

SCIE NEWSLETTER



SCIE

॥वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्॥

Symbiosis Centre for International Education (SCIE) is the central department of Symbiosis created solely for designing and managing all internationalisation endeavours for the university. This department takes care of *all things international*: from branding Symbiosis globally, promoting programs and recruiting international students, creating a *home away from home* for all international students studying in Pune, nurturing the spirit of multicultural inclusion and diversity at all campuses, offering leadership opportunities through the vibrant International Student Council to working with carefully selected, like minded international partner universities, designing joint academic collaborations, and ensuring internationalisation@home to all staff and students across the university.



SIU

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Symbiosis International University (SIU) was envisioned by Founder **Prof. (Dr.) S. B. Mujumdar** with an aim to *promote international understanding through quality education*. One of its main objectives is to develop students who not only work towards growth in their professional careers and personal lives, but also consider themselves as ambassadors for living (and evangelising) the philosophy of '*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*', 'the world is one family'.

RANKINGS & ACCREDITATION



International Collaborations:



Dr. Anupama Kotur was invited as facilitator to deliver a workshop at the DIES (Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies) Training Course – Management of Internationalisation, jointly organised by DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), HRK (German Rectors' Conference), facilitated by Leibniz University Hannover along with partner universities with financial support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation, which aims to strengthen institutional capacities in managing the process of internationalisation in higher education. This was hosted by Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal, Karnataka. The session was on the theme “Systems and Processes of Higher Education at National, Regional, and Interregional Levels”.



Choose France Tour 2025





SCIE facilitated the visit of Dr. Philippe Maurin, Attaché for Scientific Academic Cooperation at the French Consulate, Mumbai and Ms. Rini Abraham, Campus France Pune to Symbiosis International University. The delegation interacted with Dr. V. K. Sashindran, Dean, Symbiosis Medical College for Women (SMCW) & Symbiosis University Hospital and Research Centre (SUHRC), several Heads of Research Centres at Symbiosis including Dr. Prakash Rao, Dr. Bhushan Borotikar, Dr. Manikprabhu Dhanorkar, Dr. Amol Vedpathak and others. Dr. Gobinath Ravindran, Director, Symbiossi Centre for Research and Innovation (SCRI) joined in virtual mode and Dr. Prasoom Dwiwedi, Dr. Sanjay Pohekar,

Dr. Yogesh Patil and Dr. Anand Shindikar represented SCRI. Dr. Anupama Kotur, Head - International Academic Programs, Symbiosis Centre for International Education (SCIE) and Ms. Sonali Hardikar, Sr Officer represented SCIE.

The discussions focussed on Campus France and the scope of its operations in higher education, programs and grants to support students and researchers' mobility and steps to move forward to develop cooperation between French institutions and Symbiosis International University.





SCIE facilitated the visit of a delegation from **Deakin University**, comprising **Dr. David Halliwell, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Partnerships), Ms. Priyanka Singh, Executive Director (South Asia), Ms. Chaturika Bandara, Head of International Strategy and Partnership & Ms. Irfa Javed, Manager, Research Engagement (South Asia).**

The delegation visited SIU and met Dr. Hardik Vachharajani, Head Global Engagement and Partnerships for Australia and NZ, Dr. Anupama Kotur, Head - International Academic Programs, SCIE, Dr. Deepali Vora, Deputy Director Academics – Symbiosis Institute of Technology (SIT), Dr. Anindita Roy, Head- Internationalization Cell, SIT, and Dr. Vasudev Ramdas Menon, Faculty-in-charge Symbiosis School of Liberal Arts (SSLA) - International Cell.

Dr. Adya Sharma, Director, Symbiosis Centre for Management Studies (SCMS-P), Dr. Aarti Mehta Sharma, Director, SCMS-Bengaluru, Dr. Nitin Rakesh, Director, SIT Nagpur and Dr. Santhosh K G Manikonda, In-Charge International Cell, SIT, Hyderabad joined in online mode. The discussions centred around review of ongoing collaborations, the required support for student cohorts and strengthening pathways and support mechanisms for the dual degree programs. Ms. Sonali Hardikar, Sr Officer represented SCIE.

Dr. David Halliwell addressed the dual degree cohorts at SIT, Pune and the students at SIT Nagpur, SCMS (P) and SCMS(B) joined in online mode. Dr. Aniket K. Shahade Assistant Professor, Dept. of AIML, facilitated the tour to the Bajaj BEST centre.



SCIE facilitated the visit of **Ms. Tashina Giraud, Director of International Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives, American University** to Symbiosis. Ms. Tashina engaged in exploratory discussions aimed at strengthening international academic partnerships with SIU with Dr. Anupama Kotur, Head - International Academic Programs, SCIE and Ms. Sonali Hardikar, Sr Officer. The visit focused on identifying new opportunities for student mobility, joint degree programs, and collaborative academic initiatives towards creating meaningful and mutually beneficial academic partnerships.



HR Certification Institute (HRCI) visited SIU to discuss potential opportunities for collaboration. The delegation comprising **Mr. Jorge (J.D.) Nomdedeu, Managing Director, Global Operations**, **Mr. Trushant Mehta, Managing Director, India**, and **Ms. Riya Popat, Manager, Business Development** met Dr. Anupama Kotur, Head - International Academic Programs, SCIE, Dr. Shrikrishna Kolhar, Assistant Professor, SIT and Ms. Sonali Hardikar, Sr Officer, SCIE and discussed initiatives designed to enhance the professional development offerings for Symbiosis faculty, students, and alumni. The key opportunities identified were Certification Preparation Workshop, onboard Symbiosis as an official Recertification Provider and strengthening the institution's connections with the broader HR certification landscape.

Dr. Eoin Langan, Dean of the Faculty of Business, and **Dr. Rosie Hand, Head of the Discipline of Advertising and Communications**, from **Technological University Dublin** visited Symbiosis and met with Dr. Shirrang Altekar, Director, Symbiosis Institute of Business Management (SIBM) – Pune, Dr. Madhura Bedarkar, Deputy Director – Administration - SIBM and Dr. Anupama Kotur, Head - International Academic Programs, SCIE to explore the possibilities of academic collaboration between the Universities.

The meeting was focused on discussing the mutual interests of both Universities in fostering academic cooperation and creating synergies that could benefit both faculty and students.

The next steps will involve further exploration of these opportunities, with an emphasis on aligning institutional goals and expectations.





SCIE facilitated the visit of a delegation from **Hertie School, Berlin**. Prof. Dr. **Mujaheed Shaikh** engaged in discussions regarding potential areas of collaboration including dual degrees, COIL, Joint Research, Workshops etc with Dr. Sammita Jadhav, Director, Symbiosis Institute of Health Sciences (SIHS), Dr. Prakash Rao, Professor and Head, Symbiosis Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability (SCCS), Dr. Anupama S. Kotur, Head - International Academic Programs, SCIE, Dr. Lalit Ingale, Associate Professor, Faculty in charge of Internationalization, SIHS, Dr. Kasturi Shukla, Associate Professor and Acting Head-MBA HHM Program, Dr. Meenal Kulkarni, Associate Professor, SIHS, Dr. Manjari Sinha Assistant Professor, Public Health Program and Ms. Sonali Hardikar, Sr. Officer, SCIE



Dr. Ranjini from K U Lueven visited SIT Pune for discussion on Study India Program



Interviews for selection of students for the **GIP programs** were conducted. Students from SIT Pune, SIT Nagpur, SCMS P, SCMS N, SCMS B, SCMS NAGPUR, SLS N, SLS P, SIIB, SSLA, SSE, SIBM NAGPUR participated in the interviews. Total number of students who participated was 79.

Winter school nominations for BSEL, Germany: 05

And IMT, France: 30 will be attending winter schools in January 2026.

Students from SIIB, SIBM NAGPUR, SCMHRD, SCMS Nagpur, SIBM Noida, SIBM Pune will be participating for the winter schools.

Events and Student Relations:



SCIE organised a vibrant Diwali celebration for over 550 international students, creating an atmosphere of cultural exchange and festive joy. The event captured the true spirit of Diwali through traditional activities and warm hospitality.

Students participated enthusiastically in lighting sparklers and enjoying crackers, immersing themselves in the celebration. A sumptuous traditional Indian dinner was served, followed by the distribution of special Diwali faral packets containing festive treats such as laddoos, chiwada, shankarpale, and chakli. International students' celebrated Bhaubeej or Bhai Dooj, a Hindu festival that celebrates the bond between brothers and sisters with great enthusiasm and joy, joined by Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar, Pro Chancellor, SIU.



The Gambia Sports Day was organised by the Association of the Gambian Students in India (AGSI) and supported by SCIE, bringing together Gambian students from across the state for a day of sportsmanship and camaraderie. Around 80 students participated in various indoor and outdoor sporting events.

The sports day promoted team spirit, health, and networking among Gambian students, further reinforcing the spirit of international collaboration that Symbiosis upholds. It also reflected the institution's commitment to promoting intercultural engagement, physical well-being, and community building through extracurricular initiatives.





In an excellent initiative to introduce young school kids to the concept of '**International Mindedness**', foreign students conducted interactive sessions in the form of online and offline presentations with Symbiosis Schools' students. These sessions were organised by Symbiosis School Central Directorate (SSCD) in collaboration with SCIE and were carried out under the guidance of **Dr. Gargee Mitra, Director – SSCD** and **Ms. Amruta Ruikar, Head – International Admissions and Promotions, SCIE**.

The following students took part in this initiative:

1. Mr. Tin Ungkoon from Thailand, SCMS-P
2. Mr. Kaveen Hettiarachchi and Mr. Kaveesha Wijetillake from Sri Lanka, SPPU
3. Mr. Michée Kwilembwe Ngoy from DR Congo, SCMC
4. Mr. Henry Tebandeke from Uganda and Ms. Vimbainashe Masango from Zimbabwe, SLS-P
5. Mr. Michael Mutie Otieno from Kenya, Modern College
6. Ms. Mahri Muhammedova from Turkmenistan, Modern College
7. Mr. Akram Mohammed Ali Alqasham from Yemen, SCMS-P
8. Ms. Nafosat Uzbekistan from Uzbekistan, BMCC

The foreign students introduced the young kids to their respective countries by sharing insights on its food, festivals, traditions, currency, religion, and cultural practices. Learners also discovered interesting facts about each of the above country's national symbols, wildlife, main cities, daily life, and the importance of family and community values in its society.

Such experiences are instrumental in nurturing international mindedness, as they encourage learners to appreciate diverse perspectives and build meaningful global connections. This initiative has been a great learning curve for the foreign students as well.

SCES:

Dr. Nidhi Piplani Kapur, Head-International Initiatives, SCIE – Noida, visited various Foreign Embassies and High Commissions in Delhi, India, to meet the Ambassadors/ High Commissioners extending a personal invitation for the Symbiosis Annual Gala Dinner and discussing Golden Jubilee Scholarships, as well as potential collaborations and partnerships with institutions in the respective countries.



▶ Dr. Nidhi Piplani Kapur with **H.E. Mr Erick Jean-Marie Zinsou, Ambassador of the Republic of Benin to India** on 1st October, 2025

▶ Dr. Nidhi Piplani Kapur with **H.E. Yousef Abdelghani, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to India** on 2nd October, 2025





▶ Dr. Nidhi Piplani Kapur with H.E. Dr. Bassam AlKhatib, Ambassador of the Syrian Arab Republic to India on 3rd October, 2025

▶ Dr. Nidhi Piplani Kapur with H.E Mr. Oday Hatim Mohammed, Charge d'Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Iraq to India on 15th October, 2025



▶ FICCI Vice Chancellor's round table with Professor Eloise Phillips, Provost International University of Southampton, Delhi and Professor Richard Wells, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International), University of Coventry at Taj Mansingh, New Delhi on 5th October, 2025



Dr. Anita Patankar, Director- SCIE, SIU and Executive Director – SIU, Dubai as a panelist during the FICCI Higher Education Summit on 6 & 7 th October, 2025



Dr. Nidhi Piplani Kapur and Ms. Rupali Chaudhary represented SIU at FICCI Higher Education Summit on 6 & 7th October, 2025

Symbiosis Annual Gala Dinner:





Symbiosis International (Deemed University) hosted its Annual Gala Dinner on October 7, 2025, at the Delhi Gymkhana Club, bringing together ambassadors, diplomats, and distinguished dignitaries. The event was graced by Chancellor Prof. Dr. S. B. Mujumdar, Pro Chancellor & Principal Director Dr. Vidya Yeravdekar, Provost & Dean Dr. Rajiv Yeravdekar, Dr. Ameya Yeravdekar (Head – All Campuses), Ms. Amruta Ruikar (Head – International Admissions and International Promotions), Dr. Anita Patankar (Director – Symbiosis Centre for International Education and Executive Director – Symbiosis International University, Dubai), and Dr. Nidhi Piplani Kapur (Head – International Initiatives, SCIE Noida Campus, and Head – SCES). The evening celebrated SIU's First Jubilee of the Dubai Campus and its outstanding achievements in national and international rankings, while fostering meaningful dialogue and collaboration among global academic and diplomatic community



Dr. Nidhi Piplani Kapur representing Symbiosis International University, Dubai at 'Uniwizard Career Fair' at Goodley Public School, Shalimar Baug, Delhi on 16th October, 2025



Staff achievement: Dr. Nidhi Piplani Kapur, Head – International Initiatives, SCIE, has been conferred her Doctoral Award by the South East Technological University (SETU), Waterford, Ireland on 30th October, 2025. She was the recipient of the prestigious Government of Ireland – Research Ireland Scholarship, and her doctoral research focused on “Embedding a Culture of Internationalisation at Home in Irish Higher Education.”

Seen in the picture are Dr. Don O'Neill, Head of the Department of Culinary Arts, Hospitality and Tourism (Lead Supervisor), along with Co-Supervisors Dr. Helen Murphy, Head of the Faculty of Education and Lifelong Learning, and Dr. Suzanne Denieffe, Head of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at South East Technological University, Waterford Campus, Ireland