

# IIT KANPUR

## OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

# NEWSLETTER



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## HIGHLIGHTS

- ▶ Launch of IITK Research Internships in Science & Engineering (RISE) for international students
- ▶ MoU signing ceremony (HUTECH, UEF) at the Raj Bhavan, Lucknow
- ▶ New partnership with leading universities in Vietnam
- ▶ IITK Foundation supports internship at UCSC for IITK students

## Academic Partnership with Vietnam National University

**O**n 15 September 2025, Vietnam National University (VNU) and the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IIT Kanpur) formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to foster academic and research cooperation in multiple cutting-edge fields. The MoU signing ceremony, held in the presence of Prof. Manindra Agrawal, Director, IIT Kanpur; Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations; and Prof. Ashish Garg, Head of Sustainable Energy Engineering, marked a significant step towards strengthening bilateral collaboration between the two leading institutions in science and engineering.

## Visits by Foreign Delegations



A delegation from VNU comprising Dr. Nguyen Thu Huong, Vice Rector; Prof. Nguyen Dinh Duc, Dean of the Faculty of Civil Engineering; and Dr. Tran Quoc Quan, Lecturer in the Faculty of Civil Engineering, visited IIT Kanpur to explore opportunities for collaboration. This visit follows a prior engagement in June 2025, when Prof. Ashish Garg from IIT Kanpur

visited VNU, laying the groundwork for this partnership.

The delegation explored cutting-edge facilities at IIT Kanpur, including the Helicopter and VTOL Lab, Startup Innovation & Incubation Centre, and the Smart Grid Control Centre, further strengthening avenues for future collaboration.

## Visit by Prof. Omar Salim Ayed Al-Ayed from Al-Balqa Applied University, Jordan

**T**he Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur was honored to host Prof. Omar Salim Ayed Al-Ayed from the Department of Chemical Engineering, Al-Balqa Applied University, Jordan, on 3 November 2025. Prof. Al-Ayed is an esteemed alumnus of IIT Kanpur, having earned his B.Tech. in Chemical Engineering in 1984 and subsequently completing his Ph.D. in the same discipline in 1989.

During his visit, Prof. Al-Ayed

engaged in a productive meeting with Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations, to discuss prospective avenues for academic collaboration between IIT Kanpur and Al-Balqa Applied University. He also interacted with international students, offering enriching perspectives drawn from his academic journey and professional experiences.

IIT Kanpur extends its sincere appreciation to Prof. Omar Salim Ayed Al-Ayed for his visit and



for catalyzing an insightful discussion that advances our academic partnerships and deepens student and faculty exchange.





## Delegation from two Vietnamese Universities Visits IIT Kanpur



### MoU Signing Ceremony at the Raj Bhavan, Lucknow

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing ceremony was held on 9 October 2025 at the Raj Bhavan, Lucknow, between Ho Chi Minh City University of Economics and Finance (UEF), Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HUTECH), IIT Kanpur, and eight state universities of Uttar Pradesh. The ceremony began with the national anthems of Vietnam and India, followed by a welcome address by the Hon'ble Smt. Anandiben Patel, Governor of Uttar Pradesh, and a reciprocal welcome extended to Her Excellency by the visiting dignitaries.

The MoU was formally signed by Prof. Tarun Gupta, Dean of Research & Development, on behalf of IIT Kanpur, alongside senior representatives from Ho Chi Minh City University of Economics and Finance (UEF) and Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HUTECH). This strategic partnership is poised to advance academic and research collaboration between India and Vietnam through dynamic initiatives such as faculty and student exchange programs, joint research projects, short-term academic engagements, and co-authored publications. This MoU marks a significant step toward fostering enduring educational ties and driving innovation across borders.

On 8 October 2025, the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur had the honor of hosting a distinguished delegation from Ho Chi Minh City University of Economics and Finance (UEF) and Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HUTECH). The visiting delegation comprised:

- Dr. Nguyen Thanh Giang, President (Rector), UEF
- Dr. Ngo Minh Hai, Vice President, UEF
- Dr. Nguyen Thanh Phuong, Vice President and Director, Institute of Engineering, HUTECH
- Dr. George Majo, Dean, Faculty of Economics, UEF

The delegation engaged in discussions with Prof. Tarun Gupta, Dean of Research & Development, along with representatives from the Office of International Relations, to explore avenues for academic collaboration and institutional partnership.

During the visit, both institutions engaged in substantive discussions aimed at fostering collaborative research in emerging domains such as drone technology, cybersecurity, and flexible electronics. The delegation interacted with Prof. Prabodh Bajpai from the Department of Sustainable Energy Engineering, along with other faculty members, to gain insights into ongoing academic initiatives. As a part of their visit, they toured the Sustainable Energy Engineering (SEE) Laboratories and the Flight Laboratory to explore the ongoing research in these domains.



## Official Visits for Internationalization

### Visit to New York University by a Delegation from IIT Kanpur

Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations, together with Prof. Niraj Sinha from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Kanpur visited New York University, USA on 4 December 2025.

During the visit, they engaged in insightful discussions with Prof. Katsuo Kurabayashi, Chair of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, along with Prof. Nikhil Gupta and Prof. Ramesh Karri, Electrical and Computer Engineering Department Chair.

NYU and IIT Kanpur share a robust research partnership, strengthened through joint projects and seed funding initiatives, particularly via NYU's Tandon School of Engineering. The dialogue focused on broadening the scope of the dual-degree program to include mechanical and aerospace engineering and additional disciplines, as well as deepening student exchange opportunities between the two institutions.



### Visit by Prof. Farrukh Alvi from the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering

IIT Kanpur had the privilege of hosting Prof. Farrukh Alvi, Senior Associate Provost – Strategic Initiatives and Innovation; Don Fuqua Eminent Scholar & Professor of Mechanical Engineering; and Inaugural Executive Director of the FSU InSPIRE Center from the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering, Florida, USA on 6 November 2025.

During his visit, Prof. Alvi met Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations, along with Prof. Ashoke De, Prof. Rajesh Ranjan, and Prof. Tufan K. Guha from the Department of Aerospace Engineering. The discussions focused on strengthening the partnership between IIT Kanpur and the FAMU-FSU College of Engineering through strategic initiatives such as joint research programs, student and faculty exchange opportunities, and collaborative academic ventures.

### IITK Karvaan 2025

The IIT Kanpur Karvaan delegation visited the United States in October 2025 as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen international academic collaborations. The delegation, led by Prof. Manindra Agrawal, Director, IIT Kanpur; and including Prof. Sandeep Verma, Professor-in-Charge, Gangwal School of Medical Sciences and Technology; and Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations, visited the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). The meeting at UCSD was facilitated by Prof. Rajesh Kumar Gupta, Dean of the School of Computing, Information and Data Science. Discussions focused on enhancing strategic collaboration in the areas of artificial intelligence, medicine and health, and sustainability.

During this visit, Prof. Bushra Ateeq also held interactions with representatives from Texas A&M University (TAMU) and Rice University to explore potential avenues for academic and research collaboration. The discussions focused on identifying shared areas of interest, strengthening institutional ties, and examining possibilities for faculty exchange, joint research initiatives, and broader academic engagement between the institutions.





## Internships & Exchanges



Two undergraduate students from IIT Kanpur — Mr. Udbhav Singh Sikarwar and Mr. Rohit Maind Sandeep were selected by UCSC and supported by the IITK Foundation for an internship at UCSC from June to August 2025.

“One of the most valuable lessons I gained during my research internship abroad was the realization that the way we think about problems is deeply shaped by our backgrounds. Different upbringings, cultural environments, and educational systems lead people to approach challenges in ways I could not have imagined beforehand. No textbook could have taught me the practical, diverse, and innovative approaches to research that I witnessed and participated in.

My research there focused on building an anonymous communication system and testing its vulnerabilities. When it came to identifying weaknesses, my instinct was to approach the problem mathematically--analyzing the system's structure to predict potential flaws. My teammates, however, preferred a more hands-on approach: constructing the system on a synthetic

network and actively attempting to exploit it. Initially, I found it surprising that they chose to simulate and test it directly before fully proving its theoretical soundness, but I quickly realized this was their normal and effective methodology.

This experience broadened my perspective and taught me to remain fluid and open to new ideas. I learned that different approaches can complement each other and lead to more robust research outcomes. The internship has not only strengthened my technical skills but also improved my adaptability and collaborative mindset. I look forward to applying these insights to the projects I am currently involved with at IIT Kanpur, and to carrying this openness to diverse perspectives into all my future research endeavors.

Mr. Udbhav Singh Sikarwar, Computer Science and Engineering

## Launch of a New Research Internship Program for International Students

In September 2025, the Office of International Relations launched a new internship program for foreign students, titled “IITK Research Internships in Science & Engineering (RISE)”. The Program includes a 4-week virtual winter internship in December 2025 and a 6-8 week in-person summer internship between May to July 2026.

The Program has been initiated to give foreign students, especially those from the ASEAN and South East Asian countries, an opportunity and a pathway to experience the research environment at IIT Kanpur. While students would not receive a stipend for the virtual winter internship, for students selected for the in-person summer internship, IIT Kanpur would support 12 students with a stipend

along with boarding for the duration of the internship.

OIR released a call for applications for the winter internship in September 2025, where projects under 22 IIT Kanpur faculty were shared. Applications from 70 eligible students were received from countries such as Vietnam, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Japan, Bhutan, Syria, Nepal, Bangladesh, Chad, Somalia and Madagascar. Students applied for up to 2 projects and after a screening conducted by the faculty, 32 students were selected for the virtual internship starting 1 December 2025.

At the end of the winter internship, successful students will receive a certificate from IIT Kanpur. These students will also get a preference for the summer internship in 2026.

### Research Internships in Science & Engineering

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

1-month virtual internship for foreign students in December 2025

- Certificate of completion from IITK
- Opportunity to contribute to cutting-edge research
- Mentorship by leading researchers

**Apply Now!**

Applications deadline: 19 October 2025

Eligibility:

- Bachelor's and Master's students enrolled in science/engineering programs
- Should not be Indian nationals
- Have a strong academic record and an interest in research

For the complete eligibility criteria and application details, visit the Program website [www.iitk.ac.in/oir/iitk-rise](http://www.iitk.ac.in/oir/iitk-rise)

ABOUT IIT KANPUR

1st in Engineering	1st in Southern Asia
1st in Innovation	1st in Asia
Overall	1st in the World (Engineering & Technology)

For more queries, send us an email at [oir@iitk.ac.in](mailto:oir@iitk.ac.in)

## Student Activities



### Diwali Celebration

The Office of International Relations, IIT Kanpur, hosted a vibrant Diwali celebration, bringing together international students in a joyful and culturally immersive event. The spirit of the festival came alive with colorful rangoli, radiant diyas, and vivid decorations, creating an atmosphere of warmth, positivity, and togetherness.

Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations, joined the staff of the Office of International Relations and international students in celebrating Diwali with great enthusiasm and warmth. Students from diverse countries actively participated in the festivities, experiencing the richness of Indian culture and embracing the

true spirit of the festival of lights.

A highlight of the evening was a musical performance by international students, whose melodious renditions added warmth and cheer to the atmosphere. The celebration concluded with a traditional spread of festive food and sweets, shared laughter, and heartfelt conversations, reinforcing the collective spirit of joy and togetherness.

The celebration served as a poignant reminder of Diwali's essence and its enduring message: the triumph of light over darkness and hope over despair. It reflected IIT Kanpur's commitment to inclusivity, cultural engagement, and global friendship.

### Students' Happy Hour

A Happy Hour on 27 November 2025 created a relaxed and enjoyable space for international students to unwind after their examination period. The event offered a wonderful opportunity for students to connect, interact, and refresh themselves in a warm and comfortable environment.

Students enthusiastically took part in the Pictionary game, which brought energy and excitement to the gathering. The friendly competition encouraged creativity, teamwork, and lively interaction, making the evening both memorable and engaging for all who attended.



### Third batch of Hindi classes for International Students

Launching its third batch on 6 November 2025, the Office of International Relations at IIT Kanpur introduced Hindi classes for international students. These classes are thoughtfully designed to enhance students' communication skills both on campus and in everyday life, making their time at IIT Kanpur more comfortable and enriching. By learning Hindi, students can build stronger connections with the local community and gain deeper insights into Indian culture.



The program was inaugurated by Prof. Bushra Ateeq, Dean of International Relations; Prof. Kantesh Balani, Department of Materials Science and Engineering and Coordinator of the Shivani Centre; and Prof. Ark Verma, Department of Cognitive Science and Co-Coordinator of the Shivani Centre. Students from previous batches shared their encouraging experiences, reflecting on how the classes had eased their transition into campus life and enriched their overall journey at IIT Kanpur.





## Christmas Celebration

This Christmas Eve, the Office of International Relations hosted a joyful celebration for international students at IIT Kanpur, filling the campus with festive cheer, laughter, and warmth. Despite being far from home, students came together to share the magic of the season—creating cheerful memories, embracing new traditions, and celebrating the holiday as one big family. The evening was packed with fun as everyone got creative with Christmas decorations, enjoyed exciting games, sang beloved carols, and wrapped up the celebration by cutting a special Christmas cake and savoring delicious snacks. The event truly captured the spirit of togetherness and holiday joy.



## Student's Corner

### Bridging Horizons: My Journey from Jordan to IIT Kanpur

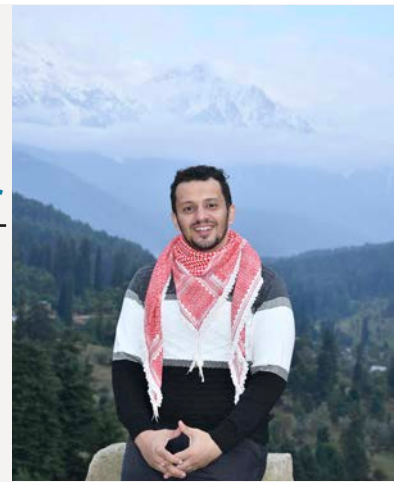
As I near the completion of my Ph.D. in Computer Science at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, I find myself reflecting on an extraordinary journey that has been as much about people and places as it has been about research and discovery. IITK is more than just an institution—it is a thriving community of curiosity, intellect, and resilience. Over the years, I have had the privilege of learning not only from brilliant professors and peers but also from the collaborative spirit that defines this campus. Each challenge, experiment, and discussion here has contributed to

shaping my academic and personal growth in profound ways.

Coming from Jordan, a small but beautiful country in the heart of the Middle East, I am often reminded of how warmth and hospitality can transcend borders. Jordan is a land where history and modernity coexist gracefully—from the ancient rose-red city of Petra, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, to the tranquil waters of the Dead Sea, the lowest point on Earth. Beyond its stunning landscapes, what truly defines Jordan is its people—known for their kindness, generosity, and

deep sense of respect for others. In Jordan, guests are treated like family, and sharing a cup of coffee or a meal is considered a sacred act of friendship.

It is this same spirit of openness and connection that I have found here in India. The hospitality, cultural richness, and sense of community at IIT Kanpur remind me so much of home. My time here has not only expanded my scientific horizons but also deepened my appreciation for cultural exchange and human connection. I have learned that research excellence and kindness can—and should—go hand in hand.



As I prepare for the next chapter of my life, I carry with me the lessons of perseverance from IITK and the warmth of my homeland, Jordan. To my fellow students and researchers, I would say: let your curiosity guide you, let your culture ground you, and always remember that science, like friendship, knows no borders.

Ahmad Irjoob  
PhD, Department of CSE

### From the Horn of Africa to the Innovation Hub of India

Coming from a pastoral life in the rural village of Geedasamo on the outskirts of Buloburte, it once felt unimaginable to study at one of Asia's leading beacons of higher education. With the civil engineering background that I built at Hormuud University in Somalia, choosing to pursue an M.Tech. in Transportation Engineering at IIT Kanpur has been both a courageous and transformative step.

Though leaving my country for the first time and being its sole representative here, I arrived excited and proud to join such a premier institute in pursuit of world-class education. The admission

process was straightforward, thanks to the support of the International Admissions Office, but nothing could have prepared me for how vast and impressive the campus would be. To move between classes, I even had to learn cycling a skill I'd skipped in childhood and, with the help of my classmates, I was able to master it in a short time.

Although the academic schedule was demanding, the vibrant cultural events and the campus's stunning natural beauty provided refreshing stress relief. Caring professors, who keep their doors open, and supportive peers have also helped me feel at home despite the distance from Somalia.

I also had the privilege of participating in the 50th anniversary celebrations of Transportation Engineering at IIT Kanpur. Meeting Golden Jubilee alumni and interacting with generations whose futures were shaped here deepened my sense of belonging and strengthened my aspirations in this field.

One of the most pleasant surprises has been discovering linguistic connections between India and Somalia. Hearing everyday words like "roti," "gari," and "dukaan" used just as they are in Somali gave me an unexpected sense of familiarity and further motivated me to learn Hindi and engage more deeply with the local culture.



Abdirahman Halane  
MTech, Department of CE



## Student's Corner

**M**y name is Sirak Masresha Telele, and I am a PhD scholar in Aerospace Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. I am originally from Ethiopia, and my academic specialization is Computational Mechanics, with a strong interest in advanced numerical methods. Before joining IIT Kanpur, I worked as a faculty member at the Ethiopian Defence University, College of Engineering.

The admission and joining process was very well organized and smoothly coordinated by the International Relations Office of IIT Kanpur. The team provided clear guidance, timely communication, and continuous support throughout the process. Their professionalism and friendly approach made everything comfortable and well-structured. I felt welcomed and confident from the very beginning, and I am truly thankful to the

International Relations Office.

My transition into the culture of IIT Kanpur has been very positive and enriching. The professors not only in the Aerospace Engineering department but across various departments are highly experienced, knowledgeable, and genuinely supportive.

My classmates and lab mates are very friendly, cooperative, and motivating. The strong sense of collaboration and mutual respect among students creates a healthy and encouraging academic environment.

I also had the wonderful opportunity to experience some of the famous campus celebrations and festivals at IIT Kanpur, such as Antaragni, Techkriti, and the beautiful Diwali celebrations.

What I enjoy most about IIT Kanpur is the calm and green campus, the strong



Sirak Masresha Telele  
PhD, Department of AE

research culture, and the supportive academic environment makes everyday life on campus enjoyable and meaningful.

**A**fter completing my schooling in Bangladesh, I moved to India for higher studies, earning my B.Tech in Computer Science and Engineering from NIT Trichy under the ICCR Scholarship and my M.Tech from IIT Gandhinagar through the SII Scholarship. These experiences helped me adapt to India's diverse academic culture and strengthened my interest in AI, machine learning, and computer vision, eventually leading me to join the Ph.D. program in Computer Science and Engineering at IIT Kanpur with an Institute Fellowship.

The admission process was competitive, and the most challenging part was choosing the right place among offers from other top IITs, including IIT Delhi. After thoughtful consideration, I felt that IIT Kanpur aligned best with my long-term goals—and I believe that certain decisions follow Mahadev's

plans, which are always better. Though I initially felt nervous about joining a new and expansive campus, the transition became smooth thanks to the highly supportive International Office and friends already at IITK. The welcoming environment and strong academic culture made the experience truly rewarding.

What I enjoy most about IIT Kanpur is its exceptional food culture—among all the institutes I have been part of, IITK stands out as the best. There is something for every preference, and as a sportsperson, maintaining proper nutrition is effortless here. The sports facilities and overall ecosystem are excellent. The academics are rigorous yet deeply enriching, helping me maintain a meaningful balance.

Even within this short span of time, I have grown fond of the campus, its



Tanmay M Saurav  
PhD, Department of CSE

people, its food and its atmosphere—making IIT Kanpur feel like the perfect place to call home.

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