

7.2.1 – Describe at least two institutional best practices

SEMESTER ABROAD PROGRAM (SAP) – a program meant for advanced learners

1. Objectives of the Practice

What are the objectives / intended outcomes of this “best practice” and what are the underlying principles or concepts of this practice (in about 100 words)?

SRMIST is recognized across the country for its high standards of education, exciting opportunities and excellent placement. To maintain its top position, the University is spearheading with Semester Abroad Program (SAP), a unique initiative providing its students an international exposure and global opportunities. This, we believe, is the first of its kind in India.

Objectives:

- To provide global exposure to advanced learners
- To adapt the best practices of reputed foreign universities in SRMIST as observed by the SAP students
- To improve collaboration with foreign universities

The Context

What were the contextual features or challenging issues that needed to be addressed in designing and implementing this practice (in about 150 words)?

Under the Semester Abroad Program the students are allowed to take-up a few courses and /or a Major project in reputed foreign universities for ONE semester. The credits earned in the foreign university through the SAP will be translated into SRM credits, by an approved conversion procedure, and taken for consideration for the award of the degree by SRMIST. After the study period at a foreign university the students return to SRMIST to continue with the degree program for which they were enrolled, and after fulfilling all the necessary conditions laid out in the regulations of SRMIST, the student will become eligible for the award of the degree.

The Practice

Describe the practice and its uniqueness in the context of India higher education. What were the constraints / limitations, if any, faced (in about 400 words)?
Selection Criteria and procedure:

It is a transparent process giving adequate consideration to:

- Academic performance
- Ambition and excitement level
- Communication skills
- Family financial background to support

- Above all the recommendation of the department concerned
- An information session is held in February and July every year in all campuses
- After the information session the interested students register with OIR (Office of International Relations) in the prescribed format with all supporting documents, before the deadline date.
- A one-to-one counselling session is held to all registered students by a committee consisting of the Director, Office of the International Relations, Faculty Director, Director, (Research) and the Head of the Department.
- The shortlisted students should submit 2 undertakings – one by the student and the other by the parent – and proceed with all the academic and non-academic requirements of SRM and the host university
- A separate one-to-one interview will be held for awarding few scholarships to select prestigious universities like MIT, Cornell, etc

	FALL TERM	SPRING TERM
Registration with OIR	January to till the interview date	July to till the interview date
Interview by SRM committee	End February	End August
Announcement of shortlisted names	Mid-March	Mid September
Last date for withdrawal	15 days from the date of announcement of shortlisted names	15 days from the date of announcement of shortlisted names
Last date for applying to foreign university	As per the dead lines of the foreign university – tentatively 15th May	As per the dead lines of the foreign university – tentatively 15th October
Expected admission letter	Mid -July	First week of December
Leave SRM	From 15th August	From first week of January

Evidence of Success

Provide evidence of success such as performance against targets and benchmarks, review results. What do these results indicate? Describe in about 200 words.

- Provides an unique opportunity to gain international learning and living experience
- Brighten the career opportunities both in India and Overseas
- Get an opportunity to work with eminent professors of the universities and upon proving their mettle stand a good chance of getting direct admission to subsequent higher studies in that university or in other universities
- Get an opportunity to work in cross-cultural, multi-national environment
- Enable students to prove their mettle in an alien environment. In all cases, SRM students have done exceptionally well when they undergo SAP.
- Acquire or improve self-confidence and independency
- Fulfills one's life time ambition to stay ahead at the top

The full details of the program can be found in the url: <http://www.srmuniv.ac.in/ir/out-bound>

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Please identify the problems encountered and resources required to implement the practice (in about 150 words).

- To sign MoUs with top notch universities across the globe so that they become partners with SRM in implementing the program.
- Earmark funds for the students to meet their travel, boarding and tuition fee expenditure
- To put in place an unbiased selection process in place.
- Orient the meritorious students from rural background to become confident enough to make use of the program
- Adjustment of credits earned during the study abroad
- Arranging special classes for students to enable them undergo courses which they might have missed at SRM while studying a semester abroad.

Notes

SAP program has started in the year 2004, and currently 200 students make use of the program annually.

BEST PRACTICE No. 2

COMPENSATORY CLASSES – a program meant for slow learners

Objectives of the Practice

What are the objectives / intended outcomes of this “best practice” and what are the underlying principles or concepts of this practice (in about 100 words)?

To enable slow learners to complete the courses in their own pace and provide an opportunity to students who are unable to sit for the end semester examinations due to lack of attendance.

The Context

What were the contextual features or challenging issues that needed to be addressed in designing and implementing this practice (in about 150 words)?

Students sometimes find it difficult to complete a course, that is, to have attendance percentage of 75% and above due to the following reasons:

- Difficulty in coping with the pace of the studies – those who has the wherewithal but need more time – and hence unable to attend classes to get 75% attendance
- Miss classes due to unforeseen circumstances like prolonged illness, accidents, loss of kith and kin etc. And have an attendance percentage less than 75%

Compensatory courses are announced by a School/Department, by the Deans/HODs, with the approval of the Director (Engg&Tech). The course will be conducted during the regular academic session either during the weekends or in the evenings after the regular classes as decided by the Director (Engg&Tech) and the number of hours that will be conducted will be 75% of the hours specified in the curriculum for a course. Maximum two courses will be permitted to a student during the semester and the student has to have at least 75% attendance in these courses.

The Practice

Describe the practice and its uniqueness in the context of India higher education. What were the constraints / limitations, if any, faced (in about 400 words)?

- The evaluation process for compensatory courses consists of only end semester examinations and no internal assessment process. Student shall have to score the passing minimum in the end semester examination only and the marks scored in which will be given full weight age.
- Courses will be offered by the departments only to students detained for lack of attendance in those courses (Grade W, R.18.1). No student should register for more than two compensatory courses offered during a semester and totally not more than 8 courses in the normal duration of study.
- Compensatory courses will be announced after the publication of results of end semester examinations of odd/even semester and the conduct of these courses will not go beyond the last working day of the semester. A student will have to register within the time stipulated in the announcement by paying the prescribed fees.
- No student who has got 'W' grade, (that is, the student who has been detained for want of attendance in a particular course) can appear for end semester examinations for that course without undergoing the compensatory classes for that course.
- Withdrawal from Compensatory courses is not permitted.
- Student who has obtained U grade in a course shall not register for compensatory course for that course.
- Compensatory courses are announced by a School/Department, by the Deans/HODs, with the approval of the Director (Engg&Tech).

- The course will be conducted during the regular academic session either during the weekends or in the evenings after the regular classes as decided by the Director (Engg&Tech) and the number of hours that will be conducted will be 75% of the hours specified in the curriculum for a course.
- Maximum two courses will be permitted to a student during the semester and the student has to have at least 75% attendance in these courses.

Evidence of Success

Provide evidence of success such as performance against targets and benchmarks, review results. What do these results indicate? Describe in about 200 words.

- Students are able to achieve a pass percentage as near to the regular one
- Students get individual care due to less strength of students studying under compensatory scheme
- Out of 7/8 courses in a semester, they can do 1 or 2 under compensatory courses thereby lightening their burden according to their capacity during regular study
- Students who suffer from lack of attendance due to unfortunate circumstances like medical problems, loss of near and dear ones in the family make use of these courses

Problems Encountered and Resources Required

Please identify the problems encountered and resources required to implement the practice (in about 150 words).

- Even some capable students sometimes opt for these courses practice of which is to be discouraged.
- Being a small group, faculty sometimes tend to be liberal in awarding marks in these courses

7.3 – Institutional Distinctiveness

7.3.1 – Provide the details of the performance of the institution in one area distinctive to its vision, priority and thrust in not more than 500 words

Being a deemed to be university, one area of thrust is to promote research. This is in alignment with our stated vision:

To emerge as a World - Class University in creating and disseminating knowledge, and providing students a unique learning experience in Science, Technology, Medicine, Management and other areas of scholarship that will best serve the world and betterment of mankind.

Research is the thrust area which can enable SRMIST to “....emerge as a World - Class University in creating and disseminating knowledge....”

In order to transform the institution from that of teaching learning type, which it was at the time of inception, to become a research focused one in selected areas, concrete measures were taken which are enumerated below:

- Establishment of Research Institutes (RI) and man them with high quality researchers from renowned institutions
- Establishment of centers of excellence
- Earmarking of funds as seed money to motivate the researchers
- Providing state of the art laboratories with modern equipment
- Incentives to faculty for publishing , getting sponsored research projects and filing patents
- Flexi-timings for faculty
- Sponsorship to travel abroad for presenting papers in international conferences and for collaborative research in foreign universities
- Enabling faculty to pursue higher studies

The thrust areas are :

- Nanotechnology
- Space Technology
- Advanced Concrete Technology
- Computing
- Biotechnology
- Environmental Nuclear research
- Contemporary Research, Services and Skill Development in Advanced Life Science Technologies

In order to facilitate carrying out cutting edge research in the above mentioned areas, the following are the **Research Centres** in SRM IST

- Nanotechnology Research Centre
- Space Technology Research Centre
- Automobile Research Centre
- SRM-NEC Japan Collaborative Research centre
- Centre for Advanced Concrete Research
- Interdisciplinary Institute of Indian System of Medicine
- Centre for Environmental Nuclear Research
- SRM-DBT Partnership Platform for Contemporary Research, Services and Skill Development in Advanced Life Science Technologies
- Satellite Meteorology Cell
- Translational medicine and research centre

The centres function in a cooperative manner to identify and initiate foundational multi-disciplinary research and applied research projects, create and combine patentable Intellectual Property (IP) components, design and develop prototypes and proof of

concepts, manage and market products and solutions (through know-how transferred incubated companies), and win and work to deliver funded research projects.

Outcomes

The outcomes measured of the research initiatives are in terms of :

- Publications
- Funded projects
- Patents