Ahmedabad University

Ahmedabad

A window to a stimulating undergraduate learning experience.

Grand Challenges Programme

Prepare for your future with an eight-day immersion at Ahmedabad University.

29 May - 5 June 2027

Immersive | Transformative | Residential

Skill Studios | Workshops | Interdisciplinary Masterclasses | Maker Studio | The City as a Lab

Ahmedabad Grand Challenges Programme

- A unique programme designed for outstanding students of Grades X, XI, and XII
- An immersive experience in an academically rich environment
- Engagement with a pedagogy of interdisciplinarity, experiential learning, and research thinking
- A stimulating exposure to the culture and ethos of liberal education for ease of transition to undergraduate education

Grand challenges and complex issues facing society require addressing them from multiple disciplinary perspectives. Through the Ahmedabad Grand Challenges Programme, students explore the city of Ahmedabad as a live laboratory beyond the classroom. All our areas of study are structured to combine academic coursework, hands-on learning, and field trips and include an introduction to research thinking.

HALLMARKS OF THE AHMEDABAD GRAND CHALLENGES PROGRAMME

The Programme is a unique opportunity for students to work in a thematic studio based around a grand challenge. It offers students:

- Real-world challenges to tackle
- Studio-based experiential learning
- An interdisciplinary programme structure
- Personalised feedback for individual growth
- Three distinct tracks to choose from
- A limited cohort of 150 students across all tracks

CURRICULUM Pathway

1 SKILL STUDIO

Acquiring a hands-on skill like the Internet of Things, 3D printing, or creative writing

2 MASTERCLASSES

Interdisciplinary masterclasses to approach the problem from various lenses

3 CITY AS A LAB

Perspective building with live labs around the city

4 DISCIPLINE OF CHOICE

Explore various disciplines in hands-on mode at Ahmedabad University and meet and interact with faculty members

5 LEADING A UNIVERSITY LIFE

Real life exposure to university life, sports, co-curricular activities and career counselling

EXPLORING A DAY

Ahmedabad Grand Challenges Programme

- Masterclasses by Subject Matter Experts
- Hands-on workshops
- Studio time
- Sports and co-curricular activities
- Local excursions

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the eight-day programme, students will be able to

- Define a real-world problem and approach it from an interdisciplinary lens
- Discover a way to think towards finding a solution to a grand challenge in areas like Urban Infrastructure or Climate Change
- Explore a discipline of their choice
- Pick up skills like data interpretation, critical thinking, or creative writing
- Experience University life

Application Process

A select cohort of 150 students will be chosen from eligible applicants across all tracks. Students in Grades X, XI, and XII are invited to apply for this uniquely curated learning experience. Applicants should demonstrate strong academic performance, along with a diverse range of co-curricular and extracurricular interests. Shortlisted candidates may be invited for a one-on-one interview with the selection committee.

Programme Fees

- The programme fee is INR 50,000 + GST, which covers all meals, shared accommodation at Ahmedabad University Student Residences, and all curated experiences. The fee does not include travel expenses to and from the University.
- Need-based scholarships are available—please contact us for more details.

Structure of the Programme

The Ahmedabad Grand Challenges Programme offers a distinctive opportunity for exceptional students in Grades X, XI, and XII to immerse themselves in a vibrant academic environment and experience the culture of a research-oriented liberal education university. This initiative is designed to cultivate an interdisciplinary and research-driven mindset, preparing participants for high-caliber undergraduate studies by engaging them in both classroom and experiential learning.

Students serve as explorers, using the dynamic city of Ahmedabad as their living laboratory. Through a blend of academic coursework, interactive projects, and field visits, they will investigate the diverse social and cultural factors shaping contemporary urban life. The curriculum is structured to foster research thinking and provide hands-on exposure to real-world issues.

Recognizing that today's grand societal challenges demand solutions from multiple perspectives, the programme introduces young minds to the power of interdisciplinary, project-based learning at Ahmedabad University. The eight-day immersive experience is carefully crafted to broaden students' horizons across various academic disciplines and nurture their imagination.

The 2027 edition will feature three specialized themes, offering participants the flexibility to select tracks aligned within their own interests and aspirations. This enriched, larger-scale experience aims to empower students even further by allowing them to customize their learning journey to their passion areas and career goals.

Science, Technology and Innovation

Explore how science and technology shape our world and drive future possibilities. This track encourages students to apply scientific inquiry and technological creativity to develop innovative responses to complex challenges. By blending rigorous science with emerging technologies, participants will gain a future-ready perspective that prepares them to excel in higher studies, cutting-edge careers, and entrepreneurial ventures.

Humanities and Social Change

This track examines the human experience through the interconnected lenses of culture, history, politics, philosophy, and society. Students are invited to think critically about fundamental questions of ideas, identities, and communities while exploring how the humanities provide essential tools for understanding our rapidly evolving and complex world. The track emphasises developing perspectives that foster greater inclusivity and social awareness, preparing students to engage meaningfully with contemporary challenges through humanistic inquiry.

Management, Enterprise, and Futures

Engage with the challenges of leadership and enterprise in uncertain times. This track explores how organisations and entrepreneurs can navigate complexity, respond creatively to pressing problems, and build resilient, sustainable futures. Through real-world examples and hands-on problem-solving, students will strengthen their ability to adapt, innovate, and design for impact in a rapidly changing world.

Mentors and Facilitators in the Past Years

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

ADITYA VAISHYA
Associate Professor
PhD (National University of Ireland)

SUBHASH RAJPUROHIT
Associate Professor
PhD (Maharshi Dayanand University)

ANIL PATEL
Assistant Professor
PhD (Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad)

ADITYA TIWARI
Assistant Professor
PhD (BITS-Pilani)

RAMYA SRINIVASAN
Assistant Professor
PhD (Indian Institute of Technology Madras)

MANJIL SAIKIA
Assistant Professor
PhD (University of Vienna, Austria)

MANAGEMENT, ENTERPRISE AND FUTURES

KUNAL MANKODI
Senior Lecturer
Assistant Director, BSM (Hons) Programme
PhD (Ganpat University)

SUMIT KUMAR JAISWAL
Assistant Professor
PhD (IIM Ahmedabad)

HARNAIN KAUR ARORA
Assistant Professor
PhD (Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad)

MINAL PATHAK
Associate Professor
Amrut Mody School of Management
PhD (Gujarat University and the Indian Council of Medical Research)

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

JUHI BANSAL
Co-Director
Centre for Learning Futures

HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL CHANGE

LISA WIDDISON
Assistant Professor
PhD (University of Hawaii)

KHUSHDEEP KAUR
Assistant Professor
PhD (Temple University)

NEELANJAN SIRCAR
Associate Professor
PhD (Columbia University)

SHILPA PANDIT
Associate Professor
PhD (University of Madras)

AYESHA SHETH
Assistant Professor
PhD (University of Pennsylvania)

STUDIO EXPERTS

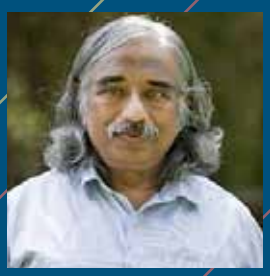
PARAG PATEL
Associate Professor & Dean of the Undergraduate College
PhD (Gujarat University)

SHISHIR SAXENA
Associate Professor
PhD (University of Cambridge)

RAHUL RAO
Assistant Professor
PhD (IIM Bangalore)

MAYA RATNAM
Assistant Professor
PhD (John Hopkins University)

VIVEK TANAVDE
Associate Professor
Associate Dean, Sciences
PhD (Mumbai University)



AMIT DAS
Professor & Senior Associate Dean
Graduate Programmes
Amrut Mody School of Management
PhD (University of Minnesota)

RAJESH NAIDU
Assitant Professor
(Master of Fine Arts in Studio Arts/Painting
Indiana State University)

AMIT SINGH
Assistant Professor
PhD (IIT Kharagpur)

Accommodation and Campus Living

All participants stay in the student residences at Ahmedabad University. Accommodation and meals are included in the programme fee.

Residences and Dining

- Twin-sharing, air-conditioned student residences
- Separate and secure accommodation for boys and girls
- Wi-Fi enabled residences
- Common recreation and study spaces
- Breakfast, lunch, evening snacks and dinner served at scheduled times

Security and Access

- Controlled entry and exit protocols
- Supervised residential environment throughout the stay

Programme Logistics and Daily Experience

- All academic materials and local programme logistics included
- Dedicated programme coordinators available throughout
- Travel to and from Ahmedabad to be arranged by participants

Student Safety and Wellbeing

- 24×7 trained security personnel and residence wardens
- Continuous supervision during the residential programme
- Restricted campus exits for participant safety
- Medical assistance and first-aid support
- Emergency contact protocols shared with parents and guardians
- A safe, structured environment designed for focused learning and personal development

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