

Induction Program at IIT(BHU)

1 Introduction

IITs were established to be at the cutting edge of technology and the frontiers of knowledge. They are expected to generate graduates with these capabilities, as well as produce new technologies, products and processes needed by the nation.

The graduating student must have knowledge and skills in the area of his study. However, he must also have broad understanding of society and relationships. Character needs to be nurtured as an essential quality by which he would understand and fulfill his responsibility as an engineer, a citizen and a human being. Besides the above, several meta-skills and underlying values are needed.

There is a mad rush for the IITs today, without the student determining for himself his interests and his goals, which is a major factor in the current state of de-motivation towards studies that exists among UG students.

The success of gaining admission into the IITs but failure in getting the desired branch, with peer pressure generating its own problems, leads to a peer environment that is demotivating and corrosive. Start of hostel life without close parental supervision at the same time, further worsens it with also a poor daily routine.

To come out of this situation, a multi-pronged approach is needed. One will have to work closely with the newly joined students in making them feel comfortable, allow them to explore their academic interests and activities, reduce competition and make them work for, excellence, promote bonding within them, build relations between teachers and students, give a broader view of life, and build character.

2 Induction Program

When new students enter an institution, they come with diverse thoughts, backgrounds and preparations. It is important to help them adjust to the new environment and inculcate in them the ethos of the institution with a sense of larger purpose.

A 3-week long induction program for the UG students entering the institution, right at the start has been introduced in 2016.

Normal classes start only after the induction program is over. Its purpose is to make the students feel comfortable in their new environment, open them up, set a healthy daily routine, create bonding in the batch as well as between faculty and students, develop awareness, sensitivity and understanding of the self, people around them, society at large, and nature.

The time during the Induction Program is also used to rectify some critical lacunas, for example, English background, for those students who have deficiency in it.

The following are the activities under the induction program in which the student would be fully engaged throughout the day for the entire duration of the program.

2.1 Physical Activity

This would involve a daily routine of physical activity with games and sports. It would start with all students coming to the field at 6 am for light physical exercise or yoga. There would also be games in the evening. These would help develop team work. Each student should pick one game and learn it for three weeks. There could also be gardening or other suitably designed activity where labour yields fruits from nature.

2.2 Creative Arts

Every student would chose one skill related to the arts whether visual arts or performing arts. Examples are painting, sculpture, pottery, music, dance etc. The student would pursue it everyday for the duration of the program.

These would allow for creative expression. It would develop a sense of aesthetics and also enhance creativity which would, hopefully, flow into engineering design later.

2.3 Universal Human Values

It gets the student to explore oneself and allows one to experience the joy of learning, stand up to peer pressure, take decisions with courage, be aware of relationships with colleagues and supporting staff in the hostel and department, be sensitive to others, etc. Need for character building has been underlined earlier. A module in Universal Human Values provides the base.

2.4 Literary

Literary activity would encompass reading, writing and possibly, debating, enacting a play etc.

2.5 Proficiency Modules

This period can be used to overcome some critical lacunas that students might have, for example, English. These run like crash courses, so when the normal courses start after the induction program, the student has overcome the lacunas substantially. We hope that problems arising due to lack of English skills, wherein students start lagging behind or failing in several subjects, for no fault of theirs, would, hopefully, become a thing of the past.

2.6 Lectures by Eminent People

This period can be utilized for lectures by eminent people, say, once a week. It would give the students exposure to people who are socially active or are in public life.

2.7 Visits to Local Area

A couple of visits to the landmarks of the city, or a hospital or orphanage could be organized. This would familiarize them with the area as well as expose them to the under privileged.

2.8 Familiarization to Dept./Branch & Innovations

The students are told about different method of study compared to coaching that is needed at IITs. They are told about what getting into a branch or department means, what role it plays in society. They are also shown the laboratories, workshops & other facilities in their department.

3 Schedule

The activities during the Induction Program would have an Initial Phase, a Regular Phase and a Closing Phase. The Initial and Closing Phases would be two days each.

3.1 Initial Phase

Time	Activity
Day 0 (24.07.2017)	
Whole Day	Students arrive – Hostel allotment (Preferably do pre-allotment)
Day 1 (25.07.2017)	
09:00 am – 03:00 pm	Academic Registration
04:00 pm – 06:00 pm	Orientation
Day 2 (26.07.2017)	
09:00 am – 10:00 am	Diagnostic test (for English etc.)
10:15 am – 12:25 pm	Visit to respective Departments
12:30 pm – 01:55 pm	Lunch
02:00 pm – 02:55 pm	Director's address
03:00 pm – 05:00 pm	Interaction with parents
03:30 pm – 05:00 pm	Students Move for Mentor-mentee groups – Introduction within group (Same as Universal Human Values groups)

3.2 Regular Phase

After two days is the start of the Regular Phase of induction. With this phase there would be regular program to be followed every day.

3.2.1 Daily Schedule

Some of the activities are on a daily basis, while some others are at specified periods within the Induction Program. We first show a typical daily timetable.

Session	Time	Activity	Remarks
	Day 3 onwards (27.07.2017 to 17.08.2017)		
	06:00 am	Wake up call	
I	06:30 am – 07:10 am	Physical activity (mild exercise/yoga)	
	07:15 am – 08:55 am	Bath, Breakfast, etc.	
II	09:00 am – 10:45 am	Creative Practices/Universal Human Values	Half the groups do Creative Arts ¹
III	11:00 am – 12:45 pm	Universal Human Values/ Creative Practices	Complementary alternate
	01:00 pm – 02:25 pm	Lunch	
IV	02:30 pm – 05:00 pm	Afternoon Session	Details will be given as Annexure – I ²

V	05:00 pm – 05:25 pm	Break / light tea	
VI	05:30 pm – 06:45 pm	Games/Special Lectures	
	06:50 pm – 08:25 pm	Rest and Dinner	
VII	08:30 pm – 09:25 pm	Informal interactions (in hostels)	

Sundays are off. Saturdays have the same schedule as above or have outings.

¹ Groups and other details are/ shall be available on the website.

² Those who are found deficient in English shall study the course Basic English. The class timing and other details are/ shall be available on the website.

3.2.2 Afternoon Activities (Non-Daily)

The following five activities are scheduled at different times of the Induction Program, and are not held daily for everyone:

1. Familiarization to Dept./Branch & Innovations
2. Visits to Local Area
3. Lectures by Eminent People
4. Literary
5. Proficiency Modules

3.3 Closing Phase

The closing phase (17.08.2017 - 19.08.2017) will have :

- Discussions and finalization of presentation within each group.
- Presentation by each group in front of 4 other groups besides their own (about 100 students)
- Examination of the credited courses, i.e., Universal Human Value, Creative Practices and/ or Basic English.

3.4 Follow Up after Closure

The groups which are formed will function as mentor- mentee network. A student should feel free to approach his faculty mentor or the student guide, when facing any kind of problem, whether academic or financial or psychological etc. (For every 10 undergraduate first year students, there would be a senior student as a *student guide*, and for every 20 students, there would be a *faculty mentor*.) Such a group should remain for the entire 4-5 year duration of the stay of the student.

4 Summary

IITs were established to be at the cutting edge of technology and the frontiers of knowledge. The incoming undergraduate students are driven by their parents and society to join the IITs without understanding their own interests and talents. As a result, most students fail to link up with the goals of IITs.

The graduating student must have values as a human being, and knowledge and meta-skills related to his/her profession as an engineer and as a citizen. Most students who get de-motivated to study engineering or their branch, also lose interest in learning.

The *Induction Program* is designed to make the newly joined students feel comfortable, sensitize them towards exploring their academic interests and activities, reducing competition and making them work for excellence, promote bonding within them, build relations between teachers and students, give a broader view of life, and building of character.

**Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), Varanasi
Induction Program for UGD/ IDD First Semester 2017-18**

Details of Afternoon and Evening Activities

Working Date & Day	Time	Afternoon & Evening Activity
27.07.2017 (Thursday)	03:30 pm– 05:30pm	Knowing your discipline
28.07.2017 (Friday)	03:30 pm– 05:30pm	Knowing your discipline
29.07.2017 (Saturday)	03:30 pm– 05:30 pm	Knowing your Institute
	06:00 pm – 07:30 pm	Evening Games/Sports
31.07.2017 (Monday)	03:30 pm – 05:30 pm	Knowing your Institute
	09:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Informal interactions in Boys Hostels by Mentors/Students guide
01.08.2017 (Tuesday)	02:30 pm – 07:30 pm	Visit to city 350 students by rotation
	04:30 pm – 07:30 pm	Evening Games and Sports
02.08.2017 (Wednesday)	02:30 pm – 05:30 pm	Visit to city 350 students by rotation
	04:30 pm – 07:30 pm	Evening Games and Sports
03.08.2017 (Thursday)	02:30 pm – 07:30 pm	Visit to city 350 students by rotation
	04:30 pm – 07:30 pm	Evening Games and Sports
04.08.2017 (Friday)	02:30 pm – 07:30 pm	Visit to city 350 students by rotation
	04:30 pm – 07:30 pm	Evening Games and Sports
05.08.2017 (Saturday)	02:30 pm – 07:30 pm	Visit to city 350 students by rotation
	04:30 pm – 07:30 pm	Evening Games and Sports
08.08.2017 (Tuesday)	02:30 pm – 07:30 pm	Visit to city 350 students by rotation
	06:00 pm – 07:30 pm	Cleaning of hostels/Tree plantation
	06:00 pm – 07:30 pm	Evening Games and Sports
	09:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Informal interactions in Boy's Hostels by Parliamentarians/Secretaries/Club Secretaries

Working Date & Day	Time	Afternoon & Evening Activity
09.08.2017 (Wednesday)	03:30 pm – 05:00 pm	World View Classes (Raidas, Tulsidas, Kabir, Banaras, Constitution, Reading Prose/Poetry/ Gazal etc.)
	06:00 pm – 07:30 pm	Cleaning of hostels/Tree plantation
	06:00 pm – 07:30 pm	Evening Games and Sports
	09:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Informal interactions in Boy's Hostels
10.08.2017 (Thursday)	03:30 pm – 05:00 pm	World View Classes (Raidas, Tulsidas, Kabir, Banaras, Constitution, Reading Prose/Poetry/Gazal etc.)
	06:00 pm – 07:30 pm	Knowing Activities of Gymkhana
	06:00 pm – 07:30 pm	Evening Games and Sports
	09:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Informal interactions in Boy's Hostels
11.08.2017 (Friday)	03:30 pm – 05:00 pm	World View Classes (Raidas, Tulsidas, Kabir, Banaras, Constitution, Reading Prose/Poetry/Gazal etc.)
	06:00 pm – 07:30 pm	Knowing Activities of Gymkhana
	06:00 pm – 07:30 pm	Evening Games and Sports
	09:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Informal interactions in Boy's Hostels
12.08.2017 (Saturday)	03:30 pm – 05:00 pm	World View Classes (Raidas, Tulsidas, Kabir, Banaras, Constitution, Reading Prose/Poetry/Gazal etc.)
	06:00 pm – 07:30 pm	Knowing Activities of Gymkhana
	06:00 pm – 07:30 pm	Evening Games and Sports
	09:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Informal interactions in Boy's Hostels
16.08.2017 (Wednesday)	03:30 pm – 05:00 pm	World View Classes (Raidas, Tulsidas, Kabir, Banaras, Constitution, Reading Prose/Poetry/Gazal etc.)
	06:00 pm – 07:30 pm	Knowing Activities of Gymkhana
	06:00 pm – 07:30 pm	Evening Games and Sports
	09:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Informal interactions in Boy's Hostels
17.08.2017 (Thursday)	03:30 pm – 05:30 pm	Feedback Session
18.08.2017 (Friday)	03:30 pm – 05:30 pm	Feedback Session
	09:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Final informal interactions by Mentors and Students Guide

(There might be slight changes to the above schedule. Those will be notified during the course of the Induction Program.)