FAQs regarding academic and other matters during COVID-19

Welcome to the FAQs for academic and other matters during COVID-19, a series of responses to questions that you have about navigating through these COVID-19 doldrums with nary a bump in your academics and professional careers!

How do I use this document?

These FAQs have been divided into two broad parts.

Part I contains answers to those questions which are common to most responses to the survey floated on Student Notices.

Part II contains the answers to individual questions. In case your question has been answered in Part A, you will be redirected to the appropriate section in Part A. Otherwise, an answer will be provided to you in Part B. In case you want us to reply to you with the answer to your questions, kindly write to the General Secretaries. We will revert back to you with answers to questions that you have asked.

This page will be periodically updated, so do keep checking in to see if your question has been answered!

PART I: Common Questions

   A. <u>**Regarding Academics**</u>

   1.   a) Status of courses that students have registered for in the Spring semester:
        Spring semester 2019-20 is expected to resume from June 01, 2020 and continue for a maximum period of 7 weeks with class-room instructions, end-sem examinations and presentations / assessment of all kinds of seminars/projects. This applies to all courses / seminars / projects for which the evaluations are yet incomplete. The time-table will remain the same. Due care will be taken to help the students by providing additional interaction time with TAs/RAs/course instructors and adjusting course contents, wherever needed.
        b) Dissemination of material for courses
        As of now, evaluations are planned primarily based on the content that is already covered as well as expected to be covered as a part of class-room instructions only. The instructions / contents, which are covered / provided on-line - during March 16, 2020 to March 31, 2020 - will remain available till the end of last date of class-room instructions. This will help those students who might not have been able to participate due to poor internet connectivity and these students should proactively contact the respective course instructors as soon as they are able to do so. Course instructors will remain considerate about including this part of the instructions (provided on-line during March 16, 2020 to March 31, 2020) in the end-sem examination or any other instance / mode of evaluations.
        c) Grading and examination modalities for these courses:
        No change is planned. The current guidelines as approved by the IITB Senate are expected to be followed
        d) What happens to the labs and lab end-sems?
        No change is planned. The current guidelines as approved by the IITB Senate are expected to be followed.
        f) For this period, what will the status of the stipend for all MTech TA/RA; TA PhD students be?
        No change is planned. All final year UG students registered for BTP/DDP, 2nd and older year masters' students registered for MTP or working as RA, and PhD students may be permitted to return the Institute as soon as the same will be permitted by the concerned authority.

2. Regarding Seminars/RnD Courses and Course/Mini Projects:
The seminars and mini-projects unless they require substantial experimental work may continue as per other courses of the Spring semester. The evaluation schedule will be according to the modified semester timeline.

3. Regarding Summer Courses:
The formal Summer Semester, 2019-20 is cancelled. A few summer courses will run in self-study and on-line mode during April 01, 2020 - May 31, 2020 depending on available resources only. Evaluation of all summer courses will be completed latest by June 09, 2020. Evaluation can be in-person exam or assignment based - as decided appropriately by the course instructor. This option will be open to only final and older year students who are expected to graduate by July, 2020. Such students should contact their respective HoD / Faculty Advisor to follow up.

4. Regarding the Project Work of graduating DD/MTech/BTech/MPhil/MDes students:
All final year UG students registered for BTP/DDP, 2nd and older year masters' students registered for MTP or working as RA, and PhD students may be permitted to return to the Institute as soon as the same will be permitted by the concerned authority. Last date of presentation / assessment of all kinds of projects / seminars will remain as June 30, 2020. Reduced time duration for these assignments will be considered appropriately (e.g. re-planning of objectives, grading, etc.) by the supervisors and examiners.

5. Regarding the Project Work of pre-final year students:
Most of what has been mentioned in the answer above is also applicable in this case. Similarly, the quantum and quality of the work will be suitably judged by the evaluating faculty members.

6. Regarding the Project Work for Research Scholars:
All PhD students may be permitted to return to the Institute as soon as the same will be approved by the concerned authority. All APS/Pre Synopsis presentations scheduled / warranted to be completed by April 30, 2020 are suggested to plan in VC mode only. In case of difficulty, a natural extension till May 31, 2020 can be considered in consultation with the supervisor and RPC members. Any other scheduled last date [e.g. conversion from MTech to MTech+PhD, etc.], prior to May 31, 2020, will be considered favorably on case to case basis.

7. Research Scholars towards the end of their programmes:
a) All PhD students may be permitted to return to the Institute as soon as the same will be approved by the concerned authority. All APS/Presynopsis presentations scheduled / warranted to be completed by April 30, 2020 are suggested to plan in VC mode only. In case of difficulty, a natural extension till May 31, 2020 can be considered in consultation with the supervisor and RPC members. Defence examination, if being planned in VC mode, may be attempted in consultation with [dracad@iitb.ac.in] during the lockdown period. All papers confirming to the successful completion of the presentation will be maintained by the concerned supervisor till the academic office is able to function properly.
b) The stipend of students will not be affected and should be credited as per norms.
c) Submission of thesis may be attempted in consultation with [dracad@iitb.ac.in] during the lockdown period. All papers confirming the successful completion of the presentation and thesis defence will be maintained by the concerned supervisor till the academic office is able to function properly.

8. The Academic Calendar for the extended Spring Semester:
The specifics of the Academic Calendar for the months of June-July is being worked out. The schedule of the classes, the number of contact hours, dates and examination modalities during this extended semester, once formalized will be communicated to you. The content to be covered for courses may be suitably reduced.

9. The Academic Calendar for the coming semester:
Revised, tentative academic calendar for the spring semester 2019-20 is being worked out and made available once approved by the Chairperson, Senate. The Academic Calendar for 2020-21 remains deferred till further notice.

10. Documents for Graduating Students:
Academic office cannot commit to make any certificate available quickly until the lockdown period is announced as over by the concerned authority. Considering the overall situation everywhere, it does not appear that there would be a pressing need to provide such certificates till April 30, 2020, at least.

However, in case of any real need, students may write to [dracad@iitb.ac.in] with a proper justification.

B. **Regarding Student Summer Activities and Student Well Being**

1. Institute Councils are currently exploring ways to ensure seamless conduction of Planned Summer Activities such as ITSP, SoS, SSoC among others. There will obviously be some disruption due to the lockdown, and unavailability of Institute infrastructure. However, we are working to ensure that this period can be productively used. We will be coming with alternate activities and events to further ensure that people can gain more skills during this lockdown period. Details about these will be released shortly.
2. The Student Wellness Centre is working to ensure that during this lockdown period, students who require counselling can remotely communicate with counsellors. Their details will be made available on the Student Wellness Centre website, along with how and when to contact them.

C. **Regarding Placements and Internships**

1. Will the placement season next year be affected?
   As far as possible, the members of the Placement Cell will ensure that there are minimum disruptions to the placement schedule for the December 2020 iteration of placements. There may be some minor changes, depending on when things get back to normal, and the responses from recruiters.
2. How will the internships occur?
   For students on roll who have applied for internships through the PT Cell, the PT cell has been speaking with recruiters about the possibility of allowing interns to work from home during the internship season, especially in all cases where in-person interaction is non-essential. There will be a loss of some opportunities, if companies revoke the offer or if the internship is an experimental/ University internship. This would also be applicable if the company cannot offer a work from home conducive scope of work or if the student in question is in a remote area with little/no signal access. However, other options are being explored to ensure that maximum people could benefit from the experience of an internship.
   Students selected by a particular firm would be kept in the loop during the conversation with the company officials to overcome challenges by both the stakeholders.
3. What will happen to the 2nd phase of placement?
   Unfortunately, due to the ongoing lockdown, there is an impact on Phase 2 of Placements.
   Universities and other recruiters may approach the Placement Cell once the Institute reopens. The Placement Cell is working to ensure that Placements of students are not compromised.