

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GANDHINAGAR

Norms for Interim Sessions for Course Offerings

(As approved by the Senate in its 41st meeting held on 17th February 2020)

Background:

IIT Gandhinagar follows the semester system in which courses are offered in two semesters that run from August to November and January to April. A few courses are also offered through a separate Summer Term from mid-May to early-July, primarily to help students clear their backlogs.

Given the institute's increasing emphasis on active, experiential learning, there is a need to create a separate vehicle for courses to run in an immersive and intensive manner. Such a format is often followed when projects are the primary form of learning, for example, in Design schools. It allows students to dedicate their entire effort to project work, without being distracted by the load of other courses. Specifically, in the context of IITGN, such a mechanism will also allow the institute to leverage more effectively some Visiting Faculty, who are at the Institute for a short duration such as a month, but are only able to offer 1-credit short courses at the moment. In this context, the following is proposed.

Proposal:

1. The institute will develop 3-week "Interim Sessions" to run between the regular semesters, i.e. during the Summer and Winter breaks.
2. The primary thrust of the Interim Sessions will be to leverage opportunities for intensive, creative and experimental courses that are most effectively conducted in immersive, project-oriented, studio, field or travel modules.
3. Innovative 2- or 3-week long courses that meet for 4 to 6 hours per day will be offered during these Interim Sessions.
4. These courses will typically be electives and offered for credit (see details below), and IITGN students will be able to count credits earned from such courses towards their graduation requirements.
5. The Chairman, Senate will approve Interim Session courses upon recommendation of the Dean, Academic Affairs.

Credits:

1. Since courses in the Interim Sessions will run in an immersive, studio style format, the expected faculty-student engagement will be higher than usual - about 60 hours for 4 credits. Thus, a 3-week course that requires faculty-student engagement for at least 4 hours per day from Monday to Friday, will give students the opportunity to earn 4 credits. Likewise, a 2-week course that runs at least for 6 hours per day from Monday to Friday will also yield 4 credits.
2. Credits earned via these courses, besides being counted towards graduation requirements, will also count towards the Honors and Minors requirements.
3. Courses will typically be of 3 or 4 credits. Any 2-credit course proposals may be considered for approval on a case-by-case basis.

Eligibility:

1. All IITGN students will be eligible to register for courses during the Interim Sessions.
2. Students from other academic institutions in India as well as abroad may also be allowed to register for such courses. These Visiting Students will receive transcripts for their work from IITGN, but will need to determine from their home institutions if the credits earned will transfer or count toward their graduation requirements.
3. Students may register for only one Interim Session course at a time. This course should not overlap with any other course (for example, a summer term course).

Fees:

1. For students of Indian academic institutions including IITGN: Summer tuition rates applicable to IITGN undergraduate students (currently Rs. 5000 per credit) will apply.
2. For international students: USD 400 per credit.
3. Hostel, meals and other charges will be extra, and as per prevailing norms.
4. Additional expenses related to field visits, travel, etc., if applicable, will be borne by the student.
5. IITGN students that are provided tuition fees waiver during the regular semesters will be provided tuition fee waiver for the interim session.
6. Tuition fee waivers in other deserving cases may be given by the Director based on the recommendation of the Dean, Academic Affairs.

Other Details:

1. Courses that are best studied in a slower, progressive manner and require time to assimilate cannot be offered in the Interim Sessions. Rather, courses that run during the interim sessions are generally expected to be hands-on, immersive and experiential.
2. These courses will follow the usual grading pattern and system of letter grades. Students will however be permitted to convert the letter grades to "Pass/Fail", subject to the usual norms of the "Pass/Fail" option.
3. IITGN faculty teaching courses in the Interim Session may receive an honorarium (or Professional Development funds) in lieu of the teaching load.

Expected Benefits:

The Interim Sessions provide an opportunity to:

1. Leverage Visiting Faculty from India and abroad more deeply by conducting full-fledged innovative courses, which will be beneficial and of greater appeal to students than current short courses, which do not count toward their graduation requirements and which often conflict with their schedule.
2. Attract international and other Indian students who may be interested in some modules, which could be eligible for credit at their home institution.
3. Enable IITGN to expand its global exchange program by creating course opportunities for foreign institutions, which their students can avail.
4. Collaborate with study abroad programs of overseas institutions both to host their students or support their faculty-led study abroad programs.