

Come 2013 and you may do an MA from IIT-Gn!

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Ahmedabad : The Indian Institute of Technology, Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) is likely to start admitting students for its humanities and social science courses from 2013 as the institute “ tentatively finalised” offering Masters and Integrated Masters programmes at a conference headed by director Professor Sudhir K Jain this past weekend.

Jaison A Manjaly, an Assistant Professor who teaches philosophy at IIT-Gn and one of the joint coordinators of the conference attended by faculty from various educational institutes across India, said the institute is also likely to host scholars-in-residence.

“ We are hopeful to host programmes in culture studies, development studies and cognitive science as we want to focus on comprehensive streams. Of course, it’ s too early to talk about the intake or class size, but we would be developing a separate entrance examination for masters in humanities,” said Manjaly.

Last year, IIT-Gn rejigged its curriculum, dividing academics into four parts ? humanities, basic sciences, core subjects and electives. Students currently have to compulsorily take at least one humanities subject carrying six credits every semester, or opt for two half-courses of three credits each.

Those graduating from these courses will have a Master of Arts degree for both the Development Studies and Culture Studies programmes and Master of Science degree for Cognitive Science.

“ Our engineering students have to compulsorily take humanities courses now. We were discussing admitting humanities students for full courses today,” said Prof Jain.

The concept note of the conference had said, “ The initiation of independent teaching programme will add a new dimension to the education of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) subjects in engineering. Classes with both engineering and humanities students will enrich the experience of learning for both groups of students.”

“ We feel that academic programmes in Humanities, Social and other Interdisciplinary Sciences will not only provide an effective change in the educational landscape of these disciplines in the country but would also facilitate a more humanistic approach to engineering and technological pursuits,” the note added.

IIT-Gn already has several faculty, both visiting and full-time, who teach humanities courses, including English, Philosophy, Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology and South & South-East Asian studies.