



UNIVERSITY ACCREDITATION

Nirma University accredited with NAAC A+ Grade

Nirma University Ahmedabad is awarded 'A+' grade by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in the third cycle of re-accreditation. This grade is a hallmark of very high academic quality, including education, research and extension. In the previous cycle of NAAC accreditation, the university was awarded an A grade. Only a few universities in India have an A+ grade. This grade will help the university to go for greater academic autonomy and enhance its academic reputation in the comity of international higher education institutions. The accreditation process was done in March when the Peer team visited the campus from March 29-31, 2022. The grade is valid for the coming five years.

UNIVERSITY NEWS

Centre of Excellence by the Government of Gujarat

Nirma University was awarded the Centre of Excellence (CoE) status by the Government of Gujarat. In January 2022, the university was conferred CoE status in the International Conference of Academic Institutions, part of the Vibrant Gujarat Education Summit 2022. The move would enhance the quality of education in the state by giving it a global touch and establishing excellent infrastructure for the students.

Nirma University releases book on Re-Imagining Management Education



Today's management education is changing rapidly, and offers opportunities and challenges to all the stakeholders. Management education has to be dynamic, driven by changes in the business world, globalisation and technological revolution. Keeping this in mind, Nirma University with the publisher Bloomsbury came up with the book, 'Re-Imagining Management Education in the 21st Century: The Way Ahead'. The editor of the book is Dr Nina Muncherji, Associate Professor at the Institute of Management, Nirma University.

Pratidhwani- The Alumni Conclave

Kaizen, the Alumni Relations Committee of the Institute of Management, Nirma University, organised the Alumni Conclave, Pratidhwani on March 26, 2022. The theme for this year was Envisioning the PhyGital Future. The distinguished alumni from the institute with experience in IT, Finance, Entrepreneurship, Marketing and Sales, and HR spoke on various topics addressing their understanding on the PhyGital future.



Mr Saurav Gupta



Mr Vivek Rao



Mr Shalin Talajia



Mr Amit Toshniwal



Ms Sonika Gupta



Mr Kunal Mathuria



Mr Sukhvinder Singh



Mr Mitesh Manubarwala



Ms Vidhya Iyer

The speakers in the Finance panel were Mr Saurav Gupta, Finance Controller with Capgemini and Ms Vidhya Iyer, Senior Process Manager in eClerx. The Human Resource panel had two speakers- Mr Mitesh Manubarwala, General Manager- AP Moller Maersk and Mr Vivek Rao, DGM- Mahindra Group. Marketing domain had Ms Sonika Gupta, Executive Director at Nielsen IQ and Mr Sukhvinder Singh, Director- Singh Sports Ventures Pvt Ltd as speakers. IT had Mr Amit Toshniwal, Head of Project Management at L&T Financial services and Mr Kunal Mathuria, Director Specialist Management at Microsoft India as speakers. Mr Shalin Talajia, CEO and Founder of Grabenord and Healthy Gut was the speaker for the Entrepreneurship panel.



Mr Bhavesh Rathod (2006-2010) *BTech in Electronics and Communication, Institute of Technology*

Fascinated by Electronics as a subject since childhood, Mr Bhavesh Rathod went on to pursue BTech in Electronics and Communication from the Institute of Technology, Nirma University. Inspired by the need for sustainability and green energy he founded Soleos Solar Energy Pvt Ltd in 2017.

Q: What motivated you to choose Electronics and Communication Engineering from the Nirma University?

Since childhood, I had an inclination towards engineering and Electronics as a subject in school, always fascinated me. Growing up, I seldom had information on the opportunities in the market, however, the ideas and my experiments with electronics made me believe that the field can create a huge impact on human life and the society. After school, I started researching on the colleges offering the course and discussing with many people, I concluded that the Nirma University is the place where I will pursue my further studies and thus my journey began.

Q: How Nirma University played key role in achievement of career goal?

I believe that Nirma University is not only a university, but is an environment that develops and nurtures important qualities in an individual to grow and prosper in life. Most important quality that I developed being a student is Leadership, which helped me lot as an entrepreneur. My first introduction to structured approach towards entrepreneurship and risk analysis was through the university, and it gave me amazing podium of being a consistent problem solver.

Q: What is the mission/vision of your company?

Soleos Solar Energy Pvt Ltd has a goal to be the front-runner in solving Energy Crisis and provide pollution free world. Our goal is to provide affordable energy to all the segments of society. We currently work across Asia, Africa and Europe providing Solar Solutions to Commercial and Utility industry. We deliver our commitment towards excellence and provide solar energy to reduce uncertainty in energy availability, financial burden and complexity of operations. Now more than ever is the need to shift the energy sources to renewable and we are committed to bring that your doorstep.

Q: What is the problem your start-up is trying to solve?

Solar Energy has enormous potential to be leading and dependent energy source for the world, especially equatorial countries with abundance of free sunlight throughout the year. However, there are certain key issues that are roadblocks for the industry. To name some, rerouting to solar energy is capital intensive affair which requires significant upfront investment before harvesting the energy, another one is lower efficiency of solar power plant due to design challenges, and most important is operational inadequacy and technical know-how. We, at Soleos, have culture to serve society and as part of that, we have been working to solve these issues through our leadership approach. We are the first Solar Company in India that provides Solar Power plant on easy finance, which reduces the burden and are partners with German Manufacturers to provide maximum efficiency of the plant and smooth operation during entire period.

Q: How Soleos solar have been able to create impact on the market and society?

We have been able to solve major problem of people participation in renewable energy. In India, investors have an approach to save or invest the funds in risk-free instruments such as Fixed Deposits and Bonds. This approach is now changing and moving towards Mutual Funds, which is a slightly riskier domain. However, solar energy is one of the best investment avenues for long term and steady revenue. We have been able to create awareness among the investors and have been successfully creating constant returns far better than FDs and MFs.

Q: What are the significant achievements and accomplishments of Soleos Solar and what is the vision looking forward?

Soleos solar is catering a market with innovations in Technology, Financial Modelling and Operational Approach. In 2017, we have installed Solar-based Car Parking system in Japanese Automobile Giant Honda Cars (India) Ltd for their Tapukara Plant. Until 2019, this was Asia's largest solar carport spread across 18

acres and accommodating over 500 cars. In 2019, the Government of Gujarat launched Small-Scale Distributed Solar Power Plant Scheme to encourage the public participation in renewable energy generation. Soleos was able to generate 85Mn Euro funding from such investors through Debt and Equity participation and made this scheme a huge success. Till date, Soleos solar developed more than 250MW of solar power plants in Asia, Africa and Europe through various subsidies. Soleos created innovative financial models to encourage industries to participate in solar energy generation, such as Hire Purchase, Lease buyback, Opex, through equity participation. Soleos has a vision to establish 5GW of solar plants through equity participation until 2025. We have been constantly expanding our network to different geographical locations of the world. We have entered in various government ventures, encouraging active involvement to shift to solar energy usage. We are launching first of its kind AI/ML based operation and maintenance system to reduce the downtime and expenses related to solar power plant, maximising the energy output and thus the revenue.

We also have in-house finance company, registered with RBI, for solar asset financing, we have financed more than 35MW of solar power to industrial and residential customers. Along with fulfilling our dream of pollution free world, Soleos is taking care of 360-degree consumer requirement.

Q: Any tips you would like to give to the current batch of students on what should they focus on to achieve such success?

Education is the most important aspect of personal and professional development. Students should focus on achieving excellence in their education. The real world outside of education is not always about achieving highest grades, but also learning problem solving skills and leadership qualities to grow and build career. Being an entrepreneur is challenging but your attitude is what will differentiate you from the rest.

Q: Any mantra that you follow in your daily routine/life that played a role in you reaching such great heights?

Innovation, consistency and commitment has always been my life mantra.

Q: What process/hardships you faced to attain the success you have achieved till date?

Success is result of doing what you can do best every day and for us the challenges were no less. The day we started our business, concept of solar energy was unheard in the Indian sub-continent. We had to create educational programmes and public awareness sessions to drive solar in people's life. Being first generation entrepreneur there were lot of challenges including business operations, finance and sustainability in competitive environment. Government policies in India have been pro-business but the bureaucracy, inefficiency of implementation and frequent changes in policy created vulnerability in solar industry. To overcome the challenges we knew we need out of the box thinking, exhaustive strategies and quicker pace of implementation. These helped us in keeping pace with market demand, government policy and changing technologies. To drive the company has its own set of challenges, which requires continuous management and control. We have been successful over the period in creating sustainable organisation and providing our contributors a platform to thrive.



Mr Gaurish Desai (2010 to 2012) *MBA, Institute of Management*

Born and brought up in Goa, Mr Gaurish Desai completed his engineering and joined the MBA programme of the Institute of Management, Nirma University. He currently works as a SAP consultant at CRODA, England in United Kingdom. Here is a snippet of his interaction with Kaizen team member.

Q: How was your experience at IMNU?

For a person who never enjoyed his engineering years, the Institute of Management was a life-changing experience for me. IMNU was a different world in itself. I enjoyed the classes, activities and other events that were organised on campus. It gave me a change to interact with the students of the other institutes as well.

Q. What were your learnings from the course?

The learnings, in my opinion, were more in terms of how to approach a problem, how to communicate in any situation and how to present yourself. Management education is preparing you to face the toughest of times in the corporate world thus making you industry-ready. The theoretical subjects will teach will different types of models and SWOT analysis that we may not use in the real world but it opens up the mind to think of a situation in different scenarios.

It is just giving you a framework to think. Therefore, when graduate from a B-School you develop a framework of thinking and a way of approaching a problem.

Q. What your journey smooth after getting the MBA degree?

You always strive to grow in your career in some way or the other. You need to understand that not everything is about money. The more you work on challenging projects, newer technologies the better it is for your overall development and growth as an individual. I think there is always a stage where you need to learn more and you need to do bigger projects, better projects and complex technology projects. That is always going to be there which is a challenge but always comes with a learning experience.

Q. According to you, what is that one success mantra that everybody should follow?

Based on my experience, I would say it is networking. Your networking skills with your seniors, team and subordinates will make you go a long way.

Q. Any advice for the students!

Remain focused. This will help you to have a clear direction on what you want from the course. Fetch the best out of what is offered, have fun, make friends and be in contact these moments are never going to come back so live it to the fullest.

Workshops & Seminars

- Alumni feedback offers important perspectives for evaluating academic programmes and student services. Keeping this objective in mind, the Alumni Committee of the Institute of Commerce, Nirma University (ICNU) conducted a virtual meeting on January 20, 2022 to discuss the new 4-year BCom (Hons) Programme Curriculum with the alumni. The suggestions received were discussed with the university authorities and for a possible inclusion in the revised curriculum.
- On February 28, 2022, Ms Nishtha Pandey, Senior Technical Safety Engineer at Shell Bengaluru shared her experiences and journey with the students. She is an alumnus of the Institute of Technology.
- A session on Career in Corporate Insolvency was organised on March 11, 2022 by Centre for Corporate Law Studies, ILNU. The speaker was Mr Varun Akar, Student, Graduate Insolvency Program (GIP) at the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), Manesar. In the session, he talked on the careers in insolvency and about the GIP programme he is currently pursuing along with various opportunities that are present in the field of corporate law. He also interacted with the students and cleared their doubts on the subject. Over 50 students were present for the session.
- Mr Nishant Patel, Registered Pharmacist, Owner of pharmacy store and Manager at Hillside Family Pharmacy in British Columbia, Canada, delivered a career guidance talk on 'Future Scope of Higher Studies and Career Perspectives in Canada' organised by the Institute of Pharmacy on March 28, 2022. Mr Patel is an alumnus of the Institute of Pharmacy (Batch: 2005-2009).

Annual General Meeting of Nirma Institute of Technology Alumni Association

The 22nd Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Nirma Institute of Technology Alumni Association (NITAA) was organised virtually on January 1, 2022. Dr R N Patel, President- NITAA, Dr N P Gajjar, Senior Vice-President- NITAA presided over the meeting. In the meet, the officials presented the annual report of NITAA for 2021 and the accounts for the financial year 2020-21 to the alumni members. The gathering also honoured the best alumni from each department of the institute.

EC Alumni Get-Together

The Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering organised an online get-together of EC alumni on January 1, 2022. Over 89 alumni and faculty members participated in the online event. Dr Dhaval Pujara, HoD of the EC Department addressed the audience and briefed them about alumni activity carried out in the department. He discussed about the alumni-sponsored lab started in the department. He further stated on the ways to strengthen the relationship between the alumni and the department. The alumni interacted with the faculty members and shared their old memories.

EE Alumni Get-Together

On January 1, 2022, the department of Electrical Engineering arranged an online get-together for their alumni. Over 55 alumni and faculty members participated in the online event. Dr S C Vora, HoD of the department addressed the gathering and informed about the NBA accreditation awarded to the department course, activities of various clubs and current happenings at the department. Dr Vora invited the alumni for interaction, expert talk, project internship and placement. The alumni appreciated the role of institute and department in growth of the students. They liked the concept of online meets, as they found it more convenient to attend from any place.

Annual Alumni Meet of the Institute of Pharmacy, Alumni Association

The online Annual Alumni meet of the Institute of Pharmacy, Nirma University Alumni Association (IPNUAA) was organised on January 29, 2022. Over 111 alumni members from India and abroad were present for the online alumni meet. Prof Manjunath Ghate, Director at IPNU and President of the IPNUAA delivered the annual report of the institute and Dr Dhaivat Parikh (Vice President, IPNUAA) enlightened all about various activities conducted by the alumni association. All HoDs and other faculty members shared their views and suggested that all stay connected for healthy alumni networking. The alumni members shared their experiences at the institute with others.

Professionals



Mr Sapan Sheth

An alumnus of the Institute of Management from the batch 2007-2009, is promoted to the post of Assistant Portfolio Manager- Infrastructure Debt at Fiera Capital in Toronto, Canada. Mr Sheth had an excellent academic record and received three gold medals from the institute for his outstanding academic performance.



Ms Ankita Sharma

An alumna of the Institute of Law from the batch 2007-2012, is in the list of the 'Best Leading Lawyers 2022' by The World IP Forum (WIPF). She is currently working as General Manager- Legal for Honasa Consumer Pvt Ltd (Mamaearth).



Mr Pratik Patel

MCA batch of 2007-2010) received the award "ICT Emerging Tech Leader" An alumnus of the Institute of Management from the batch 2007-2009, is promoted to the post of Assistant Portfolio Manager- Infrastructure Debt at Fiera Capital in Toronto, Canada. Mr Sheth had an excellent academic record and received three gold medals from the institute for his outstanding academic performance.



Mr Kushal Gandhi

Currently working at Oppo and an alumnus of the Institute of Technology from the batch 2009-2013, recently got two patents in his name. The patent titles were Device, Method & System for Operating device and Methods, Devices and a System for displaying content on a composite display.

Entrepreneurs



Mr Dhruvil Sanghvi

CEO LogiNext and alumnus of the Institute of Technology of the batch 2006-2010, was featured on the cover of the Entrepreneur magazine 35 under 35 list in its February 2022 issue.



Mr Siddhant Tawarawala

MBA in Entrepreneurship (2015-17) from the Institute of Management, Nirma University, recently appeared in Shark Tank India to seek funding and guidance for his start-up 'Peeschute', a patented and innovative disposable urinal bag. He locked the deal with Mr Aman Gupta, CMO of Boat Electronics at INR 75 lakhs for a 6% in the company. Before Shark Tank, Peeshcute had also closed the Pre-series 'A' round in 2020 from Marwari Angels Group with incubation from IIM Ahmedabad. The startup is also a part of AGNI Programme with the Government of India.

Higher Studies



Mr Vandit Patel

Alumnus of the Institute of Technology from the batch 2016-2020, got AIR 2 in GATE.



Mr Hiren Solanki

Alumnus of the Institute of Technology from the batch 2016-2020, got AIR 3 in GATE in Geomatics.



Mr Satkirat Ahuja

Making full use of his time during lockdown, Mr Satkirat Ahuja, alumnus of the Institute of Technology of the batch 2016-2020, prepared for CAT and scored 99.36 percentile in CAT 2021, and is planning to pursue MBA from one of the IIMs. He is currently working with one of the leading steel manufactures in Chennai.



Mr Arjun Doshi

In-House Counsel, Adani Ports and SEZ | Institute of Law (Batch: 2009-2014)

I saw the potential to grow with the growing Institution. I must admit that, even in its formative stages, the course at ILNU was rigorous yet well structured. It has only gone to improve. Since the course required constant evaluation, I learnt to effectively manage my time - an art necessary for every successful lawyer. I evolved as a matured legal professional due to the able guidance of my professors at ILNU and in the company of some bright legal minds, with whom I had the pleasure of creating some long cherished memories. Additionally, representing ILNU (and winning laurels) at the competitions and leading various organising teams spiced up my law school journey. In hindsight, I feel I had the most memorable five years of my life at ILNU, personally and academically.



Ms Gargi Lakhani

Senior Regulatory Affairs Associate at Amneal Pharmaceuticals, New York City Metropolitan Area
Institute of Pharmacy (Batch: 2009 - 2011)

Department of Pharmaceutical Analysis, IPNU builds quality Analyst and Regulatory Affairs Professionals. Excellent Experience! The teachers are exceptional in their knowledge about the subject but are of caring nature as well! They really care about their students and very much willing to go on an extra mile, which curved me to achieve Excellency. The focus is overall development of the students and not just technical excellence. It was a great start to begin my career in Pharmaceutical Regulatory Affairs field, I am sure it will be the same for many more in future.



Mr Aum M Kotwal

Founding Partner, Kotwal Associates Advocates | Institute of Law (Batch: 2008-2013)

Institute of Law, Nirma University; my Alma mater has amongst all helped me shape my ethos since my undergraduate days. Institute of Law Nirma University is the pulse that keeps me going. Its holistic pedagogical approach has nurtured me in multiple facets of my personal and professional life.



Ms Priya Sharma

Institute of Science (Batch 2016-18)

My journey from being a fresher to entering industry and then making up my mind for PhD is worth telling. Institute of Science unreservedly prepared me for what is required to grow in industry. I can still reminisce the grilling I went through during my dissertation and later it all made sense when I entered corporate. I worked at Sun Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd in their R&D department and was learning from the best researchers from across the world. Having an inclination for research, I left my job and am currently pursuing full-time PhD from the institute.

Post-Covid Scenario in Educational and Professional Fields



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The use of technology in industries will play a key role in taking the country to the honourable PM's dream of a five trillion-dollar economy.

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Dr R N Patel

President, Nirma Institute of Technology Alumni Association (NITAA)
Director, School of Engineering, Nirma University

COVID-19 completely changed the approach toward teaching-learning. The use of digital platforms in teaching-learning was the need of the hour, and Covid-19 threw challenges to educators across the world. The education field was hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic, but it provided alternative modes to everyone that we were looking to be adopted by 2025. With over 100 crore vaccines, the country is making steady progress towards normalcy, but we should follow the precautions laid down by the government.

The educational institutes being a place of mass gathering were the last ones to open. A hybrid mode of teaching (combination of online and offline means) is a solution now. Platforms like Moodle LMS, used by Nirma University, became even more essential for students during the pandemic. It is easier to impart technical knowledge online to the students, but it would be difficult for them to develop skills and gain practical experience if the pandemic stays longer. It is now time to take things to normalcy but with utmost precautions to make students industry-ready.

The industries have faced many challenges as well. The post-covid scenario looks very promising. Failure to impart practical knowledge to students will result in industries not getting quality students. Industries have implemented many changes and adopted new modes in the post covid situation. Replacing offline meetings with online ones has made it convenient for all to attend from anywhere and anytime. The use of technology in industries will play a key role in taking the country to the honourable PM's dream of a five trillion-dollar economy. Though life is coming to normalcy, we will see significant changes in the approach to doing things pre-covid and post-covid.