Integrated M.Sc. – Ph.D. Dual Degree: Operational Guidelines

Minimum Eligibility Requirement to Continue in the Programme

The students who are admitted to the Integrated M.Sc. – Ph.D. Dual Degree programme will be allowed to transition to Ph.D. programme as per the following guidelines:

- For transitioning to Ph.D. programme after 4 (four) semesters of M.Sc., CPI ≥ 8.0 is to be fulfilled. The Ph.D. Regulations as in force or as modified time to time by the Senate will be applicable upon transitioning.
- Such students are required to intimate about their choice of opting Ph.D. transition to the Faculty Advisor at the end of the first academic year. The Faculty Advisor will, in turn, intimate to the Academic Section through the Department Ph.D. Coordinator and the Head of the Department.

Course Work and Project/Thesis Work

- The students who are opting for Ph.D. transition are mandatorily required to credit RM6201: Research Methodology (L-T-P-C: 3-1-0-4) preferably in the fourth semester, but not later than in the sixth semester. Thus, the total credit requirement for such students is 88 with credits earned in M.Sc. as 84.
- The students having CPI ≥ 8.0 may be allowed to overload to credit RM6201 beforehand over the prescribed list of courses in the concerned semester with the approval of the Dean/ Associate Dean (Academic) on the recommendation of the Faculty Advisor and the Head of the Department.
- For such students, the Project – I and Project – II in the third and fourth semesters of the M.Sc. curriculum shall be treated as M.Sc.–Ph.D. Project – I and M.Sc.–Ph.D. Project – II, respectively. The research work undertaken during the M.Sc. phase shall continue after transition to the Ph.D. programme to maintain continuity in research under the same Project/Thesis Supervisor as allocated.
- Grade improvement examination for such students, with CPI≥7.5, for only four (04) theory courses (Technical) (Core/Elective) after 4 (four) semesters of M.Sc. may be permitted by the Dean/Associate Dean (Academic) on the recommendation of the Faculty Advisor and the Head of the Department to fulfil the requirement of CPI ≥ 8.0 for transitioning to Ph.D. programme. A student will have to register grade improvement examination by paying the prescribed fee within the stipulated time. Grade improvement examination for such students will be conducted during the supplementary examination. The better of the two grades (the old and the new) in a course will be considered for SPI and CPI calculations. However, if such students exit the dual degree programme later on, the original grade (the old one) is to be restored.

Comprehensive Examination

- To test the overall competence and academic preparation of a student in the Ph.D. Programme, a Comprehensive Examination comprising written and oral needs to be conducted.
- Comprehensive Examination of such students can be held only after successful completion of course work including RM6201: Research Methodology (L-T-P-C: 3-1-0-4). After Comprehensive Examination, no further academic credits can be acquired through course work as per the prevailing norms in accordance with the Ph.D. Regulations as in force.

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Thesis Supervisor Allocation

Thesis Supervisor allocation to the students opting for Ph.D. transition would be done by the Faculty Advisor in consultation with the Department Ph.D. Coordinator, at the end of the first academic year. The thesis supervisor allocation will be governed by the Office Order Ref. No.: IITP/R/2023/691 dt. 09.05.2023. This allocation shall not be counted towards the existing cap of four (04) Teaching Assistants (TAs) per faculty member. It shall, however, be counted towards the existing upper cap of twelve (12) Ph.D. students per faculty member. A doctoral committee (DC), thereafter, will be formed for the student, which will monitor the progress of student's research work as in the case of the regular Ph.D. students as per the Ph.D. Regulations as in force or as modified time to time.

Maximum Duration

The maximum duration of the Integrated M.Sc. – Ph.D. Dual Degree programme (excluding dropped semester(s)/maternity leave) is 6 years (i.e., 12 semesters) from the date of admission. However, it may be extended for a student owing to valid reason with the permission of the Chairman Senate on the recommendation of the Thesis Supervisor, Department Ph.D. Coordinator, Head of the Department, and Dean/Associate Dean (Academic).

Fellowship/Assistantship

Programme	Total Period of Fellowship/Assistantship (Maximum Duration)	Amount of Fellowship/Assistantship (Consolidated)
Integrated M.Sc. – Ph.D. Dual Degree	Six years (12 semesters), from date of joining the programme till date of submission of thesis or cancellation of registration, whichever is earlier.	@ Rs. 6,000/ p.m.: For 1st two years (during the M.Sc. programme). However, only Rs. 24,000/- as fellowship will be disbursed at the end of first year for students with CPI ≥ 8.0. Remaining fellowship amount from first two years will be disbursed on the successful completion of the comprehensive examination. @ Rs. 37,000/- p.m.: For next two years (3rd and 4th year) after completion of M.Sc. and fulfilling eligibility criterion for transitioning to Ph.D. and as per MoE norms. @ Rs. 42,000/- p.m.: After completion of at least 3rd year of dual degree programme (i.e., not prior to 36 months from the M.Sc. admission) and on receipt of satisfactory report on successful presentation of Enhancement Seminar, assistantship be enhanced as per the existing Ph.D. regulations, as in force or as modified time to time, and the MoE norms.

Note:

1. If a student does not opt or qualify for Ph.D. transition, the fellowship ends with M.Sc.
2. HRA is not applicable.
3. A student needs to refund fellowship / assistantship drawn from the Institute in case of resignation from the programme.
4. Contingency grant, as in the case of the TAs, will be made available after transitioning to the Ph.D. programme.
5. If a student receives external fellowship including from any government funding agencies, such as CSIR, UGC, DBT, NBHM, DST-INSPIRE, etc., fellowship conversion will be allowed with the discontinuation of fellowship/assistantship from the Institute.

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Exit Option from the Programme

The students who are admitted to the Integrated M.Sc. – Ph.D. Dual Degree programme may be allowed to exit, if they wish, with an M.Sc. degree as per the following guidelines:

- Such students are required to intimate about their choice of exit from the programme to the Faculty Advisor at the end of the first academic year. The Faculty Advisor will, in turn, intimate to the Academic Section through the Head of the Department.
- Such students will continue with their course work along with M.Sc. project work for the second academic year. They have to fulfil a total requirements of 84 credits with a minimum CPI of 5.0. M.Sc. Project Supervisor will be allocated to such students at the same time, i.e., at the end of the first academic year as in case of students opting for Ph.D. transition. Such students will be governed by the M.Sc. Regulations as in force or as modified time to time by the Senate.
- A student opting for Ph.D. transition at the end of the first academic year fails to obtain a CPI ≥ 8.0 at the end of the second academic year (4 semesters of M.Sc.), even after grade improvement for 04 theory courses (if applicable), is required to exit the programme with an M.Sc. degree, subject to fulfilment of a total requirements of 84 credits with a minimum CPI of 5.0 along with other requirements as per the M.Sc. Regulations as in force or as modified time to time by the Senate.

Regulations

- The role of Faculty Advisor would cease to exist for the students upon the Ph.D. transition. The Department Ph.D. Coordinator shall play the advisory role for such students upon the Ph.D. transition. However, the Faculty Advisor would continue to serve as an advisor to students opting to exit the programme.
- All other clauses, not covered by the above, shall be referred to the M.Sc. and Ph.D. Regulations, as in force or as modified time to time, and/or the Senate.
- Notwithstanding all the clauses stated above, the Senate has the right to modify any of the above regulations from time to time.

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