

ACU partners with Christ University on global STEM education hub

Australian Catholic University (ACU) has partnered with Christ University in India to establish the Global STEM Education Centre.

The transnational hub will be based at Christ University's central campus in Bangalore, helping drive innovation and address real-world challenges in STEM education. It aims to break down barriers to STEM for young Australians and Indians, with a focus on increasing participation for girls and women.

ACU Provost and Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) Professor Julie Cogin launched the centre this month, alongside Christ University Vice Chancellor Dr. Fr Joseph C C. Professor Cogin said the partnership would help drive innovation and equity in STEM.

"This partnership is grounded in a common mission and inspired by our commitment to shaping a better future through education," Professor Cogin said.

"At a time when science and technology shape the world at an unprecedented pace, strengthening STEM education is an investment in human flourishing."

The initiative was spearheaded at ACU by education lecturer Dr Sindu George, who spent time at Christ University as a Scholar-in-Residence in 2023. It will be home to joint research projects, academic exchange programs, professional workshops, and tap into industry expertise.

Dr George said the Centre would explore innovative digital tools and effective strategies to support diverse learners.

"We're aiming to produce research outcomes that advance academic knowledge, and translate that into practical improvements in classrooms," Dr George said.

"This makes sure that teachers can connect classroom learning with the skills and capabilities the next generation will need to thrive."

ACU is offering two Vice-Chancellor's PhD Scholarships to support candidates from Christ University undertaking doctoral research in STEM Education. These scholars will be formally affiliated with the Global STEM Centre.

ACU and Christ University have a long-standing history of collaboration, and both institutions are known for their leadership in education and research.

As the largest provider of teacher education in Australia, ACU has developed a range of social outreach programs to help underrepresented groups in STEM fields.

Christ University is home to the Centre for Artificial Intelligence, Neuro Diversity Lab and the Centre for Social Action, which will work alongside the new Global STEM Education Centre to create meaningful impact at a local, national and international level.

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