

ISB students make waves globally

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New Delhi: After snagging the 20th spot on *Financial Times*' ranking of best business schools across the world, it's another triumph for the Hyderabad-based Indian School of Business (ISB). The number of international offers for students at ISB has doubled over last year.

The school has seen as many as 41 new international companies come to ISB to recruit. Says deputy dean Ajit Rangnekar, "The number of job offers has been exploding. This year companies from 23 cities around the world are vying for ISB talent."

The average international salary (cost to company) has risen to \$1,44,812, from approximately \$1,35,000 last year. Nearly 44% of the international offers were in consulting and 22% in financial services. Interestingly, fears of a US recession had no bearing on these international offers.

"We did not see any impact of the sub-prime crisis on placements," says Rangnekar. "Also, there isn't much dif-

ference in the average salaries (cost to company) offered across the US, Europe, Asia-Pacific and Middle East."

Domestic salaries are also significantly higher this year. Compared to approximately Rs 15.7 lakh last year, the average domestic salary reported by

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this year's graduates is Rs 19 lakh. With an average incoming salary of Rs 7.19 lakh, this year's batch has witnessed a 2.5 times jump in outgoing salaries. This year, a total of 230 companies came to campus and there were 657 offers for the 442 students at ISB.

As a policy decision, the school is not revealing the highest salary figure this year as Rangnekar says that is a misleading indicator for prospective students. Nearly 81% of the batch has been able to make significant career shifts: the current batch has students from diverse categories such as doctors, marine engineers, advertising professionals, army men and even a rocket scientist.

Interestingly, women have done exceedingly well. Says Rangnekar, "They have been placed in all possible sectors. If you were to ask me if the proverbial glass ceiling has been broken, the answer is probably yes." He adds that forward-looking companies such as Dell and Novartis are actively reaching out for women MBAs. "Companies have begun to recognise the value women offer. It isn't a homogeneous market anymore as far as talent is concerned. So the old regimented ways of hiring new talent from only a particular social strata are gone and companies are hiring different kinds of talent in thin slivers," says Rangnekar.

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