

Founding Faculty Positions at Plaksha University

About Plaksha

Plaksha University (www.plaksha.org) is being founded to reimagine technology education and research, by a global community of philanthropists, entrepreneurs and eminent academicians. Many of the professionals and entrepreneurs involved in building Plaksha were previously pivotal in creating Ashoka University. The 50-acre campus of Plaksha nestles in the foothills of the Himalayas, in the Chandigarh tricity, Punjab.

Plaksha will be a multidisciplinary University anchored around technology. Our vision is to create ethical problem solvers and fearless leaders who will solve the toughest challenges of our planet. We aspire to build a unique and diversified, intellectually vibrant, dynamic community of scholars, researchers, academicians and scientists from all over the world who are inspired to rethink learning and pedagogy, while breaking new grounds in fields across engineering, sciences and business, and incorporating an entrepreneurial mindset to have deep and far-reaching impact on the economy and society.

Plaksha's vision is being guided by a highly engaged Academic Advisory Board of global eminence (see Appendix). We have formal academic partnerships with the University of California, Berkeley, Purdue University and SRI International (erstwhile Stanford Research Institute).

Plaksha will have undergraduate, Master's, Ph.D. and executive learning programs, and 5-7 distinctive research centers anchored around Grand Challenges. It will also anchor a vibrant innovation ecosystem with deep linkages to industry and start-ups. A unique one-year postgraduate program, [Tech Leaders Fellowship](#), was already launched in 2019 to significant success. The undergraduate programs will commence in Fall 2021, with four cutting-edge interdisciplinary majors, viz, '*Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence*'; '*Robotics and Cyber-Physical Systems*'; '*Biological Systems Engineering*'; and '*Data Science, Business and Economics*'.

Founding faculty - open positions

Plaksha invites applications for tenure-track positions at the Assistant, Associate and full Professor levels from candidates with a Ph.D. from a world-class institution and a strong record of accomplishment in disciplines including computer science, electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, bioengineering, in addition to mathematics, economics, business, engineering education or related fields; interest and experience in interdisciplinary topics such as machine learning, artificial intelligence, data science, cyber-physical systems, sensors, IoT, autonomous vehicles, biological systems, robotics, digital transformation, operations research, and a track record of creating impact via research, innovation in teaching, industry practice or entrepreneurial ventures.

Key faculty responsibilities include teaching and mentoring students at the Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral level, implementing project-based and experiential learning experiences, and helping to realize the mission of Plaksha through the establishment of research centers and laboratories of global eminence that have a deep and far reaching impact on economy and society. In line with the vision of the university, we specifically seek founding faculty members with the following characteristics:

1. Faculty who are inspired, creative and passionate about what and how they teach, who truly enjoy teaching and mentoring students, and are highly committed to student learning and success.
2. A willingness to embrace Plaksha's vision of reimagining education by adopting new pedagogical methods, including in teacher training, education workflows, course formats, and the role of technology in teaching and learning.

3. A strong commitment and track record in one or more of the following:
 - a. Research framed by grand challenges of India and the world in the 21st century
 - b. Research with impact on industry, public policy, practice, sustainable development etc.
 - c. Making inventions/ commercializing technology/software or other entrepreneurial experience
 - d. Experience in leading companies, or other significant industrial/corporate experience
 - e. Innovative pedagogy and/or scholarship of education and/or interdisciplinary education
4. An interdisciplinary mindset, in the broadest sense, recognizing the need for partnerships between social sciences, humanities and STEM disciplines, and willingness to learn from colleagues with different perspectives.
5. A passion for institution-building with a desire for continuous improvement, entrepreneurial mindset and a can-do attitude.
6. A willingness to work in a team, by accepting others' ideas, partnering, leading or following, as needed to accomplish team objectives.

Faculty members at Plaksha will receive several benefits, including but not limited to, competitive joining packages and salaries, seed grants for research, attractive IPR and consultancy policies, mentorship opportunities from members of an eminent global Academic Advisory Board and other members of the Plaksha family, collaboration and partnerships with industry and entrepreneurs, along with the opportunity to contribute to and create research labs and centers.

We are committed to maintaining diversity and welcome applications from all nationalities. Plaksha is committed to supporting dual career couples and has dedicated staff to help with transitioning the faculty's family to living in Chandigarh, including help with schools, housing, connecting to the larger community etc.

How to apply

Applicants should send their (1) Cover letter (2) CV (3) Teaching statement expressing their views on interdisciplinary education, (4) Research statement, (5) A page on statement of impact describing their academic, entrepreneurial and industrial experience, and (6) a list of three to five references.

There is no deadline for faculty position applications, rather applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis starting June 1, 2020. The appointment dates are flexible and will start as early as Fall 2020. For more information and access to the application portal, please visit: www.plaksha.org/faculty. You may also contact us via email at faculty@plaksha.org for any questions that you may have.

Appendix

Academic Advisory Board

Our Academic Advisory Board comprises academic and thought leaders of global eminence:

- *Dr. Abhijit Banerjee*, Co-Founder, J-PAL; Professor of Economics, MIT; , Member NAS, Nobel Laureate
- *Dr. Anant Agarwal*, CEO, edX; Professor of EECS, MIT, Member NAE
- *Dr. Arvind Raman*, Executive Associate Dean for Faculty; Purdue University
- *Dr. Ashish Nanda*, Former Director of IIM Ahmedabad; Senior Lecturer, Harvard Business School
- *Dr. Bijendra Nath Jain*, Former Vice Chancellor, BITS Pilani; Former Deputy Dean, IIT Delhi
- *Dr. Frances Ligler*, Professor, NC State and UNC Chapel Hill, Member NAE
- *Dr. James Holloway*, Provost and EVP for Academic Affairs, University of New Mexico
- *Dr. Jennifer Cochran*, Shriram Chair of the Department of Bioengineering, Stanford University
- *Dr. Julia Ross*, Dean of Engineering, Virginia Tech
- *Dr. Kaushik Basu*, Professor of Economics & International Studies, Cornell University
- *Dr. Pankaj Jalote*, Founding Director, IIIT Delhi
- *Dr. Sharad Malik*, Chair, Department of Electrical Engineering, Princeton University
- *Dr. S. Shankar Sastry*, Former Dean of Engineering, Professor of EECS, UC Berkeley, Member NAE
- *Dr. Sriram Rajamani*, Managing Director, Microsoft Research Labs, India
- *Dr. Yannis C Yortsos*, Dean of Viterbi School of Engineering, University of Southern California, Member NAE

Campus location

Chandigarh is designed and planned by the famous French architect Le Corbusier and is among India's most modern cities. Plaksha's 50-acre campus is within 10-minutes of the Chandigarh International Airport which has an expanding portfolio of direct international flights, 2-hour drive from some of India's most emblematic hill stations, and a 4-hour drive from New Delhi. It is also in close proximity to other top research institutions such as Indian School of Business (ISB), Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), IIT Ropar, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) and an upcoming innovation corridor.

The Plaksha campus is being built with top international architects to be a model for interdisciplinary, experiential learning, research and entrepreneurship.