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भारतीय अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SPACE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

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ACADEMIC RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

(for the students admitted from 2026 batch onwards)

सितंबर / September 2026



Academic Rules and Regulations Two-Year Postgraduate Programmes

Applicable from 2026 Admission onwards

Table of Contents

(A) Attendance Policy	2
A1 Attendance Requirement	2
A2 Attendance component in Continuous Assessment	2
(B) Evaluation Policy	2
B1 Evaluation Components and Weightage.....	2
B2 Grade System.....	3
B3 Semester Grade Point Average (SGPA) & Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) ...	3
(C) Supplementary Examination	5
C1 Eligibility	5
C2 Examination and Evaluation Rules	5
C3 Schedule of the Supplementary Examination	6
(D) Mid-Term Examination	6
(E) Academic Misconduct and Disciplinary Action.....	6
E1 Academic Disciplinary Action Committee	7
E2 Disciplinary Measures	8
(F) Academic Progression.....	8
F1 Eligibility for Academic Progression	8
F2 Appeal Against Discontinuation.....	9
F3 Research Project	9
(G) Registration and Grading of Online Courses	9
G1 Course Registration and Approval.....	9
G2 Evaluation and Grading.....	10
(H) Verification of Answer Scripts	10
(I) Elective Courses	11
I1 Change of Elective Courses	11
I2 Dropping an Elective Course for another Elective	11
(J) Audit Courses	11
(K) Exit Options	12
K2 Eligibility for Exit Award.....	12
(L) Temporary Withdrawal	12

Academic Rules and Regulations for Two-Year Postgraduate Programmes

The academic framework at the **Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST)** is designed to foster academic excellence while providing a student-centric, flexible, and supportive learning environment. The Academic Rules and Regulations outlined in this document establish the framework governing Postgraduate Programmes at the Institute. They are intended to ensure transparency, consistency, and fairness in academic processes while facilitating the holistic development of students. All academic programmes at IIST follow the semester system, which provides a structured yet adaptable framework for curriculum delivery, assessment, and academic progression.

IIST offers postgraduate programmes leading to a Master of Technology (M.Tech.) degree in fifteen disciplines – Thermal and Propulsion, Aerodynamics and Flight Mechanics, Structures and Design, Manufacturing Technology, Control Systems, RF and Microwave Engineering, VLSI and Microsystems, Digital Signal Processing, Power Electronics, Material Science and Technology, Earth System Science, Geoinformatics, Machine Learning and Computing, Optical Engineering, and Quantum Technology. The institute also offers a Master of Science programme in Astronomy & Astrophysics and Solid State Physics, the latter being exclusively a part of the Dual Degree (DD) programme in Engineering Physics.

Duration of the Programme: The standard duration of a postgraduate programme is two years (four semesters). However, students with slower academic progress may be permitted to complete the programme within a maximum period of three years.

(A) Attendance Policy

A1 Attendance Requirement

Regular attendance is essential for the successful completion of a course and is an important component of a student's academic engagement. The attendance requirement for each course shall be determined by the course instructor. The instructor shall clearly communicate the applicable attendance requirements to the students at the beginning of the semester.

A2 Attendance component in Continuous Assessment

The course instructor may allot up to 5 marks in the continuous assessment of a theory course based on a student's attendance. Refer to Clause B1.1 for the evaluation components and weightage.

(B) Evaluation Policy

B1 Evaluation Components and Weightage

B1.1 Performance in theory courses is evaluated based on three principal components: Continuous Assessment, a mid-term written examination, and an end-semester written examination. The prescribed weightage ranges for these components are as follows:

- **Continuous Assessment:** 20–35%

- **Mid-Term Examination:** (2-hour duration): 25–35%
- **End-Semester Examination:** (3-hour duration): 40–50%

B1.2 The exact distribution of weightage within the approved ranges shall be determined by the course instructor and will be announced in the class at the start of the semester.

B1.3 The evaluation scheme for **Laboratory courses** shall be determined by the course instructor and communicated to the students in advance.

B1.4 The evaluation scheme for **Internship and Projects** shall be determined by the respective Departments and communicated to the students in advance.

B2 Grade System

At the end of each semester, students are awarded a Letter Grade in every course they have registered for, based on their performance in that course. The corresponding letter grades and Grade-Points (GP) are as follows:

Letter Grade	S	A	B	C	D	E	P	F	I
Grade-Point (GP)	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	0	-

- ‘P’ is the minimum grade required to pass a course.
- The ‘F’ grade awarded when a student is failed in a course. **The ‘F’ grade is also awarded to a student who is debarred from the examination due to academic misconduct.**
- The ‘I’ (**Incomplete**) grade is awarded to a student who:
 - (a) is absent from the End-Semester Examination; or
 - (b) is not eligible to appear for the End-Semester Examination due to shortage of attendance.

B3 Semester Grade Point Average (SGPA) & Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA)

B3.1 Semester Grade Point Average (SGPA)

On completion of a semester, the ‘Semester Grade Point Average’ (SGPA) in a semester is calculated using the formula:

$$SGPA = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (C_i \times GP_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^n C_i}$$

where:

- C_i denotes the credit assigned to the i^{th} course of the semester, and
- GP_i denotes the Grade-Point corresponding to the grade awarded for the i^{th} course in the semester.

- Here, (n) represents the total number of registered courses during the semester including the failed courses, but excluding courses awarded with an 'I' grade.

Note: The SGPA is rounded off to two decimals.

B3.2 Cumulative Grade Point Average

The 'Cumulative Grade Point Average' (CGPA) is a measure of a student's academic performance at any stage of the programme. It is calculated using the following formula:

$$CGPA = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^n (C_i \times GP_i)}{\sum_{i=1}^n C_i}$$

where:

- C_i denotes the credit assigned to the i^{th} course, and
- GP_i denotes the Grade-Point corresponding to the grade awarded for the i^{th} course.
- Here, (n) represents the total number of courses registered by the student across all semesters up to that point, including courses in which the student has failed, but excluding courses awarded with an 'I' grade.

Note: The CGPA is rounded off to two decimals

B3.3 Minimum CGPA Requirement

A student shall be eligible for the award of the postgraduate degree only upon successfully completing all programme requirements and securing a minimum **Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 5.00**.

In cases where a student has passed all courses and satisfied the prescribed credit requirements but has a **CGPA below 5.00**, they shall be given an opportunity to improve their performance in theory courses for which a 'P' grade has been awarded, within the maximum permissible duration of the programme. The selection and number of such courses shall be decided by the student in consultation with the Course Coordinator.

(C)Supplementary Examination

The Supplementary Examination is treated as a continuation of a student's original registration in a course and **does not constitute a fresh registration**. It allows eligible students to complete the course requirements without having to repeat the course. The Supplementary Examination shall be conducted in accordance with the regulations specified below.

C1 Eligibility

C1.1 A student who receives an 'F' or 'I' grade in a course during regular semesters shall be eligible to appear for the succeeding (first) Supplementary Examination conducted after the completion of the respective semester.

C1.2 A student awarded an 'F' grade due to academic misconduct shall be eligible to appear for the

Supplementary Examination only after a period of **one year from the date of such award**.

C1.3 A student who is awarded an 'F' or 'I' grade in a Supplementary Examination shall be eligible to appear for the next Supplementary Examination conducted for that course, subject to the maximum duration of the programme.

C2 Examination and Evaluation Rules

First Supplementary Examination:

C2.1 A student awarded an 'F' or 'I' grade shall be required to appear for the **first Supplementary Examination** conducted after the completion of the Odd/Even Semesters. This examination shall carry **the weightage of the End-Semester Examination only**, and the marks obtained therein shall replace the marks secured in the regular End-Semester Examination.

C2.2 The **Mid-Term Examination** and **Continuous Assessment** marks obtained during the regular semester shall be retained and carried forward for the computation of the final grade.

C2.3 For the first supplementary examination, the grading scheme applicable during the student's **original registration** in the course shall be used for determining the final grade.

C2.4 The grade awarded in the first Supplementary Examination shall be **one letter grade lower** than the grade determined by marks based on the applicable grading scheme. However:

- No grade reduction shall be applied if the student is awarded a 'P' or 'E' grade.
- No grade reduction shall be applied if the 'I' grade was awarded due to absence from the End-Semester Examination on account of a **medical or family emergency***.

**A family emergency includes the death or serious illness of an immediate family member*

Supplementary Examinations conducted after one year:

C2.5 If the Supplementary Examination is conducted **more than one year after the completion of the course**, it shall carry the **combined weightage of both the Mid-Term and End-Semester Examinations**. In such cases, the Mid-Term Examination marks obtained during the original course registration shall not be considered for grading.

C2.6 For a Supplementary Examination held **more than one year after the completion of the course**, the grade shall be awarded based on an absolute grading scheme and shall be **reduced by one letter grade** from the grade determined by marks. However, this grade reduction shall not apply if the student is awarded a **'P' or 'E' grade**. Further, in cases where a student had received an 'I' grade due to attendance shortage, the **maximum grade that may be awarded shall be 'B'**.

C2.7 Clause C2.6 shall also apply to students who were awarded an 'F' grade on account of academic misconduct, with the additional condition that the maximum grade that may be awarded through the Supplementary Examination shall be 'E'.

C3 Schedule of the Supplementary Examination

Supplementary examination for the Odd Semester shall only be conducted in January, while those for the Even Semester shall only be held in July.

(D) Mid-Term Examination

There is **no provision for a re-examination** for students who are absent from the Mid-Term Examination. However, students who are absent due to medical reasons may apply for a re-examination. Such requests shall be submitted through the Head of the Department (HoD), along with a valid medical certificate issued by the IIST Health Centre, **within five working days** after re-joining.

Upon approval, the concerned course instructor shall inform the Academic Section and conduct the re-examination **before the commencement** of the End-Semester Examination.

(E) Academic Misconduct and Disciplinary Action

IIST is committed to upholding the highest standards of academic integrity and ethical conduct. The Institute has **zero tolerance for academic misconduct**. IIST expects all students to uphold the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity in all academic activities. Any act that compromises the fairness, credibility, or integrity of the academic process shall constitute **academic misconduct**. Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Examination malpractice, including possession or use of unauthorized material, copying, communicating with other candidates during an examination, impersonation, or any other unfair means.
- Plagiarism, including presenting another person's ideas, words, figures, computer code, designs, or other intellectual work as one's own without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Fabrication or falsification of data, results, records, or academic documents, including forgery of signature of a faculty or administrative staff.
- Altering the evaluated answer script after distribution.
- Unauthorized collaboration or submission of work that is not the student's own, except where collaborative work is explicitly permitted.
- Submission of the same or substantially similar work for academic credit in more than one course without prior approval.
- Unauthorized use of Generative AI tools or any other digital resources in violation of the course or examination requirements.
- Assisting, facilitating, or attempting to facilitate any act of academic misconduct by another student.
- Impersonating a student during theory or laboratory examinations.
- Any other act deemed by the Institute to be dishonest or intended to obtain an unfair academic advantage.

The examples listed above are illustrative and not exhaustive. The Institute reserves the right to determine whether any act constitutes academic misconduct based on the facts of the case.

E1 Academic Disciplinary Action Committee

All cases of alleged academic misconduct shall be examined by the **Academic Disciplinary Action Committee (ADAC)** constituted by the Vice-Chancellor.

The ADAC shall conduct an inquiry to determine whether academic misconduct has occurred. In arriving at its decision, the Committee shall consider the student's explanation, the testimony of the invigilator(s), the course instructor (where applicable), the person reporting the alleged misconduct, any witnesses, and any other evidence considered relevant to the case.

If the student is found guilty of academic misconduct, the ADAC shall recommend appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the provisions of these regulations.

The composition of the ADAC shall be as follows:

1. Dean (Academics), Chairperson
2. Associate Dean (Academic Programme and Examination), Alternate Chairperson
3. Course Instructor, Invited Member
4. Faculty Invigilator, Invited Member
5. Head of the Department of the student, Invited Member
6. Deputy Registrar (Academics), Convener

There is provision for the student to make an appeal to the ADAC-APEX Committee on the penalty awarded by the ADAC.

The composition of the ADAC-APEX shall be as follows:

1. Pro-Vice Chancellor, Chairperson
2. Dean (Academics), Member
3. Dean (Student Activities), Member
4. Deputy Registrar (Academics), Convener

Note: The Chairpersons may invite additional faculty members or other persons, as deemed necessary, to assist the Committee during its deliberations.

E2 Disciplinary Measures

E2.1 A student found guilty of examination malpractice during the End-Semester Examination (theory as well as lab), for the **first time**, shall be awarded an 'F' grade in the concerned course.

E2.2 A student found guilty of examination malpractice during the Mid-Term Examination shall be debarred from appearing for the End-Semester Examination in the concerned course and shall be awarded an 'F' grade in that course.

E2.3 A student awarded an 'F' grade on account of academic misconduct shall be eligible to appear for the Supplementary Examination **only after one year from the completion of the semester** in which the misconduct occurred.

E2.4 The Supplementary Examination shall be conducted and evaluated in accordance with Clauses C2.5 and C2.6. However, the highest grade that may be awarded through the Supplementary

Examination shall be 'E'.

E2.5 A student found guilty of **repeated examination malpractice** shall be liable for more stringent disciplinary action, **which may include lowering of and/or capping of grades of other courses as per the decision of the ADAC**. A student subjected to disciplinary action may submit an appeal to the ADAC-APEX Committee.

E2.6 In cases of academic misconduct other than examination malpractice, the ADAC shall recommend appropriate disciplinary action based on the nature and severity of the misconduct. Such action may include, but is not limited to, cancellation of the assessment, award of an appropriate grade penalty, suspension, expulsion, or any other disciplinary measure deemed appropriate by the Institute. A student subjected to disciplinary action may submit an appeal to the ADAC-APEX Committee.

(F) Academic Progression

Typically, the curriculum of the Masters' programme at IIST consists of theory and lab courses during the first year and a Research Project spanning over the entire second year. Academic progression ensures that students possess the necessary academic preparedness to undertake courses in the subsequent academic year, while providing reasonable opportunities to clear **backlog courses**.

*Note: A **backlog course** is a course in which a student has not successfully completed the prescribed requirements and has been awarded an 'F' or 'I' grade, requiring the student to complete the course requirements through the prescribed academic provisions.*

F1 Eligibility for Academic Progression

F1.1 Students progress from the first year to the second year without any prerequisite conditions or restriction hurdles.

F1.2 Backlog theory courses may be cleared through the Supplementary Examinations conducted after the declaration of results.

F1.3 Students are granted a maximum of **two supplementary attempts** to pass any individual course.

F1.4 If a student fails to clear a backlog course after their second supplementary attempt, they will face **academic discontinuation** from the M.Tech./M.S. programme.

F2 Appeal Against Discontinuation

A student whose programme has been discontinued may submit an appeal to the Vice-Chancellor for reinstatement to the programme.

F3 Research Project

F3.1 The Research Project shall be of **one-year duration**, spanning the third and fourth semesters of the programme. If a student is unable to complete the project within the stipulated period (i.e., by the end of the fourth semester), they may submit a formal request for extension to the Dean (Academic) through the Project Supervisor and Head of the Department. An extension of **at least one month** may be granted based on the merits of the request.

F3.2 If the approved extension **exceeds three months**, the student shall be required to **register for the subsequent semester**.

F3.3 Extension of the Research Project on **medical grounds** may be granted for a maximum period of **six months**.

(G) Registration and Grading of Online Courses

Online courses, such as **SWAYAM–NPTEL** offerings, provide students with an opportunity to enhance their academic exposure by enrolling in approved courses offered by reputed institutions. These courses may be considered towards fulfilling the **elective credit requirements** of the academic programme, subject to the provisions specified below.

G1 Course Registration and Approval

G1.1 For the purpose of credit transfer while maintaining compatibility with the Institute's internal courses, a **12-week** SWAYAM–NPTEL course shall be treated as **equivalent to 3 credits**, while an **8-week** SWAYAM–NPTEL course shall be treated as **equivalent to 2 credits**.

G1.2 Students may earn **up to 8 credits** through approved SWAYAM–NPTEL courses towards the elective credit requirements prescribed in their curriculum. A student shall be permitted to register **for not more than one SWAYAM–NPTEL course in a semester**.

G1.3 SWAYAM–NPTEL courses shall be permitted only in lieu of elective courses and **shall not be used to satisfy the credit requirements of core theory courses in the curriculum**.

G1.4 A student intending to register for a SWAYAM–NPTEL course shall submit the proposed course(s) to the Departmental Faculty Coordinator within one week of the commencement of the semester or one week before the NPTEL registration deadline, whichever is earlier.

G1.5 The Department shall examine the proposed online course(s) to ensure their academic relevance and suitability for the student's programme and shall forward its recommendations to the Office of the Deputy Registrar (Academics) for the record.

G2 Evaluation and Grading

G2.1 On successful completion of the course, the student shall submit a **self-attested copy** of the SWAYAM–NPTEL certificate to the Departmental Faculty Coordinator.

G2.2 Since the SWAYAM–NPTEL certificate reports the consolidated score rounded to the nearest integer and also provides separate marks for the **Online Assignments (25 marks)** and the **Proctored Examination (75 marks)**, the score considered for awarding the grade shall be the higher of the consolidated score reported on the certificate or the sum of the Online Assignment and Proctored Examination marks.

G2.3 The conversion of marks obtained in SWAYAM–NPTEL courses into letter grades shall be carried out in accordance with the following marks-to-grade conversion policy:

Range	Letter Grade	Grade-Point
85 – 100	S	10
75 – 84	A	9
65 – 74	B	8
56 – 64	C	7
47 – 55	D	6
40 – 46	E	5
0 – 39	F	0

G2.4 The Departmental Faculty Coordinator shall submit the consolidated grade statement, together with the SWAYAM–NPTEL certificates, to the Academic Section for recording the grades in accordance with the Institute's academic regulations.

G2.5 A student who fails a SWAYAM–NPTEL course may either:

- re-register for the same SWAYAM–NPTEL course when it is next offered; or
- register for another approved SWAYAM–NPTEL or IIST elective course,

subject to the recommendation of the Department and the approval of the Dean (Academics).

(H) Verification of Answer Scripts

Students shall be provided an opportunity to physically verify their evaluated answer scripts for the Mid-Term, End-Semester, and Supplementary Examinations. The respective course instructor shall announce and coordinate the verification process.

For Mid-Term Examinations, the evaluated answer scripts shall be made available for verification before the result submission deadline specified in the Academic Calendar. For End-Semester and Supplementary Examinations, the verification shall be completed **within a maximum of five working days from the date of the last examination**.

In view of this provision, **no request for revaluation of answer scripts for the End-Semester or Supplementary Examinations shall be entertained after the publication of results.**

(I) Elective Courses

An elective course is a subject that a student can choose voluntarily from a set of options, rather than one that is compulsory in the curriculum. Unlike core (mandatory) courses, electives allow students to:

- Explore areas of personal interest
- Gain knowledge beyond their primary discipline
- Specialize in a particular field

An elective gives flexibility to tailor your academic programme according to your interests and career goals.

I1 Change of Elective Courses

Postgraduate students who wish to change an elective course after registration must submit a written request to the Academic Section within one week from the date of course registration. The request must be duly approved by the instructors of both the currently registered elective and the proposed elective.

I2 Dropping an Elective Course for another Elective

A student who is unable to successfully complete an elective course after multiple attempts (minimum two) may submit a written request, through the Head of the Department, to drop the elective and opt for another elective in its place. The request must be duly approved by the instructor of the proposed elective. The Dean (Academics) shall take a decision based on the merits of the case. The student shall be required to register for the new elective and fulfill all the prescribed course requirements.

(J) Audit Courses

Auditing a course refers to enrolling in a course without the intention of earning academic credit or a grade. The student attends classes to gain knowledge, but the course does not count toward degree requirements.

- During their entire programme, a student is allowed to audit a maximum of **two courses**, provided that **no more than one course** is audited in any single semester.
- The student is required to appear for the Mid-Term Examination, along with class tests, and submit assignments similar to a credit course; however, the student is exempted from the End-Semester Examination.
- The grade awarded for an audited course shall be '**AUDIT**', which carries no grade-points and is not included in SGPA/CGPA calculations.
- Prior written approval from the course instructor offering the course is required to register for auditing.
- If the auditing course has any pre-requisites, the student must satisfy them.
- The '**AUDIT**' grade shall be awarded by the instructor only if the student meets the attendance requirement and satisfies the academic performance criteria for internal assessments (Mid-Term, class tests, and assignments) as specified by the instructor. Otherwise, a '**NP**' (No Pass) grade shall be awarded.
- A course successfully completed in audit mode shall be reflected in the Semester Grade Report and the transcript as an Audit Course.
- A '**NP**' grade obtained in an audited course shall not be reflected in the transcript.
- A student shall not be permitted to convert a registered elective course into an audit course and vice versa.
- During the second year of the programme, while undertaking the project, a student may be permitted to audit at most two theory courses, subject to the approval of the Project Supervisor.

(K) Exit Options

IIST provides an exit option to ensure flexibility for students who choose not to complete the full duration of the programme. This provision enables students to receive a formal qualification upon successfully completing specified academic requirements. Accordingly, a student who exits prior to completing the full programme may be awarded an appropriate intermediate qualification, commensurate with the credits earned and the learning outcomes achieved.

Eligibility for Exit Award

A student who opts to exit the programme voluntarily, shall be eligible for the following exit award, subject to the fulfillment of the prescribed academic credit requirements:

PG Diploma in the relevant specialization

- successful completion of all courses prescribed for the **first year of the programme**
- minimum CGPA of **5.00**

(L) Temporary Withdrawal

IIST provides provision for temporary withdrawal for students who have completed all the theory and laboratory courses prescribed for the programme. This provision may be availed by students seeking to join a job subject to the following conditions:

- The student shall submit a “**No Objection Certificate**” from the organization they joined **within six months** of joining, clearly indicating either organization shall grant them **minimum seven months of leave** to pursue and complete the project work at IIST or shall permit them to carry out the project work at their organizational research facility.
- Students shall **remit complete semester fee every semester** (except hostel fee and mess fee) till they complete the PG programme.