

## **IIIT Bangalore's PG Program in Software Development**

### **Community Guidelines**

#### ***Role of the discussion forum***

Through the discussion forum, you have access to an amazing group of passionate professionals, that will become the biggest source of your learning throughout the program. This network is going to form large part of your learning experience and you should leverage it well. Your peers will be your friends, critics, colleagues and a sounding board for your doubts throughout this journey.

However, the value of the community heavily depends on your contribution to it as well i.e. on what you upvote, what questions you ask, what you reply or what you mark as inappropriate.

This document has some guidelines, which you should follow to derive maximum benefit from the community and discussion forum.

#### ***Scoring on the Discussion Forum***

- Upvotes from peers on your answer/ question attracts points. Simply posting questions or answers will not fetch you any points.
- TAs will be approving answers on relevant questions and considerably more points will be awarded for verified answers.
- TA's will monitor the forum regularly. If a post violates the community guidelines, it may be flagged as inappropriate and will be deleted. Such posts, may attract a score penalty. Hence, you are requested to read through and adhere by the below mentioned guidelines. This will also ensure that you and your peers get maximum benefit from the discussion forum.

For the main program, your discussion forum scores have been reset.

#### ***What kind of questions should I avoid posting?***

- Whether you are asking a question or starting a discussion, first ask yourself - is this going to help other learners of this program. If the answer is no, don't post.
- Asking about non-academic queries like deadlines should be done directly through your student mentor. You can contact your student mentor through the support tab on the platform.
- If you see that the question you want to ask already exists on the discussion forum, then, don't create a new question. You can **upvote the original question**.
- Is the question you are posting more than just social fun? If no, then don't post it.

- If you see a question which you believe should not belong in the peer discussion forum, do report it as inappropriate. You have the option of doing so on the post itself. It will keep the forum relevant for everyone. TA's will keep a track of flagged posts and remove them if found inappropriate.

### ***What kind of response should I avoid giving?***

If you are thinking about writing a response, pat yourself on your back. It is because of helpful learners like you that makes this peer to peer discussion forum valuable. It makes learning together fun and social. However, please ensure that the following points are taken into consideration while adding a response.

- Thanking other people is appreciated but it doesn't add much value to the discussion and hence can be avoided. If you like some content (question / responses), upvote it instead of responding by "thanks" or "that was great" etc. This also ensures that person who posted the content gets credit for it.
- Before posting questions/responses like "I have the same question / I was about to say the same", think from the perspective of your fellow peer. Having too many responses like "I feel the same", "Great question" "Great answer", "Thanks" etc., would clutter the forum. Hence, in such situations, always **upvote the question or the answer** you want to appreciate/have a similar query.
- Is your post a response to original question or a follow up to another response? If it's a follow up, then please add a comment to the answer you are replying to instead of creating a new response.
- Be civil and polite. For example, writing with CAPS LOCK ON is like yelling. Hence, you must refrain from using all CAPS. Similarly, a good civil discourse is about respecting each other even though you may not agree on everything.

If you feel your query is not being answered appropriately, please reach out to your student mentors, who will help get it addressed appropriately.

### ***Discussion Forum Etiquettes***

- Please put a discussion in the relevant topic. Posting a discussion in a wrong or irrelevant topic would be counter-productive as you/your peers may not be able to find this post later.
- Don't cross-post the same thing in multiple topics.
- Don't divert a discussion by changing it midstream.
- Don't sign your posts with your name at the end. Every post has your profile information attached to it.
- Fill in your profile if you haven't already and put up your profile photo. It helps to attach a face to discussion.
- Don't prefix your post with Hi All / Hi Friends. Greetings are implicitly implied.
- Make it easy for your peers/TA to respond to you quickly. Use appropriate formatting to help identify your problem. Also, since this program will involve coding, you are requested to share screenshots of the code/error. Also mention the environment you are using. This will ensure that TAs and peers can answer your query quickly.
- Keep questions crisp and readable. Use descriptions with the question to elaborate.
- If you see a problem, someone not following these guidelines do not hesitate to report the question, answer or comment. If found inappropriate, the question/response will be removed from the forum.

- You should not post something that belongs to someone else without permission. You should not post someone's intellectual property (software, video, audio, images), or any links to it as it would break the laws.

### ***Summary***

The discussion forum is a very powerful tool and must be driven by you! Keeping the discussion forum relevant depends on what questions and responses are upvoted and reported. **Class participation scores depend heavily on what content gets upvoted and what content gets reported.**

Help us make this a wonderful place for stimulating discussions by always working to contribute meaningfully to the discussions. Any feedback on discussion forum can be sent to your student mentor. We take feedbacks utmost seriously as we believe that the value of this discussion forum directly depends on you.