INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GANDHINAGAR

Norms for e-Masters Degree Programme

(As approved by the BoG in its 34th meeting held on 28 April 2022 and updated in the 61st meeting of the Senate held on 15th November 2022)

Overview: The rapidly evolving technology landscape is making it indispensable for professionals to continually upgrade their skill sets. A platform that enables practicing professionals to build expertise in a focused knowledge domain is expected to add immense value to individuals as well as corporate organizations. To create such a platform, an e-Masters degree program has been introduced at IITGN. The candidates admitted under this program would typically undertake 48 credits of coursework focusing on an advanced knowledge domain. The program may be in areas of our expertise or in areas addressing present societal needs, like Safety Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, and Data Science. The program would be generally spread over a duration of 1 year; this program would not have a thesis requirement.

The following points summarize some important aspects of the program:

1. **Scope and Principle**
   - This program is intended for working professionals who wish to enhance their knowledge in emerging areas.
   - The program has a flexible executive-friendly structure enabling the enrolled candidates to concurrently work in their existing professions.
   - The program is designed for a duration ranging from 6 months to 2 years, depending on the nature of the domain in which e-Masters would be offered.
   - The participants enrolled in the program are expected to complete the program requirements in a maximum of 3 years.

2. **Admissions**
   - Details of the specific program (nature of the domain in which e-Masters is proposed to be offered, suite of courses required for specialization) would be developed by a faculty group or discipline, and presented before the SAPC and the Senate for further consideration.
   - The academic office would develop the corresponding implementation details (e.g. number of positions available, supplementary advertisement) from time to time in consultation with the faculty group or discipline.
   - Candidates with Bachelor's degree will be eligible to apply to this program; they are not required to have a GATE score.
   - Candidates, with two or more years of cumulative experience, would be given a preference. Candidates with excellent academic records may, however, be provided an exception.
   - Specific programs may develop their own criteria from time to time, over and above the Senate-approved minimum qualifications, for shortlisting the best candidates.

- The shortlisted candidates would appear for a written test and/or interview conducted by the specific programs based on which their final selection would be made. Specific programs may decide from time to time a suitable mode (online or offline) for conducting the written test/interview.
- The recommendations for admissions will be made through the Dean of Academic Affairs to the Director for approval.

3. Educational plan

- The candidates enrolled in the e-Masters programme are expected to earn a minimum of 48 credits of coursework, including 8 credits (minimum) of capstone project, by completing a suite of courses recommended for specialization.
- The coursework will consist of the following components:
    - Foundational Courses to rebuild the fundamentals in the focused domain (minimum of 4 credits)
    - Core Courses to build expertise in the focused domain (minimum of 16 credits)
    - Humanities and leaderships courses to nurture critical thinking, creativity, communication, teamwork, and initiatives (minimum of 4 credits)
    - 8 credits (minimum) of capstone project to find solutions to industry relevant design problems in an independent fashion. The 8 credits can be divided into two projects of 4 credits each.
- The courses would integrate synchronous and asynchronous modes of learning. The schedules may be designed such that the live sessions would be conducted over the weekends, suited to the schedules of working professionals. These live sessions would be complemented by the self-paced learning components (reading material and recorded videos), helping the professionals to learn at their disposal.
- The courses offered by the institute in other programs may be extended to e-Masters students with prior permission on a case-to-case basis.
- The courses offered in this program may be aligned with the regular semester or the summer term.
- The candidates enrolled in this program are expected to spend a minimum of two weeks on campus, which would enable them to experience campus, obtain hands-on learning through lab sessions, network with experienced professionals, and complete any in-person evaluations. Candidates, who intend to stay on campus for durations longer than two weeks, would be suitably facilitated for the same.
- The residency requirement may be waived for some programs and international candidates. In such scenarios, an equivalent academic requirement should be appropriately designed by the specific program and fulfilled by the participant.
- The courses would generally be conducted through online learning platforms by subject-matter experts from industry and academia from India and abroad.
- The honorarium and/or coordination fees to the resource persons would be

paid as per the norms of IITGN-X. The coordinators can invite resource persons (instructors and teaching associates) for conducting the courses or sessions for assisting in the same. For some courses, a higher rate of honorarium/coordination fees may be needed. In such cases, IITGN-X will negotiate with the internal and external stakeholders, and accordingly propose it to the Director for approval, through Dean R&D, from time to time.

4. Assessment

- The performance evaluation of a candidate would be carried out by awarding a letter grade in each of his/her courses by the concerned Instructor-in-Charge. A performance index (PI, weighted average of grade points in all the courses accredited) would be maintained for these candidates.
- The candidates would have a maximum of 3 years to complete the program.
- e-Masters students, who are unable to complete the program, would have the provision to change the program to Focus School Program, as an exit option. Hence, a Focus School Program would also be approved along with an e-Master program under the same title, which can also be offered independently from time to time to other candidates.

5. Outcome

- The candidates enrolled in this programme would be considered regular students of the institute. Accordingly, they would have access to all facilities on campus including Laboratories, Library, Career Development Services, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center. They would also be granted an Alumni status upon successful completion.
- The candidates successfully completing this program would be conferred an e-Master's degree (e.g. e-Master's in Data Analytics, e-Master's in Safety Engineering)
- If a candidate plans to join another program at IITGN, during or after the e-Masters, the credits earned by the candidate in all courses except the foundational courses would be transferred.

6. Fee Structure

- A registration fee of Rs. 1,20,000 will be charged for this program.
- The candidates enrolled in this program would be required to pay a tuition fee of Rs 10,000 per registered credit. This fee includes the hostel fees corresponding to the minimum residential requirement. The candidates would be required to pay the tuition fees in three installments - the first installment would be for 8 credits, the second installment would be for 12 credits, and the third installment would be for the remaining credits of the program. Any additional or repeat credits would be charged at the same rate.
- Some candidates may be offered scholarships covering partial or full tuition fees on the recommendation of the Dean of Student Affairs/Dean of Academic Affairs and approval by the Director.
- The candidates would pay charges for meals etc. as applicable for the residency period.