

I am happy that you are considering to apply or have already applied for the Faculty Development Programme at IIM Ahmedabad. I want to share a few thoughts about FDP, which may be of help as you explore the programme. The programme has undoubtedly trained alumni who have made us proud over the years. It is our continued effort to admit participants who are sincere and motivated about academics, take good advantage of the IIMA resources and build a fruitful association with us. As you would know the 41st FDP will be conducted during **May 15 to August 31, 2019**, and the **application deadline is March 15 2019**. I want to highlight a few points as you consider the programme.

1. **Rigor:** The FDP is a rigorous programme. It requires a firm commitment from the participant, who needs to prepare for sessions by reading cases or papers, complete assignments in a timely manner, face quizzes, make presentations etc. All this work is for a meaningful well-deserved reward, namely the FDP certificate. The IIMA faculty members are equally or more committed to creating an enabling environment and work with participants to help them achieve the learning goals. It has even happened that sometimes an IIMA faculty member spends an evening with the participants over tea or dinner helping and guiding them!
2. **Modular Structure: Module 1 and Module 2:** We introduced the current modular structure in the year 2018. We made it flexible for candidates to apply for either one or both modules. This has helped candidates to attend at least one module of the programme, which spans over a shorter duration of less than 2 months, when their schedule does not permit a leave to attend both modules, which would span over 3.5 months. I am also happy to note that some of the participants who attended only one of the modules due to their time constraints, were clear about the benefit after completing their chosen module, and wished that they had attended both modules. It is advisable that time permitting candidates consider attending both modules for an overall learning experience.
3. **Module 1** is on Pedagogy and Research. This will be from May 15 to June 29, 2019. It provides training to candidates on teaching methods, with a special focus on Case Method. Participants will learn to identify problems for a case, write their own cases and use cases effectively in the class room. We consider Research as an important component of academics. Active research helps faculty members stay current, learn new ideas and perspectives, and bring them to the classroom to inspire students. In the upcoming 41st version of FDP, we are giving special attention to the course on crafting and publishing research, to make it more beneficial for the participants.
4. **Module 2** covers core and special topics in general management. This will be from July 3 to August 31, 2019. Core topics cover basic ideas in operations, finance, strategy, marketing, economics etc. to help participants gain a basic understanding and familiarity of areas in general management other than their own area of expertise. Then, the participants get to choose one of three special topics sub-modules. We currently offer special topics submodules in (i) Marketing, (ii) OB & HR, and (iii) General Management. The special topics submodule in General Management cover a mix of courses that are important for general management, such as strategy, analytics, game theory etc. Recent additions have been Analytics and Game theory, which play an important role in business problems but are usually less known.
5. **The experience of FDP** goes beyond classroom learning. Rich library resources, academic seminars and other events, interaction with students from diverse backgrounds, bonding with other FDP participants, all add to make it an unforgettable experience. However, it is only so beneficial as the participant makes it to be. One of our FDP alumnus succinctly summarized this by saying "At IIMA, we are sitting on a gold mine. It is for us to dig it ". An open mind, curiosity and genuine academic interest is required to make the best of the programme.
6. **Selected Participant Background:** Typically, FDP admits participants who are currently faculty members in management or allied areas, who have shown a firm commitment to growing in academics. Sometimes we have also considered highly motivated individuals, who are considering switching into a

full academic career, and have demonstrated such commitment by pursuing a PhD and/or by teaching on a part-time basis. We have also welcomed bright and motivated new faculty members who are just starting out an academic career. The FDP is an important programme for IIMA and is a way for IIMA to impact quality of management education. For this, our FDP alumni will be the flag bearers. Hence, admitting motivated and committed individuals is of importance for the programme.

Details about applying to the FDP and the brochure is available from the website

<https://www.iima.ac.in/web/fdp/apply/how-to-apply>

I wish you all the best as you learn more and decide about FDP. If you are having any difficulty understanding whether or not the programme is relevant for you, have any concerns or questions that will help you decide, please do not hesitate to contact the FDP office (fdpoffice@iima.ac.in) . We assure you that we will be prompt in responding to your query.

I wish you all the best.

Karthik Sriram

Chairperson, FDP