

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GANDHINAGAR

NORMS ON OVERSEAS RESEARCH EXPERIENCE **FOR PH.D STUDENTS**

(As approved by the Board of Governors in its 9th meeting held on 28th March 2013)

The Institute is committed to have a rigorous PhD programme for preparing outstanding academic leaders and researchers. Efforts are being made to attract the best talent in the country to join the Institute's PhD programme and to provide the best possible learning environment and research experience to them. As part of these efforts, it is envisioned that an exposure to some of the state-of-the-art research facilities and interaction with prominent researchers overseas will widen the perspective of these students and give a tremendous boost to their confidence level. It is also imperative that such a research experience be for a significant duration so that the students can get some tangible outputs from their visit overseas.

The following norms have been arrived at with the above context in mind. It is understood that these norms will be reviewed and revised periodically to meet the needs of changed circumstances as the Institute grows and as the experience is gained on implementation of this scheme.

1. Full-time PhD students who have successfully completed their requirements of qualifying examination are eligible for financial assistance to go for overseas research experience. The applicant is expected to have an excellent academic performance and impeccable record of interpersonal relations. The student, with help from the supervisor(s), should establish contact with the overseas collaborator to layout the research objectives and seek a written consent from the host professor.
2. This scheme will provide support to a student only once during his/her entire PhD programme for a duration of the overseas visit being approximately one semester (4 – 6 months).
3. Financial support given to PhD students for:
 - Overseas conferences (up to Rs. 2 lakh) and
 - Doing research in a foreign lab (up to \$12500) will be contingent on students clearing the scientific writing certification. In exceptional cases, this requirement may be waived if a student cannot obtain the certification but can demonstrate enough evidence of having made an attempt to learn and improve his/her scientific writing capabilities. Waivers may be given by the Director upon recommendation of the Dean, Academic Affairs.
4. This financial assistance can support the expenses related to visas, air travel (including local travel within the foreign country for attending any conferences), health insurance during the visit, and a lump-sum maintenance allowance to support accommodation and boarding (food) expenses. The lump-sum maintenance allowance payable to the student during the visit will be US\$ 500 per week for US/ Canada/ Europe/ Japan/ New Zealand/ Australia and US\$ 300 per week for the other countries. The dates of travel will be included in counting the number of weeks.

5. The amount to be provided by way of financial support will be subject to an overall ceiling of US\$ 12,500 per student.
6. A committee comprising Dean (Academic Affairs), Dean (Research and Development), and Dean (Student Affairs) may consider applications supported/endorsed by faculty supervisor(s) and make appropriate recommendations to the Director for approval.

7. A recipient of this support may seek additional support from other sources including the organization of intended visit overseas, and/or, meet a part of the expenditure through personal finances/loans. The concerned faculty supervisors may also consider supporting the students partially through their own projects or professional development accounts.
8. The student will be treated to be on academic leave during such a visit. Hence, the student will register at the Institute for the semester(s) and continue to draw scholarship. Thesis grade submission and other such administrative requirements will be taken care of by the supervisor(s) based on the feedback from the overseas professor.
9. In case a student decides to do academic registration at the overseas university/institute, he/she may request the Institute for transfer of credits in lieu thereof. However, the Institute will not pay any fees or charges to the host university/institute.
10. Expenditure on this scheme will be covered from the “Excellence Funds” as approved by the Board of Governors from time to time, such as donations, interest income of the endowment, and overheads and savings of the projects.

Above norms do not necessarily mean that the Institute is committed to providing full funding for students. The Institute may set a lower limit for funding or provide partial financial support on a case to case basis.