

International Students Support Cell

We warmly welcome you to our University and are delighted that you have chosen to pursue your educational journey with us.

We understand that you have travelled from afar and are beginning an exciting new chapter in India. The International Relations Team of Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation (Deemed to be University) looks forward to meeting you and supporting you throughout your stay on campus. We wish you a fulfilling, enriching, and memorable academic experience with us.

VMRF(DU) offers a wide range of programmes and services designed to make you feel welcome and to support your academic and social success during your time at the University. Our International Student Advisors and professional staff provide confidential guidance and support on various matters, including immigration, intercultural communication, English language and conversation support, and many other student-related services.

International students enrich our classrooms, research initiatives, and campus as a whole. VMRF(DU) welcomes diversity. During their time, students are expected to share their diverse experiences as they interact with fellow students, faculty members, and staff, both inside and outside the lecture hall. Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation (Deemed to be University) has an active International Student Support Cell (ISSC) to cater to the requirements of NRI / Foreign students. This cell extends meet-and-greet services for international students, health and welfare provisions, conflict resolution, individual counseling services, etc. This cell also handles short visits of international students under student exchange between VMRF(DU) and partner universities, visa assistance, travel, and hostel accommodation for students, etc. Importantly, the cell also assists international students with the extension of visas.

This cell promotes friendship and cultural understanding through interactive events among students. It also assists international students with completing online registration processes (such as C Form and S Form) and facilitates their visits to the FRRO office, providing guidance on all related formalities and requirements.

Foreign passport holders (students and those coming for observership/training/internship) should visit <http://www.indianfro.gov.in/eservices/home.jsp> and register formally with the FRRO to complete the C Form online within 24 hours of checking into the hostel complex on campus. This should be complied with strictly.

MEDICAL EXAMINATION

Every international candidate is required to undergo a medical examination at a reputed hospital (please refer to the attachment sent along with the Provisional Admission Letter for details of the prescribed tests). The medical examination report must be submitted to the Office of International Relations, Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation (Deemed to be University), Salem. The confirmed Admission Letter will be issued only upon receipt of the medical examination report.

SECURITY REGISTRATION

It is mandatory for every international student to register with the Foreigner's Registration Office (FRO) / Foreigner's Regional Registration Office (FRRO) within the stipulated time frame upon arrival in India. Students holding a PIO card are also required to register with the FRRO, whereas OCI card holders are exempt from this requirement. Vinayaka Mission's Research Foundation (Deemed to be University) will provide necessary assistance in this regard. The applicable immigration processing fees and other related expenses have to be additionally borne by the student.

Pre-arrival Support:

We guide you on topics such as accommodation options, arranging medical insurance, tuition fee payments, visa requirements, budgeting for living expenses, and advice on what to bring along. We provide a lot of information about the university, including important online resources, administrative departments, hospital information, sports center, and campus facilities, so that it is all a bit less unknown when students arrive for the first time.

We are introducing student mentoring schemes that start before students' arrival. This means future students are matched with current students, who then communicate, usually via email or phone (WhatsApp), in the months leading up to the start of the course. The idea is to ensure that international students feel welcomed into the student community before they even arrive and know that there will be at least one friendly face waiting to greet them.

Orientation Programs Support:

The first few weeks of being an international student are likely to be the most overwhelming. There is so much to take in, so many new places and people, and it can take a while to settle in. VMRF(DU) International Relations Office suggests that students arrive a few days earlier than the rest of the student body to give them a chance to get settled and acclimatized before the academic activities begin.

This time is usually filled with an international student orientation program designed to provide practical support and information and also to encourage international students to get to know one another.

The VMRF-DU International Student Support Cell team is here to help students with a number of other concerns as well.

Additional Supports:

At VMRF(DU), we provide a number of other support services for international students, which are available through the International Student Support Cell.

The following services shall be available to all international students of the University:

- Guidance throughout the chosen program of study
- Specialized student counselor services for international students
- Referrals to relevant contacts inside and outside the University
- Advice and support relating to enrolment and Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) matters
- Social programs and promotion of activities for international students

Students can make a one-on-one appointment to speak to a student counselor through the International Relations Office if they need help with:

- Personal issues

- Problems with their studies
- Financial issues
- Questions about their student visa or Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE)
- Online registration (C Form & S Form, etc.) process and visits to the FRRO office (if needed), and guidance through the FRRO formalities and requirements

International students who need support other than the above-mentioned assistance or who have issues may contact the following:

Deputy Director (International Relations)
VMRF(DU), Salem
Mobile: 8686950532
E-mail: dydirector.ir@vmu.edu.in

Director (Admissions)
VMRF(DU), Salem
Mobile: 8248480325
E-mail: director.admissions@vmu.edu.in

Deputy Registrar (Administration)
VMRF(DU), Chennai
Mobile: 9884338580
E-mail:
dy.registrar.administration@vmu.edu.in