

# INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GANDHINAGAR

## STUDENT AFFAIRS

### **NORMS FOR IIT GANDHINAGAR GRAM FELLOWSHIP**

**(As approved by the BoG in its 21<sup>st</sup> meeting held on 17 March 2017)**

Rural India remains the backbone of India's economy and heritage. It is often represented by "modern" urban India as backward and uneducated. It is observed that many of the students in India are rarely exposed to rural life, economy, practices and ethos, despite call by policy makers, since independence. IIT Gandhinagar aspires to address this concern by exposing its students to rural India. IIT Gandhinagar Gram Fellowship aims to encourage students to immerse themselves in the experience of what-it-is-like to live in a village. During the fellowship stay, the students would engage with the community to understand their concerns, welfare, values and beyond. This fellowship is expected to be a learning experience rather than a "solution" finding/seeking project to be completed. This fellowship would help the fellows to experience the life of common people who may not have access to sufficient resources. It would also be an opportunity for the fellows to think beyond technological interventions to address the concerns of the community.

The students would also get a chance to understand prevailing socio, political, economic, cultural and humanitarian factors in the community. The students should be ready to volunteer to offer social service to the community during the fellowship. The students are encouraged to earn their livelihood by working for the community. The fellows should stay with the members of the community and be non-judgmental about their way of life. On their return, the fellows may translate their experiences into possibilities of interventions which could address the concerns of the community.

#### **Guidelines**

- Fellows must commit to spend three to eight weeks during the winter (December) or summer break (May – July) either alone or in a group of not more than three.
- The students are expected to identify the village of their engagement well in advance.
- Students are encouraged to work and earn their livelihood during their stay in the village.

#### **Eligibility and Selection**

In order to apply for IIT Gandhinagar Gram Fellowships, applicant must be regular student of IITGN and must be at least 18 years old. It is applicable to the students of all programmes. The students of M.Tech and Ph.D programme availing this fellowship will be granted Academic Leave to undergo this fellowship. All complete applications will be scrutinized by the Senate Scholarships and Prize Committee (SSPC). Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an interview by the committee to make the final selection. The evaluation of the applications would be based on the statement of purpose and the performance during interview, if applicable. The graduating seniors can also avail this fellowship within two months of completing their graduation requirements.

#### **Expenses**

The fellows are expected to travel by non-AC train/bus coach (no air travel allowed). The Institute will reimburse return fare and nominal living expenses to the students. Students are encouraged to earn their living in the village and meet their expenses. If any fellows would like to undertake rural development projects on their return, an amount up to Rs. 25,000/- per fellow will be available. To avail the same, the fellows must submit a proposal to Student Affairs office and Dean, Student Affairs would approve the project based on its merit.

#### **The Application**

An applicant must submit statement of purpose (SoP) delineating the motivation for the fellowship. Upon return the recipient agrees to submit a report describing experiences and analyzing objectives achieved; contribute to the fellowship website; share their experiences with others; and be available to make a presentation to the IITGN community. The applicant is expected to maintain a diary/ blog during the fellowship period; up to two students with best-kept diaries/ blogs will receive a prize of Rs. 5,000/- and a certificate of merit.