A REPORT ON CAREER GUIDANCE WORKSHOP (CGW-2024) Organised by Department of Biosciences In Collaboration with Center for Career Guidance & Development (CCG&D) 10th to 15th May 2024

The Department of Biosciences at Integral University hosted an enriching five days career guidance workshop for undergraduate and postgraduate students of the 2024 batch from May 10th to 15th, 2024. This comprehensive program featured insightful lectures by distinguished speakers, along with dynamic interactive sessions focused on career counselling and the enhancement of soft skills. Designed to steer students towards optimal career choices, the workshop also provided invaluable training in professional skills essential for crafting CVs and resumes, delivering impactful presentations, and excelling in job interviews.

Day 1 commenced with a warm welcome address by Prof. Snober S. Mir, the Convener of CGW-2024 and Head of the Department of Biosciences at Integral University. Prof. Mir expressed gratitude to the resource person, Dr. Prachi Agarwal, Associate Professor at Amity University, Lucknow, for dedicating her valuable time to this workshop. She asked the students to attentively absorb the insights shared by the esteemed speaker and to integrate these lessons into their lives as they navigate towards a successful future. The inspiring inaugural address was followed by an enlightening lecture from Dr. Prachi **Agarwal** on "Understanding the role of language and communication in career success". Dr. Agarwal emphasized that proficiency in language and the ability to communicate clearly are the key fundamentals to career advancement. Through engaging anecdotes and practical examples, she beautifully highlighted how strong communication skills can enhance interpersonal relationships, foster teamwork, and facilitate leadership. Attendees were introduced to various aspects of professional communication, including verbal and nonverbal communication, active listening, and the art of persuasive speaking. The session also covered the importance of tailoring communication styles to different audiences and contexts, thereby ensuring that messages are conveyed with maximum impact and clarity.

Day 2 of the workshop started with heartfelt welcome of Prof. Gyanendra Kumar Sonkar, KGMU, Lucknow. His talk was started with welcome address by Dr. Mohsin Vahid Khan, Assistant Professor, Department of Biosciences. Prof. Gyanendra educated students about the "Career Avenues in Biological Sciences" He also suggested students to focus on career option available for students of different stream of sciences. He guided students on how to effectively navigate the career development process by evaluating their interests, skills, personality, and values. Additionally, he addressed various challenges such as time management, training and development, and maintaining a long-term career focus. He also highlighted the wide array of employment opportunities available across research, industrial, healthcare, and academic institutions. His talk was highly informative and valuable, significantly enhancing the career-related knowledge of both graduate and postgraduate students.

The **Day 3** of career guidance workshop on "Scholarships and Job Prospects", started with the welcome address by Dr. Sangeeta Singh. Talk was delivered by **Dr. Suchit Swaroop**, Associate Professor, Department of Zoology, Lucknow University. He enlightened the students about the scope of bioscience and scholarships in the field of bioscience. He also shared his experiences with students.

On **Day 4** of the CGW-2024, students were treated to a series of insightful and enriching sessions aimed at enhancing their career prospects and professional skills. The day commenced with an enlightening session by Dr. Sufia Rehman from the Center for Career Guidance & Development (CCG&D), Training & Career Guidance International Placements at Integral University, Lucknow. Dr. Rehman provided invaluable advice on crafting attractive CVs and acing job interviews. She emphasized the importance of presenting oneself professionally, expressing genuine enthusiasm for the position, and effectively aligning one's skills and experiences with the job requirements. Her session underscored the significance of understanding the dos and don'ts of job interviews, which can substantially impact a candidate's chances of success. She also encouraged undergraduate students to pursue Master's degrees and careers in research. She informed them about international opportunities in education and research, stressing that such opportunities can broaden their horizons and help them make well-informed decisions about their future paths. Her advice highlighted the importance of preparing for various national fellowship exams, reinforcing the need for academic excellence, critical thinking, adaptability, and creative problem-solving. The second lecture of the day was delivered by Ms. Shahana Khan, a Communication Trainer at the CCG&D, Integral University. Ms. Khan focused on the importance of selfassessment, urging students to reflect on their interests, values, strengths, and weaknesses. She explained how self-awareness is crucial for aligning career choices with personal attributes. Ms. Khan encouraged students to explore various career options and industries, providing a comprehensive approach to career planning.

The Day 5 of the CGW-2024 culminated the workshop in an engaging and interactive Q&A session and panel discussion. Held in an online format, the session was hosted by Dr. Durdana Yasin, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biosciences. The session saw enthusiastic participation from final-year undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) students who posed numerous questions about their career prospects. One of the prominent queries came from Mr. Shoaib, a final-year student, who inquired about job prospects in the field of biological sciences. Prof. Snober S. Mir, Head of the Department of Biosciences, provided a comprehensive response, outlining various opportunities available in academia, research, and industry. She also motivated students to develop critical thinking and effective

communication skills. Ms. Sabiya, another attendee, sought advice on potential research areas within plant biology. Dr. Taiba, Assistant Professor, Department of Biosciences responded to her query, highlighting the growing prospects in plant tissue culture and other trending fields like plant microbe interaction, stress physiology etc. This provided valuable insight into the dynamic and expanding areas of plant research that students could explore. Mr. Ramish raised a question about facing interviews and selecting specializations after completing their UG degree. Dr. Swati Sharma, Assistant Professor, Department of Biosciences offered valuable guidance on these topics, providing practical tips on interview preparation and helping students make informed decisions about their future specializations. Dr. Irfan Ahmad Ansari, Associate Professor, discussed the potential of biochemistry as a career path and encouraged students to consider it for their PG studies. Dr Andleeb Khan, Associate Professor, Department of Biosciences also emphasized the importance of qualifying for fellowship exams such as NET and GATE, which are crucial for securing positions in academia and research. She also encouraged students to explore areas of neurobiology and toxicology. Dr. Mohd. Ashfaque, Assistant Professor, Department of Biosciences provided an overview of various prestigious research institutes in India where students can pursue their research aspirations. He mentioned renowned institutions such as the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore; Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai; and National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bangalore; National Institute of Plant Genome Research (NIPGR), New Delhi among others. MSc Microbiology students were interested in knowing the skill sets required for a career in microbiology. Dr. Mohd. Rumman addressed their query by outlining essential skills such as proficiency in laboratory techniques, microbial culture, their identification, data analysis etc. The session was highly engaging and provided students with valuable insights and practical advice from experienced faculty members. The interactive nature of the discussion ensured that students felt comfortable asking questions and receiving personalized guidance, making the workshop a resounding success.

The valedictory address was given by **Dr. Nilanjan Mukherji**, Director, CCG&D. Dr. Mukherji emphasized a holistic approach to personal and professional development, focusing on the integration of knowledge, skills, and attitude. He advised students to constantly question themselves, refine their skills, and make the most of their time at the university. He stressed the importance of staying in touch with the CCG&D and utilizing its resources. Dr. Mukherji concluded his lecture by wishing the students good luck and encouraging them to maintain a strong, positive, and winning attitude. **Prof. Snober S. Mir**, Head of the Department of Biosciences, delivered a heartfelt vote of thanks. Prof. Mir expressed gratitude to all the students, faculty members, organizers, and resource persons for their contributions in making the workshop a remarkable success.

Over 150 students attended the workshop. Overall, the workshop was a resounding success, offering students practical insights and valuable guidance from seasoned professionals. The sessions were meticulously crafted to empower students with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in the competitive realms of academia and professional life. The emphasis on further education, self-assessment, and holistic personal development left the students

inspired and well-equipped to make informed decisions about their career paths. The events ensured that students walked away with a renewed sense of confidence and direction, ready to tackle the challenges ahead with a positive and proactive mindset.





Registration is compulsory for all final year undergraduate and postgraduate students of Department of Biosciences, IU





















