



## Is SRM Better or UPES?: Comparative Analysis

Choosing between SRM Institute of Science and Technology (primarily Kattankulathur campus) and UPES Dehradun for BTech Computer Science Engineering requires a comprehensive analytical evaluation across multiple parameters including fee structure, placement outcomes, return on investment, infrastructure, faculty quality, and industry exposure.

Both institutions are NAAC A+ accredited private universities with strong engineering programs, but they differ significantly in their fee models, specialization offerings, and placement performance. SRM operates multiple campuses across India with varying fee structures (₹2.75-4.75 lakhs per year for CSE), while UPES offers a more premium, industry-aligned curriculum at higher fees (₹5.24 lakhs per year).

This detailed comparison analyzes both universities across critical decision-making factors to help prospective students make an informed choice based on their financial capacity, career goals, and academic preferences.

## Fee Structure Comparison

The fee structure represents one of the most significant differences between SRM and UPES, with SRM offering considerably lower tuition fees across all BTech CSE programs. SRM Kattankulathur (main campus) charges ₹4.75 lakhs annually for core BTech CSE and AI/ML specializations, totaling ₹19 lakhs for four years, while SRM Delhi-NCR Sonapat offers even more affordable options at ₹3 lakhs per year (₹12 lakhs total).

In contrast, UPES charges ₹5.24 lakhs per year in the first year, progressively increasing to ₹5.69 lakhs in the fourth year, with a total four-year cost of ₹20.95 lakhs. When hostel expenses are factored in, the gap widens further—SRM's hostel fees range from ₹80,000-85,000 per year, while UPES charges ₹1.83-2.20 lakhs annually depending on accommodation type. For students on a budget, SRM presents a more economical option with savings of approximately

₹2-9 lakhs over four years in tuition fees alone, plus an additional ₹4-5 lakhs in hostel cost savings.



Parameter	SRM Kattankulathur (Chennai)	SRM Delhi-NCR (Sonapat)	UPES Dehradun
<b>BTech CSE Annual Fee (Year 1)</b>	₹4,75,000	₹3,00,000	₹4,80,000
<b>BTech CSE Annual Fee (Year 4)</b>	₹4,75,000	₹3,00,000	₹5,69,000
<b>Total Tuition (4 Years)</b>	₹19,00,000	₹12,00,000	₹20,95,000
<b>Hostel Fees (Annual)</b>	₹80,000-85,000	₹85,000	₹1,83,000-2,20,000
<b>Total with Hostel (4 Years)</b>	₹22,20,000-22,40,000	₹15,40,000	₹28,27,000-29,11,000
<b>Additional Charges</b>	Registration + Caution	₹5,000 Caution	₹28,100 + Transport
<b>Cost Difference vs UPES</b>	₹1.95 lakhs less	₹8.95 lakhs less	Base

## Placement Performance Analysis

Placement statistics reveal a nuanced picture where both universities demonstrate strong industry connections but with different performance metrics. SRM Kattankulathur recorded a highest package of ₹65 lakhs in 2025 (international offer), significantly exceeding UPES's highest of ₹52 lakhs, though both demonstrate access to premium recruitment opportunities. However, the overall average package tells a different story—SRM's 2025 average stood at

₹6.68 lakhs across all branches, while UPES CSE students specifically achieved ₹8.59 lakhs average, indicating stronger median outcomes for computer science graduates at UPES. The most striking difference emerges in the top-tier placement category: UPES's top 10% CSE students averaged ₹42 lakhs in 2025, substantially higher than SRM's performance in this segment. SRM maintains a broader placement base with over 1,000 companies participating (including Amazon, Google, Microsoft, Goldman Sachs, and Morgan Stanley), while UPES focuses on deeper industry partnerships with 800+ recruiters. Both universities achieve 90%+ placement rates, though SRM's larger student body means more absolute placement numbers.



Placement Metric	SRM Kattankulathur	SRM Delhi-NCR	UPES Dehradun
Highest Package (2025)	₹65 LPA	Not Disclosed	₹52 LPA
Average Package (Overall)	₹6.68 LPA	₹5-6 LPA (Est.)	₹6.69 LPA (Overall)
Average Package (CSE)	₹7-8 LPA	₹6-7 LPA	₹8.59 LPA
Top 10% Average (CSE)	₹12-15 LPA (Est.)	Not Disclosed	₹42 LPA
Median Package	₹6.5 LPA	Not Disclosed	₹6.50 LPA
Placement Rate	90%+	85-90%	92%
Number of Recruiters	1,000+	300+	800+

<b>Top Recruiters</b>	Amazon, Google, Microsoft, Goldman Sachs	TCS, Wipro, Infosys, Tech Mahindra	Microsoft, Amazon, Accenture, Deloitte
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## Return on Investment (ROI) Analysis

ROI calculation provides critical insights into the financial value proposition of each institution, factoring in total investment versus expected placement outcomes. SRM Delhi-NCR Sonapat emerges as the clear winner in ROI for average-performing students, with a total investment of ₹15.40 lakhs (with hostel) yielding an expected average package of ₹6-7 lakhs, representing a 46% ROI in the first year itself. SRM Kattankulathur offers moderate ROI with ₹22.40 lakhs total investment producing ₹7-8 lakhs average CSE packages (35% ROI), while UPES requires ₹28.27 lakhs investment for ₹8.59 lakhs average, yielding a lower 30% first-year ROI. However, UPES demonstrates exceptional ROI for top performers—the top 10% average of ₹42 lakhs translates to a stunning 149% ROI on total investment, far exceeding SRM's top-tier outcomes. For students confident in their academic abilities and aiming for premium placements, UPES offers superior upside potential, while budget-conscious students seeking solid average placements benefit more from SRM's lower fee structure.

ROI Parameter	SRM Kattankulathur	SRM Delhi-NCR	UPES Dehradun
<b>Total Investment (with Hostel)</b>	₹22,40,000	₹15,40,000	₹28,27,000
<b>Average CSE Package</b>	₹7,50,000	₹6,50,000	₹8,59,000
<b>ROI (Average Package)</b>	33.5%	42.2%	30.4%
<b>Breakeven Period (Average)</b>	3.0 years	2.4 years	3.3 years
<b>Top 10% Package</b>	₹15,00,000 (Est.)	₹12,00,000 (Est.)	₹42,00,000
<b>ROI (Top 10%)</b>	67%	78%	149%
<b>Highest Package ROI</b>	190%	Not Applicable	184%
<b>Cost Savings vs UPES</b>	₹5,87,000	₹12,87,000	Base



## Academic Excellence and Specializations

Both universities offer diverse BTech CSE specializations, but with different pedagogical approaches and depth. SRM provides 15+ CSE specialization tracks including AI & ML, Data Science, Cyber Security, Cloud Computing, Blockchain, Big Data Analytics, Gaming Technology, IoT, DevSecOps, and Computer Networking, giving students extensive choice within a unified fee structure. UPES offers 10+ CSE specializations including AI & ML, Cloud Computing & Virtualization, Cyber Security & Digital Forensics, Data Science, DevOps, Big Data, Graphics & Gaming, Full Stack Development, and IoT, with a more industry-aligned curriculum co-designed with tech companies. SRM's academic structure emphasizes research and publication opportunities with access to well-funded laboratories and international collaborations, evident in its higher international ranking positions. UPES focuses on industry readiness through mandatory internships, live projects, hackathons, and certification programs integrated into the curriculum, resulting in higher average CSE placements despite fewer research publications. Students prioritizing academic research and international exposure may find SRM more suitable, while those focused on immediate employability and industry skills benefit from UPES's practical approach.

Academic Parameter	SRM University	UPES Dehradun
CSE Specializations	15+ options	10+ options
Curriculum Design	Research + Industry	Industry-aligned
Faculty with PhD	70%+	65%+
Industry Partnerships	500+ MoUs	700+ partnerships
Research Publications	Higher output	Moderate output

Mandatory Internships	Encouraged	Compulsory
International Exchange	50+ universities	30+ universities
Accreditations	NAAC A+, NBA	NAAC A+, NBA
NIRF Ranking (2025)	24 (Engineering)	46 (Overall)

## Infrastructure and Campus Facilities

Infrastructure quality significantly impacts student experience, and both universities maintain modern campuses with distinct characteristics. SRM Kattankulathur operates on a massive 250-acre campus with dedicated research centers, multiple libraries housing 2 lakh+ books, 24/7 computer labs with 3,000+ systems, sports complexes, medical facilities, and separate hostel blocks for 15,000+ students. The Chennai campus benefits from metropolitan connectivity, proximity to IT hubs like OMR and Siruseri, and extensive public transportation networks. UPES Dehradun features two campuses (Bidholi and Kandoli) spread across 44 acres in the Himalayan foothills, offering modern laboratories with industry-standard equipment, specialized petroleum and energy research centers, well-stocked library, sports facilities, and hostel accommodation for 5,000+ students. Dehradun's serene environment and pleasant climate provide a focused learning atmosphere, though the city offers less corporate ecosystem compared to Chennai. SRM's larger scale provides more diverse extracurricular options and peer interaction opportunities, while UPES's smaller student-to-faculty ratio (15:1 vs 20:1) enables more personalized attention.

Infrastructure Aspect   SRM Kattankulathur   UPES Dehradun
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Campus Size   250 acres   44 acres (2 campuses)
Total Students   50,000+   15,000+
Student-Faculty Ratio   20:1   15:1
Library Books   2,00,000+   1,50,000+
Computer Labs   3,000+ systems   1,500+ systems
Hostel Capacity   15,000+   5,000+
Wi-Fi Coverage   Full campus   Full campus
Sports Facilities   Olympic-size pool, 20+ courts   Multiple courts, gym
Location Advantage   Chennai (Metro, IT hub)   Dehradun (Hill station)
Industry Proximity   OMR, Siruseri IT corridor   Limited local industry

## Scholarship and Financial Aid

Financial support mechanisms differ substantially between institutions, impacting net cost for meritorious students. SRM offers merit-based scholarships of 25-100% tuition fee waiver for

SRMJEEE top rankers (ranks 1-500), JEE Main scorers (percentile 95+), and state board toppers, with additional sports and cultural excellence scholarships. Approximately 15-20% of SRM students receive some form of scholarship, reducing their effective fees. UPES provides 100% tuition waiver for students with 9+ CGPA, 30% fee concession for Uttarakhand domicile students, and 10-30% scholarships for JEE Main scorers (90+ percentile), benefiting roughly 25% of the student population. UPES also offers need-based financial aid and education loan facilitation through partner banks at preferential interest rates. For top JEE performers, both universities offer significant concessions, but SRM's lower base fees mean absolute savings are greater at UPES despite higher percentage waivers. Middle-tier performers find more accessible scholarship options at UPES due to its expanded eligibility criteria.



Scholarship Category	SRM University	UPES Dehradun
Merit-based (Top Rankers)	25-100% tuition waiver	100% tuition waiver (CGPA 9+)
JEE Main Based	95+ percentile eligible	90+ percentile (10-30%)
State Domicile	Not applicable	30% (Uttarakhand)
Sports Excellence	Up to 50%	Up to 25%
Economic Need-based	Limited	Available
Scholarship Recipients	15-20% students	25% students
Maximum Scholarship Value	₹19 lakhs (100% waiver)	₹21 lakhs (100% waiver)
Absolute Savings (100%)	Higher base	Higher percentage

## Alumni Network and Industry Connect

Alumni strength and industry relationships create long-term career advantages beyond initial placements. SRM boasts a massive alumni network of 1.5 lakh+ graduates across 50+ countries, with strong representation in global tech companies (Google, Microsoft, Amazon, Facebook), Fortune 500 corporations, and successful entrepreneurial ventures. The SRM alumni association actively supports current students through mentorship programs, referral hiring, and startup funding opportunities. UPES maintains a focused alumni base of 50,000+ professionals concentrated in energy, petroleum, IT, and specialized engineering sectors, with

particularly strong presence in oil & gas majors (Shell, BP, Schlumberger) and emerging tech domains. UPES alumni demonstrate higher vertical mobility in specialized industries due to niche expertise, while SRM alumni offer broader horizontal opportunities across diverse sectors. For long-term career networking, SRM's sheer alumni volume provides wider connections, while UPES's specialized alumni network offers deeper industry penetration in energy and emerging technology sectors.

| **Alumni Parameter** | **SRM University** | **UPES Dehradun** |  
|---|---|---|---|  
| **Total Alumni Base** | 1,50,000+ | 50,000+ |  
| **Global Presence** | 50+ countries | 30+ countries |  
| **Industry Concentration** | Diversified | Energy + IT focus |  
| **Notable Alumni** | Multiple unicorn founders | Energy sector leaders |  
| **Alumni in Fortune 500** | High presence | Moderate presence |  
| **Startup Founders** | 500+ | 150+ |  
| **Alumni Mentorship** | Active programs | Growing initiative |  
| **Job Referral Network** | Extensive | Specialized |



## Final Verdict: Which University Should You Choose?

The choice between SRM and UPES ultimately depends on individual priorities, financial capacity, and career objectives.

**Choose SRM if:** you're budget-conscious and seeking quality education at lower fees (save ₹6-13 lakhs), prefer a large campus with diverse peer group, value research opportunities and international collaborations, want access to broader alumni network, or are targeting Chennai's vibrant IT ecosystem for internships and jobs.

**Choose UPES if:** you can afford higher fees for potentially better outcomes, prefer smaller class sizes with personalized attention, are targeting top-tier placements (₹40+ lakhs range),

seek industry-aligned practical curriculum, want specialized expertise in emerging technologies, or value Dehradun's focused academic environment. For **average-performing students** prioritizing cost-effectiveness,

**SRM Delhi-NCR offers the best value** at ₹12 lakhs total fees with decent 85-90% placements. For **high achievers** targeting premium tech roles, **UPES provides superior outcomes** with its ₹42 lakhs top-10% average despite higher investment.

For **research-inclined students**, **SRM Kattankulathur** offers better facilities and international exposure. Both are excellent choices with strong credentials—your decision should align with financial reality and career ambitions rather than seeking an absolute "better" option.



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