

BEST PRACTICE – I

Title of the Best Practice

Internationalisation and Global Academic Exposure for Holistic Student and Faculty Development

Objective

To provide students and faculty with global academic exposure, intercultural learning opportunities, international research linkages and globally relevant academic experiences through sustained collaborations with foreign universities and institutions.

Context

Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Nagercoil, recognises internationalisation as an important component of contemporary higher education. The institution has therefore developed a structured ecosystem for international academic engagement that connects students and faculty with universities, research institutions and academic experts across different countries. During 2025–2026, the institution strengthened its international presence through 36 international collaborations across 24 countries. These collaborations supported academic networking, collaborative research, faculty interaction, curriculum enrichment, seminars, conferences, webinars, educational visits and student development activities.

Practice

The institution facilitated international linkages through the Deanery of International Affairs and departmental collaborations. Departments established academic relationships with institutions in countries including Saudi Arabia, South Korea, the USA, Malaysia, Australia, Nepal, Thailand, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Finland, Bahrain, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Ethiopia, Vietnam, New Zealand, Ireland and the United Kingdom. A major initiative was the International Student Immersion Programme at Lincoln University College, Malaysia, in which 27 students and 2 staff members participated in a seven-day programme. The programme provided students with international academic exposure, cross-cultural learning and interaction with an overseas academic environment. Students completing the programme were awarded one academic credit. Faculty development was also integrated into the internationalisation process. An Advanced Workshop on Outcome-Based Education (OBE) and Academic Benchmarking was organised in collaboration with Lincoln University College, Malaysia, strengthening faculty understanding of outcome alignment, assessment and academic benchmarking.

Outcome

The practice has enhanced **global exposure, intercultural competence, academic networking, research orientation and international career awareness among students**, while strengthening faculty capacity in contemporary academic practices. It has also created pathways for students to pursue higher education abroad and enabled the institution to develop a broader international academic identity.

BEST PRACTICE – II

Title of the Best Practice

Career Excellence, Competitive Readiness and Entrepreneurship: From Job Seekers to Job Creators

Objective

To develop students' career readiness, competitive examination competence, employability skills, entrepreneurial abilities and leadership potential through systematic coaching, mentoring, career guidance and entrepreneurship development.

Context

Recognising the changing demands of higher education and employment, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Nagercoil, adopted an integrated approach that connects career guidance, competitive examination preparation and entrepreneurship. The institution aims to provide students with multiple pathways towards professional careers, higher education, public service and self-employment. During 2025–2026, the Deanery of Competitive Examinations was integrated with the Deanery of Entrepreneurship, creating a coordinated mechanism for career advancement and entrepreneurial development.

Practice

The institution introduced Career Excellence Hour as a structured initiative focusing on career planning, professional development, communication, aptitude and employability skills. Alongside this, the Hour of Blossoming (HOB) programme provided regular coaching for students preparing for competitive examinations. A total of 410 students enrolled in HOB, receiving weekly coaching for examinations such as NET, SET, TET, UPSC, TNPSC, GATE and CSIR-NET. The institution also entered into an MoU with a reputed coaching centre in Chennai to provide specialised coaching classes on Saturdays and holidays. The effectiveness of the coaching ecosystem was reflected in student achievements. Students from different departments qualified in NET, SET, CSIR-NET, TET, UPSC and GATE. The Department of English alone recorded 16 students and research scholars qualifying in NET/SET, while students from Mathematics, Chemistry, Commerce, Botany and Zoology also achieved success in competitive examinations. Entrepreneurship was integrated into the same developmental framework. Students were encouraged to develop business ideas, innovation, leadership and entrepreneurial competencies. Through the Start Steps initiative, the institution successfully facilitated the establishment of 185 student startsteps.

Outcome

The practice has strengthened students' career awareness, competitive examination preparedness, employability, leadership and entrepreneurial orientation. The success of students in various competitive examinations and the establishment of 185 student startSteps demonstrate the institution's sustained effort to develop professionally competent, innovative and self-reliant graduates who are prepared not only to seek employment but also to create opportunities for themselves and others.