

**Report on a virtual Panel Discussion on “Opportunities Abroad for Higher Education”
held on 18.12.2021, 11:30 a.m.**

The Central University of Tamil Nadu Alumni Association (CUTNAA) hosted a virtual panel discussion on “**Opportunities Abroad for Higher Education**” on 18th December 2021 at 11.30 a.m. for the benefit of CUTN students. This program has received a resoundingly positive reaction from students. 280 individuals, including CUTN students and alumni, enrolled for the program, with approximately 200 of them attending. Dr. V. Rajendiran, the Alumni coordinator, opened the program with a welcome message. Following the welcome address, our Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. M. Krishnan formally inaugurated the program. In his presidential remarks, he emphasized the significance of the Alumni-Institutional relationship. Furthermore, he stressed the significance of Alumni contributions to the progress of our University, not only financially but also intellectually. Finally, he advised the Alumni to form a strong network among themselves and contribute to our University and Society. Following the presidential remarks, the session was handed over to Prof. V. Madhurima, Department of Physics, Director, IQAC, to moderate.

There are six panelists, Alumni of CUTN viz., **Mr. G. Murali Krishna** (iMSc Physics, 2010-2015), PhD student, Department of Physics, University of Hamburg, Germany & Senior Data Scientist, ‘Porsche Digital GmbH, Berlin’, Germany; **Mr. Aaditya Sunil Deshpande** (iMSc Chemistry, 2012-2017), PhD student, Department of Chemistry, Clarkson University, NY, **United States**; **Mr. Rishabh Mahendra** (iMSc Economics, 2012-2017), Division of Applied Social Sciences, College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources, University of Missouri-Columbia, Missouri, **United States**; Ms. S. Anusree, (iMSc Life Sciences, 2012-2017), John Curtin School of Medical Research, Australian National University (JCSMR, ANU), Canberra, **Australia**; **Ms. Anju Susan Anish** (iMSc Mathematics, 2014-2019), Center for Biosystems and Biotech Data Science, Department of Applied Mathematics, Ghent University (Belgium) Global Campus, **South Korea**; Mr. Sreejith SJ (MSc Chemistry, 2017-2019), Department of Chemistry, University of Iceland, **Iceland** were participated in the panel discussion.

The Moderator began the panel discussion by introducing the panelists. The panelists were invited to explain their CUTN experiences, as well as why and how they went abroad, in the first round. They were requested to give resources or advice for CUTN students moving abroad to pursue further education in the second round. The following points were stressed by the panelists during the discussion:

- Tips for studying abroad were discussed.
- The requirement for pursuing a doctoral degree was clarified.
- Opportunities abroad for research were discussed.
- The importance of clearing TOEFL, IELTS, and GRE exams was discussed.

The panel discussion was instructive and interesting, and it provided the students with a clear understanding of what it takes to pursue a Ph.D. abroad. Attendees were allowed to ask the

panelist questions in the third round. The panelists responded to all of the participants' questions and concerns. Ms. Shwetha Prakash, 5th-year iMSC Chemistry, Department of Chemistry, CUTN, concluded the session with a vote of thanks. The participants' feedback was collected after the event, and the majority of them regarded the panel discussion as excellent.

Photo Gallery





