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## Introduction

Welcome to the session on 'Immersion Pack'.

We have come up with a new feature in the program, i.e., the Immersion Pack. This pack will entail some additional features (on top of your diploma) that you can opt in for, completely free of any cost. You will gain a better understanding of this pack and what it entails as you further go through this document.

## The Immersion Pack and the Need for it

As you might be aware, the PGDDS program sees learners coming from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences. In the past, while many of the learners feel that the program is highly rigorous, other learners in the same program have also said that they had more time on their hands and wanted to dedicate it towards learning. So there are learners who are primarily looking to transition and want to spend more time learning advanced topics, polish interview skills, solve more assessments, participate in hackathons, etc.

The Immersion Pack is an additional feature pack made for such learners, that we are offering on top of the PGDDS program, free of cost, to boost the learning experience of the learners as well as make them more employable during the program phase itself. The pack will have several features, such as mandatory live sessions and SGCs, additional employability tests, additional assessments, hackathons, etc., along with continuous tracking so that the learners who have more time on their hands can dedicate that time during the program to have a more “immersive” learning experience.

## Features of the Immersion Pack

The Immersion Pack will commence from the 10th week after you finish the first assignment in the program. Once the pack commences, you would be given the following features:

- 1. Additional Assessments:** In addition to the in-module assessments that you solve every week, there will be some additional assessments in some weeks that the Immersion Pack learners will be expected to attempt within a given deadline. These additional assessments will be spaced out and will be meant to provide more practice to the learners and help them revise the older concepts as well. These assessments will be more advanced than the in-module assessments present in the base program and will only be accessible to the learners enrolled in the Immersion Pack. In addition to this, many of these assessments will be oriented towards the interviews and hence, will give you a constant practice of interview questions as well.
- 2. One Mandatory Live Session Every Two Weeks:** As you might be aware, every two weeks, live sessions are conducted, which are designed to help you get a better understanding of the modules. Basically, there will be 2 live sessions conducted every alternate week (one on Saturday and the other on Sunday). The sessions on Saturday are meant to be for all the students and the Sunday live sessions will be specifically catered towards the Immersion Pack learners since they will be more advanced. The learners who have not opted in for the Immersion Pack can also attend these sessions but they are primarily being conducted for the ones who do opt in.
- 3. One Mandatory SGC Every Two Weeks:** Just like the live sessions, there will also be an SGC that will be conducted every two weeks, which will be mandatory to attend for an Immersion Pack learner. All SGC sessions will be common to everyone; it's just that the Immersion Pack learners will need to mandatorily attend these sessions. You might be wondering what will happen if you opt in for the Immersion Pack but fail to attend some sessions. This has been answered in the 'Debarring Criteria and Opting Out' section later in this document.

- 4. One Skill Assessment Test per Course:** All the learners are given an employability test at the end of every course. In addition to this, the Immersion Pack learners will also get one additional skill assessment test in-between every course, which they need to attempt. This additional skill assessment test will be provided exclusively to the Immersion Pack learners.
- 5. Hackathons/Labs:** What's better than putting all your skills to test under the pressure of time and competing for that first spot on the leaderboard with your peers? The learners in the immersion pack will have a few hackathons spread throughout the second half of the program where you will work on real and tough industry problems alongside your peers. This will help you polish your machine learning skills as well as build your technical footprint.

So, essentially, the Immersion Pack will provide exclusive features, such as additional assessments, live sessions and additional skill assessment tests and hackathons. Opting in for the Immersion Pack would mean opting for all these additional features which in turn means committing to a rigorous learning path, where your progress will be more closely tracked to ensure that you are moving in the right direction. Now, since the pack demands more rigour, there will be certain expectations from the students enrolling in. This has been discussed in the next section on this document.

## Expectations from the Learners Opting in for the Immersion Pack

As mentioned before, there are certain additional elements in the Immersion Pack for the students who want to transition and are willing to put in more time and effort to learn advanced topics, solve additional assessments, polish interview skills, etc. And obviously, each of these elements comes with an extra time commitment. As per our evaluation, a learner in the Immersion Pack would need to spend an extra 3-4 hours per week on average than a learner in the base program. **Hence, the Immersion Pack is firstly suitable for the learners who have extra time on their hands and can dedicate that time towards a more rigorous learning experience.**

Now, the features of the pack, which offers more assessments, tests and sessions, are primarily designed to be more technical in nature. By 'more technical', we mean that these said features will be more focussed around Mathematics and programming. Hence, the second thing that you should consider before opting in is whether you are interested in more rigorous programming and mathematical workings related to the concepts being taught. **Therefore, if you have a strong inclination and a knack for Mathematics and/or programming, you can consider opting in for it.**

Thirdly, if you are looking for transitioning into a data role, the learning and the experience that you will get from these additional features is more suited for junior roles (as, in these roles, you are expected to know more about the implementation of and the mathematics behind the concepts than anyone in a senior role). **Hence, if you are looking for entry-level to mid-senior level roles in the data industry, you can consider to opt in for the Immersion Pack.** Also, it is important to note here that learners who are not looking out for an immediate transition and want to focus on just learning at present should ideally focus on transition-related preparations at the end of the program in the career phase and not opt in for the transition pack in a rush.

To summarise, you mainly need to look out for the following three factors before you make a decision to opt in or not opt in for this pack.

1. Can you dedicate ~3-4 hours more on average/week than what you are dedicating now? And do you want to dedicate this additional time towards learning?

2. Do you have an inclination and a knack for Mathematics and programming?
3. Do you want a transition/be more employable during the program itself (rather than during the career phase) and are looking for entry-level to mid-senior level roles in the data industry?

If the answer to all these questions is yes, we would highly recommend that you opt in for the Immersion Pack. That being said, learners can choose to opt in for the Immersion Pack even if the answers to all the above mentioned questions are no's if you personally feel those features might help you have a more enriching learning experience.

## What is the Process for Opting in?

Before we get to the process for opting in, the first step is to thoroughly read this document before you arrive at a decision. As you read in the previous section, opting in would ascertain certain expectations from you. Once you have all the information at hand, evaluate the usefulness of this pack w.r.t. your personal learning goals and decide whether you can meet the expectations. Following these steps will help you arrive at a final decision.

Your student mentor will be sending out a form on email asking you to opt in for the pack. You will be required to fill that form within the given deadline. *If you do not fill that form within the deadline, it will be assumed that you are not interested in opting in for the pack.*

## Debarring Criteria and Opting Out

As mentioned earlier, all your attempt rates, attendance in the live sessions and SGCs, etc. will be tracked. Then, at the end of every course, we will evaluate each of these factors, and if the student fails to meet a certain threshold, they will be debarred from the Immersion Pack. Although we will be keeping track of both your efforts and skill levels, a learner will only be debarred if he/she fails to meet certain effort levels. The debarring threshold for the various components have been listed below.

<b>Live Session Attendance</b>	Min 70% attendance
<b>SGC Attendance</b>	Min 70% attendance
<b>Employability Test</b>	Min 1 test attempt every course
<b>Additional Assessments</b>	Min 75% attempt rate

If you fail to meet any of these criteria at the end of every course, you will be debarred from the Immersion Pack. All the scores will be independently calculated on a course-level, i.e., scores from the previous course will not be added to the scores in the current course, so as to give you a chance to bounce back if you faced some challenges in the previous courses.

For example, say, in Course 2, you have 4 live sessions, 4 SGC sessions, 2 employability tests and 20 additional assessments (MCQs, Coding Qs, etc.). So, at the end of Course 2, you should have ideally attended/attempted 3 live sessions, 3 SGC sessions, 1 employability test, and 15 of the given additional assessments within the stipulated deadline. If you fail to meet any of these criteria, you will be debarred from the pack.



Any exceptions to the above thresholds and rules will be made solely on the discretion of the upGrad Learning Experience team. upGrad also reserves the right to change the debarring criteria in the future and the same will be informed to you a significant amount of time before.

## Calendar Overview

Please note that the following calendar provides a high-level and somewhat tentative overview of the actual calendar. A few elements in the calendar might be subject to change as you glide through the course.

Week	Action	Synchronous Element	Employability Test	Additional Assessments
Week 1				
Week 2				
Week 3				
Week 4				
Week 5	Module on 'Immersion Pack' released			
Week 6				
Week 7		Live Session: Immersion Pack Doubt Resolution		
Week 8	Final week to make the choice			
Week 9				
Week 10	Immersion Pack Starts	1 Mandatory SGC	Skill Assessment Test (Only for Immersion Pack learners)	
Week 11		1 Mandatory Live Session		
Week 12		1 Mandatory SGC		
Week 13		1 Mandatory Live Session	Employability Test (Common to all)	
Week 14	Buffer/Exam			
Week 15	Buffer/Exam	1 Mandatory Live Session		
Week 16		1 Mandatory SGC		

Week 17		1 Mandatory Live Session		
Week 18		1 Mandatory SGC		
Week 19		1 Mandatory Live Session	Skill Assessment Test (Only for Immersion Pack learners)	
Week 20		1 Mandatory SGC		
Week 21		1 Mandatory Live Session		
Week 22		1 Mandatory SGC		
Week 23	1. Choice to opt out of the Immersion Pack 2. Students not meeting the criteria to be debarred out of the Immersion Pack	1 Mandatory Live Session	Employability Test (Common to all)	
Week 24	Buffer/Exam	1 Mandatory SGC		
Week 25		1 Mandatory Live Session		
Week 26		1 Mandatory SGC		
Week 27		1 Mandatory Live Session		
Week 28		1 Mandatory SGC		
Week 29		1 Mandatory Live Session		
Week 30		1 Mandatory SGC	Skill Assessment Test (Only for Immersion Pack learners)	
Week 31		1 Mandatory Live Session		
Week 32		1 Mandatory SGC		
Week 33		1 Mandatory Live Session		
Week 34		1 Mandatory SGC		Python + SQL: (i) MCQs - 10 (ii) Coding - 6

Week 35	1. Choice to opt out of the Immersion Pack 2. Students not meeting the criteria to be debarred out of the Immersion Pack	1 Mandatory Live Session	Employability Test (Common to all)	
Week 36	Buffer/Exam			
Week 37	Buffer/Exam			
Week 38		1 Mandatory SGC		SQL (i) MCQs - 10 (ii) Coding - 5
Week 39		1 Mandatory Live Session		
Week 40		1 Mandatory SGC		Python (i) MCQs - 10 (ii) Coding - 5
Week 41		1 Mandatory Live Session	Skill Assessment Test (Only for Immersion Pack learners)	
Week 42		1 Mandatory SGC		
Week 43		1 Mandatory Live Session		
Week 44		1 Mandatory SGC		
Week 45	1. Choice to opt out of the Immersion Pack 2. Students not meeting the criteria to be debarred out of the Immersion Pack	1 Mandatory Live Session	Employability Test (Common to all)	
Week 46	Buffer/Exam			
Week 47	Buffer/Exam			

Week 48		1 Mandatory SGC		EDA and Stats MCQs - 20
Week 49		1 Mandatory Live Session		ML - I MCQs - 20
Week 50		1 Mandatory SGC		ML - II MCQs - 30
Week 51		1 Mandatory Live Session	Employability Test (Common to all)	
Week 52		1 Mandatory SGC		
Week 53				

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q1. How can I opt in for the Immersion Pack?**

**Ans.** Your student mentor will send you a form via email (the one registered with upGrad). You will be required to fill the form within the given deadline. If you do not fill the form by then, it will be assumed that you are not interested in the Immersion Pack.

### **Q2. Do I need to spend any extra amount of money for the Immersion Pack?**

**Ans.** No, not at all. Anyone who is a PGDDS/MS learner can opt in for the Immersion Pack free of any extra cost.

### **Q3. What features will I get if I opt in for the Immersion Pack?**

**Ans.** You can view the list of features in this document itself through [this link](#).

### **Q4. How and when can I opt out of the Immersion Pack?**

**Ans.** At the end of each course (except course 1), you will have the option to opt out of the Immersion Pack, if you desire.

### **Q5. Can upGrad debar me from the Immersion Pack at any point?**

**Ans.** Yes. There are certain eligibility criteria (which are essentially centered around the amount of effort put in by the learner) to continue availing the features of the Immersion Pack, which will be evaluated at the end of every course. If you fail to meet the said eligibility criteria, you will be debarred from the Immersion Pack. You can see the debarring criteria in detail [here](#). Getting debarred from the Immersion Pack would mean that you will not be able to avail any of the features mentioned above.

### **Q6. What will I miss if I am debarred from the Immersion Pack? How badly will it impact my PGDDS content?**

**Ans.** If you are debarred from the Immersion Pack, you will stop getting the features of the pack that are enlisted in this document. *But, the most important thing to note here is that your diploma scores and grades will not be affected in any way*

*if you opt out of the Immersion Pack or even if you are debarred. As mentioned on several instances before, the pack is independently built over the main program and will not have any direct impact on the graded components of your diploma.*

**Q7. What if I attempt all the features of the Immersion pack but my performance is not upto the mark? Will I be debarred? Will I get additional support?**

**Ans.** As already mentioned, the debarring criteria is based only on your efforts and not your performance. So, say, you attended all the sessions, and attempted the employability tests and additional assessments as well, but your performance was not quite good, you will NOT be debarred from the Immersion Pack. You can continue in the Immersion Pack and keep trying to improve your performance. However, you would not get any additional support apart from what you get in your main program. But, you can always leverage the experts in live sessions, coaches in the SGC sessions, and TAs in the support sessions and DF to clear any doubts you might have or for any support you might need.

**Q8. How much extra time/effort would I need to give if I opt in for the Immersion Pack?**

**Ans.** A learner who has opted in for the Immersion Pack will be required to spend approximately 3-4 hours extra per week on average compared to a learner who has not opted in. For some of the weeks, this extra time might go up to 5-6 hours as well. It is advised that you only opt in for this pack if you have extra time on your hands and can dedicate the required number of hours on a weekly basis.

**Q9. Will the elements of the Immersion Pack affect my diploma scores?**

**Ans.** No. The Immersion Pack is an add-on package built over and above the main program. Any element of the Immersion Pack is not mandatory for completing your PG diploma. The features in the Immersion Pack are additional and have been kept independent of the main graded elements that determine your diploma CGPA.

**Q10. Which specialisation will I be eligible for if I opt in for the Immersion Pack? What if I want to select any other specialisation?**

**Ans.** If you opt in for the Immersion Pack, you can only select the 'Data Generalist' specialisation. You will learn more details about this and other specialisations through the module 'Introduction to Tracks', which will be released in Course 2.

Although you can select only the 'Data Generalist' specialisation, you do not need to worry. At the end of Course 2 (when you are required to select a specialisation), you will be given a chance to opt out of the Immersion Pack and choose any other specialisation of your choice, if you desire.