



**MANIPAL**  
ACADEMY of HIGHER EDUCATION  
*(Institution of Eminence Deemed to be University)*

# AULA MAGNA

*An initiative by the Office of International Affairs & Collaborations, MAHE, Manipal*





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# Beyond Signatures: Building Trust and Sustainability in International Partnerships



In recent times, there has been an unprecedented surge in the number of Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) signed between universities across the globe. However, it's time to question whether the sheer quantity of these agreements truly reflects the essence of meaningful collaboration. As the Director of International Collaboration at MAHE Manipal, I firmly believe that it's high time we shift our focus from the breadth of collaborations to the depth of engagement.

It is not uncommon to see MoUs signed and promptly forgotten, becoming little more than names on paper and occasional social media posts. In many instances, these MoUs are not mandatory for fostering academic relationships. Rather than engaging in a signing spree, collaboration should be driven by a clear strategy, with specific action plans in place.

To truly enhance our internationalization efforts, we need to carefully select partners that align with our institution's goals and aspirations. Instead of signing generic agreements with every university that approaches us, we should aim for a more tailored approach. This approach involves identifying strategic collaborators within specific domains and working closely with them to achieve shared objectives. What truly matters is the depth of collaboration; it leads to trust and the willingness to invest substantial resources to sustain the partnership.

At MAHE Manipal, we've embarked on a journey to consolidate our existing collaborations and narrow our focus to strategic partners who align with our academic mission. Our emphasis is on quality, not quantity. We understand that it's not about how many MoUs we have, but rather the impact and value that each collaboration brings to our institution and the global education community. I firmly believe that top universities worldwide are taking a similar approach. They are conducting rigorous audits of their existing collaborations, looking to enhance the depth of these partnerships rather than merely expanding their reach. It's a paradigm shift that emphasizes the importance of meaningful connections in the ever-evolving landscape of international education.

In conclusion, let's collectively shift our perspective on international collaborations. As leaders in the field of education, we have the power to inspire change and shape the future of international collaboration. Let us make a conscious choice to invest in partnerships that truly matter, partnerships that foster innovation, research, and global understanding. Together, we can create a world where the depth of collaboration defines our success and where meaningful connections drive positive change in education across the globe.

Thank you for your dedication to the world of international education, and let's continue to inspire each other to reach new heights of excellence.

Dr. Karunakar A Kotegar  
Director, International Collaborations, MAHE

# New Partnerships for this quarter



UNIVERSITATEA BABEŞ-BOLYAI  
BABEŞ-BOLYAI TUDOMÁNYEGYETEM  
BABEŞ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITÄT  
BABEŞ-BOLYAI UNIVERSITY  
TRADITIO ET EXCELLENTIA



CULINARY ARTS  
ACADEMY  
SWITZERLAND



# World Wide Manipal

Internationalization at Manipal Academy of Higher Education

## Call for Cellular Healing: MAHE proudly hosts WALT 2023

The "World Association for Photobiomodulation Therapy (WALT) Congress 2023" was co-hosted by WALT and the Karnataka Chapter of the Indian Podiatry Association (IPA) at Manipal, with MAHE Manipal, an Institution of Eminence Deemed to be University, as the academic partner. "Photobiomodulation: The Art and Science of Cellular Healing" was the theme of the 2023 Congress. The convention was well-attended, with 400 delegates from 15 nations representing healthcare, technology, and industry.



## A flavourful adventure: Hospitality team experiences South Korea

Students and faculty from the Welcomgroup Graduate School of Hotel Administration (WGSHA), MAHE, embarked on a unique and enriching journey to Korea, from 20 July to 28 July 2023, for a specialized "Korean Cuisine and Culture Boot Camp" organized by Korea Global Chef High School. This program aimed to provide an immersive experience in Korean culinary traditions, cultural practices, and hospitality. The boot camp fostered cross-cultural understanding and culinary exchange, enabling the students to broaden their horizons and deepen their appreciation for Korean cuisine and heritage.



The Boot Camp enhanced their culinary expertise and enriched their understanding of Korean culture and traditions. The immersive and captivating activities nurtured enduring intercultural connections and left a profound mark on the participants' culinary journey. The collaboration between WGSHA and Korea Global Chef High School showcased the potential of culinary diplomacy to enhance global comprehension and appreciation for diverse culinary heritage.

## Transcending borders through alumni: Dr. Shovan Saha flies to Vietnam for an International Conference

Dr. Shovan Saha, Dept. of Occupational Therapy, MCHP, Manipal, was invited as a Keynote Speaker, along with the President of the World Federation of Occupational Therapy, to the first International Occupational Therapy Conference of Vietnam, which was held on 17 July 2023, at the University of Medicine & Pharmacy in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam (South).

The five Vietnamese postgraduate alumni from the Department of Occupational Therapy at MCHP were crucial in establishing the Vietnam Association of Occupational Therapy, of which they are all officers. The news was formally disclosed at a conference on 17 July 2023 in the presence of Dr. Shovan Saha.

Dr. Shovan Saha was invited as a Resource Person to North Vietnam near Hanoi at the Hai Duong Medical Technical University to offer a seminar and workshop on splinting and low-technology adaptive devices for occupational therapy students from 18 to 21 July 2023.



## Celebrating language with education & collaboration: Department of Languages hosts Germany



The Department of Languages, MAHE, welcomed Prof. Gregor Lang-Wojtasik of the University of Education, Weingarten, Germany from 13-15 September. Prof. Lang-Wojtasik, with a career spanning more than two decades, is an expert in international and intercultural education, peace education and education for sustainability. He delivered a lecture on “Global Citizenship as an educational challenge” for the students of various departments.

Prof. Rahul Putty, Coordinator and Ms. Aditya Divya Singh, Assistant Professor at the Department of Languages, held extensive discussions on prospective collaborations on multiple levels with Prof. Lang-Wojtasik. During their meeting at the International Office, Prof. Karunakar Kotegar stressed the need for further internationalization of curricula at MAHE.

As a part of the festivities, the students and staff of the Department of Languages organized the German Language Day on 15 September at the MIT Student Plaza. With trivia, tongue-twisters, delicious snacks and upbeat German music, the event attracted a large number of participants from around Manipal.

## Faculty from Health Professions visits Deakin University

Ms. Shifra Fernandes, faculty from Exercise and Sports Sciences, Manipal College of Health Professions, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Manipal, was invited to Deakin University, Australia, as a visiting scholar for ten days from 23 July 2023 to 2 August 2023. The purpose of the visit was to strengthen the existing partnership between MAHE and Deakin, Exercise, and Sport Science departments with respect to the 2+2 articulation program as well as to develop academic and research pathways for students and faculty. This was not only a great opportunity for a global collaboration in academia but also paved the way for future collaborative endeavors.



## MAHE hosts delegation from the University of Melbourne



A delegation from School of Health Sciences, University of Melbourne, visited MAHE to strengthen the academic and research collaborations. The faculty from Nursing, Physiotherapy, Audiology, and Optometry at the campus were involved in facilitating various information seminars, student interaction sessions and faculty interactions.

## Going global with Gastronomy: Professor demonstrates culinary expertise at WorldSkills 2023

Mr. Paritosh Dabral, Assistant Professor from Welcomgroup Graduate School of Hotel Administration of Manipal Academy of Higher Education was invited as an external expert for the restaurant service competition to assess and evaluate the performance of participants from ASEAN countries.

The competition focused on the role of front-of-house staff in food and beverage operations. The contestants were required to be sociable, have relevant skills and a sound understanding of different styles of food & beverage service, dining and appreciation of wines, liqueurs & spirits. The competition also promoted safe and hygienic working practices in the field.



## Caring to Care: College of Nursing conducts a workshop with Edge Hill University

Manipal College of Nursing, in collaboration with the Interprofessional Advanced Wound Care Centre, Centre for Continuing Education, and Interprofessional Development Department, MAHE Manipal, and Edge Hill University, UK, jointly organized a day workshop on empowering carers for advanced home care. Dr. Judith A. Noronha, Dean College of Nursing has stressed the importance of an advanced home care workforce to meet the rising demands. Dr. Vimal Krishnan, Chief Guest of the day, addressed the gathering by highlighting the challenges of providing advanced care at home.

Dr. Elsa Sanatombi Devi shared glimpses of Interprofessional Advanced Wound Care Centre activities, an industry-collaborated center of MCON, MAHE, Manipal, dedicated to training and capacity building of health care professionals and caregivers. Dr. Suba Sooria, Head of Nursing, Kasturba Hospital, addressed her views on instructing the trainer's program for advanced home care to coordinate with the wound center and cater to the needs of the elderly or chronic home-bound individuals and make a registry for elderly for continual support as an administrator.



Dr. Elsa Sanatombi Devi shared her expertise on diabetic foot debridement using simulation as a method of learning to learn. Mr. Prasannakumara, a nurse practitioner, demonstrated pressure ulcer care. Ms. Effienia D Walling, Ms. Priyanka Mukherjee, Ms. Pushpavathi, Mr. Shreenidhi, and Mrs. Janet Alva, Assistant Professor, demonstrated surgical wounds, LAD therapy, episiotomy wound, and burns wound care. A total of 40 participants from Nursing, Medicine, Public health, Engineering, and Edge Hill graduates actively engaged in the sessions.

## Building MAHE

### Faculty news and milestones

#### With flying colours in France: Professor earns a spot at SRTF



Dr. Murthy Dharmapura, Associate Professor at the Department of Chemistry and Coordinator of the Center for Renewable Energy at MIT Manipal, has earned a coveted spot in the Short Research Trip to France (SRTF) 2023 program. This prestigious award, granted by the French Institute (IFI), a division of the Embassy of France in India, has selected Dr. Murthy from a pool of 600 applications submitted by accomplished Principal Investigators and Researchers from across India. His remarkable achievement will allow him to conduct research on emerging energy materials alongside a CNRS Senior Researcher in Lille, France.

This success is a testament to Dr. Murthy's outstanding research proposal, expertise, and academic excellence, which distinguished him in this highly competitive fellowship selection process.

#### Professor at Health Professions receives grant from IACLE

Premjit Bhakat, Assistant Professor-senior scale from the Department of Optometry, Manipal College of Health Professions (MCHP), MAHE, has received a travel grant from the International Association of Contact Lens Educator (IACLE) to attend the IACLE World Congress 4 in Birmingham, UK, from 5- 8 June 2023. IACLE hosted the congress in collaboration with Aston University in Birmingham. "Contact Lens Education for the Practitioner of the Future" was the conference theme.



Mr. Bhakat gave a session on "Evidence-based Journal Club" to demonstrate the novel teaching style used at MAHE, which was well received by educators from all around the world.

#### MIT Professor's research triumphs with Best Paper Award



Dr. Narendra Khatri, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Mechatronics, received the prestigious Best Paper Award at the International Conference on Computational Intelligence and Knowledge Economy (ICCIKE 2023) held at Amity University Dubai, UAE. His exceptional research and valuable contributions to the field received well-deserved recognition, along with a certificate and a cash prize of AED 500 as an honor. It was truly commendable to see his work being acknowledged and appreciated on an international platform.

## En route to the Wild West: Ph.D student receives the ATBC grant for her research project

Ms. Gayathri Rajendiran, a Ph.D. student at the Manipal Centre for Natural Sciences, has been awarded the ATBC (Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation Seed Grant) for her research project titled "Paleoecological reconstruction of central Western Ghats grassland through phytoliths."



The Association for Tropical Biology and Conservation Seed Research grant is a highly competitive and sought-after tropical biology award. It recognizes individuals who have demonstrated outstanding potential

to contribute to the conservation of tropical biodiversity through innovative research projects. Gayathri's study proposal stood out from a pool of outstanding applicants due to its novel methodology and potential to solve crucial issues in tropical ecology. Her initiative not only pledges to advance our comprehension of forest dynamics in the Western Ghats, but it also has significant implications for conservation efforts in these biodiverse ecosystems. Gayathri will receive the financial support and tools she needs to carry out her research, which will include fieldwork in the Western Ghats.

## A checkmate-worthy win: Dr. Manasa Kongot nominated to coach Indian Chess Team for FIDE

Dr. Manasa Kongot, Assistant Professor of Chemistry and Co-coordinator of the Internationalization & IPR Committee at MIT Bengaluru campus, has been nominated by the All-India Chess Federation (AICF) to lead the Indian team as their Coach in the upcoming FIDE World Cadets Chess Championship. This prestigious event is scheduled to be held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, from October 14th to October 27th, 2023.



Beyond her academic and research endeavors in Medicinal Chemistry, Dr. Kongot has demonstrated an unwavering passion for chess. Her dedication to the sport is evident through her notable achievements, including the esteemed

FIDE Instructor in Chess title. Dr. Kongot has proudly represented India in the Asian Youth Chess Championships and has earned the title of Karnataka State Women's Chess Champion on multiple occasions. Moreover, she has been a prominent figure in Karnataka State's representation at National Championships across various age categories, securing numerous medals for her exemplary performances.

## Professor-Student Duo from School of Architecture make a mark at UIA 2023

Ar. Rutuja Sunil Ulhe, Assistant Professor, and Sanmathi N Yelamali, Final Year B.Arch student, from Manipal School of Architecture and Planning (MSAP), Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal, Karnataka, presented their Research paper on 'A behavioral analysis of the intersectionality of gender in housing among Indian middle-class families' at UIA 2023 Science track.

Ar. Rutuja Sunil Ulhe and Sanmathi N Yelamali were awarded the Architect and Student Fires, respectively. Their research has also been chosen for publication in the UIA 2023 Copenhagen World Congress Science Track, which will be published by Springer.



The conference was held in COPENHAGEN, Denmark, which has been designated as the UNESCO WORLD CAPITAL OF ARCHITECTURE 2023. The congress had around 6000 participants from 135 nations, 150 sessions, 250 science paper presentations, and 400 speakers. All of these had the same goal in mind: "Sustainable Futures- Leave No One Behind." housing among Indian middle-class families' at UIA 2023 Science track. The five-day summit, which ended in the launch, explored methods and ideas to combat climate change, improve biodiversity, and increase social participation.

# Experience MAHE

## Dr. Padmakumar K's AIRS 2023 Research Odyssey in Melbourne

Melbourne provided an invaluable opportunity to connect with local academics and present my research to Deakin University's Asian Media, Culture, and Society Researchers. Immersed in the world of Australian community radio, I observed first-hand what I had previously only read about. Visiting 10 Community Radio Stations in Melbourne for data collection enriched my understanding of show content policies and operational models.



Informing Melbourne's Community Radio professionals about the status of Community Radio Stations in India garnered interest, with some expressing a desire to visit Indian CR stations. I forged strong bonds with radio hosts, accomplishing all my outlined goals. This fellowship broadened my knowledge in development communication and honed my radio skills, learning novel programming and activation techniques.

Interactions with my mentor cultivated a keen interest in constructing theoretical foundations in alternative media. Discussions with both my home and host institutions facilitated future collaborations, enhancing our research capabilities in real-time. This experience has significantly strengthened our ties with the hosting institution.

## From Culture to Connection: Khushi Poojary's AIESEC journey



My name is Khushi Poojary. I took part in the project Raise Your Voice in Egypt through AIESEC as one of the interns. My project focused on women empowerment. We studied Egyptian families, culture, and men's opinions, using design thinking methodology. Targeting girls aged 18-25, we aimed to understand their challenges and strengths. Similarities between Egyptian and Indian culture helped me see through an Egyptian girl's perspective.

Creating a workshop, I delved into studying people and their behavior. This experience left a profound impact on my character and mindset. Leaving Egypt was tough, but it exceeded my expectations. I made friends from various countries who supported and helped me overcome fears. Overcoming my fear of water, I ventured into the sea multiple times. I hiked for 5 hours, a first for me. Teaching Bharatnatyam throughout the journey left a lasting memory. It wasn't just volunteering; it was an unforgettable experience. Egypt is a dream realized.

## A school beyond the classroom: Elizabeth McLean (MISS 2023)

Trek through the Forest- This day was a great day! I thoroughly enjoyed being out in the rain forest and getting a little wet. It was a great experience. Starting off with breakfast in a local's home, was an unforgettable experience. The amazing hospitality and food was unlike anything I had ever seen before. In addition, I found myself using the information we learnt in the classroom earlier as I went through the forest. I was more aware of my own foot track through the forest and was on a constant lookout to see some of the animals we learnt about.



Learning more about forests and animals, and their impact on human health made me appreciate my time spent trekking through the woods. Starting on a wider, more open trail introduced me to the rain forests here in India before we went deeper into the woods. Again, having another meal in a local's home was a great experience. Both the hosts' families were very welcoming, and I enjoyed having a deeper look at how many people live in unison with the forests. Overall, getting to go out in the woods, and spending time trying new food was an amazing, educational experience for me.

## From Botswana to MAHE: Artiee Artfield Mbangwa



I am a final year student from Botswana, pursuing an Honors degree in Network Security and Computer forensics at Botho University. I got enrolled for R programming a 2 weeks course in Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE) Manipal.

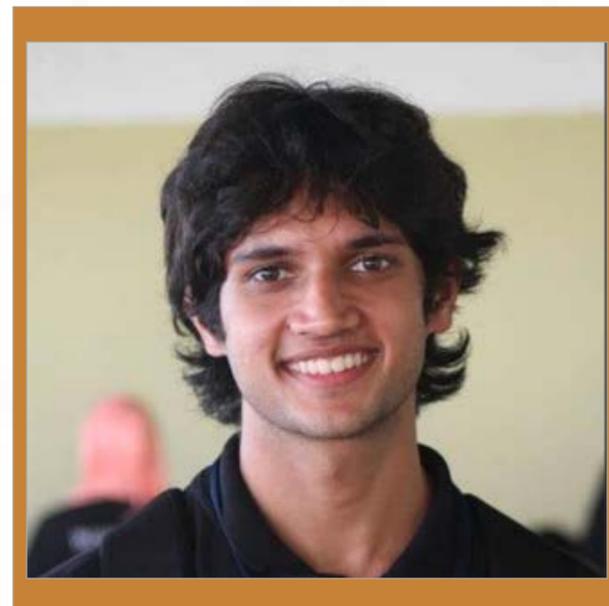
During my time here, I got the opportunity to learn a new programming language, R programming and had the opportunity to experience various cultural aspects of India. As a student of Information Technology it was my first time coming across statistics.

I would like to give gratitude to my Lecturer Dr. Asha Kamath and Dr. Vani for taking me through the introduction to R programming. Receiving their full attention and assistance really came in handy in learning the programming language. It was a worthwhile experience as I will be using R programming language and MySQL to carry out my final year project in tracking student performance.

My time as an international student at MAHE has allowed me to immerse myself in the rich cultural heritage of India. Visiting places like Hasta Shilpa, Krishna Temple, Jain Temple, and Pilikula Zoological Park has broadened my cultural horizons and provided me with valuable insights into India's art, religion, and natural diversity. These experiences have enriched my educational journey and fostered a deeper appreciation for the country's cultural richness and diversity.

## From MAHE to Hungary: Alumnus Chris Sirur

During my final years of high school, I began taking an interest in finance and all things related to Wall Street. Naturally, the first institute that came to my mind was the Department of Commerce, Manipal Academy of Higher Education. I realised quickly that DOC would be the gateway to jumpstart my finance career. Having heard of the major financial organisations that visited the campus each year to recruit fresh graduates, I applied for a seat at DOC to pursue my Bachelor's of Business Administration with a specialisation in Financial Markets in 2015. The degree covered all relevant courses



that any young professional at the start of their career would require. Apart from the technical courses, the institution inculcated a culture of holistic growth and development that helped me and other students in developing our extracurricular interests and other soft skills that one would require in the corporate world. I benefited greatly from the regular cultural, sports and management-themed events.

Around December 2018, I applied for the scholarship for a master's degree in Hungary. The scholarship is funded by the Hungarian Government and managed by the Tempus Foundation. I received admittance into Corvinus University of Budapest and was awarded a full-ride scholarship for my two years master's degree programme.

In my final semester, I decided to apply for a full-time job at ExxonMobil, an American oil and energy mega corporation. After two rounds of interviews, I managed to land a job at Exxon's Budapest office. I have completed two years at ExxonMobil as of July 2023 and am now looking forward to directing my career to my original goal of working in core finance.

# Guest Visits



**Nurses from Ghana for Observership at Manipal College of Nursing**



**University of Education, Weingarten, Germany**



**Deakin University, Australia**



**Students from Boston university at College of Dental Sciences**



**Nursing students from Edge Hill at Manipal College of Nursing**



**Deakin University, Australia**

# Gallery

## KAIROS 2023



## NAMASTE MANIPAL 2023



## MISS 2023



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