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MEDIA RELEASE

SFU and Mitacs partner to advance research collaborations with Indian Institutes of Technology

February 09, 2018

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Simon Fraser University (SFU) and Mitacs have partnered in an initiative to accelerate research collaborations and support the next generation of researchers with India's leading research network through the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs). The initiative will support 20 graduate and senior undergraduate students annually to participate in a 12-week research placement at the university and its IIT partners in India.

"We have many valued partners in India and are pleased to partner with Mitacs, to facilitate international student exchange and deliver on SFU's commitment to international engagement," says Joy Johnson, SFU's Vice-President, Research and International.

Students will refine their research skills in new environments while gaining cultural fluency. Faculty members will have the opportunity to expand their international research networks and strengthen their research capacity. An IIT and SFU faculty member will supervise the research projects.

A main goal for the initiative is to advance SFU's research connections in India, more specifically, with IITs, and continue to raise awareness about the university in the country to create meaningful cross-cultural and experiential learning opportunities for both SFU and IIT students.

Fast Facts:

- This initiative builds on a **collaboration** established recently with IIT Bombay.
- SFU has existing partnerships with IIT Bombay, IIT Delhi, IIT Ropar, and IIT Madras.
- SFU International (SFUi) supports faculty, students and staff to build on the university's tradition as a leader in the field of international post-secondary education and engagement.

About Simon Fraser University:

As Canada's engaged university, SFU is defined by its dynamic integration of innovative education, cutting-edge research and far-reaching community engagement. SFU was founded more than 50 years ago with a mission to be a different kind of university—to bring an interdisciplinary approach to learning, embrace bold initiatives, and engage with communities near and far. Today, SFU is Canada's leading comprehensive research university and is ranked one of the top universities in the world. With campuses in British Columbia's three largest cities – Vancouver, Burnaby and Surrey – SFU has eight faculties, delivers almost 150 programs to over 35,000 students, and boasts more than 150,000 alumni in 130 countries around the world.

About Mitacs:

Mitacs is a national not-for-profit organization led by Canadian universities that has designed and delivered research and training programs in Canada for more than 18 years. The Government of Canada, along with the Government of Alberta, the Government of British Columbia, Research Manitoba, the Government of Nova Scotia, the Government of Ontario, the

Government of Quebec, and the Government of Saskatchewan invest in Mitacs Globalink research.

About Indian Institutes of Technology:

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru established the Indian Institutes of Technology to provide trained technical personnel of international class to the nation who would act as leaders in technology for the newly born independent India. The institutions were to be designed with the necessary dynamism, flexibility of organization, and capacity to adapt in the light of expanding knowledge and changes in the socio- economic requirements of modern society. In May 1950, the first IIT was established in Kharagpur and four more were set up shortly after: IIT Bombay (1958), IIT Madras (1959), IIT Kanpur (1959), and IIT Delhi (1961). The network currently boasts 23 locations across India offering undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs across India. Each IIT is an autonomous institution, linked to the others through a common IIT Council, which oversees its administration. Over the years, IITs have created world class educational platforms dynamically sustained through internationally recognized research based on excellent infrastructural facilities. The IITs attract over \$100 million in research funding annually and produce the majority of India's PhDs in Engineering. The institutes are globally recognized as centres of academic excellence, and are reputed for the outstanding caliber of their students.

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