



BENGALURU CENTRAL UNIVERSITY ONLINE EDUCATION STEERING COMMITTEE

A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON ONLINE GUIDED INTERNS- A STUDENT EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC PERIOD AND BEYOND.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bengaluru Central University Online Education Steering Committee was formed to address educational challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic period. The committee brings together heads of the University, Academic Council members, Syndicate Members, Principals of colleges and other distinguished faculty members around a single shared vision: to ensure inclusive quality based online education during the Covid-19 lockdown period and to address emerging issues from the same.

Regular meetings were held since the beginning of the world's largest lockdown as announced by our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on March 24th ,2020 following the Janata Curfew on March 22nd from 7:00 am to 21:00 pm as a preventive measure in fighting this deadly pandemic. The importance of social distancing as a precautionary measure for containment of COVID-19 was emphasized regularly and in the backdrop of the above, all colleges in Karnataka remain closed based on the National Lockdown and State Government orders.

All colleges and universities are tentatively closed from 14/3/2020 to 3/5/2020 and Bengaluru Central University is committed to ensure that the mental health and well-being of all the students are protected by constantly keeping them in touch by providing online classes, e learning resources and continuous communications regarding syllabus completion, examinations and placements.

This report is the first in a series that will document the initiation and progress of the Guided Interns Program during the COVID-19 pandemic period and the strategic plan adopted during this unique and challenging period for educational institutions. The report will be used to guide the stakeholders on the progress with a common focus on achieving a successful internship program for the entire student community.

The report is structured around observations and suggestions given by various Principals as part of their experience in conducting internship programs in their respective colleges and the feedback received to them from faculty members, students and parents.

The report highlights progress in the **Guided Interns Program** outcomes and details the role of all the stakeholders in this program to ensure that the projects that must be adopted in the coming months should be carefully considered and brought to scale enabling equality for all.

MEMBERS OF THE BENGALURU CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
GUIDED INTERNS PROGRAM

1. Prof S. Japhet- Vice Chancellor- Bengaluru Central University
2. Dr Sameera Fernandes- Dean of Academics- St Francis College
3. Dr Bhargavi V.R-Director-Seshadripuram College
4. Dr Anil Kumar- Principal-SSMRV College
5. Dr Vinay Ranganathan- Principal, Charan's Degree College
6. Head of Institutions and Placement officers of all affiliated colleges under BCU.

INTRODUCTION

The Bengaluru Central University intends to commence an initiative- GUIDED INTERNS, Student Empowerment during COVID-19 & Beyond by bringing key stakeholders together on a single platform.

Focussing on the importance of sound mental health and wellbeing whilst empowering our students during difficult times, the Bengaluru Central University (BCU) has involved all the affiliated colleges to be part of this innovative and revolutionary initiative.

Guided Interns is a platform for managing online student internships engaging the Bengaluru Central University, affiliated colleges, corporate organizations and the student community.

With the help of these internships, classroom concepts come into life as students learn how to interact and learn in a professional environment. Knowledge of workplace collaboration, social and business etiquette and strong communication skills will help student build their resumes and teach them the importance of character growth and self-development. These internships will help the students identify alternative career paths and explore opportunities which may not have been possible otherwise.

BCU and its affiliate colleges shall encourage students to engage with corporates, exclusively through this Guided Interns platform. These internships may go on to serve as foundation for their placements as employers often seek career-ready graduates with prior experiences and skills. Interning at an organization indeed provides students with a wonderful opportunity to expand their network and connect with professionals in their field of interest.

STAKEHOLDERS OF THE GUIDED INTERNS PROGRAM

- Bengaluru Central University
- Guided Interns Committee
- Constituent Colleges
- Student community
- Heads of Institutions
- Placement Officers
- Organizations
- Mentors
- E-Training Providers

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE GUIDED INTERNS PROGRAM

1. To provide the student community with a one stop platform for online guided internships.
2. To keep the students positively engaged and motivated during the COVID-19 pandemic period.
3. To help utilize their time at home for productive purposes and enable them to learn skill sets outside of the academic curriculum (bridge the campus-corporate gap)
4. Support educational institutions (affiliated colleges) irrespective of their location, areas of discipline and other socio-economic factors to reach out effectively to credible companies.
5. Enhance the resume of our students and make the exceptional student community of BCU visible to corporate partners.
6. Protect and promote the mental health and overall well being of the student community during and after the COVID-19 crisis.

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE GUIDED INTERNS PROGRAM

1. Students from all colleges affiliated to BCU will be given equal opportunities to benefit from this program.
2. The program will be available for both PG and UG students under all disciplines and will aim to provide internships based on the college profile and student requirements.
3. Students will be given diverse internship opportunities to explore various areas of interest outside their current academic framework.
4. The program will be certificate based and will carry the logo of BCU, affiliated college and the company with whom the internship is carried out.
5. Both paid and unpaid internships will be on offer based on the role and requirements of the industry.
6. The internship duration may be anywhere between 2 weeks to 2 months depending once again on the organization's requirement.
7. Internships will be completely online initially to ensure that students do not miss out on classes and internships can be selected and allotted based on the academic calendar of BCU.
8. A complete team of mentors, placement officers and heads of institutions will help monitor the authenticity, value and the kind of work taken up by students during the program.
9. Unique login credentials will be created for each college to enable students to apply online securely and for placement officers to monitor the progress of their students.
10. E-learning initiatives in the form of skill development programs will be conducted online via Webinars with the help of top executives from various corporate companies.

ROLE OF THE GUIDED INTERNS:

- ❖ Create and manage the online portal.
- ❖ Host and constantly develop the database of companies expanding across various disciplines.
- ❖ Standardize internship terms and conditions with the corporates.
- ❖ Promote the extraordinary initiative of the guided internship program from BCU across social media platforms, press and media to bring in more corporates.
- ❖ Keep in touch with placement officers and heads of institutions to take constant suggestions and feedback to improve the program.

ROLE OF THE PLACEMENT OFFICERS

- ❖ Serve as the main facilitator for guiding students in reaching out to internships based on their interests.
- ❖ Update college profile and student database regularly in the portal.
- ❖ Encourage and identify students to apply for internships, mentoring or e-learning programs.
- ❖ Highlight the key courses and areas of interest based on their college requirements.
- ❖ Coordinate with the students during the internship period to ensure effective outcomes and highlight any problems faced.
- ❖ Relationship building with companies, CEO's ,executives etc on a proactive basis.
- ❖ Access and make available e-training resources to the students.
- ❖ Recommend mentors who are equipped to guide the student on their personal and professional journey.

ROLE OF THE STUDENTS:

- ❖ Interested students should create their own profile with secure credentials.
- ❖ Access internships on the portal regularly and check for updates.
- ❖ Access e-training resources for skill development (free) on the portal.
- ❖ Choose the right mentor to guide them in the program.
- ❖ Work on building resumes and intern experience to help them with placements in the future.
- ❖ Develop a range of social and soft skills like communication, team spirit, empathy, creativity, assertiveness and inquisitiveness.

ROLE OF THE CORPORATE PARTNERS:

- ❖ Create meaningful student volunteer experiences.
- ❖ Participate with the true essence of corporate social responsibility.
- ❖ Reach out to a pool of incredible talent and potential within the BCU student community.
- ❖ Make a real difference for young people by helping them bridge the campus-corporate gap.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND INFORMATION SHARING:

Guided Interns agrees not to disclose any data obtained under this agreement with any entity in a manner that could identify or attempt to infer or deduce the identity of any student, placement officer or representative.

No organization or institution can access the database of the student unless the student or the respective institutional representative fully authorises to do so in the form of a written confidentiality agreement.

CONCLUSION:

The Guided Interns program has been formed primarily to help the student community feel safe and secure during the COVID-19 pandemic period and beyond. The program aims to promote the mental health and well-being of all the students by providing them career building opportunities in the comfort of their homes. This program is one of the many ways through which the university aims to be in constant touch with all the stakeholders during these unprecedented times. The University seeks the help of all affiliated colleges to make this unique initiative a great success and help pave the way for other universities across India to adopt our model and help the student community at large.