

NIIT University, Neemrana, Rajasthan

Within 20 months of admitting its first batch of students, NIIT-U is rapidly establishing a reputation for industry-linked and research-intensive undergrad, postgrad and doctoral study programmes



NIIT-U's eco-friendly campus: "new model in higher education". Inset: Shorey

PPROMOTED IN 2009 AS A GREENFIELD not-for-profit university by NIIT Ltd (estb.1981, annual revenue: Rs.1,249 crore) — India's globe-girdling IT education and training multinational with operations including 8,703 learning centres in 40 countries across six continents — NIIT University (NIIT-U), sited in the picturesque fortress town of Neemrana (Rajasthan), is rapidly establishing a reputation for providing industry-linked and research-intensive undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral study programmes in engineering, technology and business management.

The state-of-the-art 100-acre eco-friendly campus of NIIT-U, nestling in the Aravalli hills which is the world's oldest fold mountain range, welcomed its first batch of 30 students in September 2009. Since then over the past 20 months besides engineering, technology and business management degree programmes, NIIT-U has expanded its academic menu to offer a two-year MBA programme in finance and banking (in partnership with ICICI Bank).

Inspired by Rajendra S. Pawar, NIIT's promoter-chairman, the institutional objective of NIIT-U is to develop into a globally respected multi-disciplinary university which will set new benchmarks in higher education. "We have engineered a new model in higher education based on the four core principles of providing industry-linked, technology based, research driven, and seamless education. The over-30 years of experience, knowledge and expertise of NIIT in education worldwide has been invested in this not-for-profit university," says Pawar who is evidently satisfied with the smooth start of this private university established by a special NIIT University Act 2010, legislated by the Rajasthan assembly.

In September last, NIIT-U completed its first full year of academic operations and admitted its second batch of students. Currently 122 students are enrolled in B.Tech (computer science and engineering, information and communication technology, biotechnology and electronic and communication engin-

earing), M.Tech (bioinformatics, educational technology, embedded systems and pervasive systems), MBA and Ph D programmes. A highly-qualified faculty of 36 supplemented by visiting faculty from industry ensures the varsity's "four core principles" are fully integrated into the education experience.

“RECENT STUDIES SHOW THAT A MERE 4 percent of engineering graduates are employable in multinational IT companies with 18 percent found suitable for employment in IT-services related firms. Therefore our curriculums have been designed in alignment with the requirements of multinationals. There's a six-month compulsory internship programme, latest e-learning technology is used to enable students to connect with academics and industry leaders from around the world, and research projects are mandatory for all students. Moreover to fulfill our objective of delivering holistic education, all students are obliged to select electives from the humanities and languages and two co-curricular activities from physical education, the performing arts, community engagement and crafts. We are committed to producing well-balanced professionals employable worldwide,” says Dr. Rajeev Shorey, president of NIIT University.

A postgrad of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Shorey acquired valuable experience in blue-chip universities and corporates including Sasken Technologies, National University of Singapore, IIT-Delhi, IBM Research India Laboratory and GM Research India Science Laboratory prior to signing up with NIIT-U in 2009.

A wholly residential varsity, NIIT-U has been carefully positioned as an environment-friendly education institution adjoining a 750-acre hillock range which offers a plethora of rock-climbing, trekking, adventure sports, environmental rehabilitation and stargazing opportunities to students of both sexes. The 100-acre campus, a mere 4 km from Neemrana Fort (estb.1464), has been master-planned by YRM (London) Ltd, a globally renowned campus architecture firm which has also designed campuses of Brunel (London) and Cyprus universities. Among the features of its fully wired technology-intensive campus are hi-tech earth-air cooled classrooms, 17 state-of-the-art laboratories, a well-equipped library and

Admission and fees

NIIT University offers the following study programmes:

B.Tech in computer science and engineering, information and communication technology, electronics and communication, engineering, biotechnology (tuition fees: Rs.2.42 lakh per year)

M.Tech in pervasive systems, embedded systems, bioinformatics (Rs.4.4 lakh)

Ph D programmes in computer science and engineering, information and communication technology, educational technology, biotechnology

MBA programme: specialisations include marketing, finance, information systems and human resources management (Rs.4.4 lakh)

Admission into B.Tech is based on AIEEE/SAT/JEE scores, class X and XII exam scores, and personal interview, while for the MBA programme CAT/MAT/GMAT/XAT or NIIT-U Management Aptitude Test scores are required.

Residential fees: Rs.1 lakh per year

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240-seat auditorium. Sports infrastructure includes facilities for football, cricket, hockey, tennis, basketball, volleyball, golf, athletics, badminton, carom, chess and pool.

Residential accommodation includes furnished single and double rooms, all

positioned to provide scenic vistas of the Aravalli hills, with recreational rooms, dining and laundry facilities. Other on-campus facilities include a department store, medical facility, yoga centre, music and dance rooms, and a art and crafts centre.

Encouraged by the smooth start the university has got off to in its first year, NIIT-U's management has drawn up ambitious plans to expand the academic menu to include study programmes in the humanities and sciences. "Our objective is to develop NIIT-U into a full-fledged multi-disciplinary institution offering degree programmes in the humanities, life sciences, and behavioural sciences among other disciplines. We are also making a concerted effort to attract scholars into our Ph D programmes to give impetus to research and development at the university, and are beginning to attract foreign students who will help us shape NIIT-U into a world-class higher education institution offering cutting-edge education and research facilities to students from around the world," says Dr. Shorey.

Given the professionalism and speed with which NIIT University has stabilised its operations within the first 20 months of its existence, this goal is likely to be achieved well ahead of schedule.

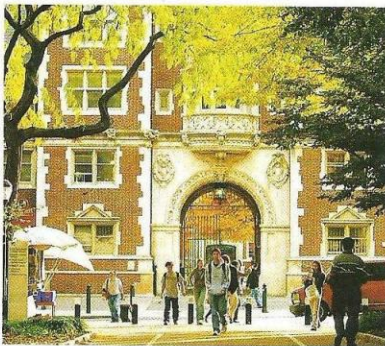
Summiya Yasmeen

University of Pennsylvania, USA

A HIGHLY-RATED IVY LEAGUE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION, PENN IS CONSISTENTLY RANKED AMONG THE TOP TEN UNIVERSITIES IN THE US AND AMONG THE TOP 20 WORLDWIDE

PROMOTED IN 1740 BY BENJAMIN Franklin, one of the founding fathers of the United States of America, University of Pennsylvania (Penn) is a highly-rated Ivy League higher education institution internationally reputed for teaching and research excellence. The fourth oldest institution of higher education in the US, Penn is consistently ranked among the top ten varsities in the US and among the top 20 worldwide. In its 2011 league table of America's best universities, *US News & World Report* ranks Penn fifth while in the QS World University Rankings 2010 it was ranked 12th worldwide.

Penn's four undergraduate and 12 graduate and professional schools offer a wide range of bachelors, Masters and joint degree programmes to 21,203 students. Moreover the university is host to an impressive collection of 165 research centres and institutes, and its 4,199-strong faculty includes several



Penn vista: internationally reputed

Nobel, Pulitzer, Guggenheim and MacArthur prize winners.

"We are a dynamic and enterprising community of eminent scholars and students living and learning together on a beautiful urban campus encompassing

12 top-ranked undergraduate, graduate and professional schools. Our path-breaking faculty integrate knowledge across disciplines and address the greatest challenges facing the world today. Our talented students hail from all 50 states (of the US) and more than

100 countries. They address complex problems and learn to be leaders even before they graduate. Above all Penn stands for the highest levels of excellence in teaching, research and service to humanity," says Amy Gutman, president of the university.

Sited on a scenic campus in Philadelphia — "the birthplace of America" — Penn has many firsts to its credit. It established America's first medical school; was the first institution in America to be conferred university status; established America's first collegiate business school (The Wharton School), students union, psychology clinic and university museum. In particular, Penn is widely respected as a pioneer in inter-disciplinary education and scholarship and boasts a rich tradition of academic flexibility and freedom. Students can choose subjects across