



# भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान भोपाल

शैक्षणिक कार्यालय

IISERB/DOAA/2018/135  
April 9, 2018

## Communique

**Subject: Implementation of the decisions of the Board of Governors, IISER Bhopal for providing an exit option from the BS-MS (Dual Degree) program with a BS Degree alone from the AY 2014-15-I Semester Onwards.**

The National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act (Amendment) Act, 2014, vide its section 6(1)(b), empowers Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISERs) *to hold examinations and grant degrees, diplomas and other academic distinctions or titles.*

IISER Bhopal took the decision for providing an exit option as per the following chronology mentioned below:

1. The Group of Directors (GoD) of IISERs in its meeting held on 24 November 2013, agreed to provide academically deficient students a BS only exit option, at the end of 5 year from admission to the BS-MS (Dual Degree) program. Such deficient students were to be awarded the BS degree alone upon fulfilling the criteria mentioned below:
  - The students does not have the potential to graduate with the BS-MS (Dual Degree) in 7 years.
  - Spend a minimum of 5 years (and a maximum of 7 years) in residence at the Institute.
  - Earn a minimum of 2/3 of the total credits for the award of BS-MS (Dual Degree)

The minutes are enclosed as **Annexure I.**

2. In view of the above, a committee was constituted by the Institute vide office order no. IISERB/DIR/2013/45, dated December 16, 2013 to recommend the implementation scheme for the said exit option. The office order for constitution of committee is enclosed as **Annexure II.**
3. The Senate at its 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on December 31, 2013 resolved to recommend the recommendations made by the committee to the Board of Governors to accord its necessary approval for implementation of the scheme for an exit option from the BS-MS (Dual Degree) program with a BS Degree alone. The Minutes of the Senate meeting are enclosed as **Annexure III.**

4. The Board of Governors at its 2014-1/14<sup>th</sup> meeting, held on January 20, 2014 resolved to accord its approval to the proposed scheme for providing an exit option from the BS-MS (Dual Degree) program with a single Degree of BS alone as per the detailed scheme recommended by the Senate of the Institute. The Minutes of the BoG meeting are enclosed as **Annexure IV**.

The Institute implemented the recommendation of the committee followed by the resolutions of the Senate/BOG without any deviation for BS-MS (Dual Degree) students w.e.f. AY 2014-15-I Semester onwards.

This is issued for necessary clarification to all concerned.



Dean, Academic Affairs

Enclosure: a/a

Copy to:

1. Director for Information.
2. Deputy Director for information.
3. Registrar for information.
4. All HoDs/Deans.
5. Deputy Registrar (F&A)
6. All Faculty/All Staff/All Student via E-mail

### Minutes of the meeting of the Group of Directors of IISERs

Date and Time: November 24, 2013 at 15:30 Hrs

Venue: EES Conference Room, IISER Bhopal, Bhauri Campus, Bhopal

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#### 1. Opening Remarks by the Director, IISER Bhopal

At the outset, Professor Vinod Singh welcomed all the Directors and thanked them for making it convenient to attend the meeting at IISER Bhopal.

Professor Singh announced that Professor C.N.R. Rao was chosen for the award of the Bharat Ratna by the Government of India. In this connection, all the Directors wished to convey congratulations to Professor Rao on behalf of all IISERs. Professor Vinod Singh was requested to send a congratulatory letter to Professor Rao on behalf of all IISERs.

#### 2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Group of Directors (GoD) of IISERs held on 04 November, 2012

The minutes of the meeting of the GoD of IISERs held on November 4, 2012 were presented during the meeting. The minutes were confirmed in the absence of any comments.

#### 3. To discuss policies for admitting foreign students to the BS-MS, Ph.D. and I Ph.D. programmes

Dr. Ramya Sunder Raman, Coordinator, Academic Affairs, IISER Bhopal gave a presentation on the "Direct Admission for Students from Abroad (DASA)" scheme prepared by IISER Bhopal. The Directors discussed the admission procedure, eligibility criteria, fellowships, and fee structure for both the undergraduate (UG) and post-graduate (PG) programmes.

It was emphasized that both Foreign Nationals and Indian Nationals living abroad should be permitted to seek admission to IISERs through this scheme. It was agreed that IISERs will not pay fellowships to UG and PG students admitted through this scheme. It was also agreed that the students were free to bring in fellowships from other external sources. It was further agreed to send this document to the JAC of IISERs for further discussion during the next JAC meeting.

The DASA scheme document as finalized, in principle, by the GoD of IISERs, is placed as Annexure – I. However, the GoD recommended that a final decision on the fee structure for both the UG and PG programmes be taken after additional discussions.

#### 4. To discuss issues/policies related to the BS-MS programme

##### 4.1 Remedial courses for deficient students:

It was noted that all IISERs have some scheme in place to help academically deficient students. Further, it was agreed that each IISER should frame its own policy regarding remedial courses for deficient students.

#### 4.2 Honorable exit option with a BS degree:

The Directors agreed that the no exit be allowed from the BS-MS (Dual Degree) programme before the completion of 5 years to any student. It was further agreed that "academically deficient students who do not have the potential to graduate with a BS-MS dual degree in 7 years, be allowed to get only a BS degree (specifying a major discipline, if applicable to his/her IISER) no sooner than 5 years, subject to having scored a minimum CPI of 5.0 and having earned at least 2/3 of the overall credits for the BS-MS dual degree in his/her discipline".

#### 4.3 Recognition of the BS-MS degree by UGC and other bodies for employment in Central/State Government and other organizations:

It was agreed that IISER Bhopal, on behalf of all IISERs, will follow-up with the UGC and ensure that degrees (BS-MS (Dual Degree), BS (if exit option is implemented), MS-Ph.D., and Ph.D.) offered by all IISERs are recognized for the purpose of employment in Central/State Government and other organizations.

#### 4.4 Transcripts and their authentication

The Directors discussed the transcripts and their authentication followed in each IISER and exchanged transcripts of their respective Institutes. It was noted that each IISER was following all due measures regarding the authentication of their transcripts.

#### 4.5 Medical insurance policies

The Directors presented the medical insurance policy being followed at their respective Institute. It was agreed that each IISER should find its own mechanism for providing and/or facilitating the procurement of medical insurance to their students.

### 5. To discuss the fee structure for various programmes

#### 5.1 Common fee structure at all IISERs

The fee structure followed at each IISER was presented during the meeting. It was agreed that tuition fees in respect of BS-MS and Ph.D. programme should be the same in all IISERs, effective academic year 2014-15, with a provision for 10% hike in tuition fee, every year, as already approved in the Standing Committee Meeting of IISERs.

It was also noted that the total amount of fees being charged by each IISER should be similar, with room for minor differences under some heads, in view of the differences in facilities being extended to students at each Institute.

It was also agreed that IISERs Bhopal's current fee structure (2013-2014 I semester) for BS-MS, I. Ph.D. and Ph.D. be used as a model to arrive at a common fee structure and heads, as discussed above.

5.2 Fees for multiple copies of original transcripts, duplicate degrees, and other items  
The Directors discussed the fees for different type of documents required by students. They also shared the fees charged by their respective Institutes. It was agreed that each IISER should decide the fees to be charged for the supply of the documents.

6. To discuss issues related to various fellowships

6.1 Disbursement of INSPIRE fellowships, specifically the contingency amount

The CoAA and Director IISER Bhopal and the Director IISER Kolkata conveyed that specific instructions regarding the disbursement of ISPIRE contingency amount were received from the DST. Thus, all the Directors agreed to review the communication received from A. Mukhopadhyay, Adviser/Scientist G, DST, Government of India in connection with disbursement of INSPIRE fellowship 2013-14. It was also agreed that a suitable decision will be taken following this review.

6.2 Amount for summer internships – BS/MS and MS/M.Sc/M.Tech/Equivalent

It was agreed that each IISER should evolve its own mechanism for admission of summer interns.

6.3 Amount and structure for 1 Ph.D.

The Directors agreed that each IISER should prescribe a structure/curriculum in accordance with its philosophies and objectives. However, it was opined that the tuition fee and fee heads be as uniform as possible across all IISERs.

7. To discuss the formation of a consortium of IISERs to share resources/expertise in various subject areas via the National Knowledge Network (NKN) or through remote access

7.1 Developing a master list of courses to be transmitted/received via NKN

7.2 Guidelines and policies for conduct of e-courses

Dr. Ramya Sunder Raman, Coordinator, Academic Affairs, IISER Bhopal presented IISER Bhopal's document covering guidelines for offering and transmitting e-courses through NKN. The Directors discussed the same and it was agreed that the Dean, Academic Affairs of all IISERs should meet to evolve a common mechanism/guidelines for sharing the available resources/expertise at each IISER through e-courses.

It was also agreed that a meeting of the Dean, Academic Affairs of all IISERs will be held at IISER Bhopal. Dr. Raman has been requested to organize and convene this meeting.

8. To discuss financial contribution by IISERs to the INDEST-AICTE consortium in order to continue receiving the existing e-resources (See Annexure VI for supporting documents)

The Directors, agreed to discuss the issue with their respective librarians and make a decision thereafter.

## 9. To discuss issues/policies related to faculty affairs'

## 9.1 Mentorship for INSPIRE fellows

The Directors agreed that each IISER can follow its own policy regarding mentorship of INSPIRE fellows.

## 9.2 Recruitment of foreign faculty

The Directors reiterated that the appointment of foreign faculty should be encouraged at IISERs. It was resolved to request MHRD to write to the MEA and ease the rules for appointment of foreign faculty in the interest of the academic requirements of the Country.

## 10. To discuss and identify platforms to promote inter-IISER faculty, student, and staff interactions

## 10.1 Faculty and student exchange programmes/ Inter-IISER workshops

## 10.2 Other relevant programmes/platforms

It was agreed that IISER Pune will draw an inter IISER programme for next 5 years for promotion and exchange of scientific, academic and sports activities between all IISERs.

## 11. To discuss the status and implementation of the MoU between IISERs and Max-Planck-Gesellschaft (MPG), Germany (See Annexure VII for draft MoU, page 17-19)

In principle, all the Directors agreed to the terms of the draft MoU between IISERs and MPG, Germany. It was decided that IISER Mohali will take up this matter to MHRD for inviting the President, MPG during the next visit of German Chancellor to India in the year 2014. The platform thus can be used for signing the MoU between IISERs and MPG, Germany.

## 12. To discuss the need for and contents of a common IISER website (appropriately linked to individual IISER websites)

Director IISER Pune informed all other Director's that they were working on the preliminary design for the common web-site. Further, it was agreed that this template/preliminary design will be shared with IISERs for inputs and further development/finalization of the common web-site.

## 13. To discuss the revised EFC

It was informed that the meeting of EFC may take place during the first week of December 2013.

## 14. To discuss the formation and status of the IISER council

The Director IISER Bhopal noted that the formation of IISER council is underway.

## 15. To discuss the status of IISER statutes and by-laws

It was noted that the statutes of IISERs have already been framed by MHRD, which will be notified by the Government after following due procedure as laid down under the National Institutes of Technology (Amendment) Act, 2012.

16. To discuss the Review Committee (follow up of MHRD meeting on this issue) – our strategy?

It was noted that IISER Pune has already initiated reviewing its scientific activities by inviting internationally acclaimed scientist from across the world. Other IISERs would soon be initiating the process for reviewing their academic activities.

17. Any other item with the permission of the Chair

- 17.1 The Directors discussed the efforts of the JAC members in defining and implementing the admission process for all IISERs and agreed that the JAC members should be paid token honorarium. The following amount of honorarium has been recommended for JAC Members of IISERs:

Chairperson	:	Rs. 20,000/-
Vice Chairperson	:	Rs. 15000/-
Member	:	Rs. 10000/-

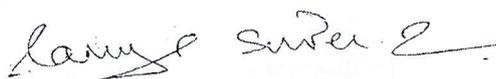
Each IISER should meet the expenses towards payment of honorarium to its JAC members, from the money received at each Institute from admission procedure.

- 17.2 The Directors also decided that the next meeting of the Group of Directors will be held during the month of March-April 2014 at IISER Kolkata.

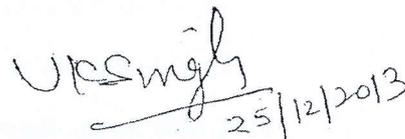
- 17.3 The Director, IISER Trivandrum opined that the eligibility criteria for IISER Aptitude test (top 1% from State and Central Boards) should be re-visited, since the number of applications received were too few and consequently the acceptance rate to IISERs via the SCB channel was very high. He also opined that sticking to the top 1% criteria for eligibility to IISER Aptitude test may result in IISERs losing out on other potentially good applicants and/or being forced to admit below par students because of the small number of applications received.

While acknowledging the views expressed, all the other Directors opined that the situation is likely to improve as IISERs are beginning to establish themselves. Further, they also opined that not enough data (4 years worth) was available to make a decision regarding the revision of eligibility criteria. Additionally, the Directors agreed to re-visit this issue in their next meeting, if additional details and persuasive evidence to revise the eligibility criteria were to become available prior to their meeting.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.



Dr. Ramya Sunder Raman  
Coordinator, Academic Affairs  
IISER Bhopal



Professor Vinod K. Singh  
Director, IISER Bhopal



भारतीय विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान भोपाल  
Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal

निदेशक कार्यालय  
Director's Office

IISERB/DIR/2013/45  
December 16, 2013

कार्यालय आदेश  
Office Order

Sub: Constitution of committee to recommend the implementation scheme for an exit option from the BS-MS (Dual Degree) program with the BS degree alone

The following committee is hereby constituted to recommend the implementation scheme for an exit option with the BS degree alone at the end of 5 years.

1.	Dr. Ramya Sunder Raman	Coordinator, Academic Affairs	Chairperson
2.	Dr. Vimlesh Kumar	Coordinator, Department of Biological Sciences	Member
3.	Dr. Ram K Mishra	Convener, DUGC, Department of Biological Sciences	Member
4.	Dr. J Sankar	Coordinator, Department of Chemistry	Member
5.	Dr. Prasanta Ghorai	Convener, DUGC, Department of Chemistry	Member
6.	Dr. Arundhuti Ghatak	Convener, DPGC, EES	Member
7.	Dr. Siddhartha Sarkar	Coordinator, Department of Mathematics	Member
8.	Dr. Nikita Agarwal	Convener, DUGC, Department of Mathematic & Vice-Chairperson, JAC	Member
9.	Dr. Rajib Saha	Coordinator, Department of Physics	Member
10.	Dr. Snigdha Thakur	Convener, DUGC, Department of Physics	Member
11.	Dr. Saptarshi Mukherjee	Chairperson, JAC	Member

The proposed scheme will be applicable only to academically deficient students, who do not have the potential to graduate with the BS-MS (Dual Degree) in 7 years. This committee will submit its recommendations to the Chairperson, Senate for due consideration and approval of the Senate by December 27, 2013.

*VKSingh*

विनोद सिंह  
निदेशक

प्रतिलिपि: सभी समिति सदस्य

**Report of the committee for exit option for the BS-MS (Dual Degree) program with the BS Degree alone.**

The Group of Directors (GoD) of IISERs in a meeting on 24 November 2013, agreed to provide academically deficient students a BS only exit option, at the end of 5 years from admission to the BS-MS (Dual Degree) program. Such deficient students were to be awarded the BS degree alone upon fulfilling the criteria mentioned below:

- a. Be a student who does not have the potential to graduate with the BS-MS (Dual Degree) in 7 years,
- b. Spend a minimum of 5 years (and a maximum of 7 years) in residence at the Institute,
- c. Earn a minimum of 2/3 of the total credits for the award of BS-MS (Dual Degree)

A committee was constituted vide office order no. IISERB/DIR/2013/45 dated: December 16, 2013 to recommend the implementation scheme for the said exit option.

The convener of the committee called for a meeting of all members to discuss various aspects of the BS exit option. Following are the recommendations of the committee:

**1. Identification of academically deficient students who do not have the potential to complete the BS-MS (Dual Degree) in 7 years:**

In accordance with GoD criterion 'a' the committee deliberated on the methodology for identification of academically deficient students. The committee recommends that the academic performance of all BS-MS students be reviewed at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> semester. Students who have earned 120 course credits (course work and lab) with CPI  $\geq 5$  and having 'F' grade in no more than a total of 24 credits will be allowed to register for the project work in the 9<sup>th</sup> semester. All other students (i.e. those who have earned course credits less than 120 or having CPI  $< 5$  or 'F' grade in more than a total of 24 credits) will be identified as academically deficient and these students will not be allowed to register for project work following the end of 8<sup>th</sup> semester review.

The criteria to identify academically deficient students were prescribed bearing in mind the following aspects:

- Students will not be allowed to register in the 5<sup>th</sup> semester unless they have earned at least 64 out of 70 credits in the first two years of their study. Additionally, students should not have more than 4F in all the core courses, of which no more than 1F should be in theory courses and 1F in lab course for the discipline in which the student wants to major. In case of not fulfilling the above criteria, he/she will have to drop a year to clear all backlogs.
- A student will not be allowed to register for 3<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> semester, if he/she has not cleared all courses of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> years, respectively. In addition he/she

should not have more than 4F in all courses, of which no more than 1F should be in theory courses and 1F in the lab courses in his/her major discipline.

- A total of 24 credits with 'F' were specified, allowing an average of 1F in a 3 credits course, per semester, for 4 years.

## **2. Minimum requirements for award of the BS degree:**

The committee recommends the following criteria for award of a BS (major) degree alone:

1. Minimum residence of 5 years and a maximum residence of 7 years from admission to the BS-MS (Dual Degree)
2. Minimum of 144\* credits earned from course and laboratory work.
3. Minimum CPI of 5.0 in the 144 credits mentioned in above 2.
4. No 'F' in all courses registered for.

\*minimum of 120 credits at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> semester + 12 credits each during the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> semester yielding a total of 144 credits in 5 years.

### **Policies for special circumstances:**

1. If a student requires less than 12 credits in any semester (after the completion of 5 years) to achieve the 144 credit requirement for BS (major) degree, he/she may be allowed to register for less than 12 credits in a semester and still be considered a full time student.
2. If student achieves the minimum requirements for award of BS degree at the end of an odd semester (after the completion of 5 years), he/she will be awarded the degree in the following convocation.

## **3. BS-MS option for the students identified as academically deficient (as per 1):**

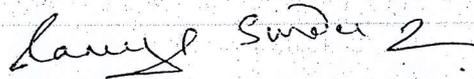
The committee recommends that if an academically deficient student meets the requirements to earn BS degree latest by the end of year 6 from the time of admission to the BS-MS (Dual Degree) [i.e. minimum 144 course credits with CPI  $\geq 5.0$ .] he/she may be allowed to register for project work to complete BS-MS in the following years (upto a maximum of the start of year 7). The student should complete all course and project work requirements specified for BS-MS (Dual Degree). However under no circumstances a student leave with the BS degree before 5 years. This decision will be made on a case-by-case by the Dean, Academic Affairs in consultation with DUGC Convener/Coordinator of the Department in which the student will major. Such approvals will be reported to the Senate.

## **4. To allow exit option with BS degree alone for students who are not academically deficient:**

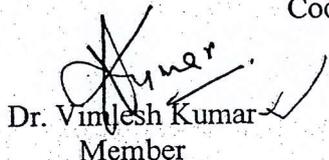
Although this committee was asked to recommend the implementation scheme for an exit option with the BS degree alone to academically deficient students, the

committee recommends providing the exit option to all students upon the fulfillment of the following criteria:

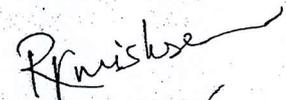
1. Minimum residence of 5 years and a maximum residence of 7 years from admission to the BS-MS (Dual Degree)
2. Completion of the minimum requirements for the award of BS degree (i.e. minimum 144 course credits with  $CPI \geq 5.0$  and no 'F' in all courses registered for, at the end of year 5)
3. Exercising an option not to register for project work at the end of 8<sup>th</sup> semester
4. Continuing to register for at least 12 credits per semester upto 5 years of residence even if the minimum requirements for the award of BS (major) degree are fulfilled.



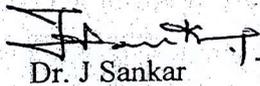
Dr. Ramya Sunder Raman  
Chairperson  
Coordinator, Academic Affairs



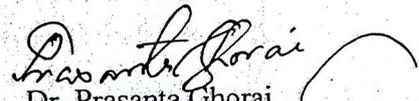
Dr. Vinjesh Kumar  
Member  
Coordinator, Biological Sciences



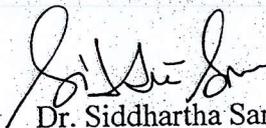
Dr. Ram K Mishra  
Member  
Convener, DUGC Biological Sciences



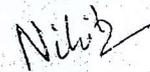
Dr. J Sankar  
Member  
Coordinator, Chemistry



Dr. Prasanta Ghorai  
Member  
Convener, DUGC Chemistry

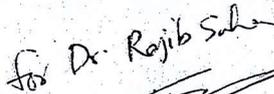


Dr. Siddhartha Sarkar  
Member  
Coordinator, Mathematics



Dr. Nikita Agarwal  
Member  
Convener, DUGC Mathematics  
& Vice-Chairperson, JAC

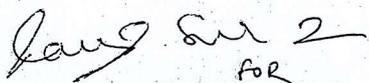
for Dr. Rajib Saha



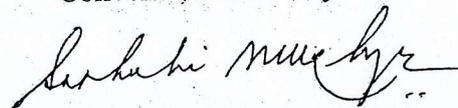
Dr. Rajib Saha  
Member  
Coordinator, Physics



Dr. Snigdha Thakur  
Member  
Convener, DUGC Physics



Dr. Arundhuti Ghatak  
Member  
Convener, DPGC EES



Dr. Saptarshi Mukherjee  
Member  
Chairperson, JAC

26/12/2012

- BOG-14.11 To consider the recommendations of the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Senate, scheduled on December 31, 2013 for providing an exit option from the BS-MS (Dual Degree) program with a BS Degree alone.**

The Board of Governors considered the recommendations of the 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Senate, held on December 31, 2013 for providing an exit option from the BS-MS (Dual Degree) program with a BS Degree alone.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Senate, the Board of Governors resolved to accord its approval to the proposed scheme for providing an exit option from the BS-MS (Dual Degree) program with a single Degree of BS alone as per the detailed scheme recommended by the Senate of the Institute.

Further, the Board of Governors suggested the Senate of the Institute to consider the arrangement of a joint advisor for the Ph.D students to ensure smooth transition, in exigencies arising out of resignation, leave of absence, quitting the Institute, non-availability of the faculty advisor(s) under various circumstances.

- BOG-14.12 To report the minutes of the meeting of the Group of Directors (GoD) held on November 24, 2013 at IISER Bhopal.**

The Board of Governors resolved to take on record the Minutes of the Group of Directors and the Joint Admissions Committee (JAC) of all IISERs held on November 24, 2013, duly advising the Institute to take follow-up action on the decisions / recommendations of the Group of Directors.

The Board of Governors while considering the Minutes of the meeting of the Group of Directors suggested to take-up the proposal of DASA with the Ministry of HRD on finalization of the operational modalities by the JAC of the IISERs.

Further, the Board also resolved to request the Ministry of HRD to take-up with the Ministry of External Affairs, the matter of appointing the foreign faculty at IISERs similar to the proposal under consideration for the IITs.

- BOG-14.13 To report the advertisement issued for filling up the vacant positions of non-teaching employees.**

The Board of Governors after due consideration resolved to take on record the advt. No. NT-02/13 dated December 6, 2013 issued by the Institute for filling up the vacant positions of non-teaching employees from internal and external streams in a combined manner as per the terms and conditions mentioned in the advertisement.