



International Financial Services  
Centres Authority (IFSCA)



Government Of India

# Foreign University Initiative @ GIFT IFSC - India's International Financial Centre

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**International Financial Services Centre Authority**

Ministry of Finance, Government of India

GIFT City, Gujarat, India

[www.ifsc.gov.in](http://www.ifsc.gov.in)

# GIFT City – Overview

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International Financial Services  
Centres Authority (IFSCA)

- A **Greenfield Smart City**  
with State-of-the-Art Infrastructure
- A **Global Financial & IT Hub**  
with a Domestic Tariff Area & a Mult- Services SEZ
- GIFT SEZ notified as India's 1<sup>st</sup> **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)**
- Strategically located between **Ahmedabad** and **Gandhinagar**
- Spread across 886 Acres (being expanded to **3300 acres**)
- A **Vertical City**  
1st of its kind in the country in scale, scope & quality



# INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT



International Financial Services  
Centres Authority (IFSCA)

## COMMERCIAL BUSINESS DISTRICT

- Smart & Intelligent offices
- High-rise business district
- Landmark building



## TECHNOLOGY

- Broadband FTTP
- Shared IT services
- Global connectivity



## DEDICATED RESIDENTIAL ZONE

- Well planned residential areas
- Walk-to-work
- Affordable housing

## MOBILITY

- External Connectivity includes MRTS / Roads
- Efficient Public - Private Transportation
- Dedicated Pedestrian Walkways
- Dedicated Multilevel Parking



## RETAIL CUM ENTERTAINMENT HUBS

- High quality entertainment and recreational areas
- Smart retail spaces, Restaurants and Sports areas

## SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

- Educational Institutes
- International & Domestic Schools
- State-of-the-art healthcare
- Universities / Training schools



# GIFT IFSC: Unique and Distinct Features



International Financial Services  
Centres Authority (IFSCA)

Dedicated & Unified  
Financial Regulator  
(IFSCA)



Full-fledged financial  
ecosystem with global  
connects



Full Convertibility with  
11 foreign currencies—  
INR not permitted



**GIFT  
International  
Financial  
Services Centre  
(IFSC)**

Best-in-class regulations  
(Internationally Aligned)



Attractive Tax Regime



Sovereign support,  
including special carve outs  
from domestic laws



## Competitive Edge

- Access to large hinterland Indian economy (**Hinterland advantage**)
- Beneficial cost of operations (**Cost advantage**)
- Availability of skilled talent pool (**Talent advantage**)

# Jurisdictional Comparison



International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA)

		FEMA	Currency	Tax	Law
Rest of the world (Foreign Jurisdiction)		Offshore Non-Resident	Respective Int'l Currency	Offshore	Resident's Jurisdiction
INDIA	IFSC (SEZ)	Offshore Non-Resident	11 Currencies (₹ Not Permitted)	Tax Holiday (Tax Resident)	Indian Jurisdiction
	India (DTA)	Onshore Resident	Primary ₹ denominated	Taxes as applicable (Tax Resident)	Indian Jurisdiction

1

IFSCA established as a unified financial regulator under the IFSCA Act, 2019

2

IFSCA is mandated to develop and regulate financial institutions, financial services and financial products within the International Financial Services Centre's in India

3

IFSCA is vested with combined powers of four domestic financial regulators namely RBI\*, SEBI\*, IRDAI\* & PFRDA\* under 15 Central Statutes

# Overview – IFSC - Business Activities



International Financial Services  
Centres Authority (IFSCA)



## BANKING

- Indian Banks (16)
- Foreign Banks (10)
- Global Administrative Office (1)
- Rep. Offices



## CAPITAL MARKET

- Stock Exchanges (2)
- Clearing Corporation (2)
- International Depository (1)
- Broker Dealers (72)
- Investment Bankers (2)
- Custodians (5)
- Depository Participants (9)



## ASSET MANAGEMENT

- Fund Management Entities (87)
- Alternate Investment Funds (105)
- Investment Advisers (6)
- Portfolio Managers (10)
- Distribution Services (6)



## INSURANCE

- Indian & Foreign Insurer (7)
- Indian & Foreign Reinsurer (1)
- Insurance Intermediaries (21)
- Insurance Web-Aggregators



## NICHE INSTITUTIONS

- International Bullion Exchange (1)
- Finance Companies (6)
- Global Treasury Centre (3)
- ITFS Platform (3)
- Aircraft Leasing & Financing (28)
- Ship Leasing & Financing (10)



## EMERGING BUSINESSES

- **Foreign Universities & Institutions (2)**
- Global Fintech Hub (47)
- Global in-House Centres (3)
- Sustainable Finance
- Professional Service Providers (62)

# Business Highlights: GIFT IFSC



International Financial Services  
Centres Authority (IFSCA)

 **620 +**

Number of **IFSCA Registered\***  
**Entities** till January 2024

 **\$ 75 Bn**

Monthly turnover on IFSC  
**International Stock**  
**Exchanges** in January 2024

 **\$ 52 Bn**

Total **Banking Asset Size** in  
January 2024

 **6000+**

**Employment** in GIFT SEZ in  
January 2024

 **\$ 54 Bn**

Cumulative **Debt Listing** on  
**IFSC Exchanges** till January  
2024

 **\$ 714 Bn**

**Cumulative Banking transactions**  
till January 2024

 **140 +**

Total Number of **Aviation**  
**Assets leased** from IFSC till  
January 2024

 **\$ 31 Bn +**

Total targeted corpus of  
**Alternative Investment**  
**Funds** till January 2024

 **\$ 755 Bn**

Cumulative **Derivative transactions**  
booked by Banks till January 2024

\*Registered, Licensed, Authorized, Notified, etc.



# Key Entities in: GIFT IFSC and GIFT City



## Banking



## Alternative Investment Funds



Morgan Stanley



## Ancillary Services



cyril amarchand mangaldas  
advocates & solicitors



## Other Entities



HDFC INTERNATIONAL LIFE AND RE COMPANY LIMITED

## Companies in DTA



# COMPETITIVE TAX REGIME

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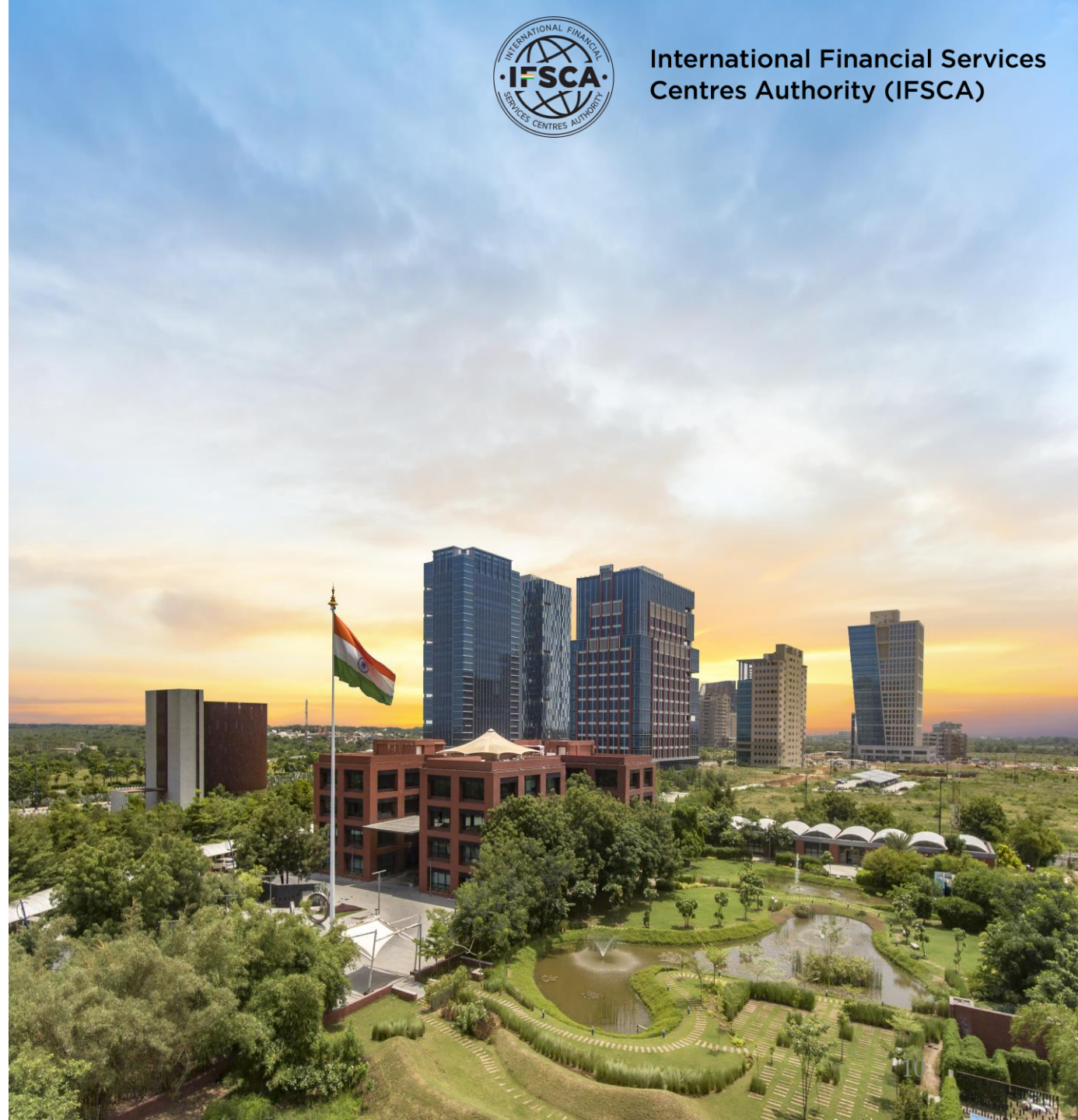
- Tax Holiday on Business Income for 10 out of 15 years
- Minimum Alternate Tax\* @ 9%
- No CTT\*\*/STT\*\*/GST\*\*/Stamp Duty
- Reduced Withholding Tax of 9% on interest paid on Debt Instruments
- Competitive Tax Regime for Funds
- Incentives under Gujarat IT/ITes Policy (2022-27)

\* MAT provisions not applicable for companies opting for concessional tax rate under Sec. 115 BAA of Income Tax Act, 1961

\*\*CTT- Commodity Transaction Tax, STT- Securities Transaction Tax, GST- Goods and Service Tax



International Financial Services  
Centres Authority (IFSCA)



# Foreign Universities Project in GIFT IFSC

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# Union Budget Announcement: FY 2022-23

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International Financial Services  
Centres Authority (IFSCA)



Announcement by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble  
Finance Minister in Union Budget Speech (FY 2022-23) :

*“World Class Foreign University and Institutions will be allowed in the GIFT City to offer courses in Financial Management, FinTech, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, free from domestic regulations, except those by the IFSCA to facilitate availability of high-end human resources for financial services and technology”*

# Value Proposition for European Universities



International Financial Services  
Centres Authority (IFSCA)

1. Can set-up International Branch Campus (IBC) and award their own degrees
2. IBC will have 100% foreign ownership
3. Can repatriate profits
4. Regulatory Ease: Only bound by home jurisdiction norms and IFSCA regulations (**free from domestic India regulations**)
5. Academic autonomy: Curriculum, Pedagogy and Course Structuring
6. Administrative autonomy for student recruitment
7. Benefit from several tax incentives

## Unique Value Proposition

8. Set up IBC as a vertical campus: Lower capital investments
9. Opportunity to service huge demand from India and South Asia
10. Set up Campus in India's 1st fully operational Greenfield SMART City with world class infrastructure
11. Charge tuition fee in any freely convertible foreign currency Euro / USD / GBP
12. No regulatory mandate on tuition fee

To regulate Foreign Universities/Institutions, **IFSCA issued (Setting up and Operation of International Branch Campuses and Offshore Education Centres) Regulations, 2022**

## Objective:

1. To enable **Foreign Universities** to establish International Branch Campuses (**IBC**) in GIFT IFSC
2. To enable a **Foreign Educational Institution** to establish an Offshore Educational Centre (**OEC**) in the GIFT IFSC.
3. To develop GIFT IFSC as an International Education Centre
4. To encourage research in financial sector- Banking, Capital Markets, Funds, FinTech, etc.
5. To encourage executive education
6. To safeguard interest of students

# Regulatory Enablers:

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International Financial Services  
Centres Authority (IFSCA)

## Permissible Subject Areas:

Courses including research programmes in the following 6 subject areas:

1. Financial Management
2. FinTech
3. Science
4. Technology
5. Engineering
6. Mathematics

## Eligibility:

1. Foreign University: **Top 500 in global overall ranking** or subject ranking in the latest QS Universities ranking
2. Foreign Education Institution: Reputed Institution in home jurisdiction
3. Satisfy IFSCA about financial capability to establish and ensure continuity of branch
4. Should put in place suitable infrastructure and facilities to conduct courses

# Regulatory Enablers:

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International Financial Services  
Centres Authority (IFSCA)

## Course Recognition :

1. **Course conducted shall be identical** with the course conducted by the Parent Entity in its home jurisdiction
2. **Identical degree, diploma or certificate** shall be conferred to students of IBC directly by the Parent Entity in the same manner as it confers to students in its home jurisdiction
3. Modification in course curriculum allowed with prior approval of university's academic council and after intimation to IFSCA

## Other key Conditions:

1. IBC/OEC name should be same or similar to parent
2. There should be MoU between IBC and parent entity
3. **Student selection** process should be identical to what is followed in home jurisdiction
4. **Faculty selection** process should be identical to what is followed in home jurisdiction
5. IBC/OEC shall undergo **quality assurance audit**
6. All marketing/advertisements shall be factual and accurate



# Regulatory Enablers:

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International Financial Services  
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## Inspection:

1. IFSCA shall have right to inspect at all times (check infrastructure, quality and suitability)
2. IFSCA may appoint one or more persons as Inspecting Authority

## Safeguarding interest of students:

1. No IBC/OEC shall wholly or partially discontinue, suspend or close any of its approved courses for any reason without the prior written approval of the Authority
2. In the eventuality of disruption or discontinuation of a course, it is the responsibility of the Parent Entity to provide an alternative to the affected students, including reallocation to the course

## Currency:

1. **Parent entity shall be permitted to repatriate profits , without any restrictions**
2. All transactions in freely convertible currency
3. Administrative expenses may be defrayed in INR

# Process Flow for setting up a Campus:



International Financial Services  
Centres Authority (IFSCA)

## Step 1

- Applicant University submits application to IFSCA in the prescribed format
- IFSCA will forward the application to **Committee of Experts (CoE), constituted by GIFT Co. Ltd.**

## Step 2

- Applicant makes a presentation to CoE on their IBC proposal
- CoE evaluates the proposal and makes a recommendation to IFSCA

## Step 3

- Based on the recommendations and upon its own examination, IFSCA will grant **in-principle approval**
- Applicant shall set up required infrastructure, engage manpower, etc. within 180 days

## Step 4

- Applicant will identify a space for the IBC in GIFT SEZ and obtain a Provisional letter of allotment (PLOA) and set up all the necessary infrastructure

## Step 5

- Applicant shall apply for Certificate of Registration (CoR). On being satisfied that the applicant fulfills all the conditions for the grant of registration, IFSCA issues **Certificate of Registration.**



## Commencing in July 2024

- Master of Cyber Security
- Master of Business Analytics



## Commencing in July 2024

- Masters in Computing
- Masters of Financial Technology

# Academic Infrastructure Service Provider (AISP):

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Foreign Universities can now avail **infrastructure and other support services** from an Academic Infrastructure Service Provider (AISP)

## Who is an AISP:

A Service Provider providing built up campus facility, research and development facility, library, laboratories, incubation centres, teaching classroom, and such other related services to a University. Additional services which can be availed:

1. Campus Facility Management services
2. Student onboarding, Admissions and Student Welfare services
3. Services for recruitment and management of non-academic staff
4. Branding and Marketing services
5. Payroll services

Thanks