IIT KANPUR

OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 | JANUARY 2025

Highlights

- 80+ MoUs with foreign universities
- 55+ foreign students enrolled in various programs
- Seed grants and joint research symposiums with international partners
- 14 joint degree programs with 80+ students enrolled till date

Visits by Foreign Delegations

French Embassy in India

On August 22, 2024, the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur hosted a delegation from the French Institute & French Embassy in India. Their visit was aimed at strengthening the academic and scientific collaboration between India and France. A session with the students was also organized on "Study and Research Opportunities in France."

Dr. Didier Raboisson, Attaché for Scientific & Academic Cooperation, French Embassy in India addressing the students

U.S. Embassy in New Delhi

On November 26, 2024, the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur hosted a delegation that included Ms. Adelle Gillen, Public Diplomacy Officer-Education; Ms. Gauri Kalra, Education Specialist: and Dr. Aditi, Education USA Advisor, from the US Embassy in New Delhi. They met with a few IITK faculty members with collaborators in the US and the Fulbright scholars on campus to learn about their experiences and the challenges they face. A session was organized on "Opportunities for Higher Education in the US."

Ms. Adelle Gillen, Public Diplomacy Officer-Education speaking about opportunities in the US

Other Delegation Visits

- National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, Taiwan
- University of Minnesota, USA
- Rice University, USA
- Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia
- National University of Singapore, Singapore
- New York University, USA

University of Minnesota

National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University

Dean's Message

Dear Colleagues, Students, and Staff,

As we embark on a new year 2025, I take a moment to ponder on our shared commitment to foster a global community on the IIT Kanpur campus. In this digital era, the role of international relations in academic institutions has never been more critical. Keeping this in mind, the DoIR office is initiating a biannual newsletter to apprise the campus community about the various activities and updates on global opportunities. More importantly, this newsletter offers a platform for our international students to share their views.

In the past six months, the OIR introduced several initiatives aimed at enhancing our international programs, academic partnerships, and avenues for joint research funding. Our office also initiated Hindi classes, which are popular among international students, fostering a sense of belonging and community. Additionally, we hosted a series of webinars featuring distinguished speakers from foreign universities and embassies, who shared insights on academic opportunities and overseas travel documentation. We are excited to host such events that not only enrich our academic dialogue but also provide networking opportunities leading to future collaborations.

I invite you all to participate actively in these initiatives and share your thoughts on how we can continue to strengthen our international relations programs. Together, let's build a more inclusive and globally aware campus community.

Bushra Ateeq
Dean of International Relations

Joint Research Seed Grants

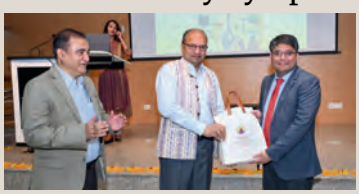
IITK-NYU Joint Research Funding

IIT Kanpur and New York University (NYU) have signed a Research Agreement to promote collaborative research and support joint funding initiatives. As part of this agreement, seven projects, each led by a Principal Investigator (PI) from both IITK and NYU, were selected for funding. Each PI from NYU will receive up to USD 20,000 from their institution; likewise IITK committed INR 15 lakhs for each collaborating PI from IITK.

University of Alberta-IITK Seed Grant Program

This program fosters collaborative research between faculty members from both institutions. Eight joint projects, each led by a Principal Investigator (PI) from IITK and the University of Alberta, have been selected for funding. PIs for each selected proposal received CAD 25,000 and INR 15 lakhs from their respective institution. In addition, the program provides support for up to four doctoral Joint Degree Program (JDP) students from IITK, offering funding for a 12-month visit to Alberta to enhance their research experience.

IITK-La Trobe University Research Academy Symposium



The IITK-La Trobe University Research Academy organized a symposium on "Healthcare Technology & Digital Engineering" from 18-21 November 2024. The symposium brought together faculty from both IITK and La Trobe University for discussions and presentations on their on-going research.

Official Visits for Internationalization

Prof. Manindra Agrawal (Director, IIT Kanpur), Prof. Vinod K. Singh and Prof. Bushra Ateeq meeting Prof. Hedy Alavi, Associate Dean for Global Partnerships, JHU

IITK Delegation Visit to USA

A delegation comprising Prof. Manindra Agrawal, Director of IIT Kanpur; Prof. Vinod K. Singh, Institute Chair Professor; Prof. Braj Bhushan, Deputy Director; Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations; Mr. Kapil Kaul, CEO of the IITK Development Foundation; and Mr. Rajat Sharma, Vice President of the IITK Development Foundation, visited the USA from 7-17 October, 2024.

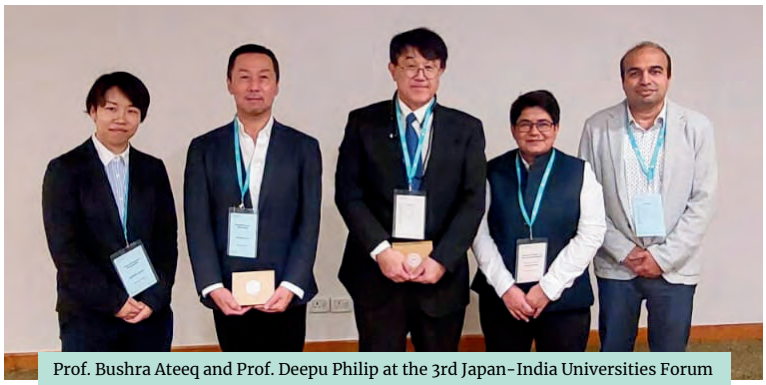
The visit commenced in New York with a Distinguished Alumni meet. The delegation then proceeded to visit Washington, D.C., Chicago and finally Seattle. The delegation also visited Johns Hopkins University and Purdue University to explore opportunities for collaborative research projects, exchange programs, and innovative initiatives in the fields of science and technology.

UC Santa Cruz-IIT Kanpur-IIT Delhi Joint Symposium

The UC Santa Cruz-IIT Delhi-IIT Kanpur Joint Symposium on Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Cybersecurity took place from 15-17 July, 2024. The event featured research presentations, roundtable discussions, and a panel on "AI Trustworthiness and Responsible AI Practices." It served as an excellent opportunity for faculty members at IIT Kanpur to strengthen and expand their collaborations with researchers from UCSC.

Faculty participants from IIT Kanpur included Prof. Tushar Sandhan, Prof. Vipul Arora, Prof. Adithya Vadapalli, Prof. Ashutosh Modi, Prof. Priyanka Bagade, Prof. Soumya Dutta, Prof. Amitangshu Pal, Prof. Hamim Zafar, Prof. Sruti Srinivasa Ragavan, and Prof. Urbi Chatterjee.

Prof. Urbi Chatterjee presenting her research to the symposium participants



Prof. Bushra Ateeq and Prof. Deepu Philip at the 3rd Japan-India Universities Forum

3rd Japan-India Universities Forum

On 19th October, Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations at IIT Kanpur, and Prof. Deepu Philip, Professor in-Charge of the Incubation and Innovation at the Startup Incubation and Innovation Center (SIIC) participated in the 3rd Japan-India Universities Forum. The event aimed at strengthening collaboration between Indian and Japanese universities in science, technology, and innovation.

Several universities from India and Japan participated in discussions to expand academic collaborations.

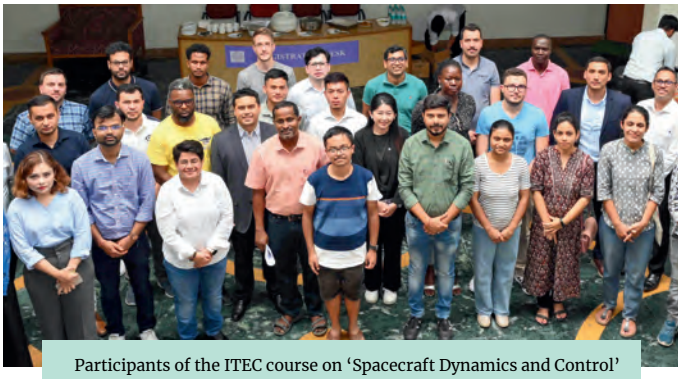
Short Term Courses

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme

Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme (ITEC) Programme is a bilateral assistance program run by the Government of India. It is a demand-driven, response-oriented program that focuses on addressing the needs of developing countries through innovative technological cooperation between India and the partnering nation. ITEC covers 158 countries across Asia, Africa, Latin America, Central and Eastern Europe, and several Pacific and Caribbean nations.

More information may be found at the ITEC Official web-site: https://www.itecgoi.in/index

In June 2024, IITK organized a course titled ‘Spacecraft Dynamics and Control’ as part of the ITEC Programme. This course was delivered by Prof. Deepak Giri from the Aerospace Engineering department and featured participation from over 20 professionals, including senior government officials, scientists and distinguished professors. The attendees represented significant expertise from ITEC partner countries, including Bhutan, Nepal, as well as from Southeast Asia and distant nations such as Argentina and Morocco.



Participants of the ITEC course on ‘Spacecraft Dynamics and Control’

Joint Degree Programs

IIT Kanpur offers prestigious Joint Degree Programs (JDP) at the Ph.D. level in collaboration with 13 leading international universities and JDP at the MBA level with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

During Semester 1, 2024-25, several students from IITK have been accepted into Joint PhD Degree Programs with esteemed institutions, including Iowa State University, the University of Alberta, and New York University. Additionally, one IITK student has joined the Joint MBA Program with the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.In another exciting development, a Ph.D. student from the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) has enrolled in the IITK-AIT Joint Degree Program. This student will spend a year at IIT Kanpur's Department of Computer Science & Engineering.

Semester Exchange Programs

The Office of International Relations (OIR) has nominated 31 IITK students, both undergraduate and postgraduate, for the Spring Semester Exchange Programs of 2024-25 with our partner universities. These students, representing various departments, have been nominated to participate in 11 different exchange programs and will have the opportunity to spend a semester abroad.

A few Partner Universities:

- Technical University of Munich, Germany
- Hochschule Darmstadt, Germany
- University of Technology of Troyes, France
- Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Switzerland
- University of Tokyo, Japan
- Yokohama National University, Japan
- Kyushu Institute of Technology, Japan
- National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan
- Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong
- Shibaura Institute of Technology, Japan

Internships

As part of the Sakura Science Exchange Program 2024 organized by the Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST), five students from the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur had the wonderful experience to visit Japan from September 8 to 14, 2024. During this week-long program, they engaged in hands-on research experiences, collaborative projects, and cultural exchange activities. This unique initiative allowed the students to visit prestigious Japanese institutions, interact with leading scientists, and gain insights into cutting-edge research.

International Students

During the spring semester 2024-25, Twenty six new foreign students enrolled in full-time degree programs. The orientation program was arranged on 13th August, 2024 for international students. The session included a presentation on important academic information and a fun talk by a senior foreign student on living in the campus. Currently, IIT Kanpur has 55+ foreign students enrolled in various programs.

Currently, we are experiencing a steady increase in the number of international students enrolling in our institution. We are pleased to welcome students from a variety of diverse countries, including Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, the United States, France, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Mauritius, Rwanda, Zambia and Sri Lanka.

Student Activities

Prof. Kantesh Balani conducting classes for international students

Festive Christmas carol performance by students

Hindi Language Classes

A short Hindi course for the foreign students started from May 2024. Prof. Kantesh Balani and Prof. Ark Verma initiated the classes together with the "Shivani Centre for Nurture and Reintegration of Hindi and Other Indian Languages" Staff. Around 12 foreign students attended the bi-weekly classes for 1.5 months. It has been planned that the classes will be offered once every semester and will aim to teach the students basic Hindi for easy interactions with the campus community.

Happy Hour

To promote interaction among students, the Office of International Relations (OIR) organized the inaugural happy hour for international students at IIT Kanpur on 1st March, 2024. The event received a positive response from attendees, leading to the decision to hold happy hours monthly. Upcoming events will include activities such as rock climbing, badminton, art sessions, and more.

Festival Celebrations

The international students at IIT Kanpur, along with Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations, and the staff of the Office of International Relations, celebrated Diwali and Christmas with great enthusiasm. During the Diwali celebration, students from diverse backgrounds gathered to experience the rich traditions of the festival, enjoying colorful rangoli, vibrant decorations, and glowing diyas that radiated positivity. The evening was filled with joy, festive food, and sweets.

Office of International Relations also organized a heartwarming Christmas celebration for all international students on Christmas Eve to share in the joy and warmth of the holiday season. Though far from home, the students came together to embrace new traditions, create unforgettable memories, and make the holidays feel special with their friends. The celebration featured Christmas carols, fun games, and concluded with a special Christmas cake, bringing everyone closer in the spirit of the season.

Diwali celebration with international students

Student's Corner

THE BEST THING EVER!!

My best friend once wrote: "unexpected goodbyes are the hardest".

You might think what is it with me seeing the goodbye as a positive thing. No, dear reader, I am just trying to speak about the hidden meanings of this unexpected goodbye.

Suddenly, I became ill within a week, and I was told I must be around family, as it is not an easy thing. My amazing advisor took the extra mile to be with me throughout all the doctor's visits over the phone and (I was feeling it) she was with me by her heart. I mean, She kept guiding me with care and delicacy (you know as I am a very sensitive person), on where to go, what to do, how to prepare and all required things for hospital care. She asked my friends from the Lab to stay with me all the time. Obviously, she supported me (and still is) through my own thesis work with her wisdom.

This is the best professor ever!!

In that week I saw the people around me being genuinely supportive and encouraging. Even in my worst moments, where I say: "(if) I stay alive then ...", I get responses like: "don't say that, only say (when)." It sounds like it is a simple comment, but it shows that only a golden hearted person would care enough to say that. Although I am writing about a week, but it was the summary of all the years of being in IITK.

I am writing now from my home with my family. I am now telling you, dear reader, I learned from the incredible experience at IITK, that we have a life that is our treasure, but, this life may have ups and downs. With the ups you see people happy for you, and others proud. With the downs, you see the diamond people around you.

Oswa Amro
Ph.D., Department of CSE

These are the best people ever!!

IITK, is my home away from home, I love the vibe of the place. It is the place where I found the people with golden hearts, great intelligences, and incredible manners. I am proud to be an IITian and will always be proud of being able to learn in such institute that is both "beautiful"and "strong."

This is the best place ever!!

Student Experiences

From the shores of Mauritius to the heart of IIT Kanpur, my journey has been nothing short of transformative. The admission process became a lesson in resilience and a gateway to a world I had long aspired to be part of stepping into the vibrant campus, I was met with a whirlwind of emotions. The rigor of academics, the hum of activity, and the diversity of minds were both exhilarating and overwhelming. Yet, amidst the challenge, I found a rhythm.

The late-night conversations in hostel corridors, the bonds forged over shared dreams, and the energy of campus life became my anchors.

What I cherish most about IIT Kanpur is its soul. From the magic of Antaragni's lights to the quiet solace of campus sunsets, every moment feels alive. Here, I've not just grown as a student but as a person, embracing new perspectives and carving out a space for myself in this ever-moving world.

IIT Kanpur is more than an institution - it's a place where dreams expand, challenges mold us, and memories are etched forever.

Khritisha Devi Koomar
M.Tech., Department of SEE

Originally from Jordan, I pursued my master's in Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Engineering at Sapienza University in Italy before joining IIT Kanpur for my PhD. The transition was challenging, especially as I moved with my wife and young son, but the support from IITK's International Office was crucial in easing our integration into the campus. Despite initial doubts, I've come to appreciate IITK's dynamic academic and cultural environment.

The collaboration with my professor, Indranil Saha, has been a key part of my research journey, which began online due to the pandemic before transitioning into hands-on work. I'm deeply engaged in exploring innovative robot planning in dynamic environments.

What I enjoy most about IITK is the rich diversity of my peers and the global exchange of ideas facilitated by various international events. The exposure to different cultures and perspectives not only enhances my academic experience but also broadens my personal worldview. I'm grateful for the opportunities to grow both professionally and culturally here.

Ahmad Irjoob
Ph.D., Department of CSE

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