



Rajagiri International School for Education and Research (RISER) [Engineering Division]

A Guide to International Programs in Engineering & Technology Offered by RISER in Collaboration with

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Rajagiri Vidyapeetham¹, a wide network of learning centers, was established, and nurtured by the Sacred Heart Province of the Carmelites of Mary Immaculate (C.M.I.) Blessed Fr. Kuriakose Elias Chavara founded the CMI congregation in the 19th century. Today, the CMI fathers manage over 200 educational institutions spread over different states of India. These institutions can be categorized as follows:

1. Primary and secondary schools (200)
2. Special schools for challenged children (5)
3. Vocational training centers (12)
4. Affiliated colleges (14)
5. Institutions of higher learning in
 - 5.1. Social sciences (1)
 - 5.2. Education (3)
 - 5.3. Management (1)
 - 5.4. Medicine (1)
 - 5.5. Engineering & Technology (1)
7. Non-formal educational institutions (18)
8. Cultural Centers (17)

New categories of institutions, in new specializations that synchronize with the demands of the competitive world, are being formulated / institutionalized, year-after-year. All through these achievements, The CMI fathers have been deriving inspiration and sustenance from the life of Jesus Christ. Naturally, the operations, conduct, and the ethos of every CMI Institution have been tempered by the following objectives:

- Serving all sections of the society regardless of the religion and caste;
- Nurturing ambience wherein all students, teachers, and staff feel a sense of equanimity;
- Helping the constituents of the institutions to grow in their own cultural, social, and religious traditions.

Rajagiri School of Engineering and Technology (RASET) is one such institution. RASET is accredited by the All India Council for Technical Education. Within four years of its establishment, RASET zoomed to the pre-eminent position among the Engineering colleges of Kerala, in terms of quality of academic ambience, physical resources, placement of graduates, and eco-friendliness of the campus.

1. Global Vision of Rajagiri Vidyapeetham

Studying abroad is capturing increasingly, the imagination of students and their parents, especially in the fields of biosciences, technology, and media arts. Shrinking geographic boundaries, and more students feeling their expectations soaring high, are contributing to this passion for securing foreign degree, wherever possible. But the prohibitive costs of higher education abroad dampen the soaring expectations of our smart young people.

¹ Rajagiri and Vidyapeetham are Sanskrit words, meaning mount of King and seat of knowledge, respectively

Quality is a crucial, but very fragile, factor that is critical to meaningful education. However, quality is the first casualty when higher education systems expand rapidly to meet the demands. Poor teaching by inexperienced faculty, anachronistic schemes, incoherent curricula, are only few of the factors that undermine the quality of education in any institution of higher learning, much to the disappointment of the parents and their wards.

2. Quality in Higher Education through Internationalization

The effectiveness of internationalization on quality improvement in education can be judged from the increasing mobility of students studying abroad. According to UNESCO, there were about 1,500,000 foreign students in the top host countries in 1994-95. This figure is estimated to touch 2,800,000 by 2010 and 4,900,000 by 2025 [“Education Trends in Perspectives, UNESCO, Montreal (2005)"] www.unesco.org

Two models are available for delivering academic degree programs with foreign collaboration viz., twinning and articulation. Both types of programs are governed by terms and conditions mutually agreed upon by a local institution of higher learning and a partnering foreign institution.

A **twinning agreement** specifies that selected students in a higher learning institution in the home country follow a subset of the course plan prescribed by the foreign institution for a specific duration, say, two years out of a total of four years of the course plan. The student is allowed to transfer the credits acquired at the home institution to the foreign institution, and complete the remainder of the course plan, by spending two more years there. Upon successful completion of the entire program of study, the student receives the degree from the foreign institution.

Unlike the twinning agreement, an **articulation agreement** does not require the partnering institutions to jointly implement an academic program. Students can study the courses of the first few years of the local institution and acquire the respective credits; these credits are recognized by the foreign counterpart of the agreement. The student gains lateral entry to a specific program of the foreign institution.

Both models are based on established academic channels, rather than on spurious commercial channels, and hence, high quality of higher education abroad can be realized. The cost differential incurred in acquiring an engineering degree through the regular route versus the foreign collaboration route is substantial, as shown in Table 1.

3. Rajagiri International School for Education and Research

Rajagiri International School for Education and Research (RISER) was established in 1988, exclusively for collaborations and joint degree programs with leading international universities. RISER was registered as a Trust in March 2005. As an academic unit RISER is separate from RASET; but sharing the same campus. RISER works with a vision to help students interact effectively with people of different nations. There are two academic divisions in RISER, viz., the Management Division and the Engineering Division. The Engineering division of RISER has signed agreements for twinning / articulation programs with universities indicated in column 2 of Table 2.

Cost of Engineering Education under Different Schemes of Collaboration (Lakh Rs.)			
Country of Partner Institution	0 yr + 4 yrs	1 yr + 3 yrs	2 yrs + 2 yrs
Australia	India: 0 lakhs Australia: 36.0 lakhs	India: 1.8 lakhs Australia: 27.0 lakhs (Saving 7.3 lakhs)	India: 3.5 lakhs Australia: 18.0 lakhs (Saving 14.5 lakhs)
U.K.	India: 0 lakhs U.K.: 22.0 lakhs	India: 1.8 lakhs U.K.: 16.5 lakhs (Saving 3.7 lakhs)	India: 3.5 lakhs U.K.: 11.0 lakhs (Saving 7.5 lakhs)
SUNY-NP U.S.A.	India: 0 lakhs U.S.: 37.0 lakhs	India: 1.8 lakhs U.S.: 30.0 lakhs (Saving 5.2 lakhs)	India: 3.5 lakhs U.S.: 20.0 lakhs (Saving 13.5 lakhs)
WMU U.S.A.	India: 0 lakhs U.S.: 51.0 lakhs	India: 1.8 lakhs U.S.: 39.0 lakhs (Savings 10.2 lakhs)	India: 3.5 lakhs U.S.: 26.0 lakhs (Savings 21.5 lakhs)

Table1. Estimated cost of engineering education under collaboration with different countries for three schemes, including tuition, living expense in the foreign country, and cost of economy round trip air-fare between Kochi and the foreign country

4. Eligibility for Admission

Undergraduate Program: Plus 2 / CBSE / ICC examination with 50% average in Mathematics-Physics-Chemistry group, and passed in all the subjects of the qualifying examination.

Graduate Program: B.Tech. Degree in Computer Science & Engineering/ Electrical & Electronics Engineering/ Electronics & Communication Engineering/ Applied Electronics & Instrumentation/ Information Technology from an accredited university, with at least 60% average.

5. Other Prerequisites for the RISER Program

Undergraduate students are required to appear for the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Master's (graduate) students are required to appear in TOEFL and Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

6. Tuition Fee Payable to RISER

Undergraduate Program: The tuition fee for the RISER baccalaureate undergraduate twinning / articulation programs is Rs. 1.5 lakhs per year, payable in full at the beginning of the year. Hostel charges, food bill, and other expenses will come to Rs. 25,000 per year.

Graduate Program: The tuition fee for the graduate courses at RISER is Rs. 50,000 per semester.

7. Part-Time Employment

The student visa allows a student to work part-time for 20-30 hours per week. The money earned from those jobs would be enough to meet decent, but well-managed expenses of a student. It is not advisable for engineering students to put in more than 10 hours of part-time work.

8. Student Visa

Securing the visa will be the responsibility of the student. Necessary documentation will be provided by the partnering university to the appropriate visa granting authority. RISER does not mediate in the visa-granting process.

9. U.S. Visa

The U.S. Consulate requires that every application for a student visa to the U.S. should be supported by bank documents showing the financial solvency of the student's parent to the tune of Rs. 25 lakhs.

Baccalaureate in Engineering & Technology			
Degree	Collaborating Institution	Type	Duration
B.Eng.	Assumption Univ. Bangkok, Thailand	Twinning	2 yr (RISER) + 2 yr (Assumption U)
BS (Eng.)	Western Michigan Univ., Kalamazoo, MI, USA	Twinning	2 yr (RISER) + 2 yr (WMU)
BS (Comp. Eng.) / Elect. Eng.)	State University of New York, New Paltz, NY, USA	Articulation	2 yr (RISER) + 2 yr (SUNY)
BE, BE (Honors)	James Cook Univ., Townsville, QLD, Australia	Articulation	1 yr (RISER) + 3 yr (JCU) / 2 yr (RISER) + 2yr (JCU)
BSc (Eng.)	University of Wales [NEWI, Wrexham, UK]	Articulation	5 Sem (RISER) +2 Sem (NEWI)

Master's Degree in Engineering & Technology			
Degree	Collaborating Institution	Type	Duration
MSc. (Comp. & Info. Science)	Gannon Univ., Erie, PA, USA	Twinning	1 Sem RISER) + 3 Sem (GU)
MS (Engg)	State Univ. of New York, New Paltz, NY, USA	Twinning	1 Sem RISER) + 3 Sem (GU)
MSc (Engg)	University of Wales [NEWI, Wrexham, UK]	Twinning	5 Sem (RISER) +2 Sem (NEWI) + 2 Sem (NEWI Grad Course)

Table 2 International Universities Collaborating with RISER, Types of their Collaboration, and Duration of the Schemes