

## Indo-German Roadmap on Higher Education

*THE Ministry of Education of the Republic of India, and THE Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany (hereinafter: Sides) recognize their shared aspiration to further strengthen and expand cooperation in higher education and build upon the robust framework of Indo-German higher education agreements and cooperation mechanisms developed over several decades, including academic exchange, research collaboration, and skill development—key drivers of economic growth and pillars of bilateral engagement.*

*The Sides hereby jointly sign this Indo-German Roadmap on Higher Education for the period of 2026-2035 to guide and deepen bilateral collaboration.*

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**A. Objective:** The roadmap aims to strengthen Indo-German cooperation in field of Higher Education through preparatory initiatives for student exchange, enhancing student, and faculty mobility, advancing joint teaching, research and innovation initiatives and providing internship opportunities, promoting seamless academic pathways. It seeks to foster innovation and build institutional linkages through joint academic programmes.

### **B. Overview of Indo-German Higher Education Cooperation**

India and Germany share a strong and growing higher education partnership, characterized by rising student mobility, deep institutional collaboration, and active research and innovation linkages. With nearly 60,000 Indian students currently studying in German institutions—the largest international cohort—academic engagement continues to expand, especially in science and technology fields. This partnership is anchored in the following bilateral frameworks:

i. Indo-German Memorandum of Understanding on Academic Cooperation (HRK–AIU), signed on 3 February 1997 and revised on 18 November 2002.

ii. Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Human Resource Development, India, and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany, on Cooperation in Higher Education, signed on 11 April 2013. Pursuant to this MoU, both sides held three Joint Working Group (JWG) meetings on Higher Education, the last being held in April, 2018. Both sides reaffirm the importance of regular meetings of JWG to monitor progress, review activities, identify new opportunities, and sustain institutional dialogue. An addendum to the aforesaid MoU was signed on 01.11.2019 which extends the funding period to 2020-2024.

iii. MoU between the University Grants Commission (UGC), India, and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) on Indo-German Partnerships in Higher Education (IGP), signed on 5 October 2015 with projects having ended in 2024. The outcomes of IGP are presented in **Appendix I**.

iv. Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) on cooperation in the fields of innovation, technology transfer, and entrepreneurship, signed on 25. October 2024 by the Department of Science & Technology (DST) of the Government of the Republic of India and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Under this JDI, the InnoXchange program was created to enable a systematic, continuous exchange of knowledge and experience between the science-based start-up and entrepreneurship ecosystems in India and Germany. Starting in 2026 and designed for a period of three years, it will implement annual exchange activities between German and Indian incubators that are affiliated with academic or research institutions with a particular focus on female founders. The most recent Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur, India, and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) was signed on 24. October 2024 and initiated the German Indian Academic Network for Tomorrow under the Scheme for Promotion of Academic & Research Collaboration (SPARC – GIANT). The MoU was exchanged during the 7th India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations (7th IGC), held in New Delhi. Cooperation under the SPARC–GIANT Programme, jointly implemented by IIT Kharagpur and DAAD, supporting joint research, academic mobility, and capacity building. The awarded institutions are detailed in **Appendix II**.

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### **C. Collaborative Academic Models**

Both sides reaffirm their dedication to advancing collaborative academic structures such as joint degree, dual/double degree, and twinning programmes between Indian and German higher education institutions. These models are intended to foster academic integration, mutual recognition of qualifications, and the development of globally competitive educational pathways. To this end, both sides envisage the following tools:

#### **(i) Student Exchange and Preparatory Initiatives**

Both sides highlight the role of IGCHE (Indo-German Center for Higher Education) and similar platforms in enabling structured exchanges and improving system-level understanding. They also encourage digital preparatory tools, such as online Studienkollegs, to strengthen academic readiness for Indian applicants entering German institutions. Both sides intend to encourage academic mobility for German students to India.

#### **(ii) Academic and Student Mobility**

Both sides reaffirm their dedication to enhancing mobility of master's students, researchers, and academic staff. They will explore structured exchange and twinning models at undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral levels to enable joint learning pathways across institutions in both countries.

#### **(iii) Research and Innovation Collaboration**

Both sides intend to deepen cooperation across their research and innovation ecosystems through joint programmes in shared priority areas, including frontier and emerging technologies, to advance collaborative research, innovation development, and sustainable technological progress.

#### **(iv) Student and Faculty Mobility**

Both sides intend to enhance student and faculty mobility across India and Germany through programs like SPARC and GIANT. Both sides also intend to explore the possibility of extending the SPARC – GIANT collaboration beyond its tenure unto 2028.

#### **D. Alignment with India's National Policy (NEP)/ DAAD Guidelines on Indo German Higher Education Cooperation**

Both sides recognize the strong alignment between India's National Education Policy 2020 and DAAD Guidelines for Student Exchange, Dual/Double & Joint Degree Programmes for Indo-German Higher Education Cooperation setting the stage for a forward-looking, synergistic framework that advances next-generation academic collaboration.

##### **I. India's National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**

The Roadmap aligns with NEP 2020 by advancing internationalization through enhanced academic exchange and joint research. It promotes multidisciplinary via co-created programmes and innovation networks, strengthens vocational and skill-based learning, and supports digital transformation to build a future-ready workforce and education ecosystem.

##### **II. DAAD Guidelines on Indo-German Higher Education Cooperation and DAAD Perspective Paper India as a Strategic Partner**

The Roadmap aligns with DAAD guidelines and the DAAD Perspective Paper by enabling co-designed academic programmes with seamless mutual recognition. It supports curriculum harmonization, transparent credit transfer, and high-quality mobility. It also reinforces collaborative quality assurance to ensure globally benchmarked joint degrees.

#### **E. Way forward:**

##### **Dual/Double and Joint Degree Programmes**

Both sides may explore signing a new agreement for cooperation in Higher Education, as the MoU signed on 11 April 2013 and renewed through the Addendum signed on 01.11.2019 has expired in 2024.

Both sides intend to jointly explore and take forward the bilateral educational collaboration as elaborated in the collaborative academic models. Also both sides take note that several dual, double, and joint degree programmes already exist or are being discussed between Indian and German institutions (**Appendices III & IV**), fostering academic integration, mutual recognition of qualifications, and globally aligned learning pathways. Both sides intend to consider possibilities to develop mechanisms and frameworks to substantially expand joint and dual degree programmes over the next decade. The DAAD Guidelines and India's NEP 2020 will guide bilateral discussions while ensuring compliance with national regulations.

## Conclusion

*Both sides reaffirm that the policy provisions outlined in this 10-Year Indo-German Roadmap on Higher Education are closely aligned with the shared strategic priorities of the Indo-German partnership. This Roadmap provides a forward-looking, comprehensive, and mutually beneficial framework for advancing cooperation in higher education, research, and innovation and to significantly increase the number of joint and dual degree programmes.*

*The Ministry of Education, India and the Federal Foreign Office, Germany recognize the substantial opportunities for expanding collaboration into new and emerging domains—including STEM fields, cutting-edge technologies, interdisciplinary research, entrepreneurship, and innovation-driven education.*

*Both sides are committed to the implementation of this Roadmap, which will significantly deepen academic and scientific cooperation, strengthen institutional relationships, and contribute meaningfully to the long-term partnership between India and Germany.*

This Roadmap may be amended at any time by mutual written consent of both Sides.

Each Side may end cooperation under this Roadmap at any time. It should inform the other Side in writing of its intention to end cooperation at least [six months] prior.

This Roadmap is not intended to and does not create any legally binding rights or obligations.

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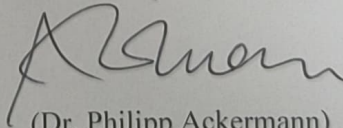
Signed at Delhi on 10 Jan 2026, in the English language.

For the Ministry of Education, Republic  
of India



(Dr. Vineet Joshi)  
(Secretary, Department of Higher  
Education, Ministry of Education,  
Government of India)

For the Federal Foreign Office of the  
Federal Republic of Germany



(Dr. Philipp Ackermann)  
(The Ambassador of Germany in India)

## Appendix-I

### **The outcome of Indo-German Partnerships in Higher Education (IGP)**

1. In the initial phase of the Indo-German Partnership (IGP) from 2016 to 2020, leading Indian institutions—including IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Madras, IISc Bangalore, Delhi University, and Jawaharlal Nehru University—received grants through the University Grants Commission (UGC).

On the German side, Freie Universität Berlin, RWTH Aachen, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nuremberg, the University of Potsdam, Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Heidelberg University, and the Technical University of Clausthal were supported through the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

2. In the second phase of the Indo-German Partnership (IGP), spanning 2020 to 2024, prominent Indian institutions—including IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, NLSIU Bangalore, IISc Bangalore, IIT Roorkee, NIT Rourkela, Anna University Chennai, and MNIT Jaipur—received grants through the University Grants Commission (UGC).

On the German side, Heidelberg University, TU Dresden, Humboldt University Berlin, the University of Cologne, TU Munich, the University of Potsdam, Universität Regensburg, Freie Universität Berlin, and Ostbayerische Technische Hochschule (OTH) Amberg-Weiden were supported through the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

## Appendix-II

### **The currently funded partnerships of SPARC–GIANT programme:**

Twelve programmes are presently active under this framework. Participating institutes are IISc Bangalore, IIT Roorkee, IISER Trivandrum, IIT (BHU) Varanasi, IIT Indore, IIT Kharagpur, NIT Calicut, IIM Ahmedabad, IIT Delhi, Jawahar Lal Nehru University, IIT Palakkad from the Indian side.

On the German side, participating institutes are University of Cologne, HTW Dresden, University of Kiel, University of Würzburg, University of Wuppertal, Uniklinik Würzburg, TU Munich, University of Koblenz, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nuremberg, TU Chemnitz, HU Berlin, TU Bergakademie Freiberg.

### Appendix-III

#### List of existing dual / double or joint degree programmes between India and German Higher Education institutes:

- I. IIT Madras, in collaboration with RWTH Aachen and TU Dresden, launched a Joint Master's Program in Water Security and Global Change in 2024, with 23 students enrolled.
- II. IIT Madras and RWTH Aachen began a Joint PhD Programme in 2015, focusing on engineering, sustainability, and climate adaptation. Similar joint PhD collaborations with the University of Duisburg-Essen commenced in 2015, and with the University of Passau in 2014.
- III. Bharati Vidyapeeth University partnered with the Universität zu Köln to establish the German-Indian Master of Environmental Sustainability (GIMES) in 2023, enrolling 40 students.
- IV. Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad (JNTUH), together with Reutlingen University and the University of Kassel, initiated international integrated Bachelor's–Master's programmes in Professional Software Engineering in 2025, with 10 students enrolled.
- V. The Indo-German Centre for Higher Education (IGCHE), part of DHIK (the German University Consortium for International Cooperation), introduced several 3+1 bilingual (English/German) bachelor's programmes in engineering fields—including automobile, electrical, mechanical, computer science, mechatronics/robotics & automation—starting in 2010, with 250 students enrolled.

#### Appendix-IV

##### List of dual / double or joint degree programmes between India and German Higher Education institutes, which are in progress:

- I. NIT Meghalaya and TU Ilmenau have signed an MoU in February 2025 for double/joint Master's in Communication and Signal Processing (CSP).
- II. IIT Bhilai entered into an MoU with the University of Siegen in Electrical and Computer Engineering in June 2025.
- III. IIT Kharagpur has signed an MoU with the University of Stuttgart in Civil Engineering and Material Engineering in November 2025.
- IV. IIT Kharagpur and the University of Stuttgart also signed a Student Exchange Agreement in November 2025.
- V. IIT Tirupati signed an MoU with the University of Stuttgart in the fields of Civil Engineering and Material Engineering in November 2025.
- VI. IIT Tirupati and Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg has signed an MoU in Mechanical Engineering, in November 2025.
- VII. Birla Institute of Technology and Science (BITS), Pilani has signed a LoI with TU Dresden for academic collaboration in 2025. They are also working to design double/ joint bachelor's programmes in Computer Science, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering, as well as master's programmes in AI, Microelectronics, and Robotics & Automation soon. The collaboration is in progress.
- VIII. IIT Roorkee and the University of Potsdam are collaborating in Geosciences, and their MoU has been cleared by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). The agreement is ready to sign.
- IX. BITS Pilani is collaborating with TU Ilmenau on a Joint PhD programme in Environment & Sustainability Engineering, Electrical and Electronics Engineering, and Health Sciences, and this initiative is in progress.
- X. AIIMS New Delhi and TU Dresden signed a LoI in 2025 and are working together for joint research and degree in the area of Medical Technologies.
- XI. IIT Bombay, IIT Madras, and IIT Hyderabad are working with the University of Stuttgart in the areas of Civil Engineering and Material Engineering, and the collaboration is currently in progress.
- XII. The CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), New Delhi also signed an agreement with the University of Leipzig in October 2024 for collaboration in Infectious Disease Genomics.
- XIII. The CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), New Delhi signed an agreement with Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg in May 2025 to collaborate in Medical Sciences.