

Event Report: Study in India Orientation Program

Event Title: Study in India Program Orientation Program

Organization Name: Internationalization Cell, Gujarat Knowledge Society

Participants: Representatives from educational institutions, Government officials, and international stakeholders.

Date and Location of the Event: 30th November 2024, i-Hub, Ahmedabad

Executive Summary

The Study in India Orientation Program aimed to promote the Study in India initiative, highlighting its benefits and processes to educational institutions. The event featured key speakers from various educational and governmental bodies who discussed the importance of internationalizing Indian education, the streamlined visa processes, and the integration of various support systems to attract international students. The workshop also included detailed sessions on the Study in India portal, the role of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), and best practices for internationalization.

Event Objectives

- **Promote the Study in India Program:** Emphasize the importance and benefits of registering in the Study in India program for institutions.
- **Highlight Internationalization Efforts:** Discuss the Prime Minister's vision for internationalizing Indian education and the role of various stakeholders in achieving this goal.
- **Streamline Processes:** Explain the integrated visa process and the functionalities of the Study in India portal to ensure a seamless experience for students and institutions.
- **Encourage Collaboration:** Foster global collaboration in research, innovation, and startups through initiatives like Internationalization Cells in universities.

Event Details

Key Activities and Sessions:

1. Inauguration Session:

Mr. Ashutosh Kumar, Deputy Manager, Study in India Cell:

- Emphasized the importance of registering in the Study in India program for institutions.
- Highlighted the criteria and eligibility for participation.
- Detailed the structure of the day's sessions, including an overview of the Study in India website and the registration process, and integration with ICCR and IVFRT for streamlined visa processes.

Dr. B Chandrasekar, Executive Director, EdCIL (India) Limited/Secretary (SII):

- Discussed the Prime Minister's vision for internationalizing Indian education through the Study in India initiative.
- Explained the integrated visa process and how it offers a seamless experience for students and institutions.
- Highlighted the liberal parameters for institutional registration, ensuring inclusivity under the program.
- Positioned Study in India as a conversion scheme to attract international students and achieve India's internationalization goals.
- Stressed on quality benchmarks such as accreditation and affordable education.

Shri Banchhanidhi Pani, IAS, Commissioner, Commissionerate of Technical Education, Government of Gujarat:

- Discussed about planning to launch the Study in Gujarat program to align with the national Study in India initiative.
- Addressed the significant outflow of Indian talent to other countries and highlighted India's potential as a global knowledge hub.

- Stressed the importance of internationalization as a two-way process: attracting international talent and facilitating them to study in India.
- Explained the concept of university as a place of universalization, fostering global collaboration in research, innovation, and startups.
- Discussed specific initiatives such as the creation of Internationalization Cells in universities.
- Suggested planning further events to cover all educational institutions in Gujarat for greater awareness and participation.

2. Study in India – A Step Towards Internationalization of Indian HEIs:

- Strengthening international collaborations to enhance global rankings and recognition of Indian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).
- Ensuring accessible and quality education for international students by aligning with global standards.
- Promoting India's cultural and academic heritage through targeted international outreach programs.
- Highlighted the critical responsibilities of Compliance Officers and Nodal Officers in Indian Missions, including facilitating visa and administrative processes for international students, bridging communication between Indian institutions and overseas stakeholders, developing country-specific marketing campaigns, leveraging social media, webinars, and educational fairs to enhance visibility, and collaborating with alumni networks to strengthen credibility in international markets.
- Dr Rahul Marathe from IIT Madras, provided an in-depth presentation on the SII portal, including a step-by-step guide on how HEIs can register on the portal, the required documents and eligibility criteria, and an overview of functionalities such as student application management, institutional profiles, and real-time data analytics.
- He also explained detailed the role of Nodal Officers, including coordinating with visa offices and addressed over 30 participant queries, providing key clarifications on eligibility criteria for institutions to register on the SII portal and documentation requirements for institutional registration.

3. Activities of Internationalization Cell, GKS:

- Dr Ketan Badgajar, Conver, Internationalization Cell, Gujarat Knowledge Society explained the motive of establishing the cell and the activities of the cell.
- He shared the draft guidelines for the academic collaboration alumni connect and office of international affairs at university level with stakeholders and asked for opinions on the same
- Emphasizing compliance, he urged universities to align their internationalization efforts with the protocols and frameworks prescribed by statutory bodies such as the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- The concepts such as twinning program joint degree, dual degree, Branding abroad were explained to the participants.

4. Navigation of the “Study In India” Portal & Integration in the ICCR’s A2A:

- Detailed presentation on the role of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) by Mr. Subhas Singh, explaining the roles and responsibilities of ICCR.
- ICCR is the nodal agency for foreign nationals awarded scholarships to pursue higher studies in India, administering 20 scholarship schemes with 3960 slots.
- ICCR scholarships cover tuition fees, living expenses, and other benefits for students from 190 countries.
- Dr Rahul Marathe explained the various features of the portal and the integration of ICCR with the SII portal, including the Admission to Alumni portal and Gyan Setu app.
- Discussion on the application process for ICCR scholarships.

5. Online Visa Process & e-Visa:

- Mr. Himanshu Mehta explained the online student visa process and e-Visa process to stakeholders of all institutions in Gujarat.
- Detailed the roles and responsibilities of the Foreign Regional Registration Office.

- Discussed various challenges and issues faced by authorities in terms of student registration.
- Explained the need for students to apply for visa renewal if their stay extends beyond the mentioned date on the visa.
- Resolved queries and questions from various stakeholders.

6. Role of Indian Mission Abroad by High Commissioner / Indian Ambassador (Virtual Mode):

- India is a popular destination for higher education in Tanzania, Malawi, and other African nations, with institutions like IIT and IIM being favorites.
- The primary reasons for India's popularity include affordable and quality education, with students typically opting for engineering, technical, and medical courses.
- Mr. S. Gopalakrishnan, High Commissioner of Malawi, emphasized the need for customization of education to contextualize it for the native state and the importance of alumni connections for fostering long-term partnerships.
- Mr. Narendra Kumar highlighted the importance of simplifying the admission process and providing language support to students from Tanzania, suggesting expanding awareness and reach in other regions of Tanzania.
- Discussed major challenges for foreign students, including language barriers, complex admission processes, and accommodation facilities.
- Encouraged joint research programs with premier institutions in Malawi for collaborative knowledge production.
- Advised institutions to design diverse and culturally inclusive campuses and admission policies.

7. Institutes Best Practice Towards Internationalization of HEIs:

- Professor Preeti from IIT Madras, discussed the operation of the IIT Madras campus at Zanzibar, including the process, challenges, and opportunities.
- She also explained the vision behind setting up the international campus to provide access to Indian education to a wider audience, increase

representation of international students, and create an academic excellence group.

- Prof. Preeti highlighted major challenges such as low awareness among students about Indian institutions, scholarships, and research funding, and the challenge in academic preparation due to diversity and differentiation in academics of foreign students and mentioned dedicated offices for internationalization of education at IIT Madras, such as the Global Engagement Office and the International Admission Office.
- She shared various programs offered by IIT Madras, including Artificial Intelligence and Computer Science
- Mr. Shrivastava shared his experience with the internationalization of IIT Roorkee, discussing the process, challenges, opportunities, and potential solutions.

Conclusion

The Study in India Orientation Program successfully highlighted the importance of internationalizing Indian education and the various initiatives in place to support this goal. The event provided valuable insights into the streamlined processes for institutional registration, visa applications, and the integration of support systems like the ICCR. The discussions and presentations emphasized the need for global collaboration, quality benchmarks, and inclusive policies to attract international students and position India as a global knowledge hub.

Event Photographs:



