

IIT-G goes global with teachers

Hires 5 from abroad, in talks with others

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Ahmedabad: The IIT, Gandhinagar (IIT-G) is going global with its teaching standards. This is the first IIT to take advantage of the recent decision of IIT Council allowing 10% of the total teaching staff of the institute to be foreign nationals. IIT-G, which was set up in 2008, has already inked agreements with five teachers from abroad. That is not all. The IIT-G authorities have also drawn up a list of 50 probabilities from foreign countries who would help the new institute to find its niche among the other IITs of the country.

"Our endeavour is to stand out among all the IITs and create a different identity for ourselves. We have aimed at getting the best faculty and the top students among all IITs," said Sudhir Jain, director of IIT-G.

The move gains significance in the light of a meeting between IIT directors and the HRD ministry held in Delhi last Friday. The IIT Council then took a major decision:

Research opportunities a big draw

Being able to head research teams and get an exposure in the field is proving to be a huge draw for the foreign teachers. "Apart from good remuneration, they will get a much deeper and better exposure in research and teaching experience. They can play a much larger role in the institute's academic activities," said IIT-G officials. "We want to get the best faculty to improve quality of education and draw best students. Experienced teaching faculties from foreign shores will be focused on upgrading our research work and teaching," said IIT-G director Sudhir Jain. TNN

Of the total faculty strength in an IIT, up to 10% of the teaching staff can be foreign nationals. The council also decided to allow 25% foreign students on a supernumerary basis in post-graduate courses, without affecting admission norms for Indian students.

IIT-G has already employed four NRIs who are now working at the institute as full-time faculty members.

The new names in IIT-G's 43-member faculty are: Ian Smith and Claude Petitpierre from Switzerland, Emmanuel Deriat from France, and Subhash Deodhar and Mukta Tripathy from the US.

The Swiss teachers, who are joining in December, will teach mechanical engineering at the institute, while Deriat will take up computer science subject. The two NRIs from the US will focus on management subjects.