

## DR. RAM K. SHARMA, DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, SHIV NADAR UNIVERSITY, INDIA

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### 1. Where does Shiv Nadar University stand on internationalization? ?

We have a clear internationalization strategy and it is embedded in all aspects of the University's strategic planning and operational process. It goes beyond recruiting foreign students and faculty; for us the main objective is to bring in international experience at every level of the university's activities: from research to student experience.

Currently the university has 2074 students which includes about 200 full time doctoral students. Of these, around 50 are international students. We offer short-term 'Study India' and 'Summer School' programs for students from foreign universities.

### 2. Could you tell us about the University's major international partnerships?

Shiv Nadar University has active partnerships with the University of California Berkeley International Programs, University of Michigan, University of Bologna, University of Queensland, Deakin University, Heidelberg University to mention a few. These partnerships are mainly in the areas of joint research, student and faculty mobility with few of them also having dual degrees under their scope.

Dr. Ram K. Sharma is the Director of International Affairs at Shiv Nadar University. He is also a Fulbright Nehru Visiting Research Fellow at Center for Studies in Higher education (CSHE), University of California, Berkeley.

As Founding Associate Dean, UG Studies, he has played a significant role in implementing the liberal studies based undergraduate programs at the University, including development of various undergraduate majors, minors and core common curriculum (CCC) programs/courses.

As the Founding Head of the International Office, he successfully led the formulation of the internationalization strategic plan including international student recruitment and is leading its implementation in coordination with various stakeholders at the university. He has helped the university forge/execute successful partnerships with institutions/programs such as Duke University (including Duke Kunshan University), University of California Berkeley, University of Michigan, University of Bologna, University of Queensland, Deakin University, Heidelberg University etc. to name a few.

His current research interests are higher education policy and administration; internationalization of higher education; role of technology in classroom learning experience and on student mobility; liberal studies based undergraduate education and its relevance in 21st Century and provision of access, quality and equity of higher education to a large number of students using the extant technology.

Dr. Sharma has received many honors and awards such as Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowship to work on Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) at University of California, Berkeley and Coursera; International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) by the US Department of State themed on Education in Digital Age and an alumni status from US Department of State as a result of this participation

### 3. What is Shiv Nadar University's current strategy on internationalization?

For us, priority is to identify the right institutional partners who could provide both educational and cultural experience to our students along with the required skills and attributes for the present global environment and to complement the research and academic expertise of our faculty members. We are keen to accommodate international students on 'Semester Abroad' and 'Summer School' programs. We can also host international students on internships in our university projects.

The University provides excellent accommodation to foreign students. We also have provision to provide financial assistance to international students on a case-to-case basis.

We have many foreign faculty members and are keen to engage more visiting faculty. Another area for potential international partnership is joint supervision of research.

He has worked as Project Coordinator for a large, collaborative research and outreach project EQUAL (Enhancing Quality, Access & Leadership in Higher Education in India, Euro 1.17 Million, EU funded) at Shiv Nadar University during 2013-17 and as part of it worked with Indian and European universities such as University of Hyderabad, Ambedkar University, Jadavpur University, King's College London and University of Bologna for successful development of high quality, open academic modules that have been accepted by the Ministry of Higher Education in India (MHRD) for hosting on SWAYAM, India's national MOOC platform.

He holds a Ph.D. in Experimental Physics from UGC-DAE Consortium for Scientific Research, and MLS University, India, UGC-CSIR NET with JRF in Physical Sciences (National Level Examination in India to Qualify for University Teaching) and a Master of Science in Physics with university merit from MLS University, India.

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## **ABOUT SHIV NADAR UNIVERSITY**

Shiv Nadar University was founded in 2011 as a comprehensive, multidisciplinary, research-focused, and student-centric university by Shiv Nadar Foundation, a philanthropic organization founded by Mr. Shiv Nadar, Founder and Chairman of HCL (a USD 8.1 Billion global IT agglomerate). The university is located on a 286-acre campus near Greater Noida in the State of Uttar Pradesh and is about an hour and half of drive from the New Delhi International Airport. It offers a full range of academic programs at the undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral levels.