

3-SASTRA University, Thanjavur

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Attracts cream of the crop

R&D collaborations along with a strong research environment has made SASTRA a choice for many to pursue their careers

Keeping in line with the need for a specialization in higher studies rather than a generic biotechnology course, SASTRA offers a MTech degree for popular streams such as industrial biotechnology, medical nanotechnology and pharmaceutical technology.

Admissions to SASTRA are conducted wholly on the basis of merit. For the undergraduate programs, 30 percent of the students are admitted on the basis of their AIEEE ranking, whereas the rest on the basis of the marks obtained in their board examinations.

SASTRA University has filed for five Indian and international patents since 2008. The patents broadly deal with novel materials for regeneration of skin, post injury and theranostic applications in imaging and carriers for selectively targeting cancer cells during medication. Two of the patents involve ayurvedic formulations for coronary heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

Since 2009, SASTRA University has received 226.44 lakh from industry sponsored projects. A major

industry collaboration is with the life science division of Tata Consultancy Services. The collaborations allow students to work on live projects and gain hands on experience. Approximately 40-50 percent of students opt for higher studies after their graduation.

Last year also saw 203 students securing job offers via campus placements, a majority of them being in the life sciences division of IT majors such as TCS, Wipro and HCL.

A variety of international conferences were organized last year including those centered around nanomedicine, phyto congress, molecular modelling as well as a symposium on renewable energy.

A high degree of exposure to practical aspects of science is given in the lab. SASTRA students have been winning the maximum number of fellowships offered by the Indian Academy of Sciences for the last few years. Also a number of students are being offered the Khorana fellowships by the DBT, allowing them to spend valuable time at University of Wisconsin, Madison. Another prestigious collaboration exists with Harvard-MIT Health Sciences Lab. Other collaborations include those with Deakin University of Australia and National University of Singapore.

Fact file

Name of the Department: School of Chemical and Biotechnology

Courses: BTech in Biotechnology, Bioengineering Bioinformatics; MTech in Bioinformatics Industrial Biotechnology, and Pharmaceutical Technology MSc in Biotechnology

Head: Prof Swaminathan Sethuraman

Website: www.sastra.edu/scbio/index.asp

"A unique feature employed by the faculty at SASTRA is that they try to incorporate discussions surrounding recently published papers in their studies so that the students stay updated about the latest technology and their curriculum remains relevant to the present times."

Prof Swaminathan Sethuraman *head, school of chemical and biotechnology, Sastra University*
