

IITs open research internships to students from outside

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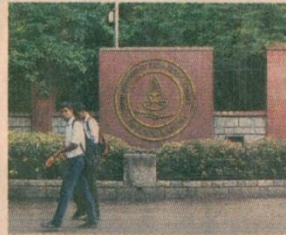
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Do not fret if you do not secure admission into an Indian Institute of Technology (IIT). The massive open online course (MOOC) system offered a glimpse into their curricula and the IITs are slowly opening doors to outside students for high-quality research on campus.

The IITs at Madras, Gandhinagar and Kharagpur have been taking steps to draw students from other institutes and universities into their summer internship programmes for a couple of months and work with their top faculty members.

Among these, IIT Madras and IIT Gandhinagar run structured programmes where applications are invited from candidates outside campus.

IIT Madras is offering a two-month summer fellowship programme for students from outside the IITs. To begin from May 16, the programme will entail a ₹6,000 monthly stipend to candidates. The institute has set



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February 28 as the deadline for submission of applications for the programme. "This is an opportunity for students to work with leading researchers on problems that are at the forefront of technology," said V Jagadeesh Kumar, dean (academic courses), IIT Madras.

IIT Gandhinagar runs a similar programme where candidates are paid stipends of ₹4,000-5,000 per month.

The IITs see the move as an effort to share academic and research best practices with students of other institutes while creating a pool of potential doc-

toral and postdoctoral researchers. "Our faculty members get to work with some of the best talent in the country. We showcase cutting edge technology and research work being done on campus. This prepares candidates for future research programmes and in placements," said Shanmuganathan Raman, assistant professor of electrical engineering and computer science and engineering, IIT Gandhinagar.

Citing one such instance, Raman said a candidate made it to the Georgia Institute of Technology after completing the internship programme at IIT Gandhinagar.

According to an IIT Kharagpur spokesperson, while a structured programme is not available on campus, faculty members hire interns from outside for research during summer. Further, as part of their research spending, the IITs have been setting aside funds to pay for stipends.

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