

Taking a 'global' leap forward

VIDYALANKAR HAS BEEN A TRAIL-BLAZER WHEN IT COMES TO COLLABORATIONS WITH INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES AND STUDENTS HAVE GAINED MULTIPLE BENEFITS DUE TO ITS FORESIGHT AND SYSTEMATIC APPROACH



Ever since the new millennium commenced, the emphasis within every section of the business community is increasingly on being 'global,' blending global perspectives and local sensibilities. Obviously then, the team managing the growth of such businesses needs to have a 'global' approach, understanding and outlook as well. A decade ago, this would have been a tough accomplishment for Indian students - but not any more.

The past few years have witnessed a number of Indian students taking this 'global' leap forward under the aegis of Vidyalankar, attending the initial part of the course at its futuristic campus in Wadala and then moving on abroad for the final phase and becoming proud recipients of a graduation degree from an International university.

Vishwas Deshpande, Managing Trustee, Vidyalankar Dnyanpeeth Trust, points out, "We were one of the first to set up an international tie-up program. Vidyalankar School of Information Technology (VSIT) offers the B.S. (IST) program in collaboration with Penn State University (PSU), USA. While getting a Master's Degree from US is normal, getting a Bachelor's degree from a Top Ranked US school is quite rare. Vidyalankar's tie-up with PSU in 2006 has seen

the Vidyalankar -PennState student community grow to over 50 students. The first batch of 10 students graduated in 2010 with all getting placed in top establishments. Nine of them were in the dean's list, which indicates just how well they have performed and how strong their base was during the initial phase at our campus."

The second batch of 13 students graduated in the year 2011 and they too are placed well in the MNCs like IBM, PwC, Pennsylvania Government turnpike commission, Teach for America, etc. One of the students, Bhaskar Suryakumar, topped all campuses of PSU with 3.99 GPA

and was awarded the "Key Stone Honour" award. Mihir Jadhav 2012 Penn State Graduate graduated with two bachelors degrees i.e. BS (IST) and BS (Business) with over 3.5 GPA and has authored a series of seven books which will be published by Penn State.

According to Dr. Joel of PSU, having Vidyalankar students at their university is really an asset. Vidyalankar students have not only excelled in



academic areas but also in extra-curricular events at Penn State. One great example was that last year Penn State had a cricket team led by Vidyalankar student Ki-ran Modi and Similarly Ruta Dan-dekar who was the only international student in Penn State inter University Team. Vidyalankar trains these students so well that they are easily inducted into the Penn State style, he says.

Vidyalankar School of Information Technology (VSIT), offers students multiple opportunities to go global and complete their IT degree in the US or UK. They can do the Foundation Course in Mumbai topped up with international exposure at the International University of their choice.

Two big concerns of parents when students go abroad for studies are how they will adjust to a different environment and the costs involved. Here again, VSIT provides peace of mind. The Vidyalankar students go abroad in a group so there are definite advantages like accommodation sharing, resulting in an 'Indian Environment' and of course, it is less expensive too.

The various formalities involved in sending students abroad can be daunting, to say the least. However, since Vidyalankar takes care from academics to visa preparation, the process becomes absolutely easy for students and parents.

Getting to grips with a different education system is another challenge that students going overseas for higher education tend to face. Keeping this in mind, Vidyalankar grooms the candidates in a special way by simulating the education system of USA during the initial two years at Vidyalankar.

Most students prefer having options to choose from when it comes to studying abroad and here, VSIT scores highly, since it has multiple collaborations. Students can opt for 4 years Bachelors programs in the US like B.S. (IST) with 2 years at Vidyalankar and the final 2 years at Penn State University (Ranked 7th in the US); B.S. (Computer Science)

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with 3 years at Vidyalankar with the final year at California State University (Ranked 45 in the US);

Students can also choose to pursue their 3 year bachelors program from UK like B.Sc. Software Engineering , 2 years at Vidyalankar with the final year at Aston University (UK), Birmingham Ranked 22 in UK, and B. Sc. (Honours on Software Development, 2 years at Vidyalankar and the final year at Sheffield Hallam University (UK). Our students have exhibited their sheer talent by securing jobs in the company like IBM. Many students have even further pursued their Masters programs from UK itself. Students interested in pursuing their career in Management are provided with the opportunity to complete their BIBA (Bachelor in International Business Administration) with 2 years at Vidyalankar and Final year from Hult International Business School (UK), London. So students earn a degree from a 16th ranked business school in the US, having campus in London (UK).

Taking the success story forward, the first batch of 8 students is all set to move to California State University for the Engineering Degree in Computer Science. Diploma Engineering Students are also eligible to take admission for this course and they will get admission in the second



THE PAST FEW YEARS HAVE WITNESSED A NUMBER OF INDIAN STUDENTS TAKING THIS 'GLOBAL' LEAP FORWARD UNDER THE AEGIS OF VIDYALANKAR, ATTENDING THE INITIAL PART OF THE COURSE AT ITS FUTURISTIC CAMPUS IN WADALA AND THEN MOVING ON ABROAD FOR THE FINAL PHASE AND BECOMING PROUD RECIPIENTS OF A GRADUATION DEGREE FROM AN INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



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**-Vishwas Deshpande,
Managing Trustee,
Vidyalankar Dnyanpeeth Trust**

year of the program. For Diploma students, the format would be two VSIT and one year at CSU. In the meanwhile the first batch of seven students went to Aston University UK for the B.Sc. (Software Engineering) course.

The basic question, where students are concerned, is whether the institute is committed to such collaborations and sees them as an integral part of its growth strategy. At Vidyalankar,

international education is an aspect greatly focused on with the aim being to explore the possibilities of collaboration with other leading Institutes in India and abroad for faculty and/or students training, faculty and/or students' exchange and joint research.

These alliances have facilitated the most meaningful educational experience in engineering and management to Indian students interested in experiencing global education and culture. The collaborations provide a unique opportunity to Indian students to benefit from both the systems of education at the undergraduate level itself and thus acquire the skills necessary to meet the challenges of the globally competitive world.

This partnership offers students multiple benefits ranging from dual degrees to getting a US degree at reduced cost, having an Internationally

accepted degree, flexible course structure to financial assistance along with options of doing MS and PhD programs immediately after -B.S. in prestigious universities.

Vidyalankar's 'Student Success Services' includes several student support programs that enhance the retention, graduation, and success of all students. They include general education advising, academic planning, counselling, cultural enrichment activities, learning assistance, and tutorial services.

When one looks at students making a successful transition to career professionals, a holistic approach to imparting education

holds the key to success and for Vidyalankar students, it's all about getting a truly 'global' experience.