Institutional Development Plan

Introduction to Atria University

Atria University, founded in 2018, is India's first liberal STEM university. The model applies the aims of a liberal education – developing general intellectual capacities such as reason and judgment – within science and technology. STEM education in India is typically offered through specialised science or engineering colleges where students enter a fixed disciplinary track and follow a largely prescribed curriculum. Atria's academic model departs from this structure by combining disciplinary depth with the flexibility commonly associated with liberal education.

Students spend their Foundational Year exploring all majors before declaring a major and minor. The aim is to allow informed choice while building interdisciplinary exposure early in the degree. Current majors include Digital Transformation, Life Sciences, Energy Sciences, and eMobility.

The university's mission is to graduate self-directed, lifelong learners. This is guided by a Learning-to-Learn philosophy that recognises the accelerating pace of change in science and technology. Rather than assuming that a university education can cover all relevant future knowledge, the model prioritises developing students' capacity to continuously acquire, evaluate, and apply new knowledge throughout their careers. Active, project-based learning operationalises this philosophy. The academic calendar is structured into three-week course sprints, enabling immersion in a single subject while allowing time for hands-on learning, field visits, and project work.

Atria University was founded in 2018 by the Atria Group - a reputed South Indian conglomerate, which manages ACT Fibernet, Atria Power, Atria Hospitality, Atria Education, and the Atria Foundation.

The idea(l) of a "University" has always been a sacred one- fostering invention, discovery, and elevating the idea of humanity, ensuring universities continue to be "Centers of Imagination" and stay at the forefront of solving humanity's greatest challenges. For Atria it is a call to action, - to address the challenges of tomorrow by preparing students for careers and challenges that don't yet exist; and in doing so make students a force for the greater good.

Atria University- Vision, Mission, and Core Values

Vision

Atria University (AU) seeks to become an independent, internationally recognized "frontier university" that would be pushing the boundary on multidimensional axes. The university envisions addressing the challenges of tomorrow by stitching together disparate learnings into a single holistic process providing a truly differentiated offering.

Mission

Atria University's mission is to revolutionize education. Move away from tradition. Keep the focus on students, not the existing system. To enable, nurture, and guide our students. Have them explore multiple industries and ecosystems. We bring the real world to them and help them make the most of themselves in a professional ecosystem. We shape our students to be 'World Visioneers.' Individuals capable of transcending any challenge – global or personal.

Objectives

- Create centers of excellence for research and development in Science and Technology underpinned by sustainability, with a focus on solving complex problems in society.
- Provide student centred learning, skill and competency development, and drive research in life sciences, digital technologies, energy, and emerging domains that drive sustainability through an interdisciplinary approach.
- Enhance cognitive, affective and psychomotor abilities in students through experiential pedagogies and training to find solutions to real-life problems.
- Collaborate with other Higher Education Institutions for training and development of faculty and research.

Attributes of Atria University Graduates

In addition to attaining mastery of the core knowledge within his or her field, an AU graduate will be able to:

- Solve real-world, open-ended problems with creativity and risk-taking to obtain solutions that are practical and sustainable, including those they encounter in state-of-the-art research under the direction of distinguished faculty.
- Develop and refine exceptional communication skills with an awareness of potential cultural differences.
- Lead effectively and work productively within disciplinary and multidisciplinary teams composed of members with diverse interests and backgrounds.
- Learn through instruction and guidance by exceptionally qualified faculty members who are committed to both teaching and research.

Core Values

Atria University proposes to build an academic community committed to the creation, application, and transmission of knowledge through open, disciplined, rational inquiry, and distinguished by the essential values of:

- Academic freedom
- Institutional autonomy
- Exemplary ethical and moral standards
- Proactive engagement with all stakeholders
- Value excellence, quality, and service
- Foster sustainable innovation and creativity

Atria University Ecosystem

Inception, Location, and Authorities of Atria University

Atria University (AU) is established according to the Atria University Act, 2020 which received the assent of the Governor on the Fifteenth Day of April 2021 (Government Notification Order details EO. No. ED/123/URC/2021, Dated 07.01.2022). The university is situated in the ASKB Campus, 1st Main, AGs Colony, Anandnagar, Hebbal, Bengaluru 560024, Karnataka. The website address is www.atriauniversity.edu.in. The Authorities of the University are the Chancellor- Dr. C S Sunder Raju, Pro-Chancellor – Sri. K. Nagaraju, Vice-Chancellor- Dr. Madhavan Nair Rajeevan, and the Registrar- Dr. K. V. Narayanaswamy.

Atria University aims at redefining the existing model of higher education in India. Atria University was founded in 2018 by the Atria Group - a reputed South Indian conglomerate, which manages ACT Fibernet, Atria Power, Atria Hospitality, Atria Education, and Atria Foundation.

Based in Bengaluru, Atria University offers a new model of higher education that is matched in its innovative approach by the best institutions in the world. As the first liberal sciences university in India, it offers the next generation of interdisciplinary majors in the domain of technology and business.

Majors Offered at AU

The programs offered at AU are major driven. These majors are the emerging domains of industry and will shape the future. The Majors are- Digital Transformation, Energy Sciences, eMobility, and Life Sciences. The Digital Transformation major can enable students to harness the power of technology, drive innovation and reshape the future of businesses and industries. Interactive Technologies gears up the students to explore the cutting-edge realm of interaction and pioneer the future of communication. In Life Sciences students will journey into the frontiers of scientific discovery and advancements in medicine, biotechnology, and ecological sustainability. Students will be at the frontlines of sustainable energy revolution to address global energy needs after pursuing the Energy Sciences Major. With the eMobility major students can lead the charge towards a cleaner, connected future with solutions to the transportation norms.

Degrees offered at Atria University

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) 4-Year Degree

Modern problems—like AI, genomics, sustainability, space exploration—need a blend of physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, statistics and computing. The 4-year Bachelor of Science (B.S.) programs address this need as they are often more flexible and interdisciplinary, encouraging students to learn across domains. Data Science, AI, Machine Learning, Climate Informatics, Genomics require deep mathematical and scientific foundations—often more emphasized in B.S courses. Thus, by the B.S programme with strong foundation subjects, Atria University is training students to solve societal problems of tomorrow using expertise in emerging areas.

Master of Science (M.S.) by Research 2-year Degree

Aligned with the UGC Curriculum and Credit Framework (CCF), NEP 2020, and emerging industry requirements, the M.S by Research programme is designed to create highly skilled

researchers, innovators and technology leaders capable of addressing challenges in electric vehicles. The programme leverages university's strengths in Digital Transformation, Energy Sciences, eMobility, and Life Sciences, while fostering strong collaboration with industry and research laboratories.

Atria University also offers doctoral research **Ph.D programs** in Digital Transformation, Energy Sciences, eMobility, and Life Sciences.

Alignment to the National Education Policy (NEP, 2020) and Academic Bank of Credits (ABC)
The duration of all the undergraduate degrees offered here is 4 years. However, aligning to NEP, a fixed number of credits have been allocated for each of the 4 years. Accordingly, a students can choose to enter the program at the beginning of Year 1, 2, 3, or 4. Students can also exit the program after completion of Year 1, 2, 3, or 4. AU is registered on the portal of the National Assessment Depository (NAD) and Digi Locker. The students possess the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) credentials, and their marks transcripts are available on the NAD Digi Locker. After the completion of each year of the undergraduate degree, a student gains between 40 to 44 credits. On completion of the degree a student gains 166 credits. Depending on the number of elective courses pursued a student can gain up to 180 credits for the undergraduate degree.
The undergraduate program is designed to bring out the unique capabilities of each student. The Year 1 or Foundation Year courses through which the student can experience all the majors before choosing a major and degree offers unique flexibility to the students. They can choose from an array of learning pathways, within which the choice of electives allows them to specialize within each major.
Interdisciplinarity permeates the entire structure- for example in the Life Sciences major, students study Biology along with Calculus and Programming. The overarching objective is to prepare students to become problem solvers who will address the large-scale societal problems where science and humanities overlap and do not exist in silos.
With the core philosophy of imparting 'Learning to Learn' to students, the pedagogy is student centric and actively engages the student in learning. With projects being the dominant mode of learning, students discover concepts in a hands-on manner with their journey being carefully facilitated by the faculty. Conceptual understanding and clarity are the focus behind the activities and assignments that form the continuous evaluation. The end-of-course evaluation is a project undertaken by the student wherein all the concepts that have been learnt must be used to address a problem statement which is culled from a real-life problem.

Technological Tools used at Atria University
An indigenous Learning Management System called LearnX is used to store all the learning content for each course. Students are given access to the content and submit assignment online on this platform. With extensive features from being the archive of all submissions by the students, the generation of transcripts, and project portfolios of students, and course-based chat forums where students can post their queries for a response from the faculty, the teaching learning environment is highly technology enabled. All students use a laptop extensively during their courses in the programme.

Inclusion and Diversity

With due deference to the local language and culture, a mandatory course on Kannada as a medium of communication in the city is part of the foundation year. In addition, during the orientation program students spend a couple of days on a guided exploration of the city.

Admission to the university is open to all students who have completed Standard 12 or equivalent and does not differentiate between students. Access ramps, and escalators are available to increase access for Divyang students. Student counselling for behavioural issues is also provided by trained professionals.

Environment education covering climate change and the conservation of biological diversity is a mandatory inclusion in the Foundation Year at Atria University.

Student Enrolment at Atria University

Batch	Sanctioned Intake per year	Actual Enrolment
2022-26	200	24
2023-27	200	12
2024-28	300	44
2025-29	360	93
2026-30	360	162

Enrolment ratios in the majors offered at Atria University

Major	2022-26	2023-27	2024-28	2025-29
Digital Transformation	13/24	5/12	33/42	50/84
Life Sciences	2/24	2/12	6/42	6/84
Energy Sciences	2/24	2/12	1/42	7/84
eMobility	4/24	3/12	2/42	14/84

New Initiatives at Atria University

FIRME (Foundations in Reading, Math, and English)

It has been seen that students often arrive with uneven preparation because of differences in school curricula, assessment patterns, and the demands of higher education. Given the clear gaps in Reading, English, and Math, a bridge program called FIRME – Foundations in Reading, Math, and English have been completed for the incoming batch. Student progress and their feedback is currently being analysed for learnings and insight.

Objectives:

Address Learning and Achievement Gaps in Proficiency, and Exposure

Support the Transition to University Learning and Improve Academic Confidence

AUWF (Atria University Well-Being Framework)

Once enrolled, students typically spend the better part of the years between ages 18 to 22 at university pursuing their undergraduate degree. It was seen that student emotional and social well-being impacted their academic performance and their learning during this period. Hence at the time of entry student well-being was assessed using the Atria University Wellness Framework which employs the projective technique as used in the Thematic Apperception

Test (TAT) by Henry Murray. Well-Being is measured through evoking responses to situations/images specifically designed to reveal the emotional and social well-being of aspirant students. Students will well-being issues are being be noted and appropriate counselling measures are provided to support them.

THRIVE – Increasing Student Engagement

A need was evinced for programs within Atria University to

- Improve Student Engagement and Build a Strong Campus Culture
- Complement Academic Learning and Support Student Well-being

The program THRIVE is

- linked to credits (Category – Value Addition)
- It is offered after sprint-hours, 2 days a week, for 2 hours each day.
- Students can choose between Sport, Communication, Music, Dance, and Foreign Language.

LEAP AI - Learning, Assessment and Pedagogy in the Age of AI

The mission of Atria University is to graduate self-directed, lifelong learners, guided by the philosophy of Learning to Learn. This takes on special importance in the age of generative AI, which is reshaping both the nature of work and learning. The LEAP AI project seeks to answer how curriculum and pedagogy in the university must evolve in response to AI, and towards the mission of Learning to Learn.

The arrival of generative AI has been reshaping the nature of work and learning, making it necessary to reconsider the purpose of education, and the role that curriculum vs. foundational literacies and opportunities for real-world problem-solving play in equipping our learners for an uncertain future.

The LEAP initiative aims to follow a structured process for ongoing experimentation rather than a one-time overhaul, and its focus has since broadened from an AI-specific effort toward supporting curriculum and pedagogy university-wide, with Learning to Learn as the organizing aim.