

Best Practices at GLS University

Best Practice #1.

1. Title of the practice: Industry and Corporate Exposure

2. Objectives of the Practice

- To prepare the students for the complexities of the modern corporate world
- To improve the employability of the students
- To expose them to the practices and challenges of corporate world

3. The Context

In the dynamic landscape of higher education, the need for industry and corporate exposure has become increasingly important. Traditional methods of instruction, while valuable, may no longer suffice in preparing students for the complexities of the modern world. Students need corporate and industry exposure over and above the theories of the classroom.

This exposure strives to cultivate critical thinking, creativity, and adaptability among the students by helping them understand the functionalities and challenges of the corporate world.

4. The Practice

- Industry engagement and exposure through live projects, internships, industrial visits, corporate interactions, and collaborative assignments bridge the gap between academic knowledge and real-world application.
- More than 200 companies hire our students across programs as interns every year, wherein they undertake internships and projects. Some of the organizations that regularly hire interns are Infosys, TCS, Delloite, Wipro, HCL, Aditya Birla Group, HDFC securities, Hindustan Times, HDFC Bank, ICICI Prudential, TCS, Fortune Landmark, HCG Hospitals, Bacanzy, Cygnet Inc., TechHolding, Tatvasoft and many more. Internships allow them to acquire hands-on experience and up-skill themselves. The internships expose them to the industry, people, techniques, and environment and better understand their dreams and goals.
- Students across programs undertake industrial visits regularly with reputed organizations like Adani, Aegis Elevator, Amul, Balaji Wafers, Havmor, Kabhi B Bakery and institutional bodies like High Court of Gujarat, BSE and INX, Gift City.
- Corporate Interactions are a regular feature at GLS University. Eminent speakers from the corporate fraternity are invited to interact with the students, and through this extensive industry exposure, students gain insights into diverse cultures, ideas, and problem-solving approaches. They learn to navigate challenges, delegate tasks, and inspire their peers—a microcosm of the leadership challenges they may face in their future careers.
- GLS University also undertakes industry collaboration to enhance its students' industry exposure. GLS University's internship-embedded BBA in Retail Management Degree Program in collaboration with Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL), BBA (Honors) in collaboration with TCS in Advanced Finance, and BBA

(Honors) in collaboration with Wadhvani Foundation, USA, in Entrepreneurship are a few such examples.

- The syllabus across programs is designed by academicians and industry stalwarts, keeping in mind the industry's needs. The curriculum of each subject is also designed keeping in mind the industry's needs and involves a balance of theory and practical exposure.

5. Evidence of Success

- The optimal learning environment in their academic years and the proper exposure to industry and corporate assist them in landing plum jobs or starting their entrepreneurial journey.
- The success of this practice can be witnessed in the final placements seized by our students. Year after year, our students have been placed across industries at highly competitive packages.
- Our strong and well-placed alumni boast of our practice's success. We have more than 16000+ connections on LinkedIn across various industries.
- Corporate/industry also benefits from the research outcome and recommendations drawn from the research undertaken during the Internship. This further strengthens our ties with the corporate fraternity.

6. Problems encountered and Resources Required

The issue faced with this practice is that students need longer and more extensive industry exposure for specific fields of expertise, which may be difficult with their academic responsibilities and commitments. To overcome this, students are encouraged to take up live projects with their ongoing semester to get hands-on industry exposure. Likewise, internships are part of their academic syllabus to promote their involvement with industry and boost their learning experience. Students are continuously guided in their research by their institute and corporate mentors to ensure a productive outcome for their corporate exposure. Thus, this helps in overcoming the challenges.

Best Practice #2.

1. Title of the practice: Learning beyond classrooms

2. Objectives of the Practice

- To extend learning beyond the traditional classroom setting, offering students unique opportunities for networking and skill development
- To provide a plethora of opportunities for practical application of theories.
- To provide a platform for collaborating, networking and developing skills like leadership, team management and many more.

3. The Context

Innovative practices at GLS University involve a distinctive club culture across departments, innovative competitive platforms and legal clinics. These practices enhance student participation and foster holistic education that encompasses professional development, leadership experiences, and exposure to diverse perspectives.

4. The Practice

The learning beyond classroom practice has been covered broadly through three

practices:

A. Clubs

B. Legal Clinics

C. Innovative Competitive platforms

1. **Clubs:** Here is the brief of some of the prominent clubs hosted by different departments:
 - **Speakers' Forum Club:** The club's idea is to give future orators a platform and normalize nervousness as part of speaking. The club makes sure each individual feels included and outperforms their stage fear. Various activities, including Debates, Group Discussions, Jam, Storytelling, and other oratory activities, help the students with literary understanding and explore new points of view.
 - **Current Affairs Club:** Activities like debate and discussion on various topics are conducted, as well as expert sessions on current affairs, where students can learn and interact. The objective of the club is to ensure that students stay more aware of what is happening around the world and are given an open platform where they exchange their points of view.
 - **Writers Club / Literature Club:** This club includes various activities such as Short Films, Movie Quotes, Slam Poetry, Show, not tell, one song you like and why, Your favorite place, Quick Questions, Character Sketch, On the spot Prompts, Literary Devices and Narrative Poetry. The club carries out the above-stated activities for the overall development of the members by introducing new forms of writing, such as spoken poetry, narrative poems, letters to fictional characters, etc., to expose them to different writing styles, which helps them expand their horizons of imagination.
 - **Mind Benders – Case Club:** In the management world, cases help us to understand real-life corporate situations, analyze them and help find suitable solutions. It provides an overview of the problems faced in business, identifies and analyzes the problem, and finds an appropriate solution. Case Studies are the bridge that connects college campuses to the corporate world. As a part of this club, various activities like analyzing case studies, case-based group discussions, brainstorming for possible answers, presenting cases, and discussing case studies from events with solutions are done.
 - **Photography Club:** The photography club assists the students in becoming professional photographers in their careers. Regardless of their graduation subject, this club encourages them to take snapshots of their interests in the best way. The aim of this club is to develop and encourage students to understand the various elements of photography and actively use them as a method of communicating and documenting.
 - **Film & Video Club:** The GLSID film club is an intimate and informal gathering where students can encounter ideas, experiences, and emotions that may not be everyday topics of discussion, but which shape all our lives. The movie screenings are open to all enthusiastic students and are usually followed by debates and critical discussions among the group. These engagements help students empathize with the human world and their relationship with the environment.
 - **Theatre Club:** The theatre club explores the diversity of theatre and its

intersection with community, culture and society. It promotes students' communication skills and helps in teamwork and the ability to speak and emote before an audience, thereby increasing the emotional quotient of the students. The role-playing aspect helps them develop an understanding of the psychological, moral, physical and socio-economic analysis of character, thus academically helping them design better characters and stories through deep empathy.

- **Sketching Club:** The club gives students an opportunity to spend some time away from screens and understand the nuances of the physical world around them, where they practice their sketching skills.
- **TechX Club:** The Technology and Experience Design Club (TechX) was initiated due to constant technological advancement and its impact on design practice and education. The club holds activities such as learning and practicing new tools and technologies; knowledge sharing on related topics and critical discussions; reviewing and analysis of case studies from the industry; creating concepts and stories for interactive media with experimentations; regular prompts for practicing with teams; and hosting open competitions to generate interest, involve more students and bring in new ideas at the institute.
- **Sports Club:** The sports club is committed to providing students with healthy sporting habits. It helps students learn teamwork, enhances physical fitness, skills, and mental alertness, and develops ethical qualities, constructive social abilities, and emotional maturity. It mainly infuses discipline and instills a student's value system.
- **Makers Club:** This club aims to promote the students' crafting skills. Be it any craft, from creating a simple handmade piece of earrings to baking cookies – this club seeks to learn collaboration, showcase talent, and put your work out in the world.
- **Social Media Club:** The club supports digital marketing efforts by sharing stories on social media handles to inform and regularly promote the various events and activities occurring in the institutes. The members learn multiple aspects of social media and how to leverage it to create impactful and shareable stories.
- **Radio Podcast Club:** Design Unconventionally is GLSID's podcast, which is run and managed by a team of students of the radio podcast club. The podcast aims to connect the audience with design and unravel the philosophies and ideologies of the masters of this field. The students plan and produce the episodes to roll out and market them. Students learn about the broadcasting media and marketing techniques in the current age, along with the nitty-gritty of content creation and production.
- **Community Service Club:** This club allows students to work with various non-profit organizations in the city and utilize their artistic and design skills to improve society. It helps build networking skills, understand communal efforts, and become more humble, helpful, and humane.
- **Code Crafters—Coding Club:** Codecrafters is a dynamic club dedicated to fostering a passion for coding, software development, and tech innovation. It is built on the pillars of collaboration, creativity, and continuous learning. They provide a platform for domains like Blockchain/Web3, Mobile App Development,

Full-Stack Development, Cybersecurity, and Artificial Intelligence.

Legal - Clinics

- **Environmental Law Clinic:** GLS Law College signed an MoU with the Gujarat Pollution Control Board, a statutory body that has been entrusted with the Central Acts and relevant Rules for pollution control over the years. The MoU aims to develop all-around capabilities to protect the environment through effective law enforcement and by adopting best environmental management practices to keep the State on course for sustainable development.
- **Legal-Aid Clinic:** This clinic is orchestrated to help achieve justice for society's indigent and weaker sections. It aims to provide comprehensive legal aid, legal advice, and legal literacy to enable every citizen to have equal and reasonable access to justice. The clinic currently provides advice and assistance using two methods. It is working under two campaigns: Legal Literacy to Literates and Free Legal Assistance to the Poor and Indigent Sections of the Society.
- **Gender-Law Clinic:** The clinic aims to remind people that gender is nothing but a social construction, unchaining all the barriers by promoting gender equity and equality. The vision is to empower and uplift the marginalized and disadvantaged gender in India to live with dignity so that they can contribute as valued partners in the sustainable development of the self, families, and the nation.
- **Intellectual Property Law Clinic:** This clinic was initiated to promote innovative and advanced academic research in the Intellectual Property (I.P.) Laws for the legal and non-legal fraternity. It will also conduct various training and extension activities to increase awareness of I.P. laws.

Innovative Competitive platforms

- **Moot Court Competition:** The Department of Law regularly conducts Moot Court sessions to familiarize students with court procedures and functioning. This acquaints the students with mooting techniques, dress code, drafting and preparing memorials and developing advocacy skills.
- **Debate Competition:** The art of debate involves mastering skills of obvious intrinsic value: the confidence to speak in public and make sense, the construction of a logical argument, the ability to read an audience's reactions, and, perhaps most importantly, the willingness to hear others' arguments and respond to them. Students inculcate these skills by participating in debate competitions.
- **The Readathon Competition:** The Readathon Competition inspires students to read the most significant number of books and utilize other library resources and services most effectively, with specific rules and regulations. It is a yearlong competition, followed by participants creatively presenting a PPT in which they impart the knowledge and lessons they learnt by reading books and articles.
- **Cyber Shadez:** The Department of Computer Applications & I.T. hosts a state-level technical festival yearly with themes like Robotics & Process Automation, Deep Technologies, and Blockchain. The institute receives an overwhelming response from the enthusiastic participation of students across Gujarat state. This technical festival aims to provide a platform for dynamic young students to

showcase their technical skills.

- **Sanshodhan—SIP Competition:** The Department of Management organizes a research competition to admire, appreciate, and assess the practical learning of the students during their summer internship. This gives the students a platform to showcase their research and education during their tenure of corporate Internship.

5. Evidence of Success

This exposure enhances students' understanding of real-world scenarios and fosters a sense of adaptability, which is crucial for leadership roles. While academic coursework provides a solid foundation in academic principles, clubs offer a platform for applying this knowledge in practical situations. Case competitions and simulations allow students to test their analytical and problem-solving skills in real-world scenarios, bridging the gap between theory and practice. These club activities provide students valuable opportunities to connect with peers, alums, and industry professionals. Events organized by these clubs, such as conferences and panel discussions, facilitate meaningful interactions that can lead to internships, job opportunities, and mentorship relationships, enriching students' professional networks. The success of this initiative is witnessed by the enhancement of their overall personality, confidence, leadership skills, and overall employability. This is again evident in final placement opportunities and packages offered to our students.

6. Problems encountered and Resources Required

- As the students are from diverse regional and social backgrounds, the participation and learning of skills are at varied levels. Not all students possess the inclination to participate in these activities due to a lack of certain qualities like willingness to learn beyond classrooms and the limitations of English as a language. The lack of command over English is evident among the student community's specific social and regional backgrounds, which becomes a limitation for students' participation. However, the faculty always adopts a hands-on approach and focuses on developing their leadership, team involvement, and language skills to improve their employability.