

Proposal to include Minors in the Degree

Proposed by: Anurag Sahay

At present several Minor programmes are being run by various departments of the Institute. There are two ways to get a Minor – one way is to obtain a seat in the Minor programme offered by the department at the end of the 4th Semester of the undergraduate programme. Such a student is guaranteed a seat in any course of the department which is part of the Minor. The second way is retrospective – if the student manages to do all the required credits for a given Minor before graduating, he/she can request for the Minor, subject to the approval of the DUGC of the department.

Currently, Minors are not included in the Degree that is awarded at the time of graduation. Instead, the Minor is identified in the transcript issued to the student at the time of the completion of the programme. The proposal is to change the status quo by removing the Minor from the transcript and putting it on the degree.

Rationale behind the proposal

There are three essential reasons for this proposal:

1. **Conformance with international standards** – The general observance is that Minor programmes in other Institutes, both in India and abroad are treated as a part of the degree that is being awarded. In particular, the requirements of the degree are expanded/modified to include the requirements of the Minor, and the degree explicitly includes the Minor. Our system is, at present, out of the ordinary for no clear reason.
2. **Formalizing Minors** – Due to the fact that the Minor programme is relegated to the transcript, it suffers from a sense of informality, often preventing students (both recent graduates as well as current students) from using or declaring the fact that they are going to receive/have received a Minor. In particular, it may incentivize the programme as students realize that they will get a degree which explicitly mentions the Minor.
3. **Future use** – The primary purpose of a Minor is to engage undergraduate students in other disciplines than their chosen Major, and to provide exposure to a field, either for the purpose of gaining knowledge or for possible future use. Thus, for example, a Mathematics student who is interested in theoretical physics could obtain a Minor to legitimize his interest for future endeavours, while a Computer Science student interested in theory could gain a lot of perspective and maturity by obtaining a Minor in Mathematics. Legitimizing the Minor programme will make it easier for our students to leverage their Minor for future use, such as for job prospects, research, changing fields and so on.

Retroactive Degrees

If this proposal is accepted, it is proposed that since only one year of the Minor programme has been active students of the Y11 batch who have graduated with a Minor may be allowed to get a duplicate degree with the Minor on it after paying the requisite fees for the degree.

The Students' Senate is requested to consider the proposal and forward it to the SUGC/Senate if found acceptable.