

Best Practice Series: Meeting sector demands through education

BIMTECH

Professionalising India's 21st Century insurance industry

Established in 1988 by the Birla Academy of Art and Culture, today's Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH) attracts students from the length and breadth of India. Indeed, its diverse mix of cultural backgrounds, academic and professional experiences makes BIMTECH one of India's most exciting and sought after business schools, and one of its top MBA colleges.

Located in the National Capital Region, BIMTECH's highly interactive, collaborative learning environment has fuelled its reputation as a pioneer in insurance education. Many of its professors are respected industry academics, and students can get close to industry policymakers and practising professionals on a daily basis. This unrivalled access to expertise is central to BIMTECH's vision: to educate insurance professionals with a global mindset.

Meeting demand through education

India's insurance sector has expanded quickly during the 21st Century. As the first private sector institute in India to launch a professional insurance course, BIMTECH has directly experienced and observed the rapid changes and developments in business during this period. As the sector has expanded, so too have demands for professional education, research, training, and consultancy to provide qualified professionals to serve customers effectively.

To meet these demands, BIMTECH created a Centre for Insurance and Risk Management. Its objective was to provide a variety of customised services to insurance companies and consultancies and to train educators with regard to these industries. Today, the Centre has become the destination of choice for leading insurance, insurance brokers and IT companies to acquire the best and brightest talent for their businesses.

The strength of BIMTECH's strategic partnerships with leading global insurance education providers is key to this success and reputation. The CII is one such provider.

Raising standards through CII partnership

Back in 2007, BIMTECH's two-year, full-time Postgraduate Diploma in Insurance Business Management course received CII accreditation. This accolade meant that large numbers of BIMTECH alumni applied for the CII qualification, as it would give them ACII status and enhance both their industry knowledge and career prospects.

As a globally recognised insurance education and training institution, CII qualifications are highly valued and acknowledged as the gold standard in India's insurance market. They instill confidence in both the successful candidate and their prospective employer. In the classroom, the CII helped BIMTECH improve the quality of course content, as well as structuring its curricula to benefit students even more effectively.

Courses are supported by relevant reference material sourced directly from the CII, which is updated constantly to enable access to the latest information, on-demand. This is supplemented with face-to-face support oncampus, and in particular the involvement of Mr. Sainesh Dar, the CII's Director for South Asia who is a member of the course review committee which reviews the course curriculum annually.

A track record of unrivalled success

This productive structure and collaborative partnership has enabled BIMTECH to take the lead in attracting the best candidates for insurance-related studies. In 2015, it launched a 'PG Plus' programme for Postgraduate Insurance Business students - giving the brightest candidates the opportunity to gain a CII-accredited Diploma in Insurance as part of a 'dual learning' scheme alongside their existing accreditation commitments. This development further demonstrates BIMTECH's and the CII's commitment to improve professional standards and technical insurance knowledge globally.



"Preparing for CII exams is challenging. The syllabus is vast and exhaustive, and

you need to reference many different materials. The assignments expose you to various international laws and cases which expands your knowledge and broadens your thinking. It also helps you understand international markets such as the UK, which is really valuable."

Mr. Shashank Mishra, PGDM-IBM (2015-17): Assistant Manager, SBI General Insurance Company



"India's insurance industry is growing exponentially, and with such a large population to serve and the opportunities of international business beckoning, it's vital to prepare local talent with the skills

and education it needs to succeed. The CII's partnership with BIMTECH is going a long way to achieving this. The ability to update course content constantly, in line with the real world and its changing dynamics, means that every candidate can get the qualifications they need to realise their ambitions and provide the highest levels of service to their customers."

Sainesh Dar, CII Director for South Asia