

# INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GANDHINAGAR

## **DEFINITION OF STATUS FOR STUDENTS IN THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME AND NORMS FOR CONTINUING DOCTORAL PROGRAMME (CDP)**

(As approved by the Senate in its 18<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2014 and  
updated in its 68<sup>th</sup> meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024)

PhD student status shall be defined across three non-academic dimensions as defined below:

### **1. Financial Sponsorship**

PhD students admitted to IITGN can be financially sponsored wholly by the **Institute**, in form of fellowship admissible as per MoE guidelines. All other students will be considered to be on **non-Institute** financial sponsorship, which also includes self-sponsorship. The financial sponsorship status of the student who gets a top-up fellowship in addition to full fellowship through MoE funds shall be treated as **Institute**. Similarly, financial sponsorship status of the student who gets partial fellowship (less than 25% of full fellowship amount) from MoE funds shall be treated as **non-Institute**. Other supports such as project fellowship, financially self-sponsored, state government or private fellowships shall also be treated as **non-Institute**.

### **2. Nature of Participation**

PhD students may participate in their PhD programme either in the **Full-Time** mode or in the **Part-Time** mode. Candidates pursuing PhD in the full-time mode should not be working elsewhere simultaneously and are expected to spend full-time working towards their PhD degree. However, candidates pursuing their PhD in the part-time mode are permitted to be employed during their PhD tenure.

### **3. External Candidates vs Non-External Candidates**

Irrespective of the nature of participation, courses other than approved online courses are to be attended in person at IITGN, unless otherwise permitted. Apart from courses, the student's availability to discuss his/her thesis and access research facilities on a regular basis is dependent upon whether the student is located in the Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar area or outside. Depending upon this, the student's status shall be treated as External or Non-External (i.e. student from Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar region and available for research work/discussion/guidance in the Institute whenever needed).

Accordingly, the following are the possibilities of status of a PhD student.

Sl. No.	Financial Sponsorship	Nature of Participation	External/ Non-External	Eligible for Institute Fellowship
1	Institute	Full-Time	Non-External	Yes
2	Non-Institute	Full-Time	Non-External	No
3	Non-Institute	Full-Time	External	No
4	Non-Institute	Part-Time	Non-External	No
5	Non-Institute	Part-Time	External	No

PhD students may be broadly classified to be under the '**Regular**' category or under the **Continuing Doctoral Programme** (CDP) category depending on the nature of participation. CDP is meant for candidates who given their family or professional constraints are unable to pursue the regular doctoral programme offered by IITGN.

**Norms for CDP (applicable for students admitted from Semester I, 2024-25 onwards)**

- Candidates admitted to the PhD programme under the CDP category can directly join the PhD programme.
- The residency requirement for the candidates will be the time required to do the course work offered offline. Further, the candidates are encouraged to spend at least two weeks every semester at IITGN to ensure steady progress in their PhD research work.
- The curricular requirements will be the same as that of a regular PhD programme. However, the requirements of Aarohan and Physical Education courses are waived off.
- Rest of the requirements for the PhD programme shall be applicable to CDP candidates as approved by the Institute from time to time.

**Norms for CDP (applicable for students admitted before Semester I, 2024-25)**

In order to facilitate advanced educational opportunities for such candidates, IITGN will provide an opportunity of "advance admission" with one year of preparatory period; but once admitted they are required to follow the overall requirements of the regular PhD programme. The key features of CDP are listed below:

- It is envisaged that not more than 20 percent of the total PhD degrees offered by IITGN will be comprised of such non-regular PhD candidates.
- Applications should be sponsored and financially supported by their parent organizations/institutions. The parent organization/institutions should also preferably make provisions for activities such as travel to and participation in conferences. No scholarship/fellowship will be paid by IIT Gandhinagar.

- The selected candidate should be available for a preparatory phase [extending over one year] during which they will spend a minimum of 90 days at the Institute in pursuit of background preparation, outlining of research proposal, literature review, fulfilling communication skills requirements etc.
- No tuition fees will be charged during the preparatory phase. Candidates will be required to pay other prescribed levies and deposits.
- On successful completion of preparatory phase, the candidates will be formally enrolled for the PhD programme for which they will have to pay the prescribed tuition and other fees.
- Such candidates are expected to complete the coursework early on in the doctoral programme.
- For all candidates through CDP, minimum two years of residency is required, preferably before the proposal defense. In addition, the CDP programme also requires at least 2 weeks of residency at the Institute during each semester all through the PhD programme, unless it is waived in a semester by the Dean, Academic Affairs for genuine reasons.
- Candidates should be released by their parent organization/institutions for a minimum of two years full time study and research at IIT Gandhinagar. Subsequently, assessment of the candidate will be made by the Doctoral Studies Committee (DSC). If the candidate is deemed to have made substantial progress in his/her research and that there is a reasonable chance that the remaining work can be done by him/her in the parent organization/institution to fulfill the requirements for submission of the PhD thesis, candidates may be permitted to rejoin their parent organizations / institutions.
- IITGN does not require these non-regular candidates to have an advisor at their home institute/university/research lab/company. In case there is a co-advisor or mentor from the parent organization, he/she can also be included in the DSC of that student.
- All candidates admitted under this special scheme would be governed by all rules and regulations of IITGN, inclusive of conformity with the prescribed ethical norms. In some instances, the parent organization/institute may not be in a position to financially support the candidate(s) and the candidate(s) may be utilizing his/her/their earned / half-pay leave etc., IIT Gandhinagar may at its discretion give suitable waiver to related requirements.