

Job Description for Chief Executive Officer (CEO):

Gopalakrishnan-Deshpande Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at IIT Madras (GDCIE@IITM)

The Gopalakrishnan-Deshpande Center (GDC) at IITMadras will provide thought leadership, support systems and processes to help entrepreneurial thinking pervade across a wide swath of activities, ranging from teaching to research to product development to policy-making. The **primary mission** of the Centre will be on nurturing select new ideas and approaches that promise non-linear impact. A secondary mission of the center is to establish new pathways to solve grand challenges. The CEO of GDC is a crucial driver of this mission.

The CEO is expected to build an entrepreneur-enabler program at the GDCIE@IITM that meets and exceeds world standards. S/he is expected to build strong linkages between the Center and IITM faculty/students/alumni and other IITM well-wishers, leading towards measurable, long-term sustainable, systemic impact in the entrepreneurship vertical at IITM.

Responsibilities:

The CEO will be responsible for:

- Evaluating alternate initiative proposals and, with the assistance of an advisory Board, help select annual initiatives.
- Helping successful initiatives raise additional funding to further scale their efforts
- Working collaboratively with administration, faculty and departments to encourage entrepreneurial thinking and approaches in teaching and research
- Helping facilitate analyses that highlight the challenges facing India and identify the kind of innovations that might result in transformational breakthroughs
- Working with other parts of the I&E ecosystem at IITM to setup technology challenges and other innovative programs to catalyze the innovation culture
- Encouraging cross-campus, interdisciplinary collaborations regarding I&E
- Supporting translational activities to accelerate ideas to implementation
- Coordinating overall branding, marketing and communication of the I&E Ecosystem
- Evangelizing support for innovation/ research initiatives with translation and commercialization potential, and
- Building a leadership program, with entrenched values and culture, to promote entrepreneurial thinking into IITM processes.

The CEO will report to Faculty Director(s). The Center will be advised by a Steering Committee comprised of eminent individuals including the Center benefactors.

Experience

The Chief Executive Officer must have practical and credible experience in the field of entrepreneurship, and be comfortable working with and advising startups. The CEO should have managerial experience working across diverse constituencies in a collaborative manner. The CEO must be an outstanding communicator who is able to convey effectively the mission and activities of the Center to a variety of constituencies, including the broader public. S/he should be comfortable recruiting appropriate resources like mentors, catalysts and volunteers from the community to help entrepreneurs. At a personal level, s/he must relish challenges and should be able to knock down walls or go around them to make things happen.

Qualifications

We are seeking a well-organized, accomplished professional for a challenging, yet tremendously rewarding opportunity to define the direction of the Center. The position is open as of now. Candidates with the following qualifications should apply for the position by sending an e-mail to Prof. Nagarajan at deaniar@iitm.ac.in.

- At least 10 years of management experience in leadership positions working in an entrepreneurial setting
- Primarily a “driver”, not an “administrator”
- Ability to work flexibly in a start-up, teamwork environment and take initiative as a self-starter
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills with people from diverse personal and professional backgrounds
- Consensus driven approach to building coalitions across diverse constituencies
- Relishes challenges, action-oriented, can knock down walls or go around them to make things happen
- Possess the necessary level of finesse and interpersonal skills to be able to work with people, to persuade them and to motivate/inspire them
- Passionate about startups and entrepreneurship
- A Master’s degree in a field related to entrepreneurship, or equivalent experience, with a strong undergraduate background
- Familiarity dealing with educational institutions and programs is a plus.