

Why join an IISER?

Dear students: many of you write to me that you are confused.

You want to join an IISER and pursue science as a career. You want to ask questions and you want to learn the answers. You would like to lead a comfortable life. You are not exactly interested in becoming rich. But you definitely want to do something worthwhile. Every body tells you to join an IIT or an NIT or some engineering college. You are confused. Your parents are confused. All the uncles and aunties tell you and your parents that you should join an IIT or an NIT or an engineering college so that you are assured of a job.

Today, aiming at an IT job after BTech is like the earlier generation getting a degree to become a clerk or a probationary officer in a bank. They did it because it assured them a comfortable job.

Today things have changed. The world has gone beyond bank clerk/officer job and soon it will move beyond the IT clerks. The future depends on knowledge creation. It is going to be a knowledge based society. Although the Indian society did not put financial value on knowledge until recently, things have changed. If you have a bright idea, patent it. It may be worth a million dollars. What has this got to do with your joining an IISER?

The society sees that a BTech is followed by an IT job that is financially secure (until recently).

What it does not realise is that most of the people around are NOT doing IT jobs. They are teaching in schools, colleges and universities, working as IAS officers, doing about 99% of the white collar, often high end jobs.

If you do an MS from an IISER,
you will not be unemployed!

You will be eligible for an IT job,
for joining an MBA program,
for appearing for IAS
and for leading a comfortable life.

What are the real opportunities?

If you do mathematics, you will get all the jobs that an IIT graduate can get.
If you do physics, you will get most of the jobs that an IIT graduate can get.
If you do chemistry, the drug and pharma and chemical industry will be happy to have you work with them
If you do biology, the biotech industries will be happy to have you work with them.

If you are really interested in doing science (regardless of the subject), all doors will open in academic institutions and research laboratories in India and abroad. You will be a global citizen.

You may not realize.

There is a shortage of scientists in India and abroad.

Most of us teaching in IISERs and IITs are reasonably well paid.

All the teaching fraternity in the universities and colleges are also equally well paid.

On top of it, we live the way we want to live.

We choose our research problems, work on them and publish and sometimes become famous.

We choose our time. We pursue our hobby. We pursue our passion. And we get paid for it!

We teach young people and we learn from them. Actually, we learn continuously from our students. When compared to what I was in 1978, when I joined as a lecturer in chemistry at IIT Kanpur, I have learned a great deal in the last 31 years.

You will also learn a great deal.

When you are an accomplished researcher, the whole world will know you.

What is so special about IISERs?

IISERs teach you and prepare you for research from the day you join.

IISERs are brand new. They have the state-of-the-art equipment.

They have world class faculty that are committed to teaching as well as research.

Each one of them is carefully handpicked based on their accomplishments and their potentials.

The class rooms and teaching laboratories are well equipped.

There are weekly seminars. The students get to meet the Who is who of Indian Science and also scientists from all over the world.

There are NO barriers to learning. It is an open academic atmosphere.

It does not cost you and your parents any money. If you are admitted to an IISER, you get the INSPIRE scholarship that is Rs. 5000 per month for all five years.

You don't spend a penny, you get world class education and you will launch into a career of science. What are you waiting for?

Come join an IISER near you.

We have some bright people with us. Come join the pool.

Together, we will build a scientifically advanced INDIA!

Best wishes, yours, N. Sathyamurthy

Director, IISER Mohali