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HINDUSTAN TIMES, NEW DELHI, WEDNESDAY APRIL 28, 2010

German varsities' entrance test in Delhi



Four top universities are coming in June to select students for their UG programmes

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With the IIT Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and the All India Engineering Entrance Exam (AIEEE) already over for this year, lakhs of applicants are keeping their fingers crossed about getting into one of the premier engineering colleges. The reality, as always, is harsh. You know that the majority of the students would be left stranded without a single call letter from any of the colleges. Those students will either apply to private institutes or universities abroad.

Such an opportunity will come knocking in June when

four top German universities conduct a joint entrance test in Delhi. Fh-Aachen, Duisburgessen, Bielefeld and Fh Sudwestfalen are planning to jointly organise an entrance test for their BE and bachelor of business administration programmes.

The last date to apply is May 15. The entrance test will comprise of maths and English questions of classes X and XI. "Germany is known all over to offer high-end education in science and technology. But it has failed to attract Indian students in the past because of the language barrier. Now, the universities there are witnessing a turnaround. The English language is widely used in universities and labs and they encourage Asian students with no knowledge of German to go and study there," says Mahapavith S. Anand, managing partner, The Calculus, a German education consultancy, which is organising the entrance test.

Suvansh Srivastava, an Indian student, chose to study for his BE (electrical) at Aachen University of Applied Sciences because it is, he believes, at par with the best colleges in the United States and the UK. At the same time, the tuition fees and cost of living are more than affordable.

AT A GLANCE

- The entrance test is likely to be scheduled for the first week of June in Delhi.
- Last date to apply is May 15
- The participating universities are Fh Aachen, Duisburgessen, Bielefeld and Fh Sudwestfalen
- A Delhi consultant is going to organise the entrance test on behalf of these universities. Call 011-41501621 for further details.

PLENTY OF JOB OPTIONS IN GERMANY

The country has
a shortage of
100,000
engineers



Dr Bernd Kraus, head, Freshman Institute, Aachen University of Applied Sciences

Dr Bernd Kraus, executive director, Freshman Institute, Aachen University of Applied Sciences, speaks to HT Horizons about the prospects of Indian students who wish to study engineering in German universities, the proud alumnus of the likes of Albert Einstein and Max Planck. Excerpts:

What makes German universities distinct?

German universities are among the world's oldest and best universities for technical education. Unlike most other developed countries, education in Germany is funded by the government and the fee structure is the same for the German as well as the international students.

Indian students are usually averse to European universities because the medium of teaching is a non-English language in most of them. What do you have to say about this?

Knowledge of the English language is a huge advantage while learning the German language. However, students from China, Korea, Japan and Arab countries, whose schooling has been in their local language and not English, are able to successfully pursue programmes taught in the German language. All Indian students have a great edge in that they already know a significant amount of English. This is a big support while learning German. Hence, most Indian students with their

English language skills learnt at the school level, are easily able to pursue programmes conducted in the German language. Advanced German language training methods in Germany allow the student to pick up the tongue very quickly.

Which programmes are most popular among Indian students in German universities?

Engineering, biotechnology, medicine, information technology, and business administration.

Besides the monetary factor, what, do you think, draws or should draw Indian students to Germany?

The cost of living in Germany is amongst the cheapest in Europe. Germany is the world's fourth largest economy and the leader in research and development. At present, there is a shortage of 100,000 engineers in Germany. Thus, there are plenty of full-time job opportunities for students pursuing technical programmes in German universities.

How many Indian students are enrolled at your university at present?

We have about 80 Indian students this year.

Have you tied up with any Indian institution?

We have co-operations with some universities in India, such as IIT Delhi and Madras and some research institutions in the area of energy technology.

Interviewed by VCJ