

DR. N. RAJENDRAN, DIRECTOR, CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, ANNA UNIVERSITY, INDIA

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1. Could you tell us about the various internationalization initiatives of Centre for International Affairs (CIA)?

Our aim is to develop closer international partnerships to strengthen and expand the international links of the University through various initiatives. We also facilitate the integration of international students into our institutions. This approach has helped us to improve campus diversity and research capacity.

Various international mobility programmes helped us to establish long-lasting ties with various foreign universities. We had hosted students from University of Edinburgh during 2015-17. At present, the University has academic and research collaborations with thirty-three universities/institutions from across the world through MoUs.

The Centre has an 'Overseas Professor Scheme' with thirty professors from the US, Germany, Australia, Japan, Sweden, France, Italy, Switzerland and the UK. Under this Scheme selected professors visit Anna University every year for various collaborative programmes.

Dr. N. Rajendran is a Professor of Chemistry and the Director of Centre for International Affairs, Anna University, Chennai. He obtained his Doctoral Degree from the Department of Analytical Chemistry, University of Madras and is a Fellow of Academy of Sciences. Along with many other accolades, he is a recipient of Tamil Nadu Scientist Award (TANSA) in Chemical Sciences. He had also received the Mid-Career Award from the UGC-MHRD and the Tushar Jahveri Award 2017 - NACE East Asia and Pacific Area. Dr. Rajendran has more than 2411 citations to his credit. His h-index is 31 and i10-index is 62. He has visited countries such as USA, UK, Japan, Australia, France, The Netherlands, Belgium, UAE, Greece, Indonesia, Oman, etc. in connection with the university's internationalisation efforts.

ABOUT ANNA UNIVERSITY

Anna University in India was established as a unitary type technical university in 1978 by integrating the four famous technical institutions in the city of Madras (now Chennai), including the College of Engineering, Guindy which was established in 1794. It is the largest affiliating type university for technical education in the Indian State of Tamil Nadu. It is a forerunner in engineering education in India with many core disciplines introduced for the first time in the country. The Centre for International Affairs of the university is an autonomous body and its main objective is to strengthen bilateral research and academic cooperation with international universities.



The Centre is responsible for the admission of students under Foreign National Category. We also organize various international seminars by involving experts from foreign universities as resource persons. Apart from providing financial support for faculty for participating in International conferences, the Centre also supports faculty and students visiting MoU institutions.

2. Can a foreign university without an MoU with Anna University approach you to accommodate its students under short-term programmes?

Yes. We can accommodate students from non-MoU institutions for short-term programmes.

3. What is the main objective of the Foreign Technical Training Programme for students of Government Engineering Colleges and University?

We are facilitating this prestigious programme of the Government of Tamil Nadu. Under this, 50 students of third year B.E./B.Tech from the government engineering colleges and departments of Anna University will be sent to various universities in the Europe for a 15-day training programme.

4. What types of facilities are available for international students?

We have exclusive international hostel for foreign students. All the rooms of these hostels are equipped with air-conditioner, geyser, a mini-fridge and a microwave oven. Washing machines have been installed in a common room. In addition, the hostel premises are fitted with surveillance cameras, fire alarm and access control devices.