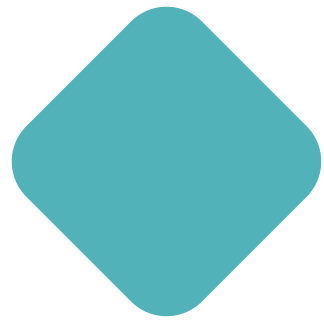


IUTCONNECT

**FOSTERING COLLABORATION
AND CONNECTIVITY**

25 June, 2025

PRESENTED BY The BYTERS



THE BYTERS



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Project Overview

IUT-CONNECT is a student-centered platform designed to connect IUT students and faculty through a unified digital space. It enables academic collaboration, peer support, research opportunities, and a campus marketplace—all in one simple, accessible application.

Benefits

- Makes communication seamless
- Provides peer-support and peer-to-peer communication
- Connects students and faculties for exciting research opportunities



KEY-STAKEHOLDERS

➤➤➤ Students

➤➤➤ Primary Users of Platform

➤➤➤ Faculty Members

➤➤➤ Uses to recruit students for projects

➤➤➤ System Admins / Moderators

➤➤➤ Managers of the platform

➤➤➤ University IT Team

➤➤➤ Maintainers of platform after handover



Stakeholder Interview: Students

Workloads	Pain Points	How We Help
Dealing with Classwork, Exams, and Projects	Scattered academic communication	Centralized communication dedicated to each topic
Searching for notes, course helps, or communicating with peers	Not getting resources in time	Peer-to-peer connection to aid in academics
Staying up to date with notices	Notices being buried under weeks old chats	Separate thread for notices



Stakeholder Interview: Faculty

Workloads	Pain Points	How We Help
Conducting lectures, assessments, and research	Remembering the schedule, what has been taught, etc	Separate boards for each class
Looking for capable students to assist in projects & research	No simple way to post projects / research opportunities	Dedicated board for work
Responding to scattered student questions / emails	Time lost answering repeat questions individually	Centralized academic help space to reduce redundant queries



Stakeholder Interview: University IT Team

Workloads	Pain Points	How We Help
Integrating platform with existing infrastructure	Existing infrastructure lacks modular support	Making a standalone platform that supports API integration
Debugging and adding requested features	Splitting time between finishing existing work and debugging / adding features	Will be involved with project after handover



Stakeholder Interview: System Admins

Workloads	Pain Points	How We Help
Managing platform users, verifying identities	No automated system for verifying identity	Seamless integration with IUT ID cards for verification
Monitoring content and ensuring rule compliance	No tool for managing violations or blocked users	Automated report / flagging and filtering features



Conducting Interviews: Students

Open-Ended Questions

1. What Challenges do you face when trying to get academic help from peers or seniors
2. How do you currently find important notices from university?

Closed Questions

1. Do you currently use social media for communication with peers or seniors?
2. Would you prefer a single platform for academic, communication, and research opportunities?

Probe Questions

1. You mentioned using social media - what makes it hard or inconvenient?
2. If you hesitate to reach out to others for help, what's the reason?



Conducting Interviews: Faculty

Open-Ended Questions

1. How do you currently recruit students for your research or projects?
2. What difficulties do you face while answering student queries?

Closed Questions

1. Do you regularly share academic opportunities with students?
2. Would you be open to using a structured student platform?

Probe Questions

1. When recruiting students, what qualities do you usually look for?
2. How often do you receive student messages via unofficial platforms?



Conducting Interviews: Admins / Moderators

Open-Ended Questions

1. What sort of difficulties would you probably face in managing a student community or page?
2. What tools would make moderation easier and faster?

Closed Questions

1. Have you ever moderated a digital platform before?
2. How comfortable are you with platforms like reddit and discord?

Probe Questions

1. How much control should moderators have over user profiles?
2. What metrics or logs should be visible to the admin team?



Conducting Interviews: IT Team

Open-Ended Questions

1. Do you have experience with integrating new platforms into existing systems?
2. How familiar are you with modern development practices?

Closed Questions

1. Have you ever maintained a mid-sized platform?
2. Did you ever integrate a separate database with a platform via APIs?

Probe Questions

1. What documentations do you need to successfully manage and enrich this platform?
2. How often should future updates be rolled out?



Interview Outcomes: Students

Key Points

- Students feel the need for a centralized and clean platform for easier communication
- There's a need for anonymous ways to seek help
- They value tools for finding mentors, opportunities, and peer-to-peer communication

Wants & Needs

- Organized Q&A forum with tagging, search, and categories
- Anonymous posting option
- Notification system for replies or opportunities popping up
- Profiles that show focus / interests for easier networking



Interview Outcomes: Faculty

Key Points

- Faculty face challenges recruiting students and dealing with redundant communication
- They want a 1-to-many communication tool to structure their communication
- They are open to technology that reduces inbox traffic & improves academic engagement

Wants & Needs

- A faculty controlled space to post research/project opportunities
- A centralized FAQ or pinned responses for repeated questions
- Easy filtering of students based on academic year or skills
- Tools to make announcements



Interview Outcomes: Admins / moderators

Key Points

- Moderators seek control without being overwhelmed
- They want tools to automate moderation and monitoring
- Their concern is platform abuse (spam, harassment, irrelevant content/post)

Wants & Needs

- Flagging & reporting system
- Auto-hide & auto-review reported content
- User access control (ban, suspend, restrict privileges)



Interview Outcomes: IT Team

Key Points

- They have limited experience integrating software into university systems
- They are comfortable working with modern web development technologies
- They value a system for reporting bugs, and new feature submission requests

Wants & Needs

- A back-end that supports API calls from and to current IUT database
- Modular code base that can be incrementally integrated with existing IUT infrastructure
- Properly documented project to reference in the future



Most Requested Features

- Centralized Q&A Forum
- Research & Opportunity Board
- Anonymous Posting Option
- Messaging System
- Admin & Moderator Dashboard
- Role Based Access
- Advanced Search & Filter Features



JAD Session

Conducting a JAD session is beneficial for IUT-Connect.

Benefits:

- Gather real-time input from students, faculty members, moderators, and IT team
- Resolve conflicting priorities
- Define a clear and focused MVP with stakeholder consensus
- Improve adoption by involving end users early in the process

While not strictly required for a student project, a short, well structured JAD session can greatly enhance project clarity, reduce rework, take the guess work out, and build trust across the broader community as a whole.



Student Questionnaire

1. What challenges do you currently face when trying to get academic help from other students?
2. How do you usually find or share information about research opportunities or internships?
3. Have you ever missed out on something (e.g., help, opportunity, event) because of disorganized communication platforms? Please describe briefly.
4. Do you currently use social media platforms (e.g., Messenger, Facebook groups) to ask questions or request help from peers?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
5. How often do you buy or sell books, gadgets, or other items from fellow students?
 - ☐ Never
 - ☐ Occasionally
 - ☐ Frequently
6. Would you prefer a single platform to handle academic help, buying/selling items, and finding research opportunities?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
7. What kind of features would make such a platform truly helpful to you?
8. If you don't often ask others for help, why do you think that is?
9. Would you be interested in an anonymous Q&A feature?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No



Faculty Questionnaire

1. How do you currently share research or assistantship opportunities with students?
2. What difficulties do you encounter when students reach out with academic or administrative queries?
3. Do you receive repetitive or similar questions from multiple students via email or social platforms?
☐ Yes
☐ No
4. Would a centralized academic Q&A forum be helpful to reduce repetitive communication?
☐ Yes
☐ No
5. Would you be interested in posting opportunities (e.g., research, lab openings) on a student platform?
☐ Yes
☐ No
6. What type of students do you usually look for in research or project work?
7. If such a platform existed, what kind of announcements or academic materials would you consider sharing?
8. What concerns would you have about using a centralized platform to connect with students?
9. Should such a platform allow controlled access to faculty-only features or posts?
☐ Yes
☐ No



Admin / Moderator Questionnaire

1. Have you previously moderated online student groups or platforms?
☐ Yes
☐ No
2. What are the most common issues you've faced while managing community platforms (e.g., spam, abuse)?
3. What features would help you moderate user posts or interactions more effectively?
4. Should flagged posts be auto-hidden or placed in a review queue before being publicly visible?
☐ Auto-hide
☐ Review queue
☐ Other: _____
5. What type of users or content should be restricted or monitored more closely?
6. Should moderators have the ability to suspend or warn users directly?
☐ Yes
☐ No
7. What kind of analytics or logs would be useful for managing user behavior?
8. How would you handle conflict or appeals from flagged users?
9. What concerns do you have about platform abuse or misuse?



IT Team Questionnaire

1. What is your current involvement in maintaining or integrating platforms like ERP, LMS, or internal web services at IUT?
2. What concerns would you have about hosting or maintaining a student-built platform like IUT-CONNECT?
3. What challenges do you typically face when integrating new tools or platforms with existing IUT systems?
4. Do you currently manage or support any student-facing platforms at IUT?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
5. Would your department be willing to assist with periodic updates or new feature rollouts for IUT-CONNECT?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Maybe / Depends
6. Do you prefer externally hosted systems (e.g., Firebase, Vercel) or university-controlled servers?
 - ☐ External (Cloud)
 - ☐ On-prem (University-hosted)
 - ☐ Hybrid / Doesn't Matter
7. What security or compliance protocols must be followed before launching an IUT-affiliated platform?
8. If integration with the university ERP or authentication system is requested, what would be the process or expected challenges?
9. What level of access or administrative tools would you need to effectively maintain and monitor the platform long-term?



THANK YOU

ANY QUESTIONS