

7. Establishment of External Relations

7.1. Institutional Collaborations through MoU

As a relatively young University, international linkages with other universities, institutions and relevant organizations is of high priority. The Royal University of Bhutan in 2019-2020 signed eight Memorandum of Understandings for the following areas of collaboration as follows (Table 29):

Table 29 MoUs signed with external institutions in 2019-2020

Sl.	University	Focus of collaboration
1	The French Institute in India, India	To set up French Language Centre at OVC and offer the language training on a fee paying basis to ensure sustainability
2	Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India	For STEM subjects collaboration and linkage
3	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi	For STEM subjects collaboration and linkage
4	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, India	For STEM subjects collaboration and linkage
5	University of Calcutta, India	For STEM and Arts subjects collaboration and linkage
6	National Institute of Technology, Silchar, India	For STEM subjects collaboration and linkage
7	Symbiosis International (Deemed University), India	For STEM subjects collaboration and linkage
8	University of Highlands and Islands, Scotland	For curriculum and programme collaboration

A review of the MoUs and their focus of collaboration show the importance RUB is placing on enhancing STEM education in Bhutan. As Bhutan ventures into the new era of learning, STEM education will be a big component and there will be more engagement in STEM education to bridge Bhutan to the international world in the arena of artificial intelligence, coding, big data, block chain and cyber security.

7.2. Institutional Linkages Through Other Means

A university may not necessarily carry out all the initiatives outlined under the purview of a MoU. All colleges of RUB carry out a number of international initiatives with external institutions, universities and organizations in its process to network and learn from its peers around the world to enhance teaching-learning and research.

The following (Table 30) were a list of external linkages activities carried out between RUB colleges and external agencies:

Table 30 List of external linkages activities

Sl.	Institution Name/Country	Project Name/Purpose	College
1	Natural History Museum, USA	Research project collaboration	SC
2	Teton Science School, USA	Education programme collaboration	SCE
3	University of Birmingham, UK	Education project collaboration	PCE
4	World Resources Institute, India	Research project and network	CNR
5	Vrije University, Belgium: Instituto Universitário da Maia (IMSAI) Portugal, and University of Birmingham UK	Erasmus with PCE and SCE	PCE & SCE
6	Naropa University, Colorado, USA	Naropa semester abroad at RUB	PCE & CNR
7	University of Virginia, USA	Programme and capacity development	CLCS
8	National Institute of Education, Singapore	Education collaboration	PCE
9	Nagoya University, Japan	SUNRAISE project collaboration and Toyota Foundation Project	CNR & PCE
10	Kyoto University, South East Asian Studies Centre, Japan	Rural development Studies and student exchange programme	SC

11	ICIMOD, Nepal	HUC consortium	OVC
12	Waseda University, Japan	Staff and student exchange	CST, JNEC, SC
13	Open University of Japan, Japan	On Japanese language course and project collaboration	SC
14	Guwahati University, India	Staff and student mobility	GCIT
15	Jawaharlal Nehru University, India, on SUNRAISE PROJECT	SUNRAISE project collaboration	CNR
16	Kumaon University, India, on SUNRAISE project	SUNRAISE project collaboration	CNR
17	Life lab Education and Research Foundation, India	On STEM project	OVC
18	Symbiosis Institute of Business Mgt. Pune, India	Student mobility on short-term study	GCBS
19	University College Leuven Limburg, Belgium	Staff and student mobility	SC
20	Palacky University, Czech Republic	On GLODEP project and semester mobility	OVC
21	University of Salzburg, Austria	Erasmus collaboration	CNR
22	University of Education, Heidelberg, Germany	Education collaboration	PCE
23	University of Applied Sciences Würzburg-Schweinfurt, Germany	For academic collaboration	SCE & PCE
24	Malmo University, Sweden	On Linnaeus Palme project	SCE
25	Edith Cowan University, Perth, Australia	On short term student mobility at RUB colleges	SCE & PCE
26	University of New England, Australia	On New Colombo Plan student mobility and ECCD collaboration with PCE	PCE & SCE

27	Murdoch University, Perth, Australia	On exploratory collaboration for future student placement	OVC
28	University of Sydney, Australia	Collaboration on Wiki Dzongkha development	PCE & OVC
29	Faculty of Landscape and Society, Norwegian University of Life Sciences, Norway	NORHED project	CNR
30	Gottingen University, Germany	PhD Supervision collaboration	CNR
31	Aalto University, Finland	Problem Based Learning	JNEC
32	Narusean University, Thailand	'Ethics in IT Education'	CST
33	Wroclaw University of Science and Technology, Poland	Erasmus mobility both incoming and outgoing	JNEC
34	Bialstok University of Technology, Poland	Erasmus mobility both incoming and outgoing	JNEC
35	University of Economics in Bratislava, Slovakia	Erasmus international academic mobility	GCBS
36	The French Institute in India	set up French Language Centre at OVC, Thimphu, and space identified	OVC
37	Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, India	STEM education development, initiated during Hon'ble PM Modi's visit to Bhutan in 2019 and conference approved by MFA	OVC
38	Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, India	STEM education development, and conference	OVC
39	Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay, India	STEM education development, and conference	OVC
40	University of Calcutta, India	STEM education development, and conference	OVC

41	Symbiosis International, India	STEM education development, and conference	OVC
42	National Institute of Technology, Silchar, India	STEAM education development and conference	OVC
43	University of Highlands and Islands, Scotland	Curriculum enhancement and CULT education and workshop	OVC & SCE

External linkages activities initiated in 2019-2020 between RUB and external institutions were pursued for research and collaboration projects, mobility of staff and students under different exchanges, study abroad programmes, and capacity building.

Forty-three active external universities/institutions engaged in various academic activities with RUB as shown in Figure 7 and Figure 8.



Figure 7. International Relations with Asian and Australian Universities/Institutions during 2019-2020



Figure 8. International Relations with European and American Universities / Institutions during 2019-2020

8. Diversification of Revenue Streams

As an autonomous university, RUB within its mandate has to ensure sustainability and should not solely be dependent on the per student cost rolled out by the government but rather explore diverse sources of funding. To initiate this, the colleges have to put strategies in place to diversify different sources of income, either through the use of services, academic competence or through research and monitor income for the enhancement of the college and its autonomy.

One of the ways of generating fund at the DRIL offices of the University is through the facilitation of study abroad opportunities for international students and exploring research through various sources of competent funding. Such initiatives have already started at the University, but now enhanced efforts will have to be put in place to attract more students and research funding.