

Summary and Report for the Foundation Program 2017

Faculty coordinators:

Manu Awasthi
Krishna Kanti Dey
Poonam Mutha
Manas Paliwal
Kaustubh Rane

24th July 2017 to 27th August 2017

1. Introduction

The Foundation Program (FP), a unique initiative of IIT Gandhinagar, is a co-curricular course-work that has been conducted since 2011. In FP, the incoming batch of B.Tech students is put through a rigorous and intensive five-week program to instill in them confidence, creativity, communication skills, social awareness and ethics. The weeks of FP include several organized sessions which are conducted by external experts as well as internal members of the institute.

Objectives: The overall aim of the FP is to nurture the all-round growth of students, away from academics, and introduce them to a variety of issues of societal significance. The five-week program includes activities ranging from field visits to arts and culture to sports. The various sessions are broadly based on five central themes:

- **Physical fitness:** Engage students in sports and physical activities to ensure healthy physical and mental growth.
- **Values and ethics:** Focus on fostering a strong sense of ethical judgment and moral fortitude.
- **Social awareness:** Nurture a deeper understanding of the surroundings and our responsibilities towards it.
- **Leadership, communications and teamwork:** Develop a culture of teamwork and group communication.
- **Creativity:** Encourage young minds to exhibit and develop individual creativity by expressing themselves through art, craft, music, singing, media, dramatics, and other creative activities.

Many of the FP sessions are in fact cater to more than one of the themes mentioned above. The learning in the FP is fun-filled, experience-based and interactive. The FP is a compulsory coursework that every B. Tech. student at IIT Gandhinagar is required to PASS before beginning their curricular course works. The grading in FP is typically based on participation and conduct of the students in the program.

Coordinators: FP-2017 was coordinated by a team comprising of Manu Awasthi, Manas Paliwal, Kaustubh Rane, Poonam Mutha and Krishna Kanti Dey. The number of students expected in 2017 batch was around 180 and a team of five coordinators was necessary to effectively conduct the program. The program schedule was carefully drafted to have most of the lecture-mode sessions conducted with 180 students together and the

activity-based sessions conducted in groups. In each session, at least one faculty coordinator was always present to ensure students' discipline and cooperation in it and also to help the instructor in conducting the session efficiently. Additionally, the in-charge faculty coordinators, with the help of the teaching assistants, recorded the attendances in various sessions to ensure maximum student participation and involvement. The criteria for grading and attendance policy were declared at the beginning of the program. For larger sessions consisting of 180 students, often more than one faculty coordinators were present.

Teaching Assistants (TAs): The faculty coordinators were efficiently aided by eight TAs (Ankit Dodla, Sujay Kadam, Vivek Chaitanya Peddiraju, Aaqib Khan, Siddhant Bhoir, Nama Rakesh, Gaurav Panthi, and Abhik Chandra). The TAs were assigned the following duties: collecting students feedback on various sessions, helping the coordinators collect attendance and digitization of the collected data, ensuring on-time availability of materials needed for various sessions and filling up transport allowance forms for external instructors.

Novelty in FP 2017: Although FP-2017 followed the basic structure of the programs conducted in the previous years; some novelty was brought in this year in the form of the following initiatives:

- Students were engaged more in hands-on activities, writing assignments, debates and discussions compared to lecture-based sessions.
- Sessions on self-defense were introduced as part of sports activities to develop self-discipline, confidence and fitness among the new students, promoting a sense of awareness and personal safety.
- Mr. P. R. Vaidyanathan, a senior undergraduate student of Electrical Engineering at IITGn, with his team conducted sessions on Brain Twister, which was much appreciated by the new students.
- Cleaning of heritage sites as part of developing social awareness was conducted successfully in FP-2017. In collaboration with the Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation, the students were engaged in cleaning parts of Gandhi road between Teen Darwaza and Panchkuva Darwaza, which are places of historical significance. The students valued the importance of the exercise. The event was also greatly appreciated by the local community and covered in the media.
- With the help of the accounts section at IITGn, a session was conducted to inform the students about various fellowships and academic funding schemes available.

- FP -2017 ended with a drum circle session to allow the students to feel connected to each other and gain a sense of interpersonal support. The session also served as a stress buster and entertaining exercise for the students.
- Other important sessions introduced were Madhubani art, Fun with Chemistry, Interaction with Manjita Vanzara, Choreography by Kush Banker, Patangbaazi, Book reading, Kaaristaan, and Clay workshop.

Sessions for FP-2017 were selected by the coordinators based not only on the central themes of the FP but also considering students feedback in FP-2016 and many important suggestions received from teaching and non-teaching members of the institute. Students' evaluations of various sessions in FP-2016 were carefully analysed before repeating a few sessions in FP-2017. We thank the previous FP coordinators, Dean of academic affairs (Prof. Amit Prashant), and Dean of student affairs (Prof. Jaison Manjaly) for their help and suggestions in coming up with a balanced FP program for this year. We also thank our Director, Prof. Sudhir Jain for his valuable insights on various sessions which made FP-2017 a joyful and memorable experience for both the students and the coordinators.

Following are few memorable photos:



2. Feedback for the sessions

We first share some general trends about the feedbacks from the sessions. Overall, the students like and tend to learn more from the “hands-on” sessions than the lectures. This observation is in line with the feedback from the students who undertook the Foundation Program in the previous years. Further, the students appreciate hands-on sessions that involve team-work, and competition between teams.

Coming to the session instructors, we observed that the students like the instructors who interact with them throughout the session. This is also true when they were working in groups. The students also highly rated the instructors with good public-speaking qualities. Interestingly, even the instructors with a higher reputation among the community were penalized for their speaking skills. Another interesting observation is that the students consistently gave higher ratings to the younger instructors.

The feedback from few initial sessions was obtained via paper forms. We then shifted to the online feedback form after confirming that all the students had smartphones. The online feedback also eased the burden of teaching assistants who were involved in compiling the responses. We observed that the students were not always enthusiastic in rating the sessions and the instructors even after they were explained the significance of doing so. Most students provided only the number ratings, and few comments were obtained. The observations in the previous paragraphs were partly from the personal communications with the students.

Depending on the ratings gathered from the feedback forms, we classify the sessions into four categories and recommend that sessions in the “Very good” and “Good” category may be included in the Foundation Program of 2018.

1. **Very good:** Theatre (Stefan Haves), Imagination workshop (Cedric Serpes), Brain twister (Mr. Vaidyanathan) , Lego (Manas Jain), Leadership (Navniet Sekera), Juggling (Bireswar Das), Fun with science and mathematics (Manish Jain), tree planting (Mr. Patel), Digital sports (students belonging to the technical club), Origami (Jeevantirth)

2. **Good:** English diagnostic test (Prof. Sharmita Lahiri), ethics (Prof. Chetan Pahlajani), fun with chemistry (Prof. Sriram Kanvah), What makes a person successful (Lt. Gen. Vishwambhar Singh), Madhubani art (Supriya Phatak Roy), clay workshop (Nehal), IITGN values (Prof. Kabeer Jasuja), Gender issues (Prof. Rita Kothari), Warli painting (Arvind Ghosalkar / Supriya Phatak Roy), alumni panel, campus development

(Prof. Harish PM), Creating a story (Prof. Arnapurna Rath), Personal story (Manjita Vanzara), Music with Engineering (Prof. Arup Chakraborty and Prof. Atul Dixit), Sketching (Prof. Pedro and Sameer Bakshi)

3. **Average:** Painting, PF16, waste management (Nupur Tandon)

4. **Below average:** Caricature (Nirmish Thakar), Heritage walk (Girish Gupta), photography (Illes Shah), Patangbaji (Papu Patangbaaz)

3. Attendance of the students

We implemented a strict policy about the attendance. The policy was as follows:

1. The students are allowed to miss only two sessions. Absence for more than two sessions will result in F grade, unless the absence is due to medical reasons.
2. In the case of health related issues, a certificate from one of the IITGN physicians is required.
3. Any other reasons for the absence will not be entertained.
4. Late arrival to the sessions will be considered as absence.

Following the above policy, eight students received the Fail grade in FP 2017 and 166 students received the pass grade.

5. Recommendations for the next year's team:

1. The budget approval for the program can be sought a little late, preferably a week before the start of the program as there would be a sufficient clarity on resource persons, consumables, transportation and other related items. This would also save the required paperwork and approvals that is required in case the resource person and the related transportation are missing from the approval document.
2. Deliberations for the chief guest in the FP should begin early.
3. The program time table should be made flexible for outside resource personnel rather than the IITGn people. Internal resource persons are expected to be more adaptable with dates and scheduling in comparison to their external counterparts. Typically, the internal people are extremely cooperative in these matters.

4. The current coordinators unanimously raise concerns on the involvement of “ Faculty Coordination Office” in FP. We faced unsolicited opinions, comparisons and impediments from this office during the entire course of the program. Casting aspersions and blame on the coordinators for trivial matters in such a high frequency event is totally undesirable. The focal issues related to FP such as room reservations, scheduling, payment tracking, air fare bookings etc. which we believe should be dealt by Faculty Coordination Office was in fact handled by the coordinators. This really makes us question the involvement of this office in future FPs.
5. The coordinators appreciate the commitment of Puvar ji, Colonel Kapoor and entire hospitality team for the current FP. We recommend next year’s team to get in touch with aforementioned people as quickly as possible.
6. The current team would also like thank the accounts team for expediting payment for certain resource people. It is recommended that next year's team directly deal with the accounts office for matters related to payments.

To,
The Director
IIT Gandhinagar
Palaj, Gandhinagar 382355

July 5 2017

Sub: Allotment of funds for Foundation Program -2017

Dear Prof. Jain

We are writing you regarding the allotment of funds for the upcoming Foundation program organized for the incoming batch of the First year B.Tech students at IIT Gandhinagar. The documents contain the list of proposed resource educators and instructors, the expected honoraria and TA expenses. We kindly request you to approve the budget of rupees 800,000 for the foundation program of 2017.

Sincerely,

Krishna Kanti Dey

Manu Awasthi

Poonam Mutha

Kaustubh Rane

Manas Paliwal

Handwritten signatures and dates:
K. Kanti Dey 06/07/17
Manu Awasthi 06/07/2017
Poonam Mutha 06/07/17
Kaustubh Rane 06/07/17
Manas Paliwal 06/07/17

S.No	Expense item	2016: Proposed	2016: Actual	2017: Proposed
1.	Honoraria*	222,000	98100	230,000
2.	Transport	90,000	1,10,354	90,000
3.	TA*	100,000	63,777	72,000
4.	Material Cost	150,000	67,847	100,000
5.	Food and beverages	150,000	67,974	75,000
6.	Welcome kit and diary	50,000	0.00	0.00
7.	Miscellaneous and Contingency	38,000	940	38,000
	Total	Rs. 800,000	4,08,992	Rs. 605,000

* A list of resource persons, honoraria, TA and Transport is attached separately.

Note: Excluded in 2016 are the following for which the TA/honorariums/material costs and other related expenses will be paid by the respective units of IIT Gn:

1. Sessions by Maanas: PF-16
2. Tree plantation
3. Medical checkups
4. One minute video recording

Budget approved

S. Jain

5.7.2017

Please ensure that we provide a standard diary to all students and encourage them for diary writing.



FOUNDATION PROGRAMME 2017

INAUGURATION SCHEDULE

24th-July-2017

Venue: Jasubhai Memorial Auditorium

09:00 AM: Student reception (outside JB auditorium)

09:45 AM: Assembly in JB auditorium

10:00 AM: Chief Guest reception

10:05 AM: Invocation (Prof. Atul Dixit)

10:25 AM: Lamp lighting

10:30 AM: Welcome address by Prof. Amit Prashant (Dean, Academics)

10:40 AM: Felicitation of Chief Guest - Prof. Dheeraj Sanghi, IIT Kanpur

10:45 AM: Address by Chief Guest

11:15 AM: Address by Prof. Sudhir K. Jain, Director

11:45 AM: Address by Alumnus Yash Pratap Singh

11:55 AM: Address by Alumnus Yash Shah

12:05 PM: Address by Prof. Jaison Manjaly (Dean Student Affairs)

12:15 PM: Group Photo

LUNCH BREAK

02:00 PM: Assemble in JB auditorium for parents-FP team-Student Guides' interaction

02:30 PM: Parent Interaction with Deans (Academics and Student Affairs)

03:15 PM: Informal interaction with faculty representatives

04:00 PM: Farewell to parents

04:30 PM: Briefing of students by FP team

	Day	6:30 AM - 7:30 AM	9:30 AM - 11:00 AM	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	8:30 PM - 9:30 PM
24-Jul	Monday		(A+B+C+D) Inauguration JB Auditorium					
25-Jul	Tuesday	(A+B+C+D) Exercise:	9:30 -10:30 (A+B+C+D) Interaction with FP Coordinators 01/003		1 Min Video		(A+B+C+D) Exercise:	(A+B+C+D) Interaction with DOSA 01/003
		01/003	10:30 -11:30 (A+B+C+D) IITGN Values 01/003		(A) 4/112 (B) 5/203 (C) 6/202 (D) 6/203		Indoor & outdoor fields	
			11:30 -12:30 (A+B+C+D) Use of IITGN IT Services 01/003					
26-Jul	Wednesday	(A+B+C+D) Exercise:	(A) Medical, Housing Block 30		(B) Medical, Housing Block 30		(A+B+C+D) Exercise:	(A+B+C+D) Diary Writing 01/003
		Block 1/Sports ground	(B) Viva Voce 01/003		(C) Viva Voce 01/003		Indoor & outdoor fields	
			(C) Warli 6/202		(D) Warli 6/202			
			(D) Madhubani Art 01/Lecture Hall 4		(A) Madhubani Art 01/Lecture Hall 4			
27-Jul	Thursday	(A+B+C+D) Exercise:	(C) Medical, Housing Block 30		(D) Medical, Housing Block 30		(A+B+C+D) Exercise:	(A+B+C+D) Student Interaction 01/003
		Block 1/Sports ground	(D) Viva Voce 01/001		(A) Viva Voce 01/001		Indoor & outdoor fields	
			(A) Warli 6/202		(B) Warli 6/202			
			(B) Madhubani Art 01/Lecture Hall 4		(C) Madhubani Art 01/Lecture Hall 4			
28-Jul	Friday	(A+B+C+D) Exercise:	9:30 - 12:30 (A+B+C+D) Viva Voce/Counselling Service Activity 01/003		2:00 - 3:30 (A+B+C+D) Rita Kothari 01/003		(A+B+C+D) Exercise:	(A+B+C+D) Diary Writing 01/003
		Block 1/ Sports ground			3:30 - 5:00 (A+B+C+D) EDT 01/003		Outdoor field	
29-Jul	Saturday	(A+B+C+D) Self-defense	9:30 - 10:30 (A+B+C+D) Ethics 01/003		2:00 - 3:30 (A+B+C+D) Navneet Sekera 01/003		1-18: Mess I 19-36: Mess II	(A+B+C+D) Student Interaction 01/003
		2/002	10:30 - 12:30 (A+B+C+D) Fun with Chemistry 01/003		3:30 - 5:00 (A+B+C+D) Music with Engineering 01/003		37-180: Sports (Boys) Indoor & outdoor fields	
30-Jul	SUNDAY							
31-Jul	Monday	(A+B+C+D) Self-defense	9:30 - 11:00 (A+B+C+D) Know Your Library 01/003		2:00 - 3:30 (A+B+C+D) Debating 01/003		(A+B+C+D) Exercise:	(A+B+C+D) Diary Writing 01/003
		2/002	11:00 - 12:30 (A+B+C+D) IITGN Academics 01/003		3:30 - 4:00 (A+B+C+D) Student Affairs		Outdoor sports field	
					4:00 - 5:00 (A+B+C+D) Introduction to Mechanism Design with Technic			
1-Aug	Tuesday	(B+C) Self-defense 2/002	(B) Painting 01/Lecture Hall 4		2:00 - 3:00 (A+B+C+D) Privileged Index Session JB Auditorium		(A+B+C+D) Exercise:	(A+B+C+D) Student Interaction 01/003
		(A+D) Yoga: Block 1/sports ground	(C) Tree Planting (Assemble near 300 Audi at 9:30 AM)		3:00 - 5:00 (A) Creating a Story 5/202	(B) Photography JB Auditorium	Sports ground	
			(A+D) Origami 4/112		(C) Caricature 6/202	(D) Juggling Room 4/112		
2-Aug	Wednesday	(A+B) Heritage Walk: Assemble at Hostel Parking Area at 6:30 AM		2:00 - 3:00 (A+B+C+D) Campus Development 300 Auditorium (01/003)		(A+B+C+D) Exercise:	(A+B+C+D) Diary Writing 01/003	
		(C+D) Self-defense 2/002	(C) Painting 01/Lecture Hall 4		3:00 - 5:00 (B) Creating a Story 6/203	(C) Photography 300 Auditorium (01/003)		Sports ground
			(D) Tree Planting (Assemble near 300 Audi at 9:30 AM)		(D) Caricature 6/202	(A) Juggling Room 4/112		
3-Aug	Thursday	(C) Heritage Walk Assemble at Hostel Parking Area at 6:30 AM			2:00 - 3:00 (A+B+C+D) What makes a person successful Lt. Gen V. Singh 01/003		(A+B+C+D) Exercise:	(A+B+C+D) Student Interaction 01/003
		(D+A) Self-defense 2/002	(D) Painting 01/Lecture Hall 4		3:00 - 5:00 (C) Creating a Story 6/203	(D) Photography 01/003	Sports ground	
		(B) Exercise: Sports ground	(A) Tree Planting (Assemble near 300 Audi at 9:30 AM)		(A) Caricature 6/202	(B) Juggling Room 4/112		
			(B) Origami 4/112					
4-Aug	Friday	(D) Heritage Walk Assemble at Hostel Parking Area at 6:30 AM			2:00 - 3:00 (A+B+C+D) Waste Management 01/Lecture Hall 4		(A+B+C+D) Exercise:	(A+B+C+D) Alumni Panel 01/003
		(A+B) Self-defense 2/002	(A) Painting 01/Lecture Hall 4		3:00 - 5:00 (D) Creating a Story 6/203	(A) Photography 01/Lecture Hall 4	Sports ground	
		(C) Exercise: Sports ground	(B) Tree Planting (Assemble near 300 Audi at 9:30 AM)		(B) Caricature 6/202	(C) Juggling Room 4/112		
			(C) Origami 4/112					

	Day	6:30 AM - 7:30 AM	9:30 AM - 11:00 AM	11:00 AM - 12:30 PM	2:00 PM - 3:30 PM	3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	8:30 PM - 9:30 PM	
5-Aug	Saturday	(A) Nature Walk Start at 6 AM (B+C+D) Exercise: Sports ground	CONVOCAION				37-54: Mess I 55-72: Mess II 1-36, 73-180: Sports	(A+B+C+D) Student Interaction 01/003	
6-Aug	SUNDAY								
7-Aug	Monday	(A+B+C+D) Exercise: Sports ground	(A+B+C+D) PF-16 JB Auditorium	(A+B+C+D) Metis JB Auditorium	(A+B+C+D) Exercise: Sports ground	(A+B+C+D) Student Interaction 01/003			
8-Aug	Tuesday	(A+B+C+D) Exercise: Sports ground	9:30 - 11:00 (A+B+C+D) Manjita Vanjara JB Auditorium 11:00 - 12:30 (A+B+C+D) Alumni Panel JB Auditorium	(A+B+C+D) Digital Sports JB Auditorium	(A+B+C+D) Exercise: Sports ground	(A+B+C+D) Diary Writing 01/003			
9-Aug	Wednesday	(A+B+C+D) Exercise: Sports ground	(A+B) Cedric Serpes JB Auditorium (C) Stefan Haves Theater 4/112 (D) Sketching Block 01 Lecture Hall 4	(A) Patangbaazi 4/112 (B) Brain Twister 6/202 (C) Clay Workshop 2/002 (D) Lego Block 01 Lecture Hall 4	(A+B+C+D) Exercise: Sports ground	(A+B+C+D) Student Interaction 01/003			
10-Aug	Thursday	(A+B+C+D) Exercise: Sports ground	(A+B) Cedric Serpes JB Auditorium (D) Stefan Haves Theater 4/112 (C) Sketching Block 01 Lecture Hall 4	(B) Patangbaazi 4/112 (C) Brain Twister 6/202 (D) Clay Workshop 2/002 (A) Lego Block 01 Lecture Hall 4	(A+B+C+D) Exercise: Sports ground	(A+B+C+D) Diary Writing 01/003			
11-Aug	Friday	(A+B+C+D) Exercise: Sports ground	(C+D) Cedric Serpes JB Auditorium (A) Stefan Haves Theater 4/112 (B) Sketching 01 Block 01 Lecture Hall 4	(C) Stefan Haves Theater 4/112 (D) Brain Twister 6/202 (A) Clay Workshop 2/002 (B) Lego Block 01 Lecture Hall 4	(A+B+C+D) Exercise: Sports ground	(A+B+C+D) Student Interaction 01/003			
12-Aug	Saturday	(B) Nature Walk Start at 6 AM (A+C+D) Exercise: Sports ground	(C+D) Cedric Serpes JB Auditorium (B) Stefan Haves Theater 4/112 (A) Sketching Block 01 Lecture Hall 4	(D) Patangbaazi 4/112 (A) Brain Twister 6/202 (B) Clay Workshop 2/002 (C) Lego Block 01 Lecture Hall 4	73-90: Mess I 91-108: Mess II 1-72, 109-180: Sports	(A+B+C+D) Diary Writing 01/003			
13-Aug	SUNDAY	Groups (A+B+C+D) CLEANLINESS DRIVE (Assemble Groupwise in Hostel Parking Area at 5:00 AM)							
14-Aug	Monday	(A+B+C+D) Exercise: Sports ground	(A) Model Making Block 01 Lecture Hall 4 (B) Neev: Vision Box 2/002 (C) Nyasa: Mechanical Workshop (Assemble in 2/002 at 9:30 AM) (D) Stefan Haves Theater 4/112	(D) Model Making Block 01 Lecture Hall 4 (C) Neev: Vision Box 2/002 (B) Nyasa: Mechanical Workshop (A) Stefan Haves Theater 4/112	(A+B+C+D) Exercise: Sports ground	(A+B+C+D) Student Interaction 01/003			
15-Aug	Tuesday	(A+B+C+D) Exercise: Sports ground	INDEPENDENCE DAY (Check for Institute Announcement)						
16-Aug	Wednesday	(A+B+C+D) Exercise: Sports ground	(C) Model Making Block 01 Lecture Hall 4 (D) Neev: Vision Box 2/002 (A) Nyasa: Mechanical Workshop (Assemble in 2/002 at 9:30 AM) (B) Stefan Haves Theater 4/112	(C) Patangbaazi 4/112 (A) Neev: Vision Box 2/002 (D) Nyasa: Mechanical Workshop (B) Model Making Block 01 Lecture Hall 4	(A+B+C+D) Exercise: Sports ground	(A+B+C+D) Student Interaction 01/003			
17-Aug	Thursday	(A+B+C+D) Exercise: Sports ground	9:30 - 10:30 (A+B+C+D) Manish Jain JB Auditorium 10:30 - 11:30 (A+B+C+D) Book Reading 11:30-12:30 (A+B+C+D) Michel Danino JB Auditorium	(A+B+C+D) India Quiz JB Auditorium	(A+B+C+D) Exercise: Sports ground	(A+B+C+D) Diary Writing 01/003			
18-Aug	Friday	(A+B+C+D) Exercise:	9:30-11:00 (A+B+C+D) Bryce Johnson JB Auditorium	(A+B+C+D) Who Stole My Laptop	(A+B+C+D) Exercise:	(A+B+C+D) Student			

