The placement process for the graduating batch of the Post Graduate Programme (PGP) in Management at IIM Ahmedabad has been successfully completed with students being placed in sectors and functions of their choice. The successful recruitment cycle stands testament to the high quality of students at the institute and the robust nature of the placement process that provides adequate flexibility to both students and recruiters.

**Placement process**

The placement process was conducted in two stages. The first was the laterals process where firms interviewed students with work experience and offered them mid-level managerial positions. In the second stage, the final placement process, firms were grouped into cohorts based on the profile offered, and invited to campus in different clusters. As in previous years, students were provided the flexibility of making a “dream” application to any firm of their choice even with an offer in hand. This gave students the freedom to build careers in sectors of their preference.

**Laterals process**

50% of the batch was eligible for lateral placements, which provided students an opportunity to optimally leverage their work experience. The laterals process included firms from diverse sectors such as technology, consulting, pharmaceuticals and analytics. Firms which participated in the laterals process included Aditya Birla Group, Amazon, Deloitte, General Electric, Google, Microsoft, Pricewaterhouse Coopers and Thomson Reuters.
Sectoral overview

Despite adverse market conditions, IIM Ahmedabad did not witness a hiring freeze from any sector. Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Barclays, Citibank, Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, HSBC, Morgan Stanley, Royal Bank of Scotland and Standard Chartered were the global investment banks that recruited students from the batch of 2011-13. Several other banks and financial institutions such as Axis Bank, DBS, HDFC, Kotak, JM Financial and Yes Bank also recruited students this year. Consulting companies recruited in large numbers in both the finals and laterals processes. Recruiters in the consulting space included global strategy consulting firms as well as niche consulting firms: Accenture, AT Kearney, Bain & Company, Booz and Company, Boston Consulting Group, Capgemini, Deloitte, Ernst & Young, Feedback Ventures, KPMG, McKinsey & Company, Monitor Group, Oliver Wyman, Opera Solutions, Pricewaterhouse Coopers, TSMG and Vector Consulting. A large number of students took up roles in Sales and Marketing in various companies such as Airtel, Asian Paints, HUL, ITC, Kraft, L’Oreal, Mars, Nestle, P&G, Pepsi and Reckitt Benckiser. General Management and leadership profiles were offered to students by Aditya Birla Group, Cipla, General Electric, Ingersoll Rand, Mahindra, Reliance, RPG Group, TAS, Thomson Reuters amongst others. Students secured roles in the technology sector in firms such as Cognizant, Google, Hewlett Packard, HCL, Microsoft, Oracle and SAP.

Top recruiters

More than 130 firms participated in the placement process in 2013 including the laterals process. In terms of volume, Boston Consulting Group was the top recruiter across clusters having picked 15 students from the campus. Several consulting firms recruited a significant number of students. Accenture recruited 13 students while McKinsey & Company and Capgemini made 10 offers each, and Bain & Company selected 9 students from the batch. Among global investment banks, Goldman Sachs was the largest recruiter having picked 7 students for roles in financial markets as well as quantitative strategy. In the consumer goods and services sector, Airtel was the lead recruiter having made 11 offers to students for roles in marketing and finance, both in India and in international locations. Amazon recruited 7 students for roles in business development and operations.
Entrepreneurship

IIM Ahmedabad has always encouraged students to take up entrepreneurship as a career and this year, five students opted out of the placement process to start their own ventures. The start-ups include a professional network for photographers, an online sampling and market research portal and an e-commerce venture for project equipment. In line with its culture of fostering entrepreneurship, IIMA offers a placement holiday to its students wherein they will be allowed to participate in placements in one of the next two years in the event that their venture does not work out.

Prof. Kirti Sharda, the Chairperson of the Placement Committee, IIM Ahmedabad said, “The demand for IIMA graduates continues to be high and has overridden concerns of a general slowdown in hiring activities in 2012-13. Students have been placed in their chosen roles in diverse cohorts comprising a remarkable array of recruiters. We are glad to announce that the PGP batch of 2011-13 has been placed and the PGP Final Placement Process at IIM Ahmedabad is complete.”

Barathram A, the Recruitment Secretary of IIM Ahmedabad said, “We are extremely happy with the way full time placements have panned out this year. Despite the uncertain economic scenario, students had opportunities in various sectors. Consulting firms, FMCG and pharmaceutical companies were among the major recruiters this year. Students were able to secure roles of their choice standing testimony to the high recruiter-student fit at IIM Ahmedabad”.

Further details about the placement process including details about compensation will be released in an audited report, as per the Indian Placement Reporting Standards (IPRS), introduced by IIMA in an effort to bring about greater transparency in B-school placements across the country. The IPRS report for ‘Final Placements 2013’ will be released 6 months from the date of graduation, and the link to the report will be shared with all stakeholders, once released.