



STRATEGIC PLAN

International Relations Office

of

Anna University



Executive Summary

The **Centre for International Relations (CIR)** was established in the year 2001 with an objective of strengthening bilateral research and academic programmes of the centres/departments of Anna University with overseas Institutions/Universities through Memorandum of Understanding. The Centre is an autonomous body headed by a Professor and Director with 7 administrative office staff.

The centre facilitates exchange of Students/Faculty members with foreign universities. Through the student exchange programme, the students learn analytical and problem solving skills, language skills, cultural relations and general knowledge. In addition, they learn to improve themselves through the experience of studying and staying in another country. Faculty members exchange information on education and research. In addition to academic publications, the faculty members from both sides explore mutually beneficial collaborative research projects.

The centre also facilitates the conduct of International Joint Seminars / Conferences. International seminars bring faculty members / students globally together and share their knowledge, research experience, country related problems and solutions for them. The Centre organizes special lectures and seminars by professors/experts from various foreign Universities/Institutions. These talks are very much essential for innovation, research & development, to modify or eliminate the existing old technologies. Guidelines to higher education with funding facilities in different countries are also given through these talks.

The centre supports International projects like Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC), UK-India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI) and different schemes of the European Union such as Erasmus Mundus, Erasmus Mundus Action II, Erasmus +, Enhancing Quality Assurance in South Asia (EQASA) and Improving Internationalization Practices in South Asian Higher Education (MERGE) which enhance educational links between India and foreign Universities/Institutions. This will give opportunities for professional and leadership development of students and faculty members. These type of projects enhance the innovative new ideas, sharing of research or experimental experience based on their research problem.

The centre also conducts foreign language courses such as German, French and Japanese for students, researchers and faculty members to be proficient for higher studies or job opportunities overseas.

The centre invites prominent visitors from various foreign Universities/Institutions to Anna University to discuss about the collaboration possibilities of further strengthening the bilateral academic and research cooperation.



The Centre is working on Joint Ph.D. programme and Joint Research work.

Timeframe

The MERGE programme is now helping to internationalize higher education in India and Europe. The programme also contributes to build institutional partnerships within as well as between India and Europe. Learning and sharing of various good practices in-between the partner's ultimate maximize potential and thereby increase strengthen.

This will definitely increase sustainable relationship between third countries and EU institutions.



Environmental Analysis

Internal Environment

[Internal Assessment: Organizational assets, resources, people, culture, systems, partnerships, etc.]

E.g.: **Internal factors (IRO environment)**

The **Centre for International Relations (CIR)** coordinates bilateral research and academic programmes with overseas Institutions/Universities through Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), Exchange of Faculty/Students, Foreign Language Programmes and conduct of International Joint Seminars/ Conferences with more than 40 Universities/Institutions. CIR has Overseas Professor Scheme with Thirty Professors from the USA, Germany, Australia, Japan, Sweden, France, Italy, Switzerland and England. The Overseas Professors have been visiting Anna University Chennai and interacting with faculty and students.

The functions of the centre include facilitating the signing of MoU between Anna University and Universities/Institutions overseas and coordinating the exchange of faculty and students.

The objectives of the University in signing MoUs are as follows :

1. To enable faculty and student exchange.
2. Exchange of information for education and research purposes.
3. Exchange of research outcomes, academic publications and other academic matters.
4. To explore mutually beneficial collaborative research projects.
5. Joint publications of both researchers in the same working area and strengthen the research future plans for the development of both countries.

CIR conducts foreign language courses such as German, French and Japanese for students and researchers which will help to gain much proficiency in the language so that this may useful for higher studies or working in foreign countries.

Anna University is the premier institutions in India. Our academic staff will benefit and facilitate to strengthen the research activities and to establish collaboration between Anna University and European Universities. Thus, this exchange programme will create an avenue for future academic and research collaborations.

This kind of active participation has paved way for enhancement of research activities. Mobility between Universities has exposed the faculty & students to new technology, equipments and the culture in different places. These visits have improved research activities and long lasting ties with other institutions.

External Environment

[External Assessment: social trends, technology, regulatory environment, etc.]

Over the years, Anna University has grown to become one of the largest technical Universities, and hosts a rare diversity of specializations in science, engineering and technology: from textile to aeronautics; rubber – to the latest Bio- and Nano-technologies, with strong areas of research and innovation in diverse field.

For example, the State has announced a grant of 2.5 Million Euros towards the design and development of **Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)** under Tamil Nadu Innovation Initiatives (TANII) Scheme for use during natural calamities and to keep check on security threats and dangers. Dhaksha Team of Anna University has designed and developed indigenous micro- and mini- UAVs. Drones and UAVs have been supplied to State Government of Tamil Nadu Police, Kolkata and Kerala.

The **Anna University Library** is one of the best libraries in the country (ranked 7th in e-resources usage at all India level and 1st in Tamil Nadu), with over 74,50,128 Publications, 34,50,260 e-resources, 6,84,773 journals and 2,00,60,707 e-journals in 2019, and is a great resource for student, faculty and research scholars.

VISION :

The vision of Anna University is to be a world class institution by producing professionals with high technical knowledge, professional skills and ethical values, and remain as a preferred partner to the industry and community for their economic and social development through excellence in teaching, research and consultancy. Anna University shall be recognized as a point of reference, a catalyst, a facilitator, a trend setter and a leader in technical education.

MISSION :

Anna University shall contribute to the educational, economic and social development by

- Producing students who are intellectually and technically equipped with well defined knowledge, skills and ethics who are creative thinkers, inspiring leaders and contributing citizens.
- Introducing high quality academic and research programmes and providing extension services in cutting edge technologies.

- Ensuring a supportive campus climate with dynamic leadership and development opportunities to meet the needs of the students, faculty and staff.
- Enhancing academic productivity through induction of quality faculty, accelerated graduation, credit banking, augmented continuing education opportunities and adoption of current technology.
- Sharing the intellectual resources and the infrastructural facilities among the academia from other institutions and among the industrial society, funding agencies and government.
- Enhancing the collaborative partnership between Industry and Institute for commercializing and transferring the latest technological know-how towards societal development.
- Setting up a Global University Network Campus that embodies the ideals of an open, democratic and global society catering to the needs of the global community and satisfying cultural, ethnic and racial diversity.
- Expanding global participation spread across continents with the aid of interactive satellite based education and the usage of digital library.
- Enriching the national and international character of the University.

OBJECTIVES OF THE UNIVERSITY :

- To constantly raise the quality of engineering education thereby to produce superior human resource to match rapid technological developments
- To share its academic experience and infrastructure with other institutions for providing quality education across the State and help students to fulfill their dreams.
- To uphold the highest ethical and professional standards while imparting engineering education and while fulfilling its obligations to students and staff.
- To serve the society with technological advancement and to actively take part in building knowledge-based society.

The university gains a good position at national and international levels through the outcomes of every programme.

International Ranking

QS Global World Ranking (As of 2021)	
University Top	– 801 to 1000
QS BRICS	– Top 85
QS Asian	– Top 300
US News Asia	– 267
ARWU	– 901 – 1000 (As of 2019)

National Ranking

NAAC	– 3.46/4 (As of 2019)
NIRF	– 2020
Universities	– 12
Engineering	– 14
Architecture	– 18
Management	– 59

SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS: (POSITIVE - INTERNAL FACTORS)

- Heritage of well established Institutions with Glorious tradition
- Choice Based Credit System that provide Outcome based Education having academic flexibility and Curricular diversity.
- Well-equipped practical and research laboratories, exclusive library and computer facility and sufficient number of class rooms, seminar halls and conference halls.
- More than 85% permanent faculty members with Ph.D. degree and most of the faculty members are engaged in active research to keep the students highly motivated in the latest developments and obtain authentic advanced knowledge, research-orientation and socially relevant projects.
- Industry-oriented practical learning experience to students through Industrial Visits and guest lectures by senior professionals and experts from industry, projects in association with industries etc provide the best.
- Credible and transparent evaluation system through custom developed Academic Records Management System (ARMS) and Student Evaluation Management System (SEMS) software.
- Course-wise compulsory feedback by students through online process.
- Autonomous Centres/Institutes that carry out advanced research with a large number of faculty members taking up funded projects and industrial consultancy.
- Funding support to student projects under the “Student Innovative Project Scheme”.
- Facilitation of Technology Development and transfer
- Extended facilities like Crèche for children, campus

WEAKNESSES: (NEGATIVE - INTERNAL FACTORS)

- Wide choice of electives in the curriculum is restrictive in practice due to demand on faculty strength and resources.
- Intense research becomes obsessive and senior faculty give higher priority to research than teaching.
- Difficulty faced in meeting the exponentially growing demand by major research projects for infrastructure development (building and overheads) in the University.
- Expansion in intake leading to space and facility crunch for the scholars and indirectly affecting the learning experience of students.
- Student-organized programmes are not funded by the University the students solicit sponsors.
- Gap between aspirations of the University at global level and local compulsions.
- The fee is highly subsidized for the economically weaker sections and therefore development largely depends on gratis sources.
- The e-governance needs strengthening to speed up policy implementation and to maintain up-to-date Data management.
- Decentralized functioning to support autonomous Centres has the risk of the system growing unwieldy requiring highly vigilant and strong decision making and implementing administrative and management set-up.
- Institutionalization of Systems to enhance Outcome based Teaching Learning practices.
- Infusing and Internalizing Quality Culture and the best practices .
- NRI admissions and student exchange programmes with foreign universities pose socio-economic challenges for the University which caters predominantly to less affluent

<p>schools and Centre for women empowerment and SC-ST Cell.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hostels to accommodate all the UG and PG students and 2 modern international hostels for Non-Resident Indian (NRI) and Foreign Nationals (FN) students. • University's hallmark annual meets like Kurukshetra, Techofest and Mitafest. • Excellent sports facilities and numerous co-curricular and extra-curricular activities through NSS, NCC, YRC, Rotaract, Leo club, Green Brigade, Literary Club, Computer Robotics club, Quality club, etc. • Mentoring through Class Advisors/Counsellors/Coordinators/Organizing Secretaries and help in student welfare, performance and achievements. • Department/Centre-wise flexible budgets with provisions for mid-way revision and utilization of funds subject to internal and external audits. • Collaborations with several reputed international institutions and Industries. • Pool of highly qualified professionals as alumni in positions in Industry, Government, Defence and various other user agencies all over the world. • Diversity of students from socially backward and economically weaker sections as per State Government reservation policy. 	<p>rural students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With emphasis on innovative schemes for employability to satisfy the justifiable aspirations of present day engineering graduates, especially many first-time engineering graduates from small towns and rural areas, the initiatives like entrepreneurship development and supporting of start-up companies by faculty and students to augment the population of job providers. • Improvements to Campus Infrastructure and facilities in tune with Enhanced Teaching learning and Research activities.
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OPPORTUNITIES: (POSITIVE - EXTERNAL FACTORS)	THREATS: (NEGATIVE- EXTERNAL FACTORS)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased availability of National and International level funding for Research • Mega projects/schemes being announced frequently by the Government in a number of emerging fields. • MoU with many reputed national and international organizations for research collaboration. • Credit sharing option between different programmes in Anna University and other • Universities/Institutions within the country and abroad. • Flexible modes of education and exchange programmes with foreign Universities. • International accreditation of the degree programmes and capitalise on the global recognition of the curriculum. • To increase Practical and research aspects of the curricula. • Enhance quality of education imparted with feedback from all the stakeholders - students, alumni, parents, peers and employers on continuous basis. • Distance education, self-study, credits for leadership qualities or services or innovative contributions Computerized examination and evaluation system. • Interactive Web based training and online forums for students, faculty and alumni. • Effective use of satellite based and DTH based training of teachers and students. • University Sports Board can organize regional / national / international events to nurture goodwill. • To establish an academic staff college in technical education. • The biggest opportunity for the University is the scale-up of its innovative practices, especially in extending its infrastructures, to the benefit of 557 affiliated colleges. • Mechanisms and innovative practices to benefit the large number of affiliated colleges, which are diverse in their 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential Competition from Foreign Universities establishing Educational Institutions in India. • Admissions in Higher Education institutions like IITs and NITs.



<p>resources and capabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collaboration from national and international organisations, with potential in futuristic technology and product development.• With the University's expanding alumni base and many doing extremely well and influential in different parts of the world there is an immense potential to rope them in the development of the University.• Start Up, Incubation and Technology Enabling Centres to support Sustainable Development.• Institutional Recognition and Partnership with Industry.	
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Strategic Plan

Vision

Our vision is to develop partnerships globally in order to engage students and faculty members with international academic and research experiences.

Mission

We, at the Centre for International Relations, strive to develop closer international partnerships for global engagement, in order to promote, strengthen and expand the international links of the University, to encourage students and staff to get involved in mobility projects and to facilitate the integration of international students into our environment.



MISSION Formulation

What services will the unit offer?

- Student / faculty exchange programmes.
- To initiate a number of Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) and other programmes like Double Masters', Joint degree etc. To organise a number of workshops, seminars and conferences in the University. The network that has been formulated is beneficial to the University.

Who are the people who may use or benefit from this service?

- Faculty and students.
- Many students studying in foreign universities express desire to come to our University for their 'Study Abroad' programme / internship. The incoming students are happy to understand the Indian culture, life style and the learning environment.

What are the reasons for the service?

- To increase the mobility of international faculty and students.
- To create international Double Master's degree programs, Joint degree, etc.
- To promote collaboration with alumni of Anna University.

Why will the service exist?

- Collaborations with several reputed international institutions have led to many foreign nationals preferring Anna University for pursuing their studies.

Now combine all the answers into one statement of purpose.

- Active Participation in transformative, innovative and lifelong learning in service to humanity.



Values

Excellence:

- In teaching, research and extension service.
- Commitment to the pursuit of excellence in individual and collective endeavors.

Accountability:

- Integrity, Responsibility and Democratic with highest ethical standards ingrained in all University Practices.

Teamwork & Collaborative Strategies:

- Commitment to work together to achieve our shared vision, mission and goals.

Student Centric Approach:

- Commitment to provide an experience that ensures students to engage in opportunities that stretch and challenge their self-perceptions, values and beliefs.

Social Responsibility:

- Active Participation in transformative, innovative and lifelong learning in service to humanity.

Diversity & Equal Opportunity

- Cultivation of a diverse and inclusive learning and work environment by increasing the international expertise and participants.

Academic Freedom:

- The freedom of inquiry and expression in teaching and research.

Safe Community:

- A caring and safe community characterized by civility and respect which stands in solidarity against any actions that exclude discriminate against or silence members of our community.

Sustainability:

- A vibrant community and campus that is known for research intensive educational quality economically sound environmentally responsible and socially just.

Accessibility:

- Inclusive educational environment that is accessible and affordable.



Strategic Objectives

The Strategic Objectives (SOs) pursued by the International Relation Office are the following :

1. To be among the top technological universities by focusing on learners and providing them with an exceptional learning experience.
2. To develop learners with passion and commitment to work in a global environment, capable of creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship for nation-building through state-of-the-art teaching, learning and mentorship experience.
3. To facilitate Quality Technical Education through Collaborative Partnerships with industry, government agencies, academic and research institutions from India and abroad to continuously improve the quality, flexibility and efficiency of programs, curricula and services.
4. State-of-the-art infrastructure: to upgrade academic, administrative, residential and infrastructural facilities.
5. To recruit, reward and retain high quality workforce by providing a conducive working environment that brings out the best in the teachers, technical and administrative staff.
6. To expand, sustain and excel in research by providing a congenial working environment and encouraging excellence in sustainable, collaborative and multi-disciplinary research.
7. Setting up a Global University Network Campus that embodies the ideals of an open, democratic and global society catering to the needs of the global community and satisfying cultural, ethnic and racial diversity.

Activities

The SOs are operationalized in a set of activities, as specified in the following:

Strategic Objective 1

A1.1 Anna University is keen on participating in the international project to encourage mobility for its faculty, staff and students to undertake academic and research activities. It will spread information about the project and will put much effort into strengthening ties with the European partner universities, disseminate information and promote durability actions among Indian HEIs, institutions and corporations.

A1.2 The continuous support from our partner institution has enabled to develop globalisation and has helped to develop a sustained interest among the student community. In the long run, knowledge explosion through such exchanges will be beneficial to the world as a whole.

Strategic Objective 2

A2.1 The interaction between European universities and Indian Universities has promoted understanding. Our students and the European students increased have acquired visibility through the learning process, sports and research culture. Such programmes will go on long run help to sustain relationships between Third countries and European institutions.

Strategic Objective 3

A3.1 A two weeks International Summer School with the University of Edinburgh, UK was successfully organised by Anna University yearly for the last 6 years.

A 3.2 Establishing country-wide alumni associations' network for establishing contacts in India and abroad.

Strategic Objective 4

A4.1 The brochures related to the international programme were displayed at all vantage spots. The details were uploaded in our official website. Professors spread the information through word of mouth. Flyers were distributed.



Measures (KPI(s), Timeline and Deliverables)

Strategic Objective 1

KPI 1.1 27 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed with various European Institutions, Continental, Asian and other countries.

KPI 1.2 A maximum of 10 joint/double degrees agreements would be signed before 2025.

KPI 1.3 **354** students from Anna University visited various universities across the globe during the last five academic years. Likewise, **58** students and research scholars visited to Anna University for the last five academic years.

Strategic Objective 2

KPI 2.1 We encourage interested students from our University to visit the website of the host institution and also provide the host institution's brochure and CDs to know about the infrastructure facilities such as Laboratory, class room etc.

Strategic Objective 3

KPI 3.1 The Centre for International Relations will motivate students belonging to both genders through personal contacts and through the web page.

Strategic Objective 4

KPI 4.1 **53** students have successfully completed their semester exchange programme in the international university during the last five years.

KPI 4.2 **31** Faculty members have visited international universities during the last five years.

KPI 4.4 Enormous planning will be taken in terms of the international activities for the sake of students and faculties by 2023.



Relevant Actions

The main areas of work of the office include:

- The MERGE programme is now helping to internationalize higher education in India.
- The programme also contributes to build institutional partnerships within as well as between India and Europe. Learning and sharing of various good practices in-between the partners helped to maximize potential and thereby to increase the strength of our institutions.
- Our office will establish a long and regular interaction between the EU institution and Indian University thereby a developed and concrete understanding between the partners and mobility. Participants (visiting students) acting as catalyst and thereby increased visibility on collaborative programme and provide more space for research and research culture. This will definitely increase sustainable relationship between third countries and EU institutions.

Main Initiatives

International mobility of students, academic and administrative staff

The exchange of faculty and students to various European Universities has been beneficial to the University as a whole. The exchange of knowledge has paved way for a number of mutual collaborations. It has led to joint publications, workshops, etc.

Faculties, after their visit abroad, have initiated a number of MoUs and other programmes like Double Masters', etc. A number of workshops, seminars and conferences have been organized in the University. The network that has been formulated is beneficial to the University.

Joint Degree

Ms. Karine Hochart has successfully completed her Joint Ph.D. degree programme in the School of Architecture and Planning campus, Anna University during Jan 2017 to Jun 2017 from Université François-Rabelais de Tours, France.

Double Masters Degree Cooperation

Anna University has Double Masters Degree programme with the Ecole Centrale De Nantes (ECN), France with the branches listed below :

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Civil Engineering | 5. Aeronautical Engineering |
| 2. Mechanical Engineering | 6. Automobile Engineering |
| 3. Materials Science and Engineering | 7. Production Engineering |
| 4. Manufacturing Engineering | |

ECN will provide financial support to the students of Anna University in the way of fellowship (about € 1000/month) for their study period in France. The selected candidates will pursue two years of ECN's three year core Engineering Masters programme.

Collaborative Academic Agreement (CAA) University of North Texas (UNT), USA

Anna University is likely to sign CAA with UNT in the near future which is a 3 + 1 + 1 programme.



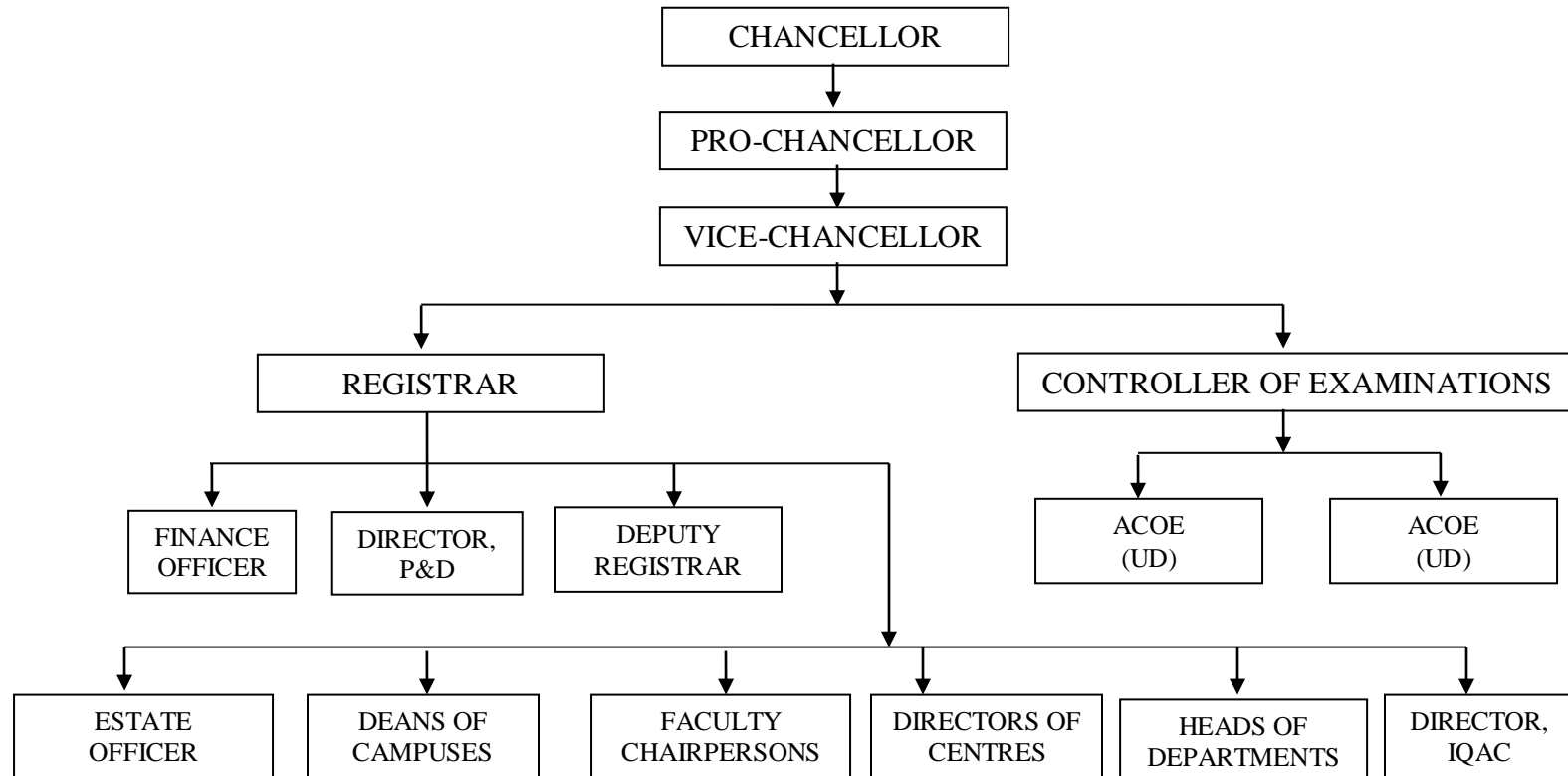
Strategic plan evaluation.

1. Anna University established an Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) which will measure the institutional functioning towards quality enhancement through internalization of quality culture and institutionalization of best practices. It is a participative cell of the University that works on evolving strategies to remove deficiencies and enhance quality, thus channelizing the efforts of the University towards achieving holistic academic excellence.
2. The National Assessment and Accreditation council (NAAC) is an organisation that assesses and accredits higher education institutions (HEIs) in India which will evaluate once in five years.

Likewise, the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) is to identify the broad parameters for ranking various universities and institutions which will evaluate in yearly affair.

Organization Structure

Organizational structure allows the expressed allocation of responsibilities for different functions and processes to different entities such as the department, workgroup and individual.



Resources

Personnel

Director – 1
 Assistant – 1
 Professional Assistants – 4

Finance / Budget

Facilities / equipment (provided by the EACEA MERGE Grant)

- specific / customized software for IRO operations and management
- computers / laptops,
- servers,
- database storage,
- local network infrastructure
- multifunctional machines
- video cameras
- books and periodicals on the subject matter
- projectors and screen

The hardware and software will be equipped in benefit of the organizational unit of each Partner Country University having appropriate physical space, furniture and technical utilities (power supply, network, access with adequate protection).

Summary

Anna University has been involved in internationalization activities for years. While a number of students and faculty members had benefited from the internationalization programs and activities, a significant number still had not benefited. For internationalization to succeed, all the relevant stakeholders need to get involved. In the next five years our goal is to promote measures for the institutional functioning towards quality enhancement through internationalization of quality culture and institutionalization of best practices.