

Alumni help alma mater address admission blues

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Colleges have started inviting their alumni to be part of their admission processes. From moderating panel discussions to conducting interviews, the former students are donning various roles.

College managements say the alumni are a great help when it comes to choosing the right candidates. "Former students will be working in specific industries and knowing more about industry requirements," says Mihir Mahapatra, member, admissions team, SDM Institute for Management Development.

However, institutes prefer alumni with experience to fresh graduates. "Students with over five years of experience are part of our panel. They've enough expertise and add value to the panel," says Sudeep Kumar, chairman of admissions, TA Pai Management Institute.

"Alumni are brand ambassadors for any institute. They can ask the right questions to the candidates. A team of academics and alumni can provide the right combination, akin to inputs from both industry and academy," says Swami Krishnan, CEO of IFIM Business School.

At St Johns National Academy of Health Sciences, alumni form an integral part of the



EXPERIENCE COUNTS: Colleges say alumnus with work experience can be of great help

selection process. "Our vision is to groom students to work in rural areas. So a former student, a religious person, can select the right candidate who is eligible for it," says Fr Lawrence D'Souza, director of St Johns National Academy of Health Sciences. The practice of inviting former students has been adopted from foreign universities, say experts. "This is being followed by many US universities," says Avijit Sharma, CEO, Mentorpolis.com, a web portal offering advice for higher education.

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