



# 2021 | Placements Report



**PLAKSHA TECHNOLOGY LEADERS PROGRAM**



# From the Vice Chancellor's Desk

Plaksha is not just a university. It is a statement of bold aspirations of 21st century India articulated in the vision of its founders for reimagining higher education.

In the new vision for engineering education, traditional disciplinary boundaries do not exist and teaching and learning methods continuously evolve in response to research findings on cognition and learning. In this model, students will be prepared, through experiential learning, to create solutions that address complex problems of the modern world. They will be equipped with intensive grounding in digital technologies, understanding of the physical, natural, and economic world, teamwork skills, and a training to acquire new knowledge at will as and when required. Further, our students will have thorough immersion in social sciences so that they develop broad social perspective and grow up as caring citizens of the world.

At Plaksha, we embrace the deep traditions of scholarship from the ancient universities, such as Takshashila and Nalanda, to the modern temples of learning from across the world. We are committed to keep all our students and faculty engaged in continuous research that not only advances the frontiers of knowledge but also empowers our society with innovations and technologies that firmly target a sustainable living. Research at Plaksha will form the basic DNA of the university; it will pervade everything we do. Our research will target the grand challenges of our world, and influence all learning and teaching on the campus. It is apt that Plaksha's name is inspired by the tree from which a metaphorical river of learning flows endlessly, nurturing everything it touches.

I take special pleasure in inviting you to our campus as the Founding Vice Chancellor. Please come, visit us, and feel the pulse

**Dr. Rudra Pratap**  
Founding Vice Chancellor  
Plaksha University





# From the Director's Desk

Plaksha started off as a dream to reimagine technology education by creating programs and nurturing graduates who will work on solving challenges we face as a society by using contemporary technologies.

The Technology Leaders Program (formerly Tech Leaders Fellowship) which is co-designed and co-delivered with UC Berkeley has graduated 120 students since inception in 2019. Our graduates have been placed in key technology leadership roles such as Data Scientists, Machine Learning Engineers, Product Managers, Product Analysts etc. While some students have gone on to study in global universities, others have chosen to start their own entrepreneurial ventures.



The program's unique construct of project based learning, global faculty, capstones in leading organisations and close association with industry partners positions it as a premier program in technology, not only in India but also globally. We believe that our graduates will play a key role in fulfilling the digital transformation requirements of the world today and make a difference and create impact for the future. The program's unique construct of project based learning, global faculty, capstones in leading organisations & close association with industry partners, positions it as a premier program in technology, not only in India but also globally. We believe that our graduates will play a key role in fulfilling the digital transformation requirements of the world today and make a difference and create impact for the future.

**Srabani Ghosh**  
Program Director  
Technology Leaders Program



Class of 2021



# Plaksha University and TLP

## Plaksha University

Plaksha's vision is to reimagine technology education and research to address the grand challenges of India and the world. It is a collective philanthropic effort supported by 60+ top tech entrepreneurs, business leaders and organizations from across the world.

## Academic Partners



## Technology Leaders Program

Technology Leaders Program (TLP) is a 1 year, fully residential, postgraduate program. It interweaves the technology core of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning with real world applications and leadership.

The aim of the program is to nurture leaders in technology who design ethical, tech-centric solutions, solve global challenges and are innovative, entrepreneurial and drive impact.

Co-designed & co-delivered with UC Berkeley





# Unique Curriculum

## Four key pillars



### Technology core

- Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning
- Tech electives



### Real-world experiences

- Challenge Lab (12 weeks)
  - Industry Capstone (8 weeks - dedicated)



### Technical & social context

- Design & Systems Thinking
- Grand Challenge courses



### Self and leadership

- Leadership
- 1-0-1 mentorship



# Global Faculty

30+ top notch faculty from academia and industry



**Dr. Atul Adya**  
Principal Engineer  
Google  
Mountain View, California



**Dr. Rachel Dzombak**  
Lecturer,  
UC Berkeley



**Venkatesh Rajamanickam**  
Professor,  
Industrial Design Centre,  
IIT Bombay



**Dr. Kenwyn Smith**  
Professor,  
Organizational Behaviour,  
University of Pennsylvania



**Dr. Ravi Kothari**  
Former Chief Scientist,  
IBM Research, India



**Dr. Jitesh Panchal**  
Associate Professor,  
Purdue University



**David Law**  
Director, Global Academic  
and Startup Programs, SCET,  
UC Berkeley



**Dr. Sebastien Foucaud**  
Chief Data Officer,  
HRS Group,  
Germany



**Alexander Fred-Ojala**  
Research Director,  
Data Lab,  
SCET, UC Berkeley



**Dr. Rajeev Barua**  
Professor, Dept of Electrical  
and Computer Engineering,  
University of Maryland,  
College Park



**Srikanth Velamakanni**  
Co-founder, Group Chief  
Executive & Vice-Chairman,  
Fractal Analytics



**Dr. Sudheendra Hangal**  
CEO, Amuse Lab,  
Former Associate Director,  
Stanford Mobisocial Lab



**Dr. B L Ramakrishna**  
Inaugural Director  
Grand Challenges Scholars  
Program, NAE



**Dr. Vijayraghavan Chariar**  
Professor, IIT Delhi,  
Founder at JoyIsYou &  
Ekam Eco



**Dr. Ikhlaq Sidhu**  
Faculty Director  
and Chief Scientist,  
SCET, UC Berkeley



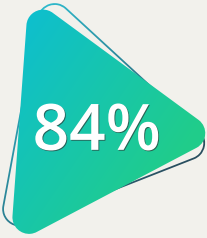
**Dr. Monojit Choudhury**  
Principal Researcher,  
Microsoft Research Lab  
India



# TLP Class of 2021: Key Statistics



Average age



Prior work experience

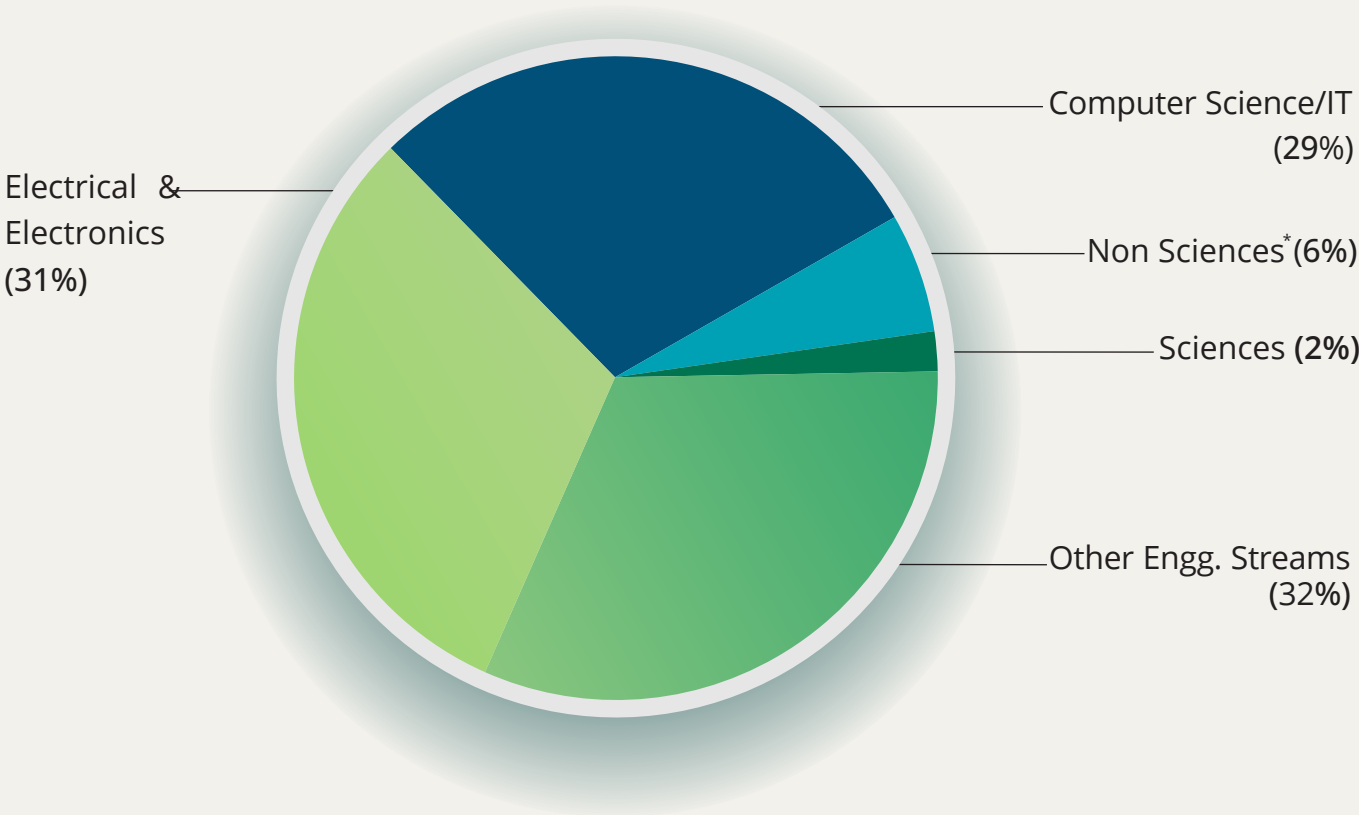


States/UTs represented



Women

## Undergraduation disciplines



\*Economics, Maths, Business

“

The combination of courses - *Data Science, product, and design* - sharpened my perspective. Real-world projects like Challenge Lab helped me understand how startups take shape and develop team work skill.

*The Grand Challenge Lecture Series* by domain experts on real-world application of AI&ML and in-depth career guidance helped me chalk my professional path.

Looking back, the program has made me flexible and adept in technical, design, and leadership skills. I would not have had it any other way!”



**Prajna Vegesna**, Class of 2021  
Imagineer, **Fractal**

“

The program exposed me to numerous fields - data sciences, research, software development and product management.

Here, I co-published a research paper with Monojit Choudhury of Microsoft Research.

My Capstone project, as a product and engineering intern at Apptio, gave me a sneak peek into the corporate setup. I learnt the best practices from eminent global faculty, which helped me immensely during the placement interviews.

Plaksha not only focuses on technical learning but also takes care of one’s emotional growth through mentorship and counselling sessions. As a result of all the support, I have started my journey as a data scientist on a firm footing.”



**Anku Rani**, Class of 2021  
Data Scientist, **Verisk**

## Undergraduation institutions

- APJ Abdul Kalam Kerala Technical University
- BITS Pilani
- BITS Pilani, Goa
- Delhi Technological University
- Hindu College, Delhi University
- IIT Delhi
- IIT Gandhinagar
- IIT Guwahati
- IIT Kharagpur
- IIT Roorkee
- Indian Institute of Science and Research
- Jadavpur University, Kolkata

- Manipal Institute of Technology
- NIT Calicut
- NIIT University, Neemrana
- NIT Hamirpur
- NIT Jaipur
- NIT Jalandhar
- NIT Kurukshetra
- NIT Surathkal
- Politecnico di Torino, Italy
- University of Exeter, UK
- University of Mumbai
- VIT Vellore

*\*Not exhaustive*



**Class of 2021**



# Placements & Careers after TLP



61 Total number of Fellows

49 Fellows placed

04 Fellows who started their own ventures

05 Fellows who opted for higher education/research

03 Deferred\*

Average CTC\*\*

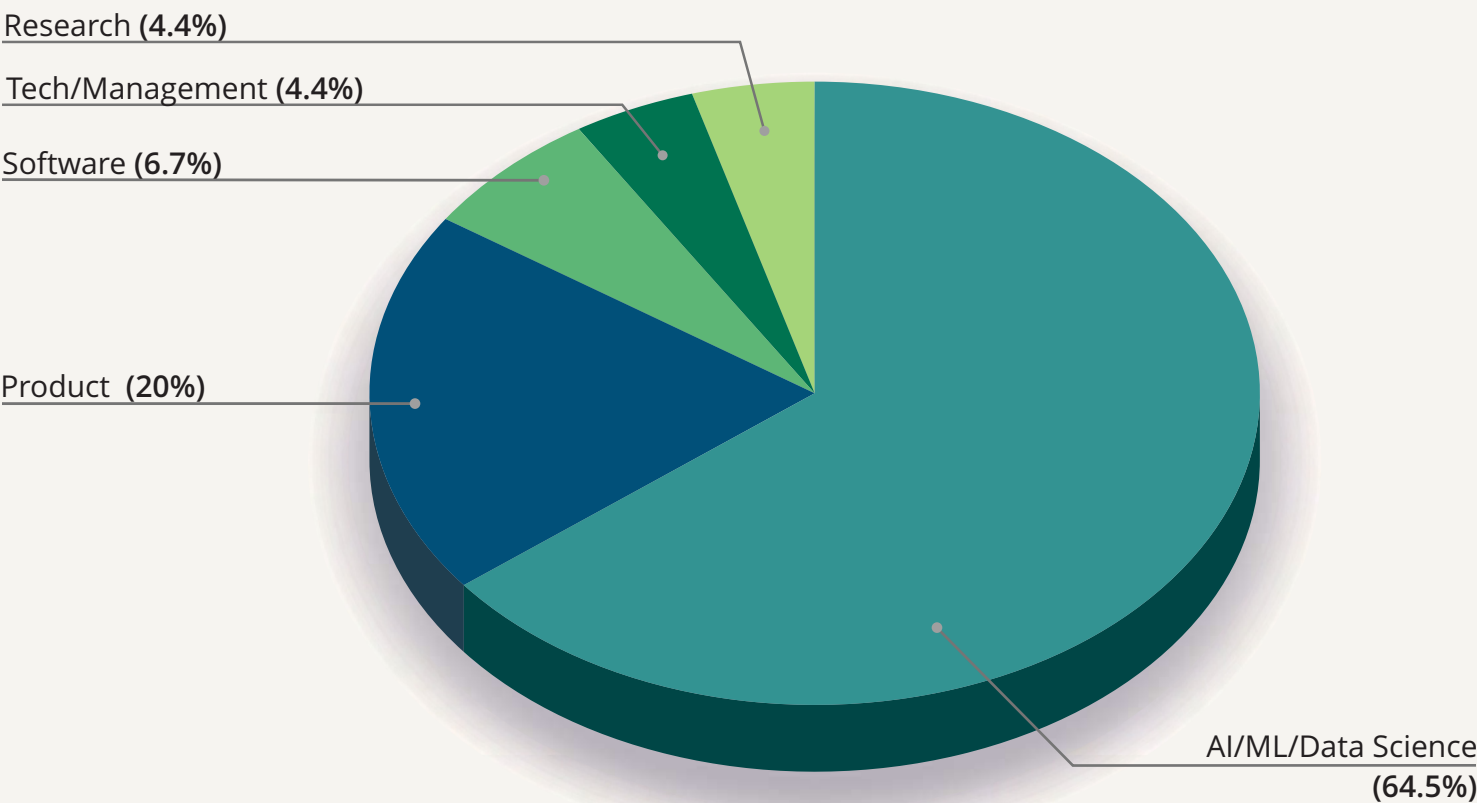
INR 19 LPA\*\*\*

*\*Upto 2 year*

*\*\*CTC stands for cost to company*

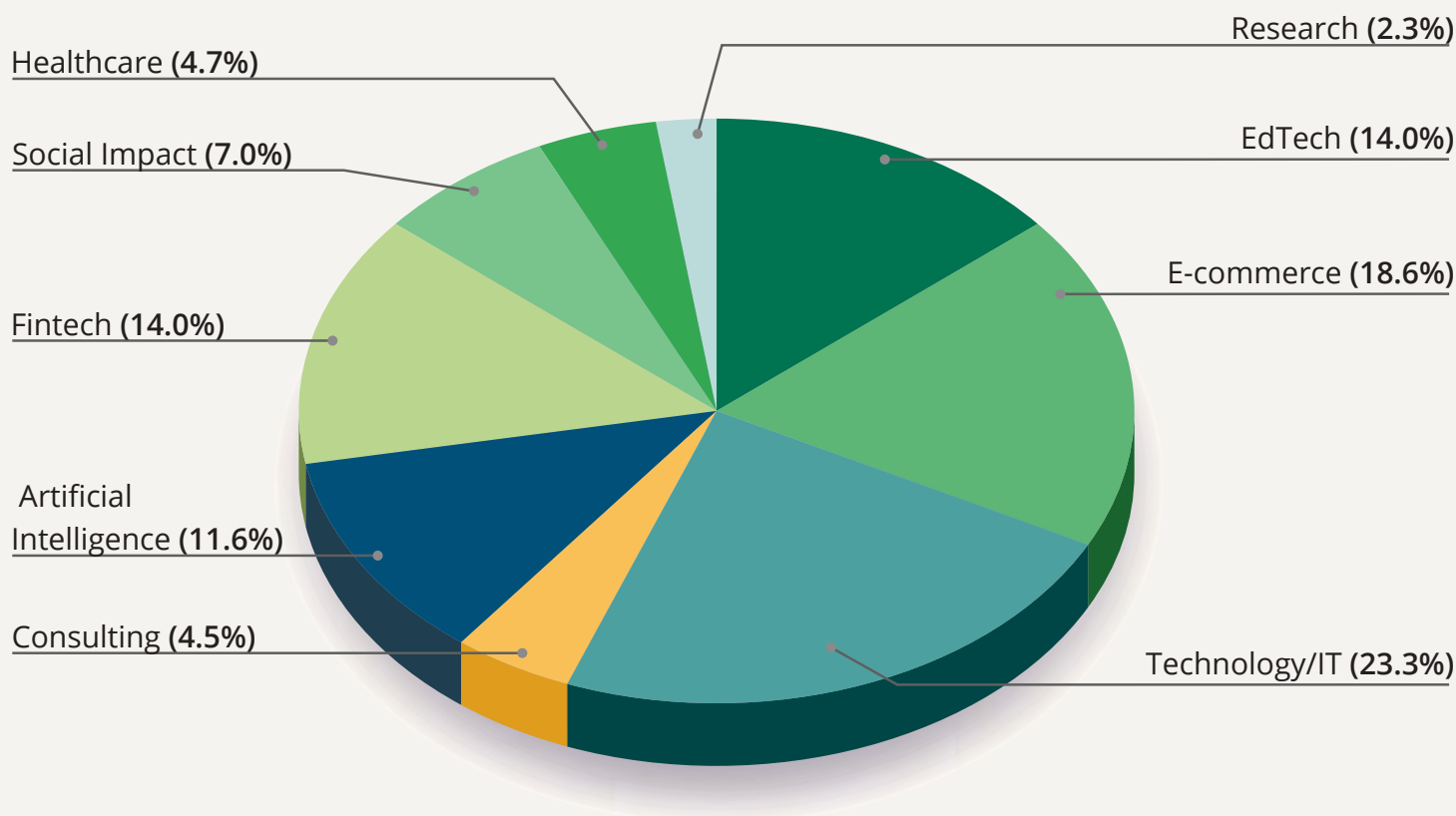
*\*\*\*LPA stands for Lakh per annum*

## Role-wise breakup





# Industry-wise breakup



## Handpicked by the following organizations

- Arcesium
- Arthur D Little
- Avataar.me
- BCG
- BukuWarung
- Cisco
- ConveGenius
- Digit
- Fractal
- Harappa Education
- HRS
- Indifi
- Infoedge
- Jamboree
- Lal PathLabs
- Plaksha Research Fellowship
- Policy Bazaar
- Propellor.ai
- Societe Generale
- Swiggy
- TEK Travels
- Verisk
- Walmart Labs

“

TLP has transformed me positively. My favourite courses were *Design Thinking* by Jitesh Panchal, *Human-Computer Interaction* by Sudheendra Hangal, *Designing Our Lives* by Rachel Dzombak and *Machine Learning & Deep Learning* by the awesome Dr. Ravi Kothari. The leadership and mentorship sessions led to self-reflection and tremendous personal growth.

I met an inspiring bunch of people, during my capstone project at one of the world's top consulting firms. Apart from building ML models, I learnt the intricacies of the consulting world.”



**Hanshika Gupta**, Class of 2021  
Data Scientist, **BCG**



# Startups from Plaksha TLP

- Plaksha Entrepreneurs Support Program (PESP) for students who aspire to found startups. 2 mentors for each startup. Free living for 6 months and stipend.
- 15% of the students from the first two cohorts created trailblazing startups right after TLP



## Startup: StimVeda

Non-invasive brain stimulation company

Featured in: *7 Healthcare Startups You Should Watch in 2021*

Co-founders:

**Ramya and Lakshay**  
(Class of 2020)



## Startup: Synth

AI based knowledge platform

Selected for: *Y Combinator 2021 Cohort*

Co-founders:

**Urvin, Vaibhav and Suneel**  
(Class of 2020)

## YOURSTORY

FUNDING

### [Funding alert] AI startup Synth raises \$125,000 from Y-Combinator

By Prasannata Patwa | August 24, 2021



The Bengaluru-based startup raised this round as part of Y-Combinator's Summer 21 batch, and will use it to expand their team and develop the product further.



# Research & Higher Studies after TLP

## Short-term research projects or higher studies offers at

Columbia University  
Monash University  
Nanyang Technological University  
Oklahoma State University  
Purdue University  
The University of Adelaide College

The University of Liverpool  
University of Maryland  
University of Michigan  
University of Toronto  
University of Washington

“

Plaksha Technology Leaders Program was an enriching experience for me. It helped me develop leadership skills and brought clarity to my thought process. The well-prepared classes on *Machine Learning and data science* by Alexander Fred-Ojala from University of California, Berkeley, Dr. Ravi Kothari and Dr. Sébastien Foucaud from HRS Group, and *computer vision* class by Dr. Saumya Jetley, instilled a curiosity in my mind and led me to choose a masters in this area of study. Seeing ML systems in production and building a data ingestion pipeline during my Capstone at HRS Group under the guidance of Olalekan Fuad Elesin gave me the confidence to build ML solutions at scale.”



**Mathew Varghese**, Class of 2021  
**University of Washington**



“

*The purpose of education or degree from an institute is not to make your life a cakewalk but it is to bring about a change in the society. So use this knowledge to become a changemaker”*

**Arunachalam Muruganantham**

Honoured by Padma Shri award

Social entrepreneur

Keynote speaker at the convocation of Class of 2021



Contact us at:  
[career.development@plaksha.edu.in](mailto:career.development@plaksha.edu.in)



**PLAKSHA  
TECHNOLOGY  
LEADERS  
PROGRAM**