

Academically, the journey has come with its challenges, but what has truly shaped my



Chilambwe Malama
MTech, Department of ME

experience is the inval- uable collaboration with my guide, Prof. Anupam Saxena. As I grow both intellectually and person- ally, I carry with me a deep commitment to supporting women and young girls in STEM fields and beyond—a cause very close to my heart.

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