



Building a Network Between Amirkabir and The World



Amirkabir University of Technology
(Tehran Polytechnic)

Office of Scientific & International Cooperation

Amirkabir University of Technology
(Tehran Polytechnic)

**Annual Report
2019**

Office of Scientific & International Cooperation

**Annual Report
2016**

“The foundations for internationalization are of priority to AUT’s deputy of international affairs. AUT is working towards building and creating the necessary infrastructures and awareness for students, staff and faculty to reach this goal. Being among the first universities in Iran to offer courses in English as well as creating strong links with top ranked universities worldwide are necessities for this path. AUT has taken an active role in strengthening its ties with various universities in numerous fields and through different activities. “

- Vice Chancellor for International Affairs, A. M. Tousi

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MESSAGE FROM AMIR GOLROO

At the Office of International Affairs at Amirkabir University of Technology, we are investing for the future. Transcending national boundaries and reaching out to global competence and engagement will help gratify this generation's aspirations for national advancements and international recognition. We aim to contribute to the academic and economic success and development of our country by connecting outstanding talent worldwide to AUT's competent students and researchers.

To this end, our present attention is towards research and industrial partnership. Faculty members and students can participate in the various programs and opportunities that this office suggests, such as carrying out joint projects, participating in science tours and internships, gaining a dual degree or participating in student exchange programs.

To this day, our efforts have led to notable achievements and success for the university and its members; hosting international delegates

from reputable universities, receiving funds and grants on research and industrial projects, as well as hosting foreign students for summer internship are only some of the accomplishments from our staff members' honest and hard work.

Internationalization is a continuous process that will lead us to become a third generation university. Our objective and future goal is to direct our academia towards trans-disciplinary research in order to exploit knowledge and become a multicultural, cosmopolitan university that will promote entrepreneurship and develop open connections with global counterparts.

We hope you enjoy reading this report which reflects our global activities that have helped Amirkabir University of Technology to be among the best in the world.

SNAPSHOT of 2019



37 Memorandums of Understanding



4 Coututelle Agreements



42 MOAs for Exchange



AUT holds 22nd position under QS Global World University Ranking for Citation per Faculty



27 international students successfully graduated in 2019 and 44 new students enrolled

Erasmus+

17 Endorsed Erasmus Plus Mobility Grants



Ranked 1st among Iranian universities for US patent registration



Received approximately \$100,000 under international research grants



7 ongoing joint degree programs

2019 in Review

January – February – March

International Expo

This annual summit features an exhibition and a conference to expand the knowledge, networks and collaboration opportunities for its participants from all over the world. This was the fourth year for AUT to partake in this event.

During this summit AUT held meetings with over 40 of its potential partners and used this platform to build new partnerships and familiarize universities around the world with the Amirkabir University of Technology.

Initiation of H2020 Projects

With the leadership of one of AUT's most active professors in international affairs, a group was formed to initiate collaboration with foreign partners under Horizon 2020 projects. This group has registered as a participant in different calls for H2020 and is in the process of forming a consortium and paving the way for calls and pro-

April – May – June

Meeting with Foreign Delegation

AUT's Chancellor, Prof. S. Ahmad Motamedi hosted the Ambassador of Slovakia, as well as the presidents of different Slovakian universities to discuss furthering cooperation with universities in Slovakia and exchanged ideas on the ways of promoting academic cooperation between the universities in both countries.

E+ Staff Mobility

AUT strongly believes that enhancing staff mobility is key to the internationalization of its university. It gives staff the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills, learn good practices, get inspired by new ideas and act as ambassadors for their institution and network with colleagues abroad. Our staff use the knowledge and skills acquired to stimulate positive changes within the university. AUT faculty and staff visited different universities as part of the Erasmus plus mobility program, the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Turkey as well as the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava were among the few universities which hosted us.

July – August – September

Meeting with Foreign Delegation

As the leading house for educational cooperation between France and Iran, AUT has always had a close relationship with the French embassy. In the early months of 2019 H. E. Ambassador Philippe Thiebaud was appointed as the new Ambassador of France to Tehran, and Prof. Motamedi invited Ambassador Thiebaud to AUT in July to discuss our continued cooperation with the French embassy.

Sabbatical leave & Internship Programs

Throughout the months of July and August many professors and students participated in different international activities such as sabbatical leave, summer school programs and internships. Countries such as Canada, Germany, and France were among the top choices for these activities.

October – November – December

Meeting with Foreign Delegation

Different delegation from Finland, Poland, Kazakhstan, and Turkey visited AUT in the last months of 2019. These visits resulted in the signing of several MOUs as well as plans for staff mobility between several universities.

Building International Research Networks

AUT has appointed several of its active professors for establishing research networks with their foreign counterparts. These connections are made through conference attendances, exchange programs and sabbaticals to name a few.

Engagement

with the surrounding world

AUT is committed to being one of the finest universities not only in Iran but around the world; it is devoted to contributing to society in ways that enrich and transform lives. It has made significant progress in its 90 year history. As we plan for the future we will work to provide our talented students and skilled professors with an enabling and challenging educational and research experience.

In 2019, we continued to work closely with our alliances and focused more on expanding our scientific collaboration with our neighboring country Turkey as well as a few European countries.

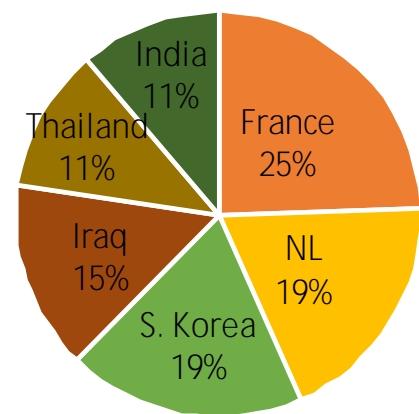
France, China, Turkey, Italy, and India were among the top countries AUT furthered its collaborations with in 2019.

It's worth mentioning that this year the Amirkabir University of Technology hosted around 60 groups of delegates, from 29 different countries.

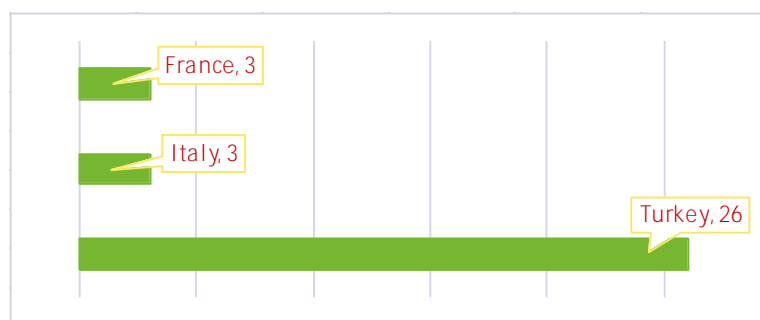
Delegates' Countries

Top 3 visitors

France
NL
S. Korea



Top 3 Countries in terms of signed MOUs



Top Countries in terms of signed MOUs

Turkey
Italy
France

Connecting with the world

Online Presence

Considering the changes in the global environment, universities have been forced to rethink their strategies and adapt the way they communicate with their audience. For universities, one of the most critical aspects for recruiting, attracting and communicating with students is their website.

In line with 2018's motto of "focusing on small but successful activities" the office of scientific and international cooperation dedicated 2019 to "thinking BIG, acting small." For us, this meant that we continued to take small steps that lead to successful results which would eventually, and in the long run build towards the university's vision statement.

This year there was a great increase in the number of students who participated in different international programs and gained international experience. The same applied to professors. We were able to show the importance of international activities and motivate more professors to participate in different programs and spent more time on finding factors that are motivators for them. Part of this increase was due to our online visibility and presence.

OUTREACH



More than 5K members



Over 11K members



Above 44K followers



Ranked 2nd in Iran and #489 internationally in QS world university rankings

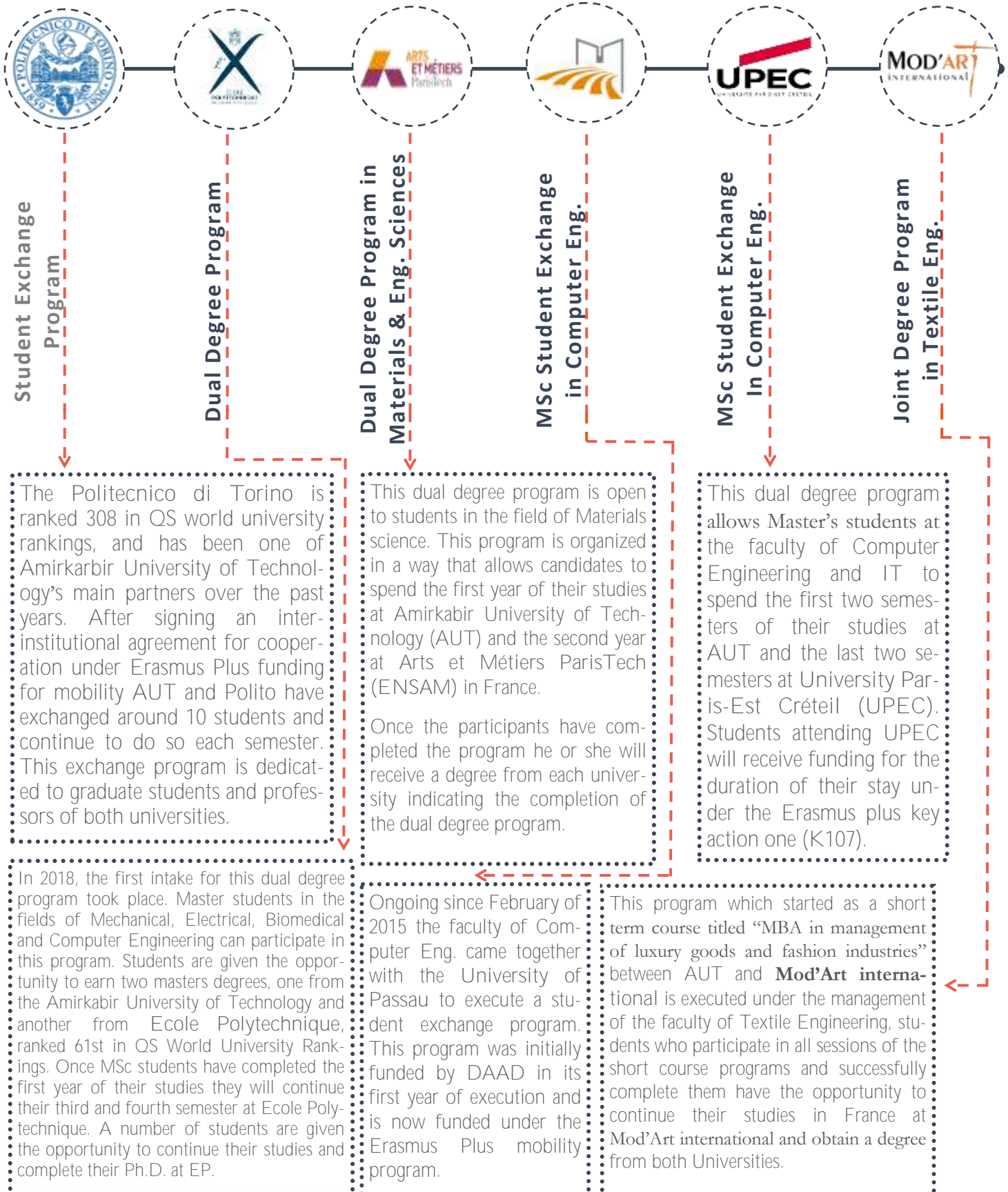
Online presence

Higher education has been taken over by the internet. Institutions and universities employ the internet to communicate to the public and specifically to students and faculty. This year AUT launched its new website, with improved menu functionalities that direct visitors to the most relevant information for their needs. The new website has a fresh and clean design to enhance the user's experience, it is fully responsive with all mobile devices and can be accessed through a wide range of web browsers and portable devices. We aimed at being informative and useful and hope that we have made finding the answers to your questions easier than before.

Another major focus has been the use of digital marketing and re-branding AUT. University branding has become a necessity for attracting prospective staff, student, and funding. Although websites are an important branding tool, universities have begun exploiting social media, and AUT is no exception. With the support of our management department, AUT is using a combination of social media, email campaigns, customized content and other means of digital marketing for re-branding itself among its competitors at a national and international level.

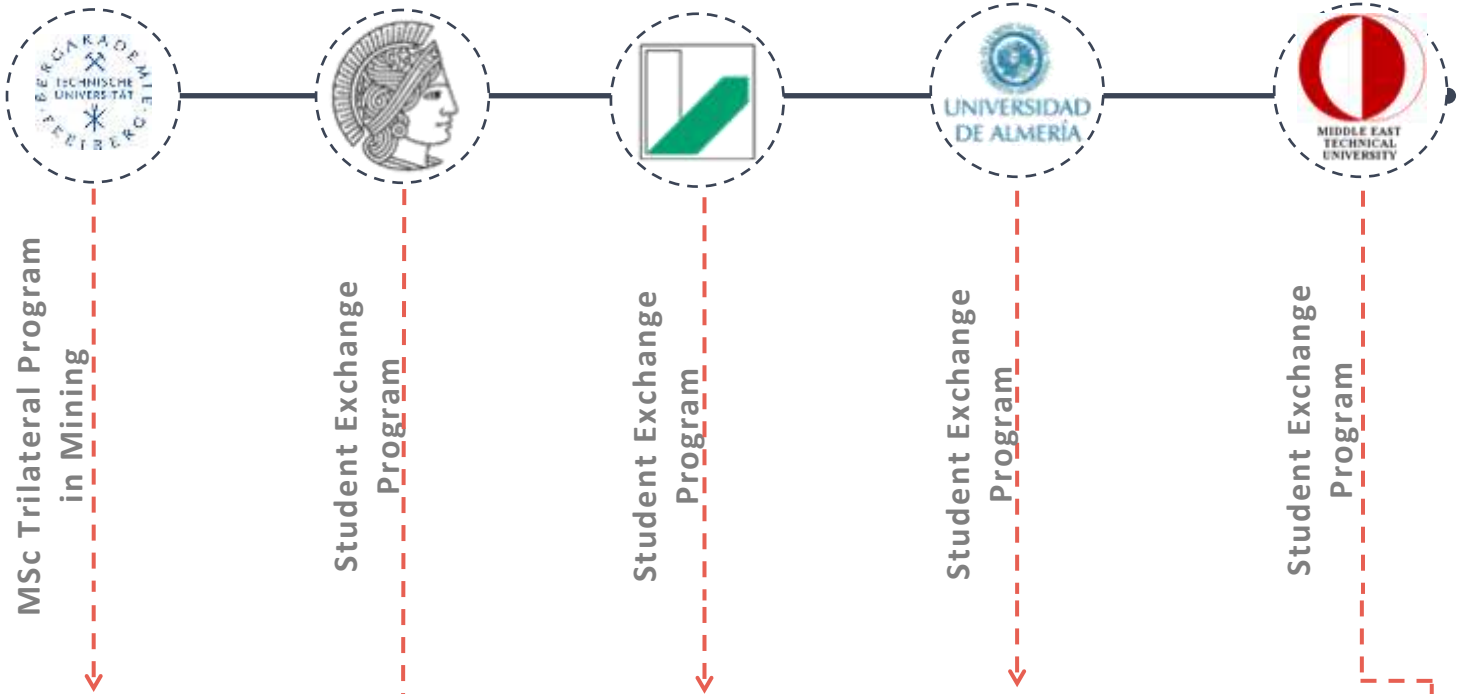
International Cooperation

Memorandums of Agreement



International Cooperation

Memorandums of Agreement



In 2016, the Amirkabir University of Technology, Montan University Leoben and Freiberg University of Mining and Technology came together to organize a joint degree program. As a result a trilateral cooperation among the universities was signed giving Master students with a specialization in Mining, Tunneling, Geotechnical Engineering, Processing of Mineral Resources, Mine-surveying, Safety Engineering and Industrial Engineering a chance to experience education in three different countries. The first intake of this program was in 2018 and annual nominations have been made ever since. This program is also funded by Erasmus Plus for student and staff mobility between AUT and Montan.

Our foreign exchange programs range from a semester to a full academic year. In some cases (Ph.D. students) an exchange program can turn into a dual degree program and end in receiving two degrees from two different universities. The main aim of our exchange programs is to expose students to different cultures and enhance intercultural skills. AUT has been actively promoting student exchange programs for incoming and outgoing students. In 2019 hosted three students from the University of Bayreuth and the Technical University of Darmstadt. The students participated in English and Farsi classes and worked on different projects throughout their stay.

The exchange program between AUT and the University of Almería has been in place since 2016. This exchange program which initially started under the Erasmus Mundus program allows students to spend between one to two semesters in Spain and take courses that are available in English. Since 2017 AUT has executed this program under the Erasmus plus key action one (K107) mobility grants.

The Middle East Technical University, is one of AUT's new partnerships. This partnership was established after the Eurie 2018 and resulted in an agreement for the exchange of students at all levels and all programs. This program allows students to spend one semester abroad with the fund available under the Erasmus Plus mobility program students will receive a monthly stipend as well as their travel expenses to Turkey.

Kahroba

creating a network around the world



Amir Mohammad Abhary, an AUT graduate, in the office of Scientific and International Cooperation of AUT started this program to get AUT students involved in its international activities. Since its start Kahroba has become a hub for students to get together and use the resources our office provides to get involved in and extend their international experiences.

We have defined projects that students can get involved in. These projects can range from guiding foreign visitors and helping with the international marketing of AUT to finding and allocating funds for startups. Each day we are finding new fields that Kahroba can help our students and professors with. Participating in these projects can be a huge plus for the students' resumes. Kahroba has not formed

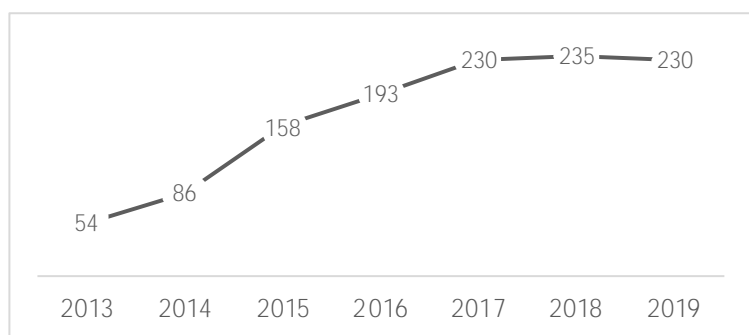
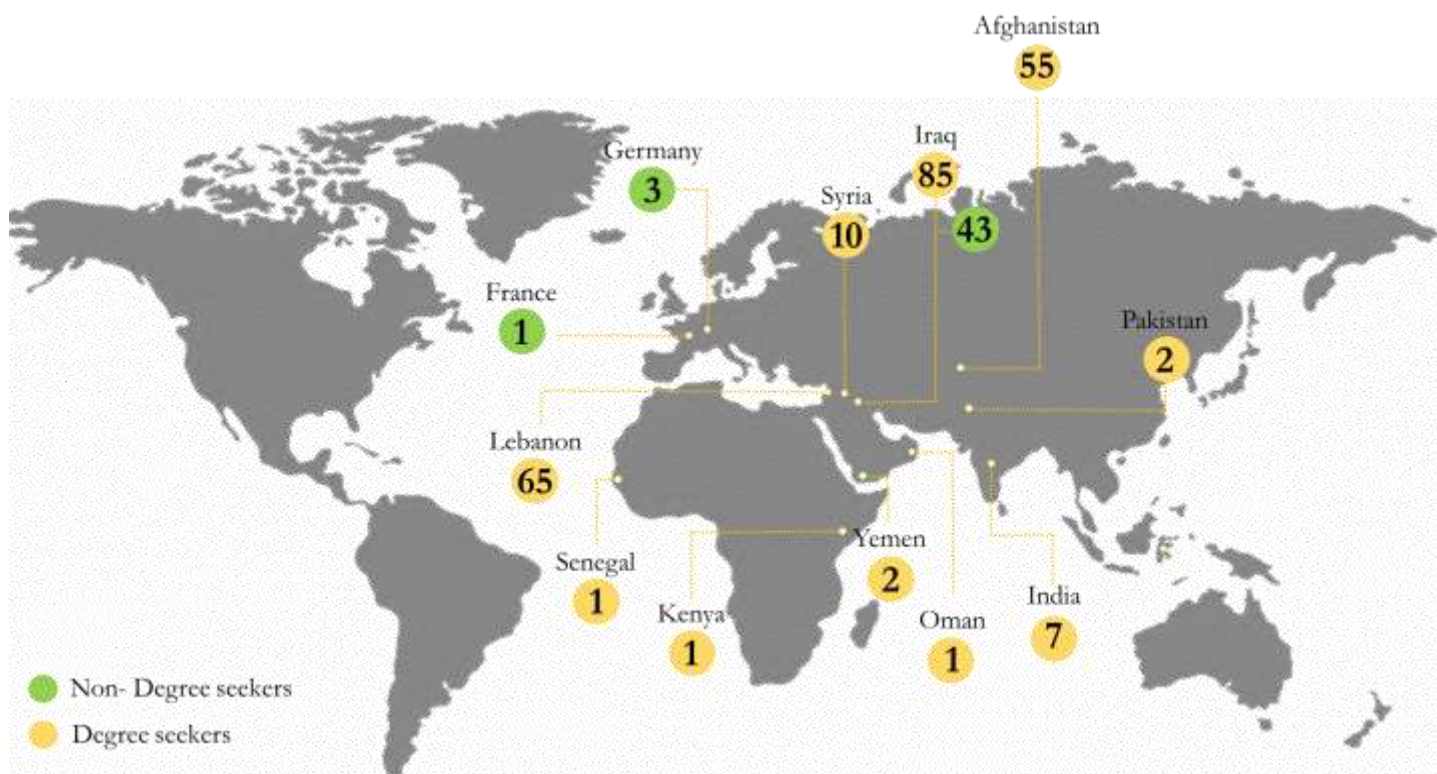
into any specific rigid structure yet, so students can even define their MSc or PhD projects along the interests of the international office.

Another important outcome we would like to see in Kahroba is the execution of our international contracts. Our office signs many international cooperation contracts every year, but without getting the students and professors involved these MOUs have little outcome. When you join Kahroba you become an agent for these contracts and can even use them for your own research. Many of these MOUs can become agreements that can even provide you with international collaboration and fund.

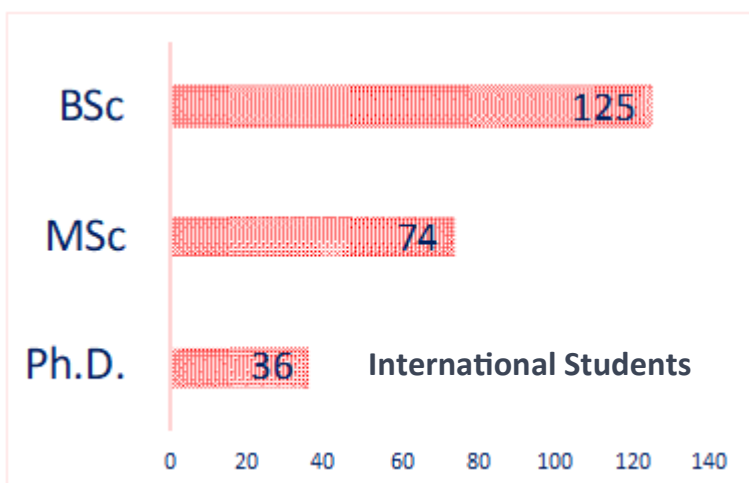
Alongside helping students gain international knowledge, Kahroba has become an entrepreneurial network for them and their professors. This was an unplanned goal of Kahroba. Kahroba has created the direct link between professors, students, accelerators and investors. Unlike other current networks, since Kahroba is based in an academic institution it is the most complete one that has all kinds of resources available to it. We have innovation centers, researchers that have the knowledge to run these centers, students that gain the knowledge to explore the proposed ideas and Kahroba has created the link to great investors or accelerators which are sometimes graduates of AUT. The existence of such a free network is priceless for the university.

Kahroba has become a store for students to choose what they want. We give them what they need with their help. Using the power of these students is a wonderful resource that propels their ideas and creates new grounds that can guarantee them a brighter future.

International Students degree and non-degree seekers



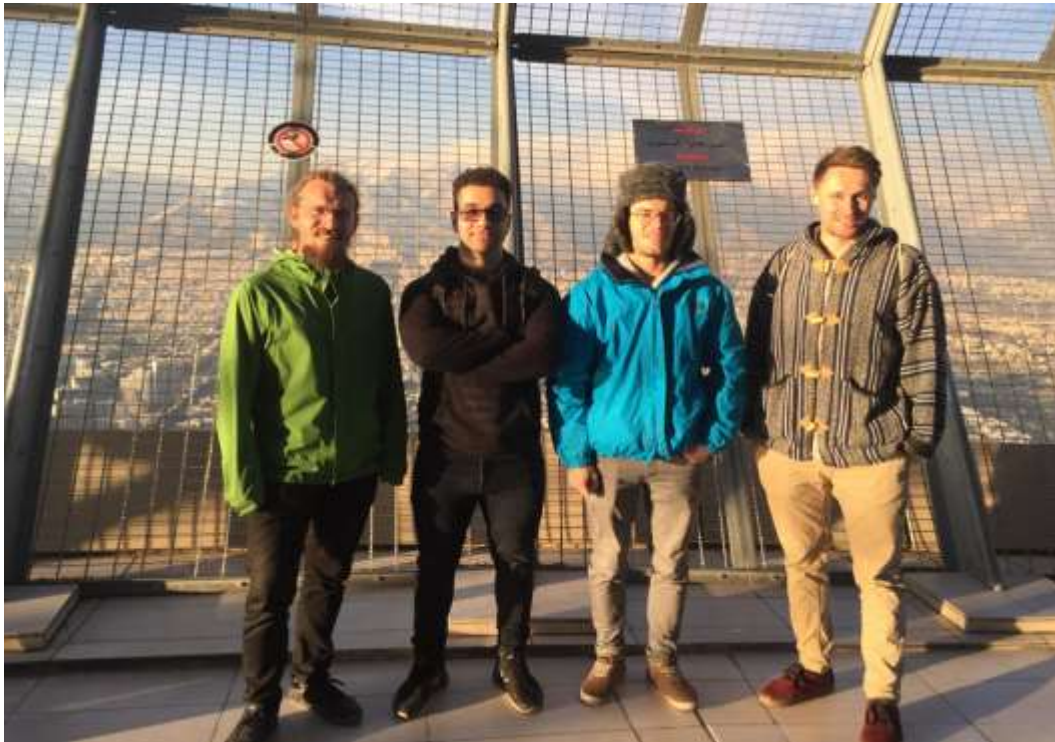
International Students Growth in Past 7 Years



Most Common Majors Chosen by International Students

- Electrical Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Mathematics and Computer Science

International Experience at Amirkabir University of Technology



Sebastian Schiller

Sebastian, Tobias and Constantin, spent five months at the Amirkabir University of Technology's Departments of Biomedical Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Physics as part of the exchange program between AUT and their universities in Germany.

“

I spent a semester at AUT and studied the Master Biomechanics at Biomedical Department. During the first weeks I received a lot of support from students and the international office to organise my timetable and select my courses. Everybody was very friendly and helpful. Most notably the professors adapt their lectures and taught them in English, just for me. This hospitality is part of Persian culture, so it is easy to get in touch with Iranians, especially with students. At the beginning of my stay in Iran I didn't know what I should expect from this country, however I was never disappointed, especially from the food and the lovely culture ”

Sebastian Schiller
Biomechanics
University of Bayreuth
from Germany

Professional Engagement

international experience

Student mobility programs allow students to acquire more knowledge and acceptance of different cultural and community perspectives. It not only allows students to acquire language skills which will be beneficial in building international networks and future career but also allows for enhancement of interest in global issues as well as gaining broader general knowledge.

Student Mobility



IAESTE

The International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience, serves over 4000 students, 3000 employees and 1000 academic institutions through career-focused professional internships abroad in more than 80 countries worldwide. Iran has been a member of this association for the past couple of years and AUT has sent and hosted international students through this association. In 2019, AUT hosted 1 foreign student through this association and 5 AUT students participated in internships abroad.



EURAS

Launched in 2008, EURAS is the union covering universities and other higher education institutions within Eurasian region. EURAS is a non-profit international association, promoting cooperation among over 90 universities from all across West and Central Europe, Balkans, Caucasus, Middle East as well as the whole of Asia and working for the global advancement of educational standards in the Eurasian region. In 2016 AUT became a member of EURAS and has attended the Eurie expos since.



USERN

The Universal Scientific Education and Research Network (USERN) works towards making international interdisciplinary scientific projects and providing a platform for more effective communication among young researchers and experienced scientists around the world. In 2019 AUT established its USERN office with over 130 graduates and students expressing their interest in cooperating with this office.



ASPAS

AUT became a member of ASPAS. ASPAS is an international nongovernmental organization established in Japan in 1997 for the purpose of accomplishing joint development in the fields of scientific technology, industry and economy in the Asian region.

International Presence & Engagement

road to internationalization

<p>6</p> <p>International Seminars, Conferences and Workshops</p>	<p>2nd</p> <p>International Academia Partnership Platform</p>	<p>40</p> <p>AUT students participated in international programs offered by AUT and partner Universities</p>
<p>4</p> <p>AUT Ph.D. students participated in Cotutelle (joint Ph.D. program)</p>	<p>\$263,700</p> <p>In international mobility grants</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Expat Post-doc fellowships, workshops and guest lecturers</p>

	<p>5</p> <p>Leading Iranian Universities formed a consortium to tackle international activities.</p>		<p>22</p> <p>Registered International Patents</p>
	<p>3rd</p> <p>Place at the technical performance category of the 2019 Chem-E-Car in Germany</p>		<p>1st</p> <p>International Women in Mathematics Day was celebrated, and Dr. Madani from AUT received an award</p>

Road to Internationalization

The 2nd International Academia Partnership Platform

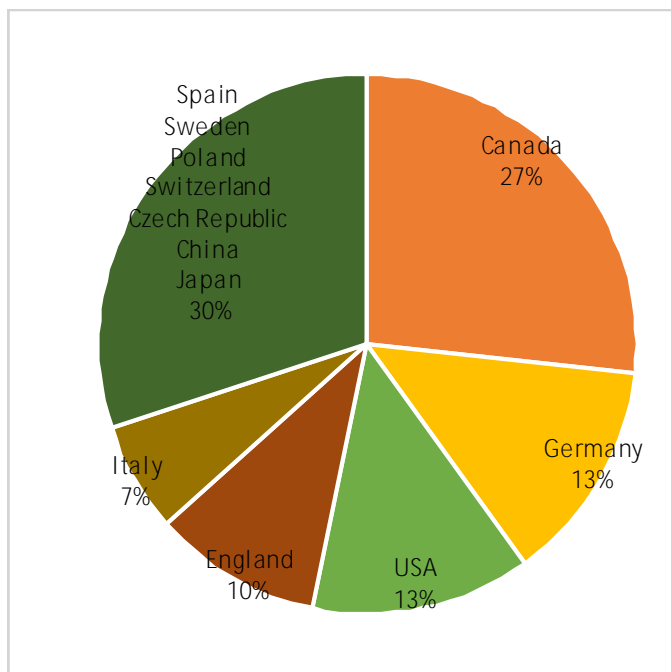
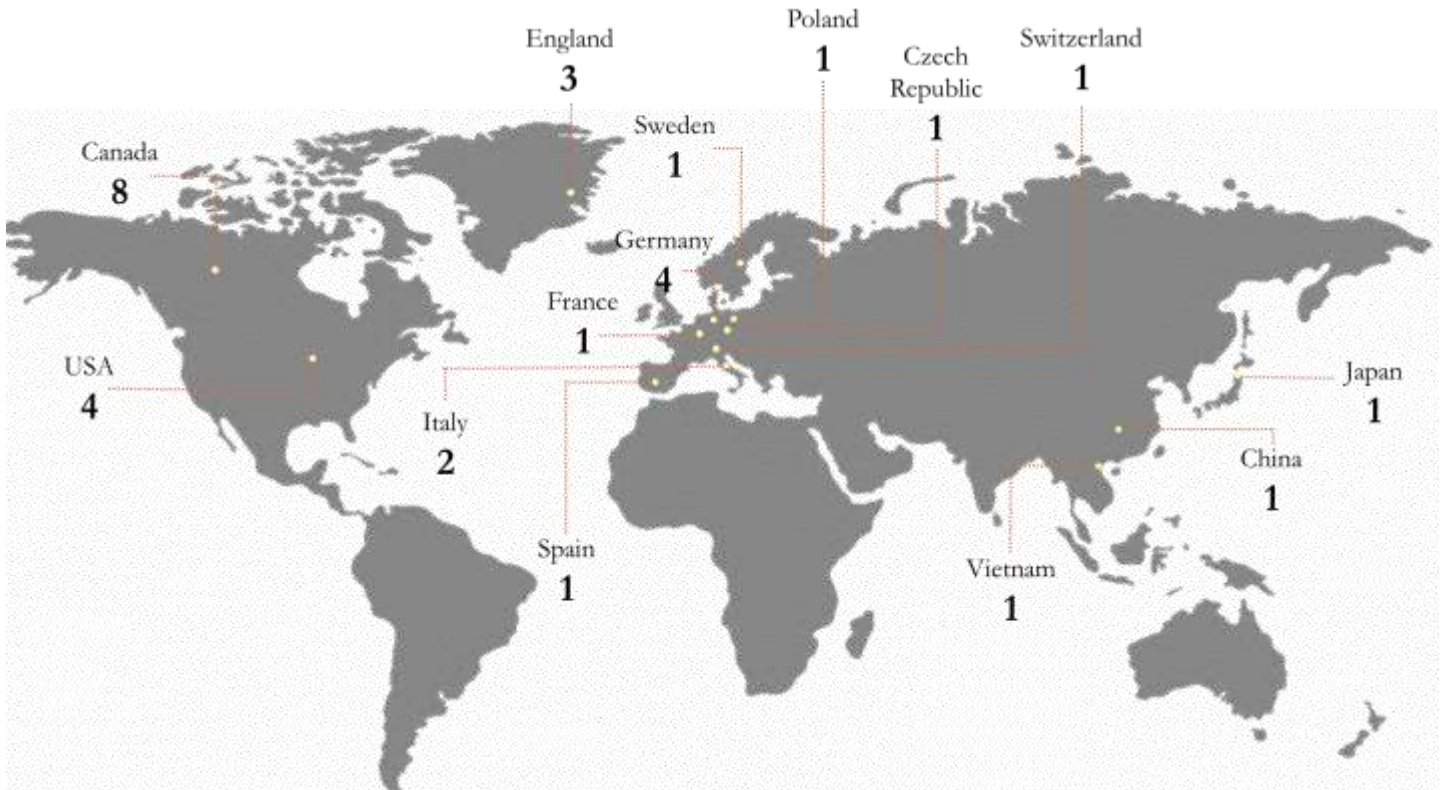
The second International Academia Partnership Platform of the Amirkabir University of Technology was held on Saturday and Sunday, February 22nd and 23rd. For the second InApp we focused on nanofibers in the areas of biomedicine, tissue engineering, drug delivery, wound healing, Sensors and biosensors, filtration, textiles and catalysts.

In line with our motto, this year's program was focused on specific areas and therefore included a smaller group of participants. In this program, 8 foreign guests from 8 countries met with 20 of our faculty members to discuss issues trending under the mentioned topics. The initial number of participants interested in participating in this event was around 110, of that 110, over 40 proposals were submitted to AUT and the Industrialization Center for Applied Nanotechnology (ICAN) for assessment. After the initial revision, AUT selected 11 of the submitted proposals to be presented to ICAN's board for receiving financial support. As a final result 2 of the projects received financial support from ICAN. This year AUT worked in close relation with the industry and the presence of the industry definitely facilitated the successful execution of the projects.



Sabbatical and Conference Destinations

faculty members



Top Sabbatical Destinations

Canada
Germany
USA

How we serve international cooperation

International Collaboration

The office of Scientific and International Cooperation will systemize the start of any international collaboration. We offer a specific guideline for international collaboration with each country. We have also created and shared an international partners database on our website. Consulting and counseling for any international collaboration is part of daily task routine.

Our office is also in charge of announcing new and available international-national scholarships and opportunities for students and professors.

Visa Facilitation

This office will provide support and guidance for both students (at all levels and disciplines) and faculty members for their visa application procedure. Our team will provide the necessary explanations on how to properly complete visa application forms and assemble the supporting documentation per visa application checklists, provided by the country of destination.

Dual Degree Program

Our office is in charge of establishing and organizing dual degree programs. Students in these programs will spend half of their study at their host institution and the other half at a guest institution. This office also oversees the acceptance and registration of students participating in these programs and evaluates their experience to ensure the best quality possible.

Exchange of Students

Students can benefit from an exchange program which provides an appropriate base for exchange of culture and language. The office of Scientific and International Cooperation facilitates exchange programs by signing agreements with top international schools as well as joining international exchange programs.

Visitors

The office of Scientific and International Cooperation offers funds, services and accommodation for the initiation of international collaboration. We also offer orientation programs for any new visitors.

WELL DONE IS BETTER THAN WELL SAID



**Office of Scientific & International
Cooperation**

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**ADVANCE YOUR KNOWLEDGE
ADVANCE YOUR POWER**

