Thursday 07th June 2018

An all-round engineer is what everyone needs

BM looks at trends in placements at engineering colleges. AI, tougher processes notwithstanding, many graduates are getting dream jobs

Charu Pandey
mybangaloremirror
@timesgorup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

From 2014-15, close to 150 engineering colleges in the country shut down due to poor performance or lack of intake numbers. In Karnataka, close to 15-20 per cent of CET seats go vacant.

But then every placement season, there is good news from city's engineering colleges. This time a number of students have got placed with top IT companies in the state. Top salaries range from ₹26 lakh per annum to ₹39 lakh per annum.

So what is the trend in placements of engineering graduates in the city? When Bangalore Mirror took a close look, we found thought students still have a wide variety to choose from, colleges say the companies have made the interview procedure tighter. Other than interviews, firms use other assessing tools like aptitude tests and group discussions. Most IT companies also have coding tests as part of their selection process.

RV College of Engineering (RVCE) saw a drop in the number of visiting companies from 201 last year to 191 this year. "The interview process is becoming more complex because more students are applying for IT jobs," says Professor Ranganath, placement head of RVCE. Ranganath added, "One of our students has got an offer of ₹39.1 lakh per annum from Adobe."

There has been a gradual shift in demand of the MNCs. They want the candidate to not only have a full-fledged hold on their subject, but also good communication skills, flexibility, tolerance to ambiguity and efficiency of using the digital platform. "So we are training students in many skills in a programme we call "Tie Your Laces" programme," says Lakshman Malla from placement director of CMR Institute of Technology (CMRIT). Most companies are giving fewer offers this year. One reason for this is they have fewer vacancies, says Malla. CMRIT students have received 495 job offers till date, with ₹16.5 lakh per annum being the highest salary.

M S Ramaiah Institute of Technology (MSRIT) has witnessed a sharp dip of 4-5 per cent in the number of offers made. From 1,564 offers in 2017, the number has come down to 1,094 (the process is still going on) this year. A student from MSRIT too has been offered a package of ₹39 lakh per annum by an IT firm. "The intervention of artificial intelligence (AI) and automation is also a major reason for this downturn," said Savitha Rani, placement head of MSRIT.

But some experts see the dip due to AI in the tech space as a temporary thing. "Technology cannot completely be devoid of human labour, no matter how advanced it is," says Dr N Ramesh, Training, Placement and Planning, REVA University.

Reva University saw 100 per cent placements in Computer Science Engineering (CSE) followed by 86% in Electronics and Communication (ECE). Similarly, Computer Science courses and electronics courses students were offered 234 and 265 job offers respectively in RVCE.

PES University had 1,579 pre-placement offers and 151 students placed till now have offers above Rs. 12 lakh per annum. Sridhar K, placement head of PES University, said, "Companies are going for quality and not quantity this year."

Courses with the highest placement offer
- Electronics & Communication Engineering (ECE)
- Computer Science Engineering (CSE)

Companies regularly visiting campuses
- Wipro
- Infosys
- Amazon
- BEL
- Tata

Highest Salary Offered
₹39.10 lakh per annum

Starting salary offered - ₹3 lakh per annum

University	Eligible students	Jobs offered	Visiting companies
PES University	1,812	1,579	118
RVCE	953	1,130	215
Reva University	478	430	155
MSRIT	1,132	1,189	221
CMRIT	575	495	80