

# **BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE, PILANI**

## **PRACTICE SCHOOL DIVISION**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **PRACTICE SCHOOL – IICOURSE [JANUARY 6 – JUNE 18, 2020]**

##### **1) Is it mandatory to do PS-II for the graduation?**

No. It is not mandatory to do PS-II. PS itself is only optional. If you do PS-I and not opting for PS-II, then PS-I is considered as an elective.

PS and TS are the two alternative options. Students can graduate with either PS or TS option.

##### **2) Is PS-I pre-requisite for PS-II?**

Yes. PS-I is a pre-requisite course for PS-II. Of course, PS-I is not applicable for Higher Degree. For Higher Degree, PS-II is called PS.

##### **3) What is the typical calendar for PS-II?**

The typical calendar for PS is

July – December (for First Semester)

January – June (for Second Semester); For the upcoming semester, it is from January 6 – June 18, 2020.

##### **4) Can I register for any electives along with PS course?**

No. It is not permitted.

##### **5) When can I seek a transfer to thesis?**

- All students admitted to the various integrated first degree and higher degree programmes may be allotted to PS option by default.
- Any student of integrated First Degree is free to move out of PS option before he/she is allotted a seat in PS-I.
- If a student wants to move out of the PS option after attending PS I, he/she should seek the transfer not later than the completion of one semester after PS I.
- For all the thesis transfers, the decision of Dean PS will be final.
- However, normally, most of the transfer to TS will take place at the time of semester allotment. There may also be one-week window during October of every academic year.
- In case of Higher Degree, conventionally, we float the notice inviting interested students to apply for PS during September of every academic year.

**6) I am having backlog in few courses. Can I be eligible for PS-II?**

All named courses should have been completed in order to become eligible for PS-II. However, completion of elective is not the criterion for PS-II eligibility.

**7) Can I opt for double semester PS?**

The semester allotment typically takes place during February/March of every academic year to decide the distribution of students for the next academic year. At the time of semester allotment, dual degree students can opt for double semester PS.

**8) Do I need to take the printout of preference form and submit?**

No. Printout is not required. You can save the soft copy for your reference.

**9) I wish to open a new PS-II station. Whom should I contact?**

If you wish to open a new PS-II station, you may need to visit respective PSD office and fill up the proforma available in the office during the office hours. Please note that no preferential allotment will be given to student who helps in opening a PS-II station. Preferential allotment is only for PS-I.

**10) I am having internship opportunity at other organization/university/ Can that be considered as PS-II?**

No. It cannot be considered. PS-II is a course of the institute. Course has to be allotted only by the institute.

**11) Where do I need to pay a fee if I am going for PS-II?**

The fee matter will be dealt only by SWD. Normally, a notice will be put up by SWD. PSD has no role to play as far as fee is concerned.

**12) Can I do off-campus Thesis at the organization/University which is a PS-II station?**

Off-campus Thesis/Dissertation will not be allowed at any PS-II station. Students are advised to check with PSD before initiating the off-campus Thesis/Dissertation.

**13) When is the preference form getting released?**

The preference form will be released by November 15, 2019 (tentatively). All the students have been given login and password to see the problem bank details on the basis of which preference needs to be given. Usually, one week will be given to students to fill up the preference form. The login details for First Degree students will be the same as used at the time of semester allotment. Login details for Higher Degree students has been mailed to BITS email id.

**14) I have been given conditional PS through campus placements? Do I still need to fill the preference form?**

Yes. Preference form filling is mandatory for all the students (conditional offer, continuing students).

**15) What are the factors affecting the allotment process?**

The PS-II allotment takes place through a well-structured algorithm for both FD and HD. Following are the steps followed.

a) Students are arranged in the descending order of CGPA (irrespective of FD and HD). Student with highest CGPA will be taken up first. If two students are having the same CGPA, then on the basis of id, applications will be taken up. His/her preferences will be scanned and checked for the eligibility. Eligibility depends on problem bank shared by the organization. If a top CGPA student has given preference to an organization which demands the particular discipline or a particular elective, then student is not eligible. Unlike PS-I, accommodation is not the criterion for the PS-II allotment.

**Typical eligibility and constraints:** Number of seats, Discipline constraints, CGPA cut-off, elective requirements, offshoot scores (especially for Finance and IT), Bio-data

Organization requirements may fall in one of the categories:

a) Straight forward requirement for a particular discipline with or without CGPA cutoff (No special course requirement) – Typically for the core organizations asking for the core discipline

In this case, allotment happens through CGPA predominantly.

b) Requirements for multiple disciplines with or without CGPA cutoff with few elective requirements – Typically for organizations looking for students from multiple disciplines.

**Case 1: Offshoot eligibility criterion and CGPA allotment criterion:**

In this case, depending upon the CGPA cutoff, courses will be selected (as prescribed by company) and offshoot score will be calculated.

For example, an IT company may say that students should be equipped with the following three courses for the execution of the project mentioned (minimum two courses).

a) Data Structures & Algorithms; b) Object Oriented Programming; c) Computer Programming

In this case, the allotment takes place with CGPA cutoff and offshoot criterion. If the CGPA cut-off is 7.5 and the offshoot score is 20 (since minimum two courses are mandatory), then all the students satisfying the criteria will be considered for the allotment depends on the number of seats. Students will still be arranged in the descending order of CGPA and hence offshoot becomes the eligibility criterion and CGPA becomes the allotment criterion. If a company has one seat and following two students are competing.

***Student 1: CGPA 8.00, Offshoot 25***

a) Data Structures & Algorithms – A GRADE (10 POINTS)

- b) Object Oriented Programming – B GRADE (8 POINTS)
- c) Computer Programming – B – GRADE (7 POINTS)

***Student 2: CGPA 8.50, offshoot 20***

- a) Data Structures & Algorithms – A GRADE (10 POINTS)
- b) Object Oriented Programming – NOT DONE
- c) Computer Programming – B – GRADE (10 POINTS)

Student 2 will get allotted because he/she is having higher CGPA relative to other student even though he is having offshoot score less than the other student.

**Additional condition 1:** Company may also specify that one of the three courses may be mandatory also. If Object Oriented Programming is mandatory, then automatically, student 2 is ineligible.

**Additional Condition 2:** Company may also put the additional condition that given the CGPA cut-off, we want students with maximum offshoot score

**Case 2: Offshoot allotment criterion and CGPA eligibility criterion:**

In such cases, student will highest offshoot scores will get allotted. Student 1 will get allotted since he is having maximum offshoot score and qualifying the CGPA cutoff also.

c) Requirements for multiple disciplines with or without CGPA cutoff with very good bio-data – Typically for few business development profiles

In such cases, bio-data plays a very crucial role. In business development profile, organizations look for the co-curricular activities and extra-curricular activities, Professional interest, Projects etc., If courses are specified, offshoot will also be calculated. The evaluation of bio-data is subjective keeping in view of the problem bank.

**16) How offshoot score is calculated?**

Offshoot score is calculated using the grades obtained for the courses used for the offshoot calculation.

A Grade – 10 points

A- Grade – 9 points

B Grade – 8 points

B- Grade – 7 points

C grade – 6 points

C- grade – 5 points

D grade – 4 points

E grade – 2 points

NC grade – No points

For the currently registered courses (Courses registered in First Semester 2019 – 2020), 5 points will be given.

Only on-campus courses will be considered for the offshoot.

**17) Organization has specified 5 projects. Can I opt for a specific project?**

No.

If there are 5 projects with five discipline requirements, then, it is straight forward.

However, if there are 5 projects catering to five seats with the same set of disciplines listed under one particular station, the preference for the station will only be taken in to account. Students will have to accept whatever is the project is assigned to them upon joining the PS-II. It is at the discretion of the host organization.

Note: For big finance organizations and few IT and core organizations, we have already announced different business verticals as different stations for the convenience of students. However, considering the overall allotment scenario and business requirements of the company, organization may take the final decision of moving the students to other business verticals within the parent organization.

**18) If two students with same CGPA are competing for a single seat, who will get allotted?**

We will take a look at the bio-data and courses relevant to the project. Sometimes, course grades can be looked into and accordingly decision can be taken.

**19) If a student of 8.0 CGPA is opting for a station 'x' which is his first preference also and if another student of 8.5 CGPA is opting for a same station 'x' which is his fifth preference, who will get allotted in case allotment for that station is through CGPA?**

If a student with 8.5 CGPA is not getting his first four preferences then, that seat will be allotted to 8.5 CGPA student. According to CGPA only, the applications will be taken up. The above is applicable only if the allotment is purely based on CGPA and not offshoot etc.,

**20) What are the things that I need to carry at the starting of PS-I?**

- The allotment letter issued by PSD
- The institute ID card, PAN CARD, AADHAR CARD
- Any special document intimated to you from time to time. Normally government research organizations do require special formalities to be completed prior to joining.

**21) Where can I find updates regarding the allotment?**

In the notice section of every student's dashboard, especially with respect to new stations. A mail will also be sent to students about the notification.

**22) I want to continue in the same station? What is the procedure?**

Student needs to approach the PS faculty. PS faculty will confirm with the organization about the continuation. After obtaining the confirmation, faculty will update so that the information reaches the PSD. Student still needs to submit the preferences and bio-data properly.

**23) I am a Higher Degree student and I have applied for the company through Notice process and not got the response? How do I fill a preference form?**

After receiving the bio-data, all the applications are processed and sent to organizations after checking the eligibility requirements in terms of CGPA and discipline. The results are expected to be out shortly for the stations for which we have released notices. If a student is getting selected, then he/she will be allotted the same station. Sometimes, student may apply for multiple stations and results may be arriving at the same time, then we may take students' preferences. However, final decision will be taken by PSD keeping in view the overall allotment scenario. Normally, we will try to finalize the student allotment for that station as and when the results are declared by the company, preferably before the preference form release. However, irrespective of the results, all students are supposed to fill the preference form even if they have applied to companies through notice.

**24) Organization has mentioned “ANY” discipline in the problem bank. What is the meaning?**

ANY discipline generally means all First Degree students.

**25) I am interested in a particular project and has all skill sets required for that project. But the preferred discipline has included my discipline. Can I still apply and what are my chances?**

Any student having desired skill sets can give high preference to any station irrespective of disciplines mentioned in the problem bank for that station. In fact, after submission of preferences, we may try and talk to organization about the availability of candidates outside the domain if required after due examination of bio-data of student seeking that station. However, it depends on the nature of the organization. Hence, by giving high preference to a station of your interest is not going to be disadvantageous in any manner.

Normally, student may wish to give high preference for a station where project domain falls in his/her associated disciplines.