

# AN INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANGE

University of Delhi & University of Edinburgh



THE UNIVERSITY  
*of* EDINBURGH

# A DIVERSE PARTNERSHIP

In November 2012 partners from two leading institutions, the University of Delhi and the University of Edinburgh, signed an agreement to co-operate in education, research, joint programmes and exchanges in ways that reached far beyond the traditional Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2010.

Professor Dinesh Singh, Vice Chancellor, The University of Delhi, and Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea, Principal, The University of Edinburgh led the exciting initiatives which came out of this partnership.

“The burgeoning partnership between the University of Edinburgh and the University of Delhi is exceptional. It ranges from innovation in teaching and research, through student mobility and academic exchange, to collaboration in sport and culture.

We share a vision of working together to make the world a better place. Which is why we exchange priorities and host each

other's students and staff, online and face-to-face.

Our two universities have genuine respect and affection for other. Together, we are prepared to take risks and experiment towards a brighter future.

Quite simply, it is a privilege to work with esteemed colleagues at the University of Delhi.”

*Professor Stephen Hillier,  
Vice Principal International,  
The University of Edinburgh*

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*Professor Dinesh Singh,  
Vice Chancellor,  
The University of Delhi*



# PARTNERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

## Embracing e-learning

Delhi-Edinburgh online lecture series  
April 2013

Edinburgh and Delhi both hold popular lectures series, inviting eminent speakers to share their expertise for a general audience. The desire to reach a wider audience and engage with e-learning prompted Delhi to initiate an online lecture series.

Staff and students were provided with an opportunity to join innovative live-streamed collaborative learning sessions, exploring topics of mutual interest at the

University of Edinburgh and the University of Delhi.

Professor Harish Trivedi's and Professor Roger Jeffrey's lectures went online during April 2013. Students at Delhi University enthusiastically participated in not only the live discussion with their peers in India, but with the staff and students at the University of Edinburgh.

A second lecture series has been proposed for February 2014.

### Lectures in the 2013 series

- Population: How Much of a Problem? *Professor Roger Jeffrey, Dean International for India*
- Reading Indian Literature in a Globalized World, *Professor Harish Trivedi, Advisor, ILL*

### Proposed lectures for 2014

- Importance of Law and Constitution in Political Theory and Practice, *Mr Gopal Subramaniam, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India*
- Justice vs. Peace, *Professor Christine Bell, Constitutional Law, Edinburgh*

“The Delhi-Edinburgh joint lectures use innovative teaching methods to bring together students from the two Universities in a shared learning experience, where leading speakers engage with topics of global interest and encourage questions and discussion in a dynamic, live interactive setting. These online lectures offer new

possibilities for staff and students to interact across discipline and institutional boundaries, to enhance the learning environment and global context of teaching and learning in both Universities.”

*Professor Mayank Dutia,  
Biomedical Sciences,  
The University of Edinburgh*

## Particle Physics at the crossroads

Edinburgh-Delhi Particle Physics Symposium

15 - 17 February 2013

This symposium was an opportunity for staff in Edinburgh and Delhi to contemplate High Energy Physics in the Higgs era. With their diverse expertise in experimental and theoretical High Energy Physics, groups in India, Edinburgh and colleagues from CERN initiated a discussion on the implications of physics beyond the Standard Model.

Emeritus Professor Peter Higgs recorded a special video message to be shown at the Symposium and an eminent line-up of speakers from India, the University of Edinburgh, CERN and other UK institutions gave

talks over three days. 49 physicists ranging from academic staff to post-doctoral and PhD students participated in the event.

The symposium helped to raise the profile of the University of Edinburgh within the scientific community in India, and the Government of India's research agencies. It also seeded discussions on joint research, joint PhD's and postgraduate exchanges with India in particle physics and encouraged the Government to support Indian scientists to travel to Edinburgh.

The publicity around the symposium showcased

Edinburgh as the destination of choice for highly talented students and particle physics as a dynamic field of study and research for young students.

**Symposium inaugurated on 15 February by:**

- *Sir Timothy O'Shea - Principal & Vice Chancellor, University of Edinburgh*
- *Professor Dinesh Singh - Vice Chancellor, The University of Delhi*
- *Professor Rolf Heuer - Director General, CERN*
- *Grahame Blair - Executive Director, Science & Technology Facilities Council*
- *Professor Stephen Hillier - Vice Principal International, University of Edinburgh*

“The symposium was a meeting of expert minds from India and UK, in both theoretical and experimental particle physics, astrophysics and cosmology. The latest result in these fields was covered which was

extremely beneficial for students and young scientists. It also allowed for further collaboration amongst particle physicists from both countries.”

*Professor Brajesh Chandra Choudhary,  
The University of Delhi*



## Enhancing student experience

Delhi students with disabilities visit Edinburgh

29 June - 7 July 2013

“The University of Delhi has the maximum number and the most diverse group of students with disabilities in India. This was the first initiative of its kind for such students. In Edinburgh our students were exposed to a different approach to integration and that was invaluable - to experience

how University infrastructure and technology supported and empowered students whether they were in the library, classrooms, accommodation, University buildings or city streets.”

*Bipin Tiwari,  
The University of Delhi Equal Opportunities Cell*

This Delhi University initiative (with the British Council) was the first delegation of its kind from India. A group of 15 students including officials, staff and volunteers visited the University of Edinburgh. The delegation comprised of students with visual impairment, hearing impairment, loco motor impairments and those with learning disabilities.

The aim of the visit was to gain first-hand knowledge of how students with disabilities were supported in

UK institutions, to enhance their cultural understanding, acquaint them with the different technological advancements available to students in higher education, provide them with experience of the different teaching methodologies and learning strategies, adopted abroad to optimise the benefits they can derive from their studies and share with them how an inclusive teaching and learning environment could be created.





## Promoting global experiences

College on Wheels : Gyanodaya III  
2-8 September 2013

Delhi University's third educational train journey ran for seven days, taking in the state of Punjab and the union territory of Chandigarh. 600 students from University of Delhi and a team of around 80 students and 10 staff from the University of Edinburgh took part.

The aim of this journey was to understand the dynamics of the

emerging economy of Punjab and the entrepreneurial business models of this north Indian state. The train journey passed through the green pastures that farmers of this state have developed after the agricultural marvel of 'Green Revolution' along with a visit to the Golden Temple at Amritsar - the holy pilgrimage of the Sikhs.

“What gives India this grip on its visitors, which is far stronger than the effect of any other country? I believe it is the combination of extreme juxtapositions at every turn of your head, in conjunction with the innate, profound patriotism of the Indian people... Never have I felt such a pride among young people in what their country had already achieved or optimism in what it could one day become.”

*Alice Hunter Johnston  
University of Edinburgh student*

“The meetings at the University of Edinburgh were most informative and inspiring. The University of Delhi can look ahead to a meaningful, multidimensional partnership ranging from student mobility to faculty research.”

*Professor Malashri Lal,  
Dean, Academic Activities &  
Projects, The University of Delhi*

## Ongoing partnership dialogue

Delhi University delegation visits Edinburgh  
6 - 7 March 2013

Vice Chancellor Professor Dinesh Singh led a delegation to Edinburgh to discuss the growing Delhi-Edinburgh partnership. This ongoing partnership dialogue helped progress some key projects like the online lecture series, Gyanodaya, hockey training camp and a Math-Physics collaboration.

### Thanks to delegation members

- Ms Alka Sharma, Registrar
- Professor Malashri Lal, Dean, Academic Activities & Projects
- Professor M. Chaturvedi, Cluster Innovation Centre Director

# FUTURE PROJECTS

## **Antardhvani Cultural Festival**

14-16 February 2014

Delhi's Antardhvani Cultural Festival began in 2011. In just two years it has become the key event for the University of Delhi to profile its cultural, sports and academic achievements. The last Antardhvani attracted more than 150,000 attendees over three days. At the 2014 festival, University of Delhi will have a special plaza for its international partners and the University of Edinburgh is invited to participate.

## **Innovation projects in Colleges**

Created by University of Delhi's Vice Chancellor to provide opportunities for undergraduate students seeking interdisciplinary projects and for teachers looking to undertake research, the scheme invites proposals that are 'designed to enhance learning experience through student participation'. The projects are conducted by teams of 3 teachers and 10 students from at least 2 departments and will recruit a mentor from outside the institution. The scheme has won high recognition from media, visitors, and the scientific community. Listed on the University of Delhi website this year, 251 grants have been announced. University of Edinburgh students will be virtual participants in this initiative, and can also attend in person by mutual arrangement.

## **Edinburgh students with a disability visit Delhi**

The group from Edinburgh, 10 students with disabilities and 2 staff members, are planning to visit The University of Delhi for a week between June and September 2014. The students will tour University facilities, meet staff and students, explore the capital city of India and participate in and attend talks, lectures and discussions organised by the University of Delhi's Equal Opportunity Cell.

## **Delhi-Edinburgh hockey training camp**

18 August 2014

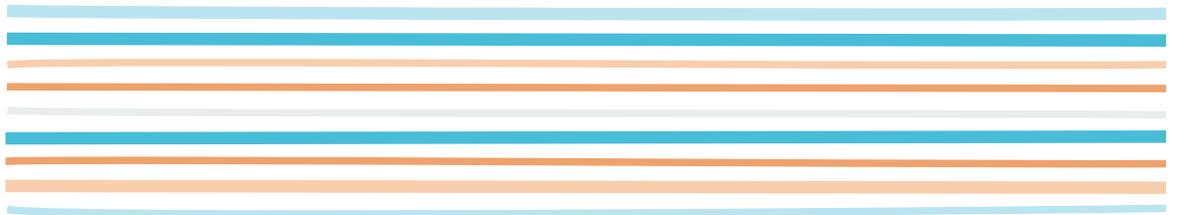
The University of Edinburgh's Centre for Sport & Exercise have invited the University of Delhi men's hockey team for a week of intensive hockey training and related events. This new sports exchange programme is expected to help improve the training and promotion of sports in the University of Delhi.

Specialists in hockey, psychology and physiotherapy will provide guidance to the delegation from University of Delhi which will include 14 players and 3 officials.

*“The Delhi team will play friendly matches with local university teams, including Edinburgh, and we expect that the best features learned in the training programme in the University of Edinburgh will be adopted for training of Delhi's teams in subsequent years.”*

*Dr Jaswinder Singh,  
Principal, SGTB Khalsa College*

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The University of Edinburgh  
International Office - India Liaison Office

Produced in collaboration with the University of Delhi.