

## 17.2.4 Does your university as a body, through international collaboration and research, review comparative approaches and develop international best practice on tackling the SDGs?

### UPES and Bajaj Auto Join Forces to Create BEST Centre for Engineering Excellence

<https://www.shiksha.com/news/engineering-upes-and-bajaj-auto-join-forces-to-create-best-centre-for-engineering-excellence-blogId-174079>



UPES and Bajaj Auto Limited have partnered to train engineering graduates and diploma holders in cutting-edge 21st-century technologies. As part of this collaboration, Bajaj Auto will establish an advanced Bajaj Engineering Skills Training (BEST) Centre at UPES, fulfilling its CSR commitment. Additionally, the BEST programme will support young learners from economically weaker sections to enhance employment opportunities.

This collaboration will offer two full-time training programs: one for diploma engineers and another for graduate engineers. UPES will host both programs on campus and welcome students from various engineering and diploma colleges across Uttarakhand and other parts of the country. The BEST program will provide training in Mechatronics, Motion Control and Sensor Technology, Robotics and Automation, and Industry 4.0 and Smart Manufacturing. The curriculum is designed to meet industry demands and aims to bridge the current skill gap in the manufacturing sector.

#### Bajaj Engineering Skills Training (BEST)

BEST is the flagship CSR initiative of Bajaj Auto Ltd. that aims to empower engineers from tier 2, and tier 3 engineering and diploma colleges by setting up state-of-the-art labs in collaboration with top universities in India. With world-class infrastructure, these state-of-the-art centres will also offer a platform for learners to gain in-depth knowledge, skills, and hands-on experience that are needed to stay relevant and competent in today's ever-evolving industry.

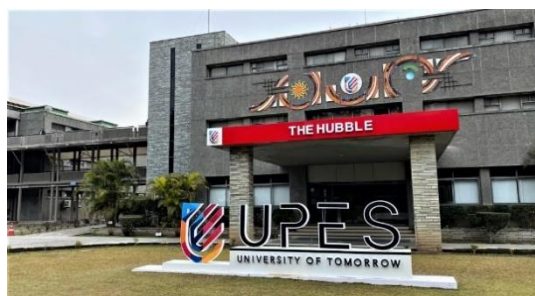
# UPES achieves record-breaking milestones in research

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/upes-achieves-record-breaking-milestones-in-research/>

EKTA KASHYAP · SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

## Research Milestones - UPES

From reaching triple the global average in research output to faculty who are among highly cited researchers in the world, here is a glimpse of the university's magnificent accomplishments in research over the years



A lot has happened since 2003, the year in which UPES was founded as a premier learning institution to provide multi-disciplinary, trans-disciplinary, industry-aligned, holistic education. Since its inception, UPES faculty members have made landmark contributions in their respective fields; contributions that have revolutionised research, solved local and global problems, and filled gaps in knowledge.

Today, the university stands tall as a hub of exploration and research. UPES research output – from 0.7 papers to three papers per faculty is possibly the highest jump for any university in one year. It is also triple the global average of one paper per faculty per year.

Scopus (the world's largest abstract and citation database of scientific literature) indexed research output for UPES was 1100+ in 2021. Until mid-September 2022, it was around 1400+ and is likely to cross 2100 by the end of this year. The university has grown twelve times in research output in the last seven years.

24 UPES faculty members are on the list of top 2% researchers in the world, according to Stanford list and eight of these researchers have found a place in the one of most coveted 'Highly Cited Researchers' list published by Clarivate.

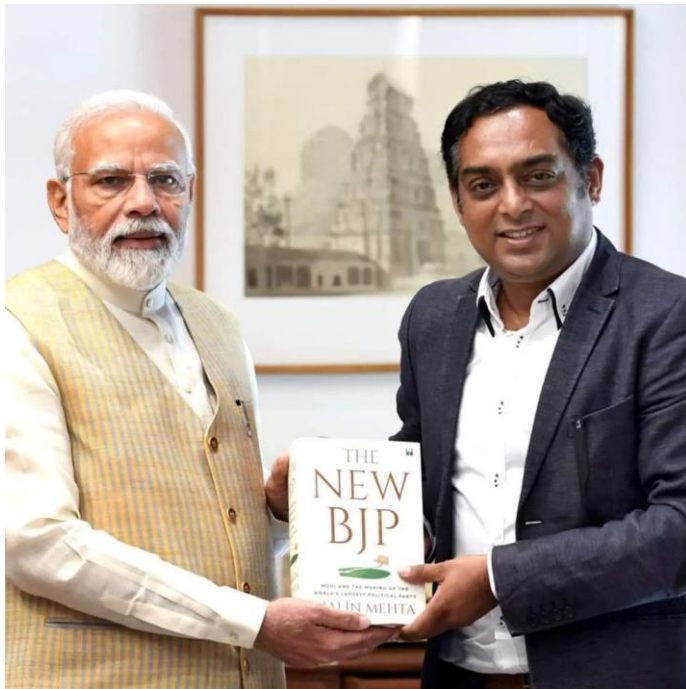
## Unmatched academic prowess

UPES students get the opportunity to learn from the best in the world. The university's faculty pedigree comprises two Rhodes scholars, a Fox fellow from Yale University along with Fulbright, Commonwealth, Chevening, DAAD, and Erasmus scholars. Recently, Dr. Khyati Tripathi, Assistant Professor, School of Liberal Studies, received a Harvard fellowship, an honour given to a select few in the world.

Dr. Manish Kumar, Head of Sustainability Cluster, Professor, School of Engineering, was recognised as India's number one and world's fourth-best environment expert for his published articles, as per the analysis by Expertscape.

Dr. Nalin Mehta, Dean, School of Modern Media, recently presented his book 'The New BJP' to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The book has been making waves on Amazon's list of bestselling non-fiction books for 12 straight weeks. It has been prominently featured in multiple publications and networks including Hindustan Times, The Times of India, The Hindu, The Indian Express, The Washington Post, BBC News, CNN-News18, The New Indian Express, and NDTV. The book is receiving rave reviews nationally and internationally and has been praised as a 'seminal work'. The book has also been listed

among the all-time top 10 books in the genre along with the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's autobiography. The UPES School of Modern Media is India's first digital-first media school.



### [Narendra Modi](#)

Dr. Nalin Mehta (R) presenting his book 'The New BJP' to Prime Minister Narendra Modi

Dr. Snigdha Misra from Cornell University and Dr. Dhruv Kumar, PhD in Cellular, Molecular and Industrial Biology from the University of Bologna, Italy, are among the esteemed faculty members at the School of Health Sciences and Technology. At the School of Design, UPES has onboarded some of the finest academic leaders such as Prof. Debkumar Chakrabarti (Ex-IIT Guwahati), Prof. Pradyumna Vyas (Ex-Director, National Institute of Design), Prof. Nina Sabnani (Ex-IIT Bombay IDC), and Prof. Amit Ray (Ex-IIT Kanpur) as distinguished professors and advisors to craft the best learning experience for students.

Several international faculty are co-teaching modules at different schools. UPES is probably the only private university in India looking to hire full time 1000 PhD scholars – 250 every year for the next four years – beginning 2022. These scholars will be provided with fellowships similar to University Grants Commission (UGC) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) fellowships through university's internal resources.

### [How UPES nurtures a culture of research and innovation](#)

In the quest to facilitate a creative and collaborative research ecosystem, the university provides financial support in the form of SEED funding. SEED is an in-house financial support available for consumables, mini equipment, travel grant, fees for characterisation, software purchase, and other operational expenses.

The initiative intends to support the growth of researchers by providing them flexible working capital and to leverage these limited funds to generate substantial external funding, industrial support, or creative scholarship projects.

## Infrastructural Support

UPES has a dedicated research laboratory called the Central Instrumentation Centre, which houses machines such as X-ray Diffractometer, Drop Shape Analyzer, Photoluminescence Spectrophotometer, Atomic Force Microscope, Raman Spectroscopy, Mössbauer Spectroscopy, Electrical Resistivity and Transport Properties, Magneto Optic Kerr Effect (MOKE), to name a few.

The university also provides access to several research databases such as Science Direct, SCOPUS, Web of Knowledge, IEEE, RSC, Thomson Reuters, Harvard Business Review, Emerald Insight and Taylor & Francis. Additionally, researchers are provided dedicated research space, assistance through Junior Research Fellowships (JRF), finance, legal cells, and manpower support.

At UPES, the foundation of higher learning is based on critical thinking and innovation; every milestone in research is a testament to the university's thriving research ecosystem.

## French Delegates Visit UPES

<https://www.instagram.com/p/CH99BefBvZq/> [6]

UPES strives to offer its students the best in global education and exposure by promoting student exchange, faculty mobility, joint research, workshops, seminars, and scholarships, making them professional ready to thrive in any culture across the globe. UPES has a great understanding with universities in France and is a part of the Indo-French Alliance for academic cooperation. Continuing with its efforts, the Department of International Affairs, UPES, recently welcomed Mr.



Emmanuel Lebrun-Damiens, Counsellor for Education Science & Culture at Embassy of France (India) & Country Director French Institute (India), Ms. Emilia Cartier, Attaché for Scientific & Academic Cooperation at Institut Francais En Inde, Ms. Fatiha Kammoussi, Attaché for Cooperation in Education at Institut Francais En Inde, among other eminent dignitaries, to discuss future opportunities for UPES students in France and vice versa, especially in the new normal.

## UPES student exchange program: Unforgettable and transformational experience

<https://blog.upes.ac.in/upes-student-exchange-program-unforgettable-and-transformational-experience/> [4]

Student exchange programs are one of the most beautiful and enriching elements of being a student at UPES. University offers exchange programs to foreign universities such as Polytech Nantes France, ECE Paris, University of Berkeley, United States, University of Maribor, Slovenia, etc.

Nitya Agarwal, our student from [BBA Foreign Trade \(2017-2020\)](#), shares her experience and learnings from her student exchange program to the University of Maribor, Slovenia, from September 2019 to January 2020.



### What motivated you to take part in the exchange program?

The beauty and the culture of Europe always fascinated me. On getting the opportunity to go to Slovenia, I grabbed it with both hands. Living on my own, away from my family, helped me to become more independent and confident. Of course, it was difficult at first, but it was totally worth it. I was in a student-friendly and safe city in Slovenia, sharing borders with Italy and Austria. The intra-city commute was convenient and even travelling to neighbouring countries was fairly easy.

### What is the academic process like in Slovenia?

The system of education in Slovenia is very different from that of India. If here we have 4-5 lectures per day, there we had 4-5 lectures per week, which gave me plenty of time to engage in other activities. Also, in the beginning of the semester, they provided us with all the schedules of the examinations and the classes. It helped me to prepare for my exams right from the beginning. One challenging thing for me was that we had to submit the research papers in every subject which I had never done before. However, it implied more self-education, reading books, surfing the net, gathering knowledge on various topics, improving writing skills, etc. Also, there was a community for the exchange students, i.e. ESN (Erasmus Student Network), which organised various parties and activities and gave us a chance to interact with people from different cultures.



### How was your boarding and lodging arranged? Was it tough for you to live on your own?

Our accommodation was provided by the university. We shared a dormitory in the centre of the city, with students from different countries – Spain, Turkey, China, Taiwan, Germany, Greece, etc. I had a roommate who was from China. The dormitory consisted of an integrated kitchen. I preferred to cook for myself which helped me to learn a crucial survival skill for the future. Sometimes my roommate

used to cook Chinese food for me and I cooked Indian food for her and her friends. They were all fond of Indian curries. Once in a day I would eat outside so as to try out the varied Slovenian cuisine. Living alone helped me to discover my own self and the other worthy experiences of life.

*I am going to miss the whole 'European lifestyle' the most – the weather, the atmosphere, the food, my friends and everything!*

How was your everyday life outside the university?

There are lot of exotic places to visit in and around Slovenia as it is situated in the centre of Europe, sharing borders with Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia. It is known for its mountains, ski resorts and lakes. Pohorje is the famous ski resort in Maribor. We had the Slovenia trip in the beginning of our semester. We visited Lake Bled, Postojna Caves, Predjama Castle, Piran, Portoroze, etc., and almost covered the most of Slovenia. I travelled alone to Ljubljana (the capital) and it was an amazing experience. We also visited Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic and Vienna. I always wanted to visit Prague (which I did) and the city has its own charm. I fell in love with the city of Maribor. I used to spend my free time walking around Maribor and sitting beside the river, peacefully watching the swans and ducks swim. The city looks magical around Christmas, covered with the lights, the smell of firs, cinnamon and mulled wine everywhere.



What is the thing you are going to miss the most about your host country?

I am going to miss the whole 'European lifestyle' the most – the weather, the atmosphere, the food, my friends and everything! Living in India, I will miss the freedom I had there. Despite all the difficulties there were some fascinating moments we experienced there; it is now a part of my life and these emotions and memories will forever be in my heart and mind.

What would you suggest to other aspirants who have fears and doubts about the exchange programs?

Not everyone gets an opportunity to go abroad and study there. So, if you get one, don't lose it. Being an exchange student is an exclusive chance; it gives you an exposure to see a whole world outside of what you know and have seen. It is an unforgettable and transformational experience that will definitely change you for good. You will come to know once you experience it. I am extremely happy and grateful to UPES for this wonderful platform. Because of them I could realise my dream of studying abroad. I wish more power to the team and my juniors – just go for it and unleash your potential.