

HBNI

22nd JULY 2020

MENTORING SYSTEM FOR ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES UNDER HBNI

(Approved in the 25th Academic Council meeting)



HOMI BHABHA NATIONAL INSTITUTE

*(A Deemed to be University u/s 3 of UGC Act, MHRD & an Aided Institution of the
DAE, Govt. of India)*

2nd Floor, Training School
Anushaktinagar, Mumbai – 400094

Website: www.hbni.ac.in

Phone Nos.: 022-25597554, 25597626

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Every University has a system of mentoring its students in matters related to academics as well as other issue including stress related issues, placement, career guidance, etc., and sometimes even personal issues.

HBNI has a mentoring system tailored to its profile of students. For example, during 2018-19, HBNI had 3165 active students and 1084 faculty. Of the 3165 students, 1874 number of students pursued PhD/Integrated PhD programs; 556 number pursued MSc (chem/life/math/phys) programs and 238 pursued MTech programs. The needs of mentoring for all these students are obviously different, and considering the differences in the nature of the programs, the type of mentor will also be different. This is explained below:

- a. While a PhD guide mentors students on individual basis, every CI/OCC also has Dean(Academic) in different disciplines who interact with the students and advise them on academic as well as other issues.
- b. Some of the CIs also have Standing Committees/Monitoring Committees that not only monitor the progress of the student, but also advise him on many matters, eg. Courses that he can benefit from, including courses that the student can take from institutions with whom HBNI has an MoU.
- c. Some CIs have a wide variety of programs (eg. BARC – PGD, MTech, MPhil, PhD, DiPRP, DMRIT, MD) while some focus on a few programs (eg. IMSc- PhD and Integrated PhD). For obvious reasons, the mentoring systems in these CIs have to be different in order to cater to the profile of the students.

In line with the philosophy of decentralised management adopted by HBNI, the CIs / OCC follow suitable approaches for mentoring of their students, in line with local needs and the program requirements. However, the mentoring system followed can be described in general terms as follows:

1. For the PhD and the integrated PhD programs, every student has a guide, and the guide has up to 8 students under his mentorship. The guide also plays the role of a mentor.
 - 1.1 In some of the CIs, the research problem and the guide are identified in the second year of the program, and the student mainly pursues course work. In this period, the Dean (Academic) of concerned discipline provides necessary guidance to the student regarding academic and other matters.
2. For programs such as MSc, mentorship to the student is not provided on individual basis; the mentoring needs are taken care of by the Head of the School dealing with the concerned discipline.

3. For MTech programs, the CIs have a discipline-specific monitoring committee for the students. While the Chairman of the monitoring committee or Dean (Academic) meets the mentoring needs, during the project phase, the faculty involved in providing the guidance for the project work also acts as the mentor.
4. Inputs from CIs/OCC have been taken into account for identifying mentors for students in other programs (eg. Programs in Medical and Health sciences, PGD programs)

The mentors for the students of HBNI have been identified by following the above system. It is ensured that only full-time faculty are identified as mentors.

In addition to the above, some CIs/OCC have separate committees identified for mentoring the students (eg. VECC). The Students' Grievance cells also help in guiding the students in the event of a perceived conflict or stress, in addition to resolving any issues related to academic processes.

