

Policy and operational procedures for PhD students enrolled in BITS Pilani collaborative dual degree PhD programs (Cotutelle Programs)

This policy and operational procedures are applicable to the PhD students enrolled in BITS RMIT PhD Program.

General

PhD students are admitted to a BITS Pilani campus under full-time student category. In general, the first year of the study is conducted at the BITS Pilani campus. The PhD student would travel to RMIT, Melbourne, Australia in second year. The duration of work stay at RMIT is normally 12 months. The student returns to his/her BITS Pilani campus in third year and continue till the submission of thesis. This is a four-year PhD program, the thesis has to be submitted before completion of four years from the date of admission.

The student would make his/her own travel arrangements to Australia. The travel expenses related to travel including visa processing fee, economy class air fare, local conveyance will be borne by BITS Pilani and RMIT.

Academic

All the coursework applicable to regular full time PhD students is also applicable to PhD students joined under BITS RMIT PhD Program.

When the PhD student travels to RMIT, he/she is not required to pay tuition fee to BITS Pilani for two semesters. However, the student would register for the PhD Thesis course with 10 units. BITS supervisor will provide the grade based on the progress made by the student while studying at RMIT.

Fellowship and teaching assistantship

PhD student will be provided institute fellowship when they are at BITS Pilani. The total duration of the fellowship available is four years counted from the day of admission inclusive of all semester drops if any. Among the four years, BITS will provide fellowship for three years (normally, in years 1, 3 and 4 of the study) and RMIT will provide fellowship for one year (2nd year of the study). The PhD student will not be provided with any fellowship of BITS Pilani while he/she is at RMIT. The fellowship will be resumed after the student returns to BITS Pilani.

PhD student would be assigned with teaching assistantship responsibilities while at BITS Pilani. In general, student is expected to contribute to about 6-8 hours per week towards teaching assistantship.

All the other academic regulations applicable to a PhD student of BITS Pilani are also application to PhD student enrolled in BITS RMIT PhD Program.

The above general policy is also applicable to ASCRIN Program offered in collaboration with La Trobe University and any other Cotutelle programs that would be initiated in future, unless specified otherwise.