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# How top B-schools in India are going an extra mile to attract international students

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Devina Sengupta, ET Bureau Aug 12, 2014, 02.36AM IST

Tags: XLRI | Top B-schools in India | Indian School of Business | IIM Lucknow | 360 degree app

MUMBAI: Last fortnight, the Indian School of Business (ISB), launched a mobile application (app) and 500 people in North America downloaded it. Called the 360 degree app, it has videos of the B-school's alumni talking about their experience and the current batch speaking about why they picked the college, besides snippets of class room teaching and faculty profiles.



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"We are tracking every download to gauge how many are interested in our college globally," says Munish Sapra, senior director for admissions and financial aid, ISB. The app is one of the many ways in which the management college is aiming to get visibility amongst students abroad.

Top B-schools in India are going the whole mile to make their courses attractive to international students, with good reason. Such students are integral for diversity, getting more recruiters and global accreditations as well as climbing the ranking order.

Full-time MBA programmes in India see barely a handful of international students, and the institutes claim their diplomas look paler than their global counterparts' MBA degrees. While the issue is currently before the government, the institutes are looking at international enrolments through exchange programmes, alumni meets, projects and short term courses.

In July, ISB, along with its former students, started 'coffee with alumni' wherein prospective students could meet former students in 40 locations across the world. The programme will be on till October. ISB's Sapra returned from Dubai last week promoting ISB as part of world MBA tours where the college's representatives engage in face to face interactions and group discussions on the prospects of an MBA degree from the institute. The team also visited New York and Washington.

IIM Lucknow plans to open up a branch in another country. While three countries are on the shortlist, the institute's director, Devi Singh, refused to comment further. The international campus will have students from both India and the host country for the MBA programme. Institutes such as XLRI and SP Jain already have campuses abroad.

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Collaborations are another way to improve visibility. For the past three years, IIM Lucknow and colleges from Brazil, South Africa and China are part of a forum called 'Centre for Marketing and Emerging Economy', which conducts research and presentations along with exchange programmes. XLRI is in negotiation with business schools in the US to launch new programmes for mixed-nationality students from 2016.

These will include executive education programmes, dual degrees and even courses for working professionals. "More international students translate into more global exposure and recruiters," says Jittu Singh, chairperson, international relations.

Besides regular student exchange programmes, the B-school launched its global MBA programme in partnership with Case Western Reserve University (US) and Tongji University (China), three years ago. This programme has 20 students each from the US, China and India. They travel as a cohort and undergo one-third of their education at each school.

"International students and faculty help in global rankings," says Ashok Banerjee, dean, new initiatives and external relations, IIM-C. For the oldest IIM in India, an entry into the coterie of 28 elite B-schools called, International Centre of Excellence in Management Education' in 2012 was one way of gaining global visibility.

IIM Calcutta is the only Indian member in this elite group of European, Asian and American schools of business and 70 multinational firms. And this year, they plan to reach out further to attract students. For the first time ever, a team from IIM-Calcutta (IIM-C) will head to Singapore to explain in various forums how an executive education programme from the college benefits professionals.



"We are also targetting NRIs through social media, telling them how IIM-C can give them exposure similar to Harvard at a lower cost," says Banerjee. IIM Bangalore will send a team for the first time to the US and Europe and conduct open houses with interested students this year, says M Jayadev, chairperson, admissions. IIM Indore too is in talks with French colleges to start joint management programmes.

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Dr. MANAS DAS (Retd. Prof., IIM CAL.)

13 Aug, 2014 07:07 PM

Whole world knows ISB's founder chairman is serving a prison sentence in US. To avoid further humiliation, ISB must wind up lock stock and barrel immediately. IIM Lucknow Director has long pending cases of huge corruption and his continuance is illegal and unconstitutional. With what face will IIML invite students from abroad? XLRI is another heap of church corruption and graft and has a negative image. Which overseas fool will come there. None of these and other B-Schools have worthy leader, nor faculty nor programmes. Why are they allowed to waste country's foreign exchange to dupe and cheat overseas students?

DILIP KUMAR GARG (DAMANJODI)

12 Aug, 2014 12:25 PM

A very good move by the top B-schools.

Bhavadas T V . (Navi Mumbai.)

12 Aug, 2014 11:52 AM

To attract more money in US Dollors and British Pounds as well as Saudi Reals / dinars etc?.



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