

S. KARTHIKEYAN

Associate Professor – Operations & Logistics | Firebird Institute of Research in Management

Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India | karthikeyan.s@firebird.ac.in

ACADEMIC PROFILE

Associate Professor of Operations & Logistics at Firebird Institute of Research in Management, with over four decades of professional experience (1982–present) spanning engineering, production, tool-room, supply chain and quality leadership at organisations including HAL, Lucas TVS, ThyssenKrupp Automotives and TVS Logistics, followed by close to a decade of parallel practice as a freelance operations & quality auditor, adviser to a global engineering group, and Professor of Practice. Functions as a consulting-teacher: translates decades of hands-on manufacturing, process-planning, procurement and supply-chain leadership into postgraduate Operations & Logistics pedagogy, case studies and experiential learning rather than theory alone.

CURRENT ACADEMIC ROLE

Associate Professor — Operations & Logistics — Firebird Institute of Research in Management

From August 2026 | Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India

- Teaches and designs curriculum for Operations & Logistics and Supply Chain Management courses at the postgraduate management level.
- Brings live consulting, auditing and advisory engagements in operations and quality systems into the classroom as case material.
- Continues as a Professor of Practice across institutions of higher education (from 2024), extending practitioner-academic engagement beyond a single institution.
- Mentors students on industry-facing projects, capstones and career readiness, drawing on over four decades of practitioner experience.

CORPORATE EXPERIENCE — SELECTED HIGHLIGHTS

Over three decades of corporate leadership across engineering, production, tool-room and supply-chain operations, referenced here for the depth of practitioner insight it brings into the classroom.

General Manager – Operations — TVS Logistics Ltd. (now TVS Supply Chain Solutions Ltd.), Chennai

2006 – 2017

General Manager / Associate Vice President – Operations — ThyssenKrupp Automotives Ltd., Ford Suppliers' Park, Chennai

1999 – 2006

- Led operations for a multi-national automotive components business.

Senior Manager – Tool Room & Production Engineering — Lucas TVS, Pondicherry

1996 – 1999

Management Trainee → Department Manager – Engine Division — HAL, Bangalore

1982 – 1996

- Methods / Process Planning, Tool Design / Planning, Procurement, Projects and Design Liaison.

EDUCATION

- B.E. (Hons.), Mechanical Engineering — College of Engineering, Guindy, University of Madras (1977 – 1982)
- M.Tech., Aircraft Production Technology — Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (1984 – 1986)

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENTS

- Professor of Practice — Institutions of Higher Education (from 2024)
- Freelance Auditor, Operations & Quality Systems — Business Enterprises (from 2022)
- Adviser & Consultant — Chennai-based Global Engineering Group (from 2019)

- Facilitator, Winning Edge Programs — Born to Win, T. Nagar, Chennai (from 2017)
- Health & Wellness Coach — US-based Multi-national Nutrition Company (from 2005)

CORE COMPETENCIES & LANGUAGES

Operations Management • Supply Chain & Logistics • Manufacturing & Production Engineering • Tool Room & Process Engineering • Quality Systems & Auditing • Public Speaking & Facilitation
English (Full Professional) • Tamil (Native / Bilingual)