INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GANDHINAGAR
NORMS FOR MASTER OF ARTS (MA) IN SOCIETY AND CULTURE

(As approved by Board of Governors in its 9th Meeting held on 28th March 2013, updated in the 24th meeting of the Senate held on 20th July 2016 , 29th meeting of the Senate held on 11th December 2017, 33rd meeting of the Senate held on 22nd November 2018 and 64th meeting of the Senate held on 10 May 2023)

I. Background

The Humanities and Social Sciences(HSS) group at Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IITGN) offers students in the BTech Programme courses aimed at developing essential skills in critical thinking and writing along with the knowledge of literature, society, politics, history, arts and philosophies of the mind and body. It also offers a PhD programme in HSS disciplines that provides personalized and intensive scholarly mentoring to guide original research. The HSS faculty team at IITGN, with its diverse expertise, is uniquely equipped to offer a multidisciplinary Masters Programme with an exceptional potential to attract best students in the country.

II. Why Masters programme?

- The Masters Programme extends the aims and goals of IITGN to provide a well-rounded, broad based and excellent education for the benefit of a larger community interested in both arts and sciences.

- The multidisciplinary profile of faculty at IITGN aims to provide a programme that interweaves approaches from different disciplines and addresses the gap of interdisciplinary learning in higher education in India.

- The Programme gives to IITGN faculty and students a platform to disseminate research ideas and also establish a dialogue with academia/industry/policy makers for collaborative research.

- Given the strength and skills available in the Humanities and Social Sciences Group at IITGN, the Programme is in a position to be a leading one in the country.

- The Programme would enable students to pursue a PhD in any of the disciplines s/he chooses to specialize in, and also be equipped to partake of a range of employment opportunities (media, NGOs, consultancy, communications industry).

- We envision this to be a broad Humanities and Social Sciences programme that gives students exposure to the many disciplines that fall under HSS along with interconnections between them. For instance, a student is able to understand how Political Science is different from History, in that one looks at structures of governance and power, while the other has a more temporal emphasis. Having said that, the two disciplines work in tandem and at the end of the course the student should be able to see that, enabling him/her to make an informed choice about his/her academic focus in the future.

III. What are the focus areas?

The HSS at IITGN recognizes that an interdisciplinary approach to the study of culture, society and politics, will ensure intellectual flexibility and rigor in the use of theory and methodology. To establish that, the programme is organized around the following *indicative* and overlapping themes:

- Identity and difference
- Knowledge systems
- Systems of power
- Negotiations between arts and ideology
- History and memory
- Development and exclusion
- Global and local systems

Through the rigorous coursework and guided research project, it is expected that students in the programme will

be able to develop conceptual tools to critically analyze structural inequalities relating to gender, sexuality, class, caste, national identity and find ways to address them more effectively.

IV. Curriculum Structure and other features of the programme

(a) Highly competitive awards will be available to support students in attending conferences or to participate in summer internships at well recognized organizations/institutes.

(b) A minimum of **80 credits** will be needed to successfully complete the programme. This includes a minimum 56 credits of coursework, and minimum of 20 credits of research project. Masters students in this programme will be required to take **6 out of 10** available Core courses and the remaining credits will be complemented by a cluster of electives. Students who were admitted before AY 2023-24, are required to complete 4 to 6 core courses as per the list shown for such students in **Appendix 1**. A hypothetical roadmap indicating the credit structure and tentative courses has been appended (See **Appendix 2**).

(c) The **Electives** in this programme include at least two courses (8 credits) from disciplines other than HSS (Engineering/Natural Sciences). The goal of this unique provision is to give students an exposure to the range of disciplines covered by the IITGN faculty community.

(d) Elective courses include those that are either offered by the parent discipline or aligned disciplines in the general area of the programme of study. In some cases appropriate undergraduate courses could also be offered as electives for the MA programme. However, electives could also be taken from the entire pool of postgraduate as well as undergraduate courses offered by any discipline in the institute. In keeping with the Institute's philosophy of emphasizing the interdisciplinary approach, students are required to take at **least 8 credits of courses arising from Engineering/Natural Sciences disciplines** besides **FP 602 – Writing (4 credits)**.

(e) Students can also take up an **Independent Study** (eg. Project courses) with any IITGN faculty member and earn credits towards it. A maximum of 12 credits out of Electives can be acquired through Independent Study courses.

(f) Over the first two semesters, students are encouraged to start thinking about acquiring research experience through single or multiple projects and interact with faculty members. Before registering for research project credits, an adviser will be identified for each student. Students will be required to submit a research report for assessment purposes to the concerned faculty/committee on the work performed during the semester. Based on the report, the committee/concerned faculty will award a letter grade for each discrete unit (4 credits) of research project work.

(g) **Research Project** - This correlates with approximately six courses. At least 20 credits of research project work will be expected as a requirement for successful completion of the MA program.

(h) Part of credit fulfillment may take place through a student's immersion in institutions other than IITGN. In such cases, equivalent **credit transfer** will be considered.

(i) **Summer research internships/projects** on or off campus are required as part of the Master's curriculum to help students to complement their research activities, build networks/professional references and advance their career aspirations.

(j) Completing PG Orientation Programme **Aarohan** (2 Credits) is a **mandatory graduation requirement** for all MA students. [*Note: The two credits for Aarohan is in addition to the minimum credit requirements of 80 credits required for completing graduation requirements*].

- *Aarohan* is a **two-week long programme** that all the newly joined students are expected to successfully complete before they commence the first semester in their academic programme. It would

have 5 themes (Inventing and Discovering, Communication, Professionalism and Ethics, Social Engagement, Well-being).

- In cases where a student fails to clear *Aarohan*, they must clear an additional two credits worth of HSS courses for graduation (applicable for all students who join from Semester – II, 2022-23 onwards).

(k) Students joining the MA programme (from semester – I, 2021-22 onwards) **must complete two Physical Education (PE) courses**, one each in their first two semesters, as part of their graduation requirements. These courses will be evaluated on a Pass/No Pass grade basis.

(l) The **minimum eligibility criteria** for applying to the Master's programme is as follows: Bachelor's degree in any examination (e.g. BA/BSc (Hons), BTech, BE, etc.) with at least 55% marks in aggregate (5.5 CGPA for students with letter grades/CGPA) for General/OBC category candidates and at least 50% aggregate marks (5.0 CGPA for students with letter grades/CGPA) for SC, ST and PwD category candidates.

(m) The **admission process** will include a combination of review of application, an entrance examination and interviews. However, the faculty will review the effectiveness of admission process to fine-tune it from time to time.

V. Early Termination

(Applicable for students admitted from AY 2023-24)

- Any student failing to **earn a minimum of 28 credits within one year from his/her start of the first year programme** (either due to admission or due to restart) should **start his/her programme afresh or exit the programme**. A student needs to secure a passing grade for earning the credits registered for the course.

- If the programme is restarted, then the credits earned and semesters registered prior to restart will not be carried over.

- Restart will be permitted only once.

- In case the CPI of a student falls below 6.0 out of 10, the fellowship provided, if any, by the Institute will be stopped immediately and for the future.

- There will be **no maximum permissible duration** to complete the requirements of the programme. However, at any time, credits earned older than eight years will be deemed expired and will not count towards the graduation requirements.

(Applicable for students admitted before AY 2023-24)

- Any student failing to earn a minimum of 26 credits at the end of first two registered (active) semesters can either apply to start his/her programme afresh or will have to exit the programme.

- If the programme is restarted, then the credits earned and semesters registered prior to restart will not be carried over.

- If a student fails to earn 26 credits in the first two semesters but successfully completes 15 or more credits in the second active semester, then only the first semester will be repeated, i.e., the student will be deemed to have fresh start from the second active semester.

- The restart will be permitted only once.

- Upon restart, the student must successfully complete a minimum of 12 credits at the end of first semester and a minimum of 26 credits at the end of first two semesters, or else his/her admission will be terminated and no further chance shall be given.

- The maximum period allowed to complete the programme will be three years (the first year or first semester if repeated will not be counted).

APPENDIX 1: CORE COURSES

(Applicable for students admitted before AY 2023-24)

- Debates in Sociology and Anthropology
- Political Thought
- Literature, Theory, and Social Context
- Critical Approaches in History
- Research Methods in Humanities and Social Sciences
- Perspectives on Indian Civilization

(Applicable for students admitted from AY 2023-24)

- Critical Perspectives in Anthropology
- Critical Perspectives in Sociology
- Political Thought
- Literature, Theory, and Social Context
- Perspectives in History
- Perspectives on Indian Civilization
- Developmental Economics
- Reading Philosophy: Classical, Contemporary and Global Perspectives
- Qualitative Social Science Research Methods
- Quantitative Social Science Research Methods

APPENDIX 2: A HYPOTHETICAL ROAD-MAP

Credit Structure: The program will follow a structure of 4 semesters and registration during the summer in between. The minimum number of credits required for the graduation is 80. The distributions of the credits are given below.

Description	Minimum Credits
Course Work (Core)	24
Course Work (Electives)	24
Engineering/Natural Science Courses	08
Writing (FP 602)	04
Research Seminar and Research Project	20
Total Credits for Graduation [Excluding credits through Aarohan]	80
Aarohan	02
Physical Education Courses	2 Courses

The following structure is indicative, so as to depict the possible distribution of various credit components (Core, Electives and Research project) for students admitted from AY 2023-24.

Semester	Courses	Credits
I	Three Core, Two electives, Physical Education, *Aarohan*	**20** **(+2 credits of Aarohan)**
II	FP 602, Three Core, One Research Seminar, Physical Education	**20**
III	Summer Research/Internship (HS 594), Four Electives, Research Proposal	**24**
IV	One elective, Three Research Project OR Four Research Project	**16**