

Proposals
for the post of Vice President,
Technology Students'
Gymkhana,
Indian Institute of Technology
Kharagpur

Proposal 1

Opportunity Portal:

Providing part-time, full time & freelancing opportunities to students through Alumni

Overview:

The reputation of any renowned institution is only as good as its alumni. IIT Kharagpur has always been known to produce some of the finest talents throughout the nation, but a lot of the potential of this vast talent pool is currently going untapped.

The opportunity portal will act as a channel that supplies opportunities to our vast talent pool of students who require it, thereby boosting the stature of the institute and its ability to provide employers with requirements and benefit our student and alumni community.

Proposal:

This Portal aims to create a platform where students can avail of jobs and internship opportunities outside the CDC process. Even though there is tremendous demand for web development and application development skills inside and outside of IIT Kharagpur, there is no channel to find an exhaustive list of such opportunities.

Often, they are posted on LinkedIn or can be found in the PR Chair's emails. Similarly, the Opportunity for alumni to list their requirements for employment, i.e., stating whether they require part-time, full time or freelancing opportunities on this platform, will give them job prospects and strengthen the alumni community and their affinity towards the institute. We are creating a pipeline amongst employers, alumni, and students in their respective fields through various programs and initiatives in this Portal. Keeping in mind the factors mentioned above, I propose to execute the opportunity portal as follows:

- The first step is to set up a web-based portal on which alumni, students, and employers can register for the process; this Portal shall be dubbed Opportunity Portal.
- Technology Coordinators shall be responsible for the entire construction and maintenance of the opportunity portal.
- Any eligible student for CDC internships or placements will be ineligible to access the Opportunity Portal.

- The Students with CDC internships or placements will be ineligible for the Opportunity Portal.

Functioning:

- Students and alumni can access this Portal through the Institute's Mail ID (Students) and Alumni Mail ID (Alumni). We will also take roll number, LinkedIn ID, and contact details as registration details to ensure the connection and data for the database.
- When they register on this Portal, a specific set of questions about their skill set, interests etc., will be presented to both students and alumni.
- Employers will be given a login portal in which they will be required to register. A company email ID will be a critical criterion for this registration.
- Employers can state their requirements along with certain criteria they require on the Portal to make it as specific as possible.
- The students and alumni will receive opportunities relevant to them on their dashboards.

Publicity plan:

- Publicity of the Opportunity Portal shall be an essential factor as the initiative shall be introduced in the interest of students and alumni. To reach its full potential as an initiative, the same should be known to a maximum number of students and alumni along with employers in general.
- At the start of every academic session, information regarding the opportunity portal shall be circulated throughout the various social media handles of IIT Kharagpur and Technology Students' Gymkhana.
- The Opportunity Portal shall be featured on the websites of both IIT Kharagpur and Technology Students' Gymkhana.
- Periodic emails shall be sent regarding the opportunity portal to the student and alumni base of IIT Kharagpur from the Dean of Student Affairs and the Office of Alumni Affairs and Branding.

Impact:

The benefits of initiating the opportunity portal are:

- Opportunity Portal will increase the reputation of the Institution amongst employers.
- It will provide an enormous opportunity for the students of IIT Kharagpur to connect with the Alumni as well as gain experience and build their professional portfolio before sitting for CDC internships/placements.
- Such a portal can streamline the process of finding jobs, internships or freelancing opportunities for students.

- The Portal shall help strengthen student-alumni relations and increase the the affinity of the alumni towards the institute.

Proposal 2

Digitization of Appointment Process at BC Roy Technology Hospital:

Streamline the Specialist Doctors' Appointment process at BC Roy Technology Hospital

Overview:

At the moment, expert doctors are only available on specified days. Because there is only one offline counter for booking appointments, students must go prior to the time and wait in long queues. There is no certainty of securing an appointment due to the restricted availability. As a result, the student community has difficulty obtaining specialized medical facilities, depriving them of timely and adequate medical care. Therefore, our objective is to digitize this appointment system through a real-time online portal so that students can book appointments ahead of time and verify the availability of appointments and the Specialist Doctors' upcoming schedules.

Proposal:

I propose the creation of a real-time online portal for BC Roy Technology Hospital where students and staff can access the following data -

- Availability of specialist doctor appointments.
- The monthly schedule of Specialist doctors.
- Scheduling appointments and follow-up appointments.

Execution:

- Creation of an app containing the facilities mentioned above.
- Providing Log-in IDs to every student and staff of the institute.
- All of the Doctors will also have Login IDs on the portal.
- The dynamic availability of the doctors will be shown in the portal.
- Students and staff can log in and check for availability.
- They can book and cancel appointments accordingly.

Impact:

- Students will be aware of the availability status and doctor visit timing in order to plan their schedules accordingly.
- Lowering the student annoyance of waiting in line over long periods of time.
- That will significantly simplify the appointment scheduling process.
- It will assist in managing space on hospital premises by minimizing lines at each counter.

Background:

According to the testimonies of BC Roy staff, there is a shortage of specialist doctors, and their schedules keep changing frequently. This results in minimal appointments being available, which creates long queues at the counter, causing problems for students and staff who need to move around the facility. Due to the limited number of appointments, there is uncertainty regarding getting an appointment in specialized departments, leading to a waste of time and frustration among the patients. The insufficient number of counters for taking appointments further exacerbates the problem of long queues and waiting times. With limited counters available, patients have to wait in long queues to book appointments, which can cause inconvenience and frustration.

Proposal 3

Uplifting Mental Health of Students at IIT Kharagpur:

Initiatives to ensure a good and healthy mental status of every boarder

Overview:

After the covid pandemic and the switching from online to offline classes, many students face issues managing academic and non-academic loads. Though counseling center facility is available, many students still face mental health problems that remain unaddressed, making their case worse. So, adequate initiatives should be taken to fill those gap areas and spread awareness regarding this vital issue of mental health. This will create a huge impact and our KGP family members will be relieved from stress and anxiety. The significant concerns regarding the same are the meager student-counselor ratio and lack of awareness about the facilities available on the campus.

Proposal:

- Enhancing the facilities provided by the counseling center by increasing the number of counselors.
- Organizing more awareness and sensitization programs on different topics related to mental health, based on the needs of the students, like dealing with stress, time management, personal issues, etc.
- Conducting awareness programs on special occasions like Mental Health Day, International Happiness Day, and World Suicide Prevention Day.
- The faculty advisor should have continuous offline interaction meetings addressing the academic issues faced by students. They should take some initiatives to reduce the students' pain points in their department. Such sessions must be conducted beginning of each semester and at the end of the mid-semester exam.
- An awareness programme would be conducted for the guardians of the students to sensitize them about mental health, depression and what they can do as guardians for the mental health of their wards.
- The number of visiting psychiatrists should be increased to avoid delays in scheduling appointments for students referred for psychotherapy.

Impact:

- The mental health facilities will be more accessible to the students which will ensure timely help to the needy
- By interacting with the faculty advisor, students will get valuable insights and will be more focused on their studies, and will perform well

Background:

According to the data provided by the counseling center, around 10% of the students are already victims of depression before coming to the institute. Testimonies from counselors reveal that rejection from society and CDC, academic stress and relationship breakups are the leading causes of depression among students. The campus has a total of seven counselors and two outsourced ones, which is very few considering the number of students on campus, which causes delays in scheduling a follow-up appointment. There is also a lack of events aimed at spreading awareness about depression on campus.