

## **Exceptional mentorship: My Experience working with Professor Bikramjit Basu at Material Research Centre, Indian Institute of Science**

As an exchange student from the University of Colombo, I had the great privilege of spending 7 months at the Material Research Centre, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and working with Professor Bikramjit Basu.



One of the most striking things about the Indian Institute of Science is how sophisticated and modern it is while still being environmentally conscious. The campus is a perfect example of how technology and sustainability can coexist. The well-maintained green spaces and facilities, combined with cutting-edge research labs, make for an exceptional learning and working environment.

As an international student, I was initially nervous about navigating the cultural and academic differences, but the entire Indian Institute of Science community made me feel welcome from the very beginning. The hospitality and support I received were truly exceptional, and I am deeply grateful for the kindness and generosity of everyone I encountered. Specially Professor Bikramjit Basu's guidance, patience, and support quickly put me at ease and helped me feel at home. I was able to meet people from all over India and learn about their cultures,

making my experience at the Institute even more enriching and rewarding. The warm and welcoming environment made all the difference in my academic and personal growth, and I would highly recommend the Institute to anyone seeking a world-class academic experience in a supportive and inclusive community. Professor Basu and his lab members went out of their way to help me adjust to my new surroundings, offering guidance and support throughout my time there. They were always willing to answer my questions and provide me with valuable insights into the culture and customs of India. Working with Professor Bikramjit Basu in his lab was an unforgettable experience that I will always cherish. His expertise in the field of materials science is unparalleled, and his passion for research and discovery is infectious.

In his lab, we were exposed to cutting-edge research techniques and state-of-the-art equipment, providing us with hands-on experience that was invaluable to our academic and professional growth. Professor Basu's commitment to staying at the forefront of his field was evident in everything he did, and his dedication to training the next generation of materials scientists was truly inspiring. What stood out to me the most about working in Professor Basu's lab was the way he empowered each of us to pursue our research interests while still working towards a common goal. He recognized our individual strengths and provided us with the tools and resources we needed to succeed, while also encouraging us to challenge ourselves and think outside the box. Under his guidance, we were able to participate in every aspect of the research process, from designing experiments and collecting data to analysing our results and presenting our findings. Perhaps most importantly, Professor Basu empowered us to think critically and independently to take ownership of our projects while still providing us with the support and guidance we needed to succeed. He encouraged us to think critically and analytically about the research problems we were tackling, while also recognizing the importance of hands-on experience and real-world application.

Overall, working with Professor Bikramjit Basu was an exceptional experience that has had a profound impact on my academic and professional growth. I highly recommend him to anyone seeking a mentor who is not only an expert in his field but also a truly exceptional teacher, guide, and researcher.

**Praneeth Ratnayake**