

HIGHER EDUCATION Review

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International Institute of the Year – 2016

Studying abroad is no more a distant dream. Earlier, if it was an extraordinary achievement, now with the growing time, it has become the vital ingredient of career progression. Hence, now there is a rapid increase in the number of students going abroad. With this, students learn new cultures and get to integrate with the new societies. Getting used to a foreign culture will develop you overall as an individual, as you understand how different people across the globe view the world in different ways. Studies provide an exposure to a new culture and lifestyle and it is one of the events that significantly leave a footprint in each person's life. The improvement of communication and transportation has made such an experience much easier than it used to be in the past. Through communication with native speakers in abroad, a person gains more knowledge about the language and gets more confidence using it. Living far away from home without relying in parents, family and friends helps a student to improve his character and tackle new challenges. Students get more marketable to potential employers just after their studies abroad and this experience will be valued as much as the academic grades and the qualification.

Thousands of Indian students are studying abroad and with every passing year, the number seems to be increasing. According to surveys conducted USA, UK, Australia and New Zealand have been the four most popular destinations for students going abroad and the recently released study shows that of the 360,000 Indian students studying overseas. Most Universities offer study options that are research informed and highly relevant to current industry expectations and standards. The Universities also have connections with the industries, which helps the students in finding employment at the right time and even helps in providing internships during studies for an added experience as well. However, in this highly globalized world, we cannot expect a world-class education from any random degrees at abroad.

We at the Higher Education Review understand the concerns of Indian students who are looking for higher education opportunities available outside India. Under the title, 'International Institute of the year 2016,' we have identified some of the best universities and colleges around the world where Indian students can pursue their higher education dreams. We sincerely hope that our efforts will assist large community of students who dreaming about studying abroad, but oblivious about the right campus to choose.



Name:

Vancouver Institute of Media Arts

Key Person:

Gautam Modkar,
Regional Admissions Manager

Website:

www.vanarts.com

Description:

VanArts is an educational environment that provides its students with the foundation and mentorship to produce creative professionals with credits on major feature films, directorial positions, and successful freelance careers around the world.

Vancouver Institute of Media Arts: GLOBAL LEADERS OF CREATIVITY

With flicks like the 50 Shades of Grey, Deadpool, Twilight and many more, Vancouver, a coastal seaport city on the mainland of British Columbia, Canada, has become the third largest centre for the film industry in North America, earning it the nickname "Hollywood North." Today, the movie industry pumps \$2 billion a year into Vancouver, which is also home to numerous animation and visual effects studios, design firms, media and games companies and a thriving business community. Located in the heart of this beautiful city, Vancouver Institute of Media Arts, popularly known as VanArts, is one of the world's most highly respected post-secondary schools for visual, media and performing arts. Founded in 1995, VanArts offers one-year diploma programs and degree pathways for Character Animation, Game Art & Design, Visual Effects, Photography, Web Development, Broadcasting and Acting.

VanArts is committed in keeping a strong connection with India by continuing to offer a dedicated India Admissions Advisor, as well as free study permit review services for their accepted applications from India. Gautam Modkar, Regional Admissions Manager of VanArts who offers exclusive one-on-one support to each application from India says, "We are very proud of the number of successful graduates who have come from India over the years. Currently, our student body from India is the second largest after domestic, representing 30 percent of our International students and 17 percent of our total student body." At VanArts, Indian and International students benefit from a diverse, multicultural student body and small class sizes. "The class sizes are kept deliberately small (24 students or less), so students have more opportunities for one-on-one, personalized instruction from their teachers who are industry-experienced professionals," adds Modkar.

With a faculty and advisory board that draws directly from the relevant industries, VanArts provides its

students with the foundation and mentorship necessary to launch a successful career. Many VanArts graduates are now successful, creative professionals with credits on major feature films, directorial positions and successful freelance careers around the world. "All of our Department Heads and instructors are top industry professionals with decades of experience. They are here because of their passion for teaching and desire to help students to become a creative professional they can

Gautam Modkar, Regional Admissions Manager

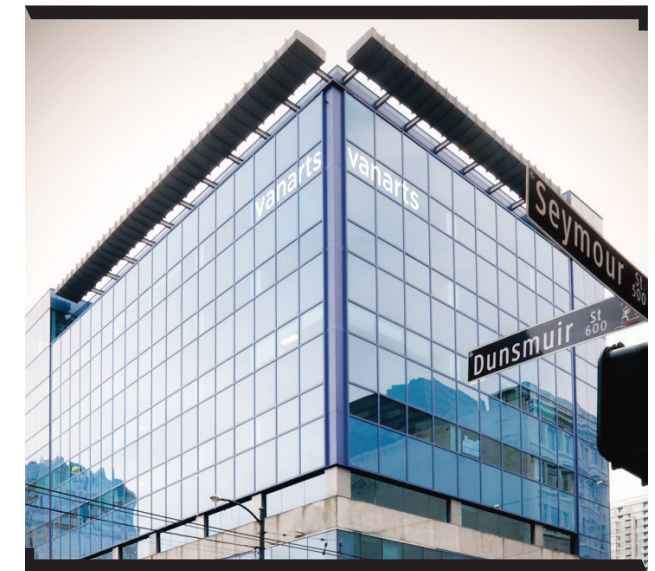
As the Regional Admissions Manager for India, Gautam helps Indian students answer all their questions related to the admission process, housing, life in Canada – especially in Vancouver. He says, "Students and parents can connect with us via video chats using a dedicated India skype account. Additionally, VanArts offers exclusive free study permit application review services for our accepted applications from India via an ICCRC certified Immigration Consultant."



proudly work alongside," says Modkar. VanArts consults annually with industry professionals within their program advisory committees to make sure the curriculum are highly relevant, and keeping up with the trends and technology practices within these industries.

VanArts has articulation agreements in place with several well-established universities/colleges in Canada, the USA, Australia, New Zealand and the UK. Hence, in addition to highly specialized diploma programs within the media arts fields, VanArts offers unique pathways with their local university partners where the student can complete a second diploma or degree credential with one or two years of additional study. One example is with British Columbia Institute of Technology (BCIT), where VanArts graduates can complete a 2-year Business Management Advanced Diploma with only one year of additional study after completing their professional diploma from VanArts. After completing the 1+1 pathway, the graduate is eligible to apply for a post-graduate work permit, which may lead to permanent residency and/or Canadian citizenship. At VanArts, the goal and responsibility of every student is to finish the program with a professional demo reel and industry contacts.

"We have real connections to several local studios and often bring in guest speakers to inform students about job opportunities at the studios. Several students have landed freelance jobs and full-time positions through referrals by their instructors or classmates. This is what



industry-experienced staff can provide and students who take advantage of the resources we offer and work hard often succeed in finding a job in anywhere from a few days to a few months after graduating," explains Modkar. The institute's high placement rate shows that their persistent students are succeeding. Indeed, Vancouver itself is one of the hottest cities for animation, gaming and film production, employing several thousand. Several VanArts graduates have found work locally and most of them end up working on projects for feature films, TV series, commercials, web cartoons and video games. Others become independent and work on their own projects. "Vancouver is growing in the area of Visual Effects and more and more studios are moving to Vancouver and choosing to hire our graduates. We have a great industry reputation and assist students in placement into the industry," claims Modkar.

Undoubtedly, studying at VanArts is a life-changing experience for students and it will open to a world of new mentorships, friendships and opportunities. "From your daily experiences in the classroom, to school events and fun activities in the city of Vancouver, the year you spend with us is one of both serious work and play as a creative person. Though you come here to focus in your particular area of study, you have many opportunities to collaborate and learn from students & professionals in other departments and disciplines, making your experience unique, diverse and well-rounded," concludes Modkar. **HER**