UPES and University of Waterloo Partner to Offer Executive Education and Global Pathway Programs

Gurgaon, December 6, 2024: UPES, a leading multidisciplinary university in India, has formed a strategic partnership with the University of Waterloo, Canada, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This collaboration aims to leverage the expertise of both institutions to create transformative learning opportunities in online executive education by bringing WatSPEED, the University of Waterloo's professional learning initiative, to India.

The MoU outlines several key areas of collaboration. Firstly, the institutions aim to work towards integrating WatSPEED's high-quality, flexible course offerings with UPES' expertise and student outreach, ensuring innovative and accessible learning solutions. This collaboration seeks to enhance opportunities for working professionals in India to upskill and reskill, aligning with the demands of the global economy. Secondly, the partnership aims to facilitate the establishment of international credit transfer pathways, enabling UPES students to seamlessly transfer credits earned from their programs to applicable courses or degree programs at the University of Waterloo. This process will align with the academic standards of both institutions enabling a smooth transition for students pursuing advanced studies abroad.

Additionally, the institutions plan to work together to facilitate Master's progression pathways, allowing UPES students to progress into specific on-campus programs at the University of Waterloo, subject to the latter's admission requirements. This initiative aims to provide UPES students access to world-class education and research facilities, further enhancing their global competitiveness. Collectively, these collaborations reflect the intent of UPES and the University of Waterloo to deliver transformative learning experiences and empowering learners for success in an increasingly interconnected world.

The signing ceremony witnessed the presence of a high-level delegation from the University of Waterloo, including **Dr. Vivek Goel**, President; **Dr. Mark Giesbrecht**, Dean of Mathematics; **Dr. Mary Wells**, Dean of Engineering; **Sanjeev Gill**, Associate Vice-President of Innovation and **Nenone Donaldson**, Vice-President, Advancement. At the signing, **Dr. Sunil Rai**, President; **Dr. Abhishek Sinha**, Dean – School of Law and Head-International Affairs and **Dr. Vijaysekhar Chellaboina**, Dean – School of Computer Science, represented UPES.

Speaking at the ceremony, **Dr. Sunil Rai, President, UPES**, expressed his excitement about the collaboration. He said, "*Over the years, UPES has worked tirelessly to forge meaningful collaborations with some of the world's most prestigious institutions. Our collaborations with leading global universities provide learners with unique international exposure, equipping them to excel as skilled professionals in a global economy. This partnership between UPES and the University of Waterloo highlights our commitment to delivering globally benchmarked education.*"

Dr. Vivek Goel, President of the University of Waterloo, stated, "*As technological advancements and global forces dramatically reshape industries, education will be essential for driving innovation and economic growth. Our collaboration with UPES to deliver professional and executive education will equip learners with the skills and adaptability required in the dynamic Indian economy. We look forward to working together to build transformative educational pathways that transcend borders and embody our commitment to shaping a better future for humanity and our planet.*"

Over the years, UPES has forged partnerships with institutions such as the University of California Berkeley, USA; University of New South Wales, Australia; The University of Edinburgh, UK; The University of

Queensland, Australia; University of Bologna, Italy; The University of Auckland, New Zealand, and many more. These partnerships encompass student exchange programs, joint research initiatives, and specialised degree pathways, allowing students to benefit from a truly international education experience. By forging these global connections, UPES continues to expand its academic footprint, empowering students to thrive in a competitive global environment and develop as well-rounded professionals.

The collaboration with the University of Waterloo focuses on exploring opportunities for delivering world-class executive education through WatSPEED, reinforcing UPES' commitment to shaping leaders for the future.

UPES, an academic partner of GUS Global Services (GGS), offers executive education programs through Work Integrated Learning for Leadership (WILL). GUS Global Services is the Indian subsidiary of Global University Systems which serves more than 20 million online students and over 100,000 on campus in over 30 institutions worldwide, across 12 countries, including the UK, Germany, Canada, Ireland, Israel, and Singapore.

About UPES:

Established through the UPES Act, 2003, of the State Legislature of Uttarakhand, UPES is a top-ranked, UGC-recognised, private university. As per the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024, the Ministry of Education, Government of India, UPES has been ranked 46 among universities, with a rank of 28 in Law, 41 in Management, and a rank of 42 in Engineering. In addition to this, the university has been ranked the No. 1 private university in academic reputation in India by the QS World University Rankings 2025. It is among the top 2% of universities in the world. UPES has also been accredited by NAAC with a grade 'A' and has received 5 stars on Employability (placements) by globally acclaimed QS Rating. The university has had 100% placements over the last five years. Forty-six (46) faculty members of UPES are among the world's top 2% researchers as per Stanford University list.

UPES offers graduate and postgraduate programs through its seven schools: School of Advanced Engineering, School of Computer Science, School of Design, School of Law, School of Business, School of Health Sciences & Technology, and School of Liberal Studies and Media with 16,000+ students and 1,500+ faculty and staff members.