



THE Awards Asia 2020 - Outstanding Support for Students

Institution Name	Vellore Institute of Technology
Submission title or project name	Support The Advancement of Rural Students (STARS)
Nominee/key personnel	Dr Partha S Mallick, Director, Ranking and Accreditation; Sr Professor and Former Dean, School of Electrical Engineering
URL	https://vit.ac.in/stars-programme-2019
Submission	<p>Vellore Institute of Technology's 'Support The Advancement of Rural Students' or 'STARS' programme aims to provide opportunities to pursue quality higher education to underprivileged rural students.</p> <p>Each year, more than fifty students from rural Tamil Nadu, India, who top the higher secondary examinations of the State Government in their respective districts, are offered free education, food and accommodation in VIT hostels.</p> <p>Initially this scheme was started in seven districts, and from 2009 this was extended to all 31 Districts of Tamil Nadu. Six more newly established districts will be beneficiaries of the STARS programme from 2020.</p> <p>These students, whose schooling was in the Tamil language, are taught English through special bridge classes.</p> <p>This scheme is helping talented but poor students to grow, to get jobs and to provide financial support to their family members.</p>