

Counselling

Digest

Batch of 2026



भारतीय विज्ञान संस्थान

A **QUARKS** initiative



IISc has been and continues to be India's premier institute for scientific research ever since its founding in 1909. The institute's undergraduate programme was established in 2011, with the aim of providing comprehensive and high-quality scientific training to enthusiastic young minds. It has been going strong ever since, with graduates moving on to some of the best places across the world, in academia as well as industry.

A brief outline of the BS (Res) programme: Students take three semesters of UG courses from a selection of physics, chemistry, mathematics, biology, engineering and humanities which foster a foundational understanding of all major disciplines. In the fourth semester, they choose their major and an optional minor.



Mess Facilities: Five Messes are available in the campus

A Mess - South Indian Vegetarian

B Mess - North Indian Composite (Veg and Non-veg)

C Mess - South Indian Composite (Veg and Non-veg)

D Mess - North Indian Vegetarian

E Mess - North Indian Vegetarian

Other Eateries inside IISc Campus:

Sarvam, conveniently located near the hostels, consists of several eateries that serve a variety of cuisines. A bakery and a juice-chaat centre cater to the fast-food cravings of the students. A night canteen serving meals and beverages operates long after dark for the night owls.

Nesara, a beautiful restaurant near the library provides a homely dining experience in-campus.

Kabini, a small and budget-friendly canteen, is located just beside the first-year boys' hostel and serves meals for any time of the day, from Mondays to Saturdays with a deep cleaning scheduled every Sunday



Library

The JRD Tata Memorial Library has the largest scientific and technical document collection in the country. It houses over 6,000 unique journal titles in science and technology and provides access to more than 650 subscribed journals. A library card will be issued to all students to make use of the library. The library is open 24 hours a day, Monday through Saturday, and from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm on Sundays and Institute holidays. It is close only on three days of the year: 26th January, 15th August and 2nd October.

In addition, UG students have access to a separate UG library, located on the first floor of the UG office. It houses textbooks relevant to the undergraduate courses, and provides a quiet space to study.



Facilities

IISc's Gymkhana has professional-sized grounds and courts for a number of sports. The indoor clubhouse has facilities for badminton (hardwood), table-tennis, carrom and other indoor games. We have clubs/trainers for a wide variety of activities including ultimate frisbee, archery, Kung-Fu, yoga, and aerobics. The campus houses its own swimming pool with experienced trainers.

The Janta Bazaar supermarket sells daily essentials with a special discount for the campus community. Along with the Sarvam complex, it houses shops offering services such as printing, laundry, and hairdressing, as well as a fully stocked pharmacy. A detailed list of services is available on the IISc website.

IISc also offers free E-rickshaw services, '**Transvahans**', from 8 am to 6:30 pm whose routes span the entire area of the campus.

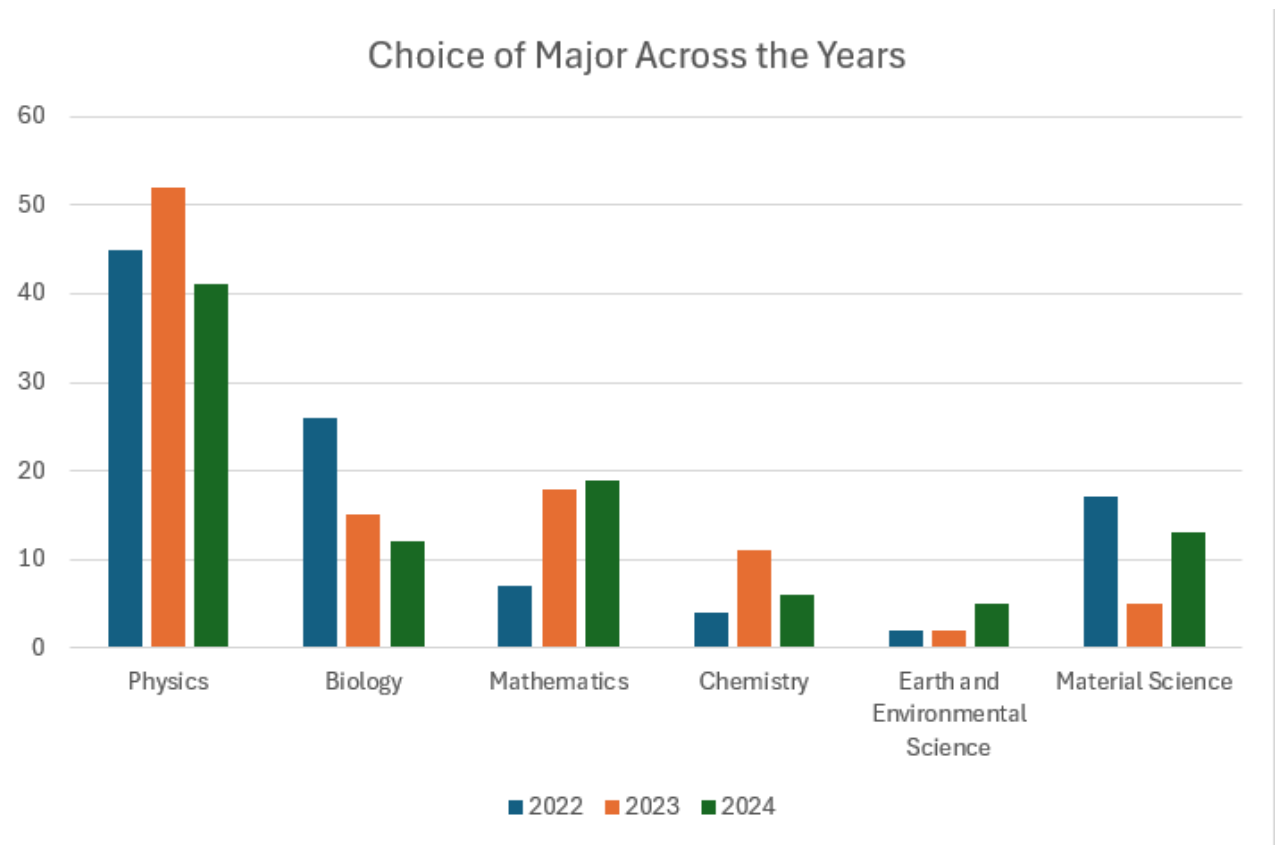
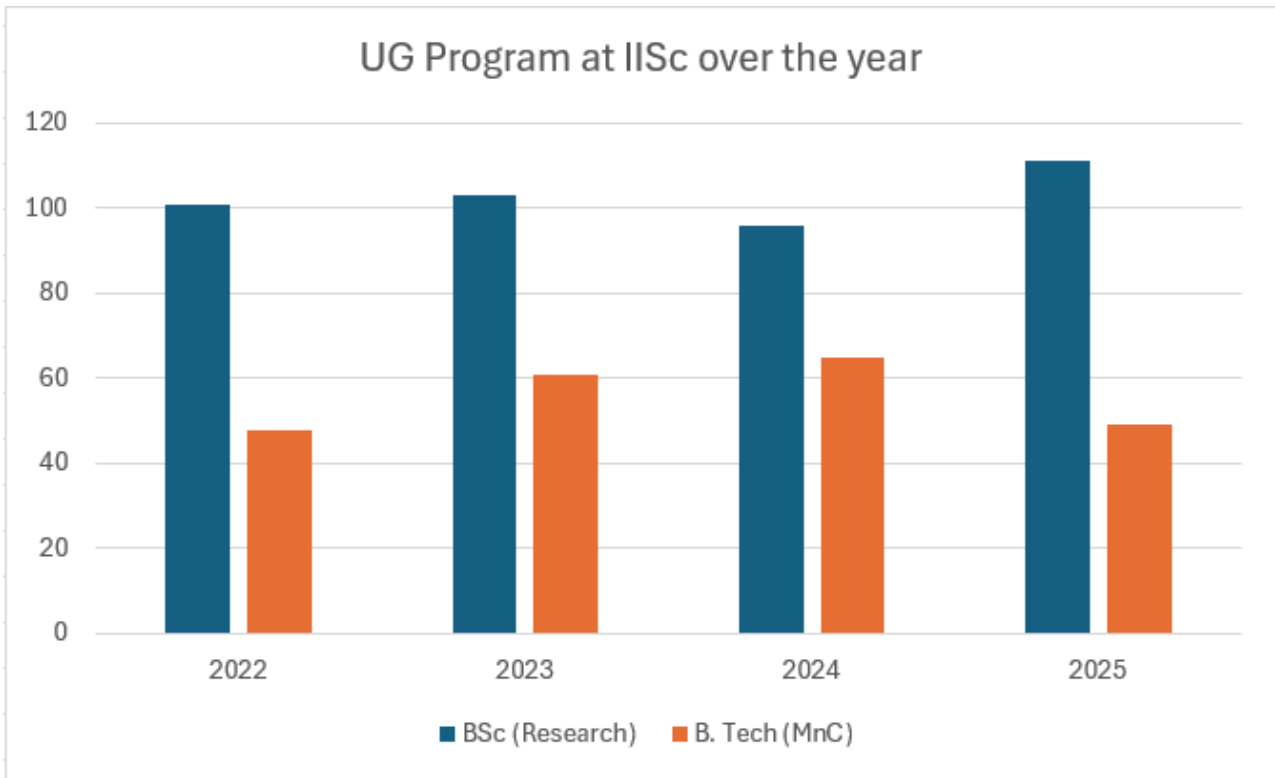


UG science and engineering courses are supplemented by a practical component undertaken in dedicated UG laboratories located in the Main Lecture Hall (MLH) Complex and the Old Physics Building (OPB). All the labs are well equipped and are managed by dedicated lab instructors and technicians who, with the help of their immense practical experience, guide students in experimental design and execution. Students are often encouraged to explore their own ideas, within the scope of the lab's resources.



Choice of Majors

Students pursuing the Bachelor of Science (Research) degree choose a subject to major in after the completion of their third semester. In the following semesters, apart from a couple of major-specific core courses, one has almost free reign to pick courses offered by any department in the institute, while making sure they meet the credit requirements for the subject they choose to major in. The institute offers Majors in Physics, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Earth and Environmental Sciences. One could also optionally choose a Minor in any of the above disciplines or a Minor in Quantum Technology, Bioengineering or Material Sciences.

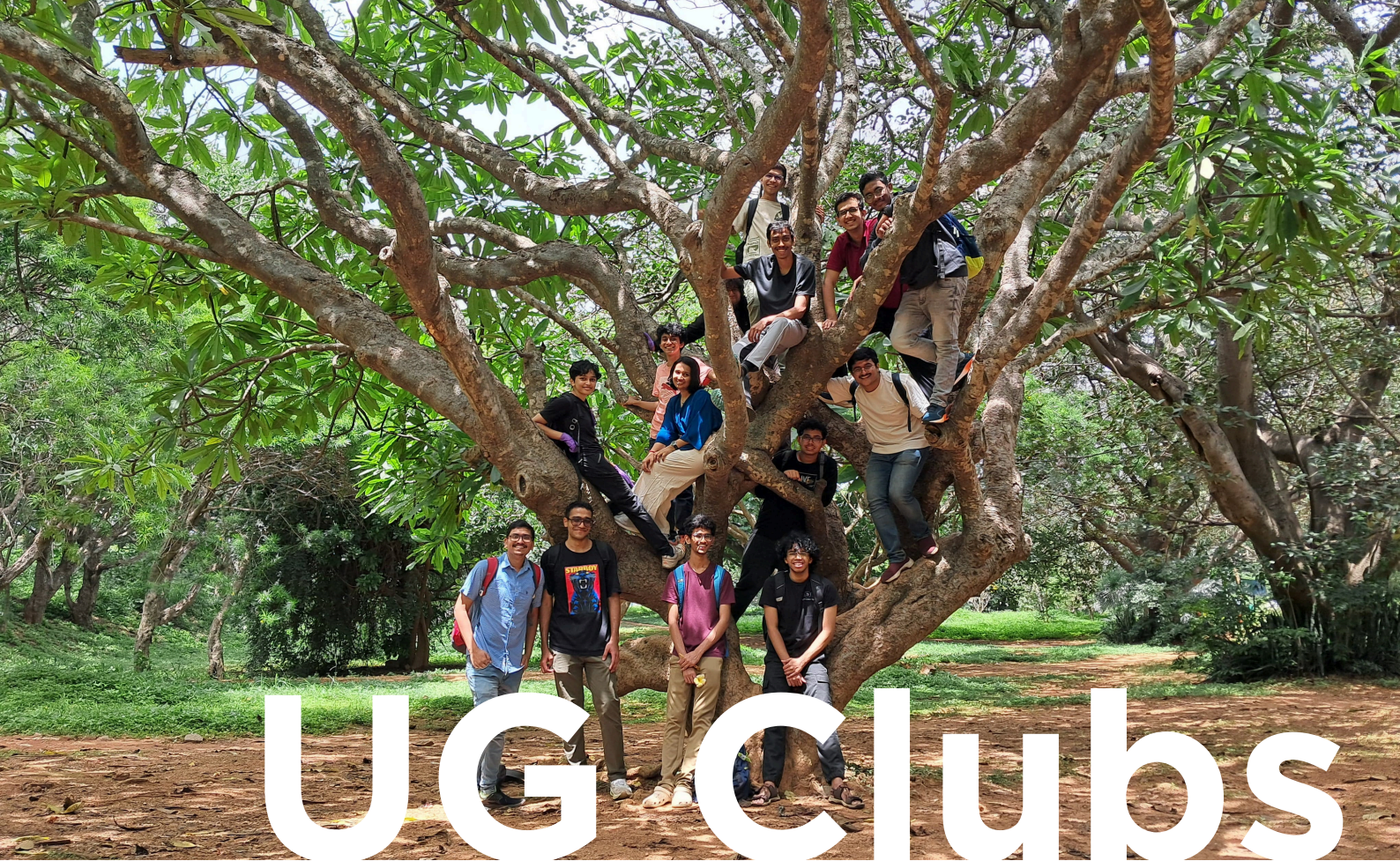


(Note: Material Science is no longer a choice of major for the BSc (Research) students. It can only be opted as a minor.)



Placement

Students who have graduated from the UG programme at IISc are continuing their education in prestigious institutions such as Berlin Mathematics School, Caltech, Cornell University, Grenoble-INP, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, London School of Economics, Oxford University, Princeton University, UC Berkeley, Cambridge University, Yale University, University of Maryland, Erasmus Mundus, TIFR, IIM Ahmedabad and NCBS India among others, with full or significant scholarship. Students have opted for both Masters and PhD programmes. The placement cell in IISc offers opportunities to students to secure a corporate/industrial job. While most students continue on academic trajectories, a few students have opted to step into industry.



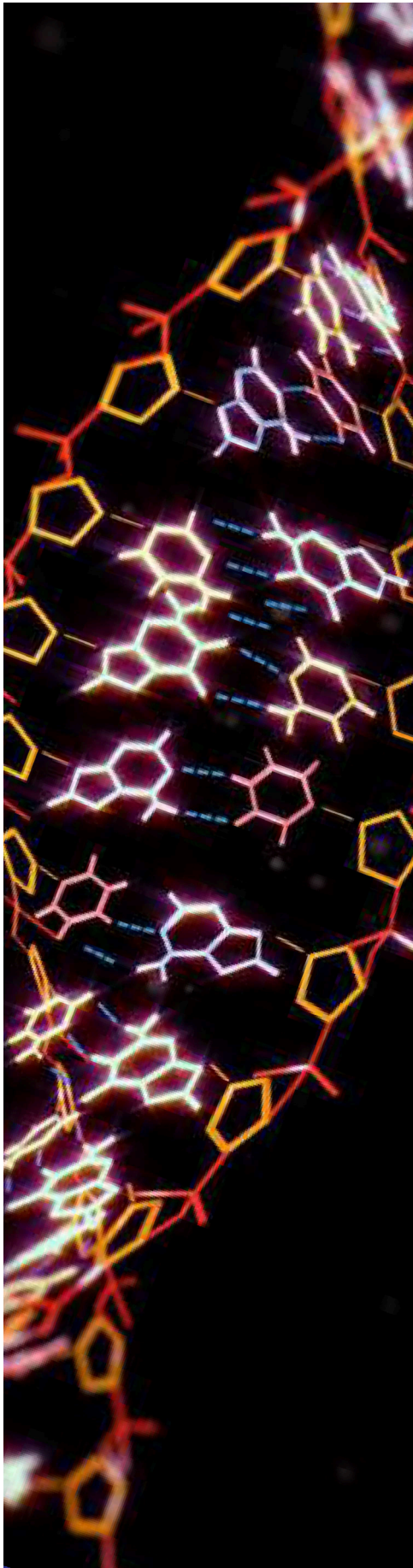
SAMASYA

At Samasya, math enthusiasts gather to enkindle their minds with talks and discussions organized by seniors on topics of unusual interest. These club meetings give students a platform to engage with others exploring the new world of higher mathematics.

ENSEMBLE

@ensemble.iisc

The Physics Club takes all amateur physicists under its wing. The club aims to bring together like-minded and passionate people to discuss and work on creative problems as a unit. This year, Ensemble hopes to conduct a wide variety of talks by experts on new and exciting fields coming up in the real world.



NATURALISTS

@naturalists_club

The undergrad biology club has evolved to suit the needs of today's students. Their field visits and lecture series keep the biology buffs busy as a bee. Every semester, they organise talks to unravel different perspectives and approaches to the study of life. In every session, they try to answer questions through scientific discussions and debates.

CATALYSTS

True to its name, the undergraduate chemistry club acts as a Catalyst in invigorating the minds of young chemistry aficionados by nurturing interesting and innovative ideas to solve real-world problems differently

AMALGUM

@amalgam_iisc

This Materials Club frequently hosts seminars that regularly attract a large crowd of students and enthusiastic professors from different departments, reflecting the interdisciplinary nature of the field. Materials Science is one of the most active areas of research and the department at IISc is associated with some of the best researchers across the world. Amalgam uses this opportunity to organize talks and seminars by such eminent guests for its members. Amalgam is great for career discussions, coursework related advice and to unwind after a busy week.



DATABASED

@databasediisc

The UG Computer Science Club is a vibrant community that fosters curiosity, encourages exploration, and promotes learning beyond the classroom. Members explore fields like machine learning, generative AI, quantum computing, computational biology, and more. The club hones coding and problem-solving skills for research, engineering, and competitions like ICPC. They also regularly host talks, workshops, and sessions with industry leaders, researchers, and professors to provide insights into both fundamentals and emerging trends.

ASTRAE

@astrae.iisc

Astrae is the Astronomy and Astrophysics club for all Astro enthusiasts. Over the past years, the club has organised a number of talks on astrophysics by its members as well as stargazing and telescope sessions in and around IISc. The club aims to ignite the thrill of real-life Astronomy and Astrophysics in young minds.

VICHARAKA

@vicharaka.iisc

IISc's undergraduate robotics club, Vicharaka, fuels innovation by turning wild ideas into working machines. We design, build, and break robots to push the limits of what undergrads can do.



RHYTHMICA

A group of amateur music enthusiasts studying in IISc that gets together to jam, have fun, and occasionally put up shows for the IISc population. One of the most popular clubs on campus, Rhythmica conducts auditions every year, seeking new members to grow the club. The styles and talents of its members span many genres, and the musicians are not afraid to experiment, and even occasionally perform original pieces.

The club has recently started the Rhythmica Academy — a music school run by its members for the student community at IISc.

Learn more about Rhythmica at [@rhythmica.iisc](https://www.instagram.com/rhythmica.iisc).



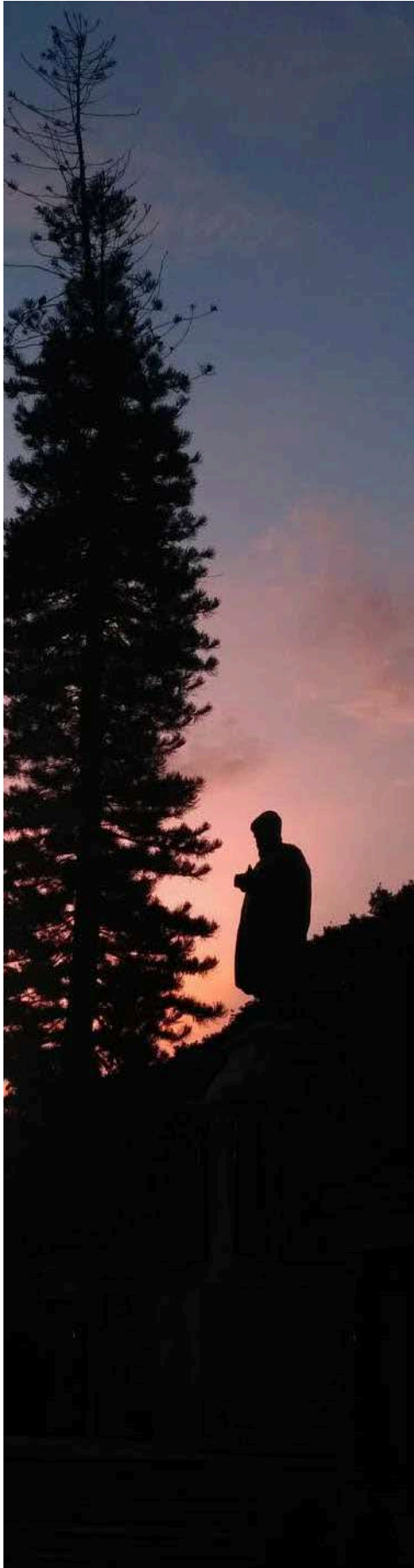
DANCE CLUBS

The dance clubs of IISc include several groups practicing a variety of dance forms ranging from Indian classical styles such as Kathak (@alankar_iisc), Bharatanatyam and Odissi to modern favourites such as Hip-Hop (@mfcd_iisc_bangalore), Bollywood (@d2c_iisc) and Jive among others. Anyone who is willing to dance, irrespective of prior training in the dance form, is welcome to be a part of the club. Members get to showcase their talents in shows at IISc like Sangam and Jhankaar, as well as participate in cultural meets and fests. Groups rehearse rigorously for performances while making sure newbies also pick up some serious moves. Each group is not without a jolly atmosphere of its own, promising fun times for all.

RANGMANCH

@rangmanch.iisc

The IISc Theatre Club is the go-to club for your thespian needs. Started in the year 2009, it has showcased numerous performances till date; including full-length classic plays, mimes and originals written by the members themselves. These have been successfully staged not just within campus, but also on several public platforms in Bengaluru. Their productions are often of stunningly professional quality, and one can watch their in-house performances at many IISc shows.



PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

@iiscpc

Working under the aegis of the Gymkhana, the IISc Photography Club is a group of photography enthusiasts who study photography as an art form. They host sessions to discuss the works of masters, present their own bodies of work, go on photowalks and organize talks. They firmly believe that you do not need fancy equipment to be a good photographer.

IIScQ

IIScQ is the institute's society for members of the LGBTQ+ community. It welcomes members of all genders and sexual orientations, and aims to provide a support system for individuals who might be stigmatized due to their identity and help them in their struggle. It regularly holds meetings and activities like talks and movie screenings.

QUARKS

@quarks_ug_iisc

Quarks is IISc's undergraduate magazine — a way of communication, a mode of expression, a blank canvas where we invite all creative minds to share their vibrant visions. We bring stories, poems, paintings, photographs, and every form of artistic creation into the spotlight. Driven by the collaborative spirit of the student community, we have been dedicated to this mission since 2012, making Quarks one of the oldest student-led initiatives on campus.

NOTEBOOK DRIVE

Established in 2002, NoteBook Drive (NBD) IISc is a voluntary organization run by the students of IISc. All children have dreams and aspirations but many students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds have huge obstacles to overcome to achieve their dreams. NBD endeavors to tackle this problem and help deserving government school children in all ways possible. UG students are primarily involved in NBD's regular science and math mentorship programs and English communication classes. NBD's also conduct robotics and computer mentorship sessions every week. They reach out to 3000+ children in 25+ government schools every year for notebook distribution, children's day celebration, science outreach and career guidance. The NBD scholarship initiative provides financial assistance to 40+ students every year to continue their education. Join them and be a part of change!

More details about Notebook Drive at:
<http://notebookdrive.wordpress.com>





OPEN DAY

As a celebration of Founder's Day, IISc opens its doors to the general public once every year, witnessing a footfall of around 30,000. Open Day is held on the first or second Saturday of March, with many interesting exhibitions and scientific demonstrations to catch the eye of the young and old alike. First-year UGs have their own exhibits at the Old Physics Building (OPB) and the Main Lecture Hall (MLH), drawing quite a crowd.

ECLIPSE AND SPECTRUM

These are mega sports competitions that include over 30 events and witness enthusiastic participation from IISc's student community. Undergraduate batches lock horns in Eclipse while departments compete with each other in Spectrum. These ultimately culminate in selection of deserving players to participate in the Inter-IISER Sports Meet (IISM).

PRAVEGA AND RHAPSODY

Pravega is the annual scientific, technical and cultural fest of IISc, organised by the undergraduate community. Pravega translates to "acceleration" in Sanskrit. True to its name, it has gained the title of India's largest science fest within a few years of its inception in 2014 and is currently in its twelfth edition.

School and college students from all over the country participate in this fest every year. Pravega hosts various events ranging from quizzes, hands-on experimental competitions, lectures and fun science events to cultural competitions such as dance, drama and music. In addition, several recreational events are also organised to engage visitors. One of the event's highlights is the Pronites which features some of India's most successful and popular artists and bands. Pravega provides an excellent opportunity for volunteers and coordinators to pick up essential professional, management and communication skills.

2022 saw the birth of Rhapsody, a fest organised by the broader student community at IISc that brings everyone together in a weekend-long extravaganza.





WHAT IS THE DAY OF AN IISC UG LIKE?

The mess opens at 07:30 and classes start post 08:30. For the first three semesters, there are, on an average, 4 lectures a day till 13:00, and then labs after lunch from 14:00 to 17:00, for two to four days a week depending on the number of your lab course. After that, students are free to utilise their time as they prefer.

WHAT ARE THE FACILITIES AVAILABLE IN THE HOSTEL?

All hostels have water coolers, washrooms and bathrooms. Each room contains a wardrobe, a study table, a chair, a cot, lights and a fan. Mattresses and curtains are not provided but can be secured from vendors that set up shop within campus for the first few weeks of the academic year or from commercial outlets outside campus.

WILL WE HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO DO OTHER THINGS?

The UG curriculum in IISc has an intensive academic routine. Students do step out and find some time for their hobbies. The sports and cultural clubs have regular activities that foster the co-curricular spirit.



WHAT CULTURAL EVENTS TAKE PLACE IN THE CAMPUS?

Apart from cultural clubs, regional clubs and organizations like SPICMACAY conduct various programmes for festivals and other occasions.

WHAT ARE SUMMER PROJECTS FOR?

A summer project is for you to experience how research is actually done, and the work and effort that goes into conducting a study. Many professors are open to providing opportunities to UG students.

HOW DO I GAIN EXPOSURE TO CONTEMPORARY SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENTS?

Various talks and workshops are conducted by sister institutes such as ICTS, NCBS and RRI, apart from those held at various departments at IISc.

WHY SHOULD I COME TO IISc OVER AN ENGINEERING OR MEDICAL COLLEGE?

This is similar to asking why one should go to an IIT when you can go to an IIM or NIFT. They cater to different fields. In IISc, the focus is towards research and academia. Students with such interest choose research oriented curricula like that of IISc.

CAN I GO ABROAD FOR SUMMER INTERNSHIPS?

Yes. Many students go abroad for their internships in their third year. There are students who go abroad in their first and second years too.

WHAT AFTER IISC? ARE THERE ANY JOB OPPORTUNITIES AFTER THIS?

Yes. There is a Placement Cell dedicated to this. You can also continue in academia and opt for a Masters or a PhD, as most people have done in the past.

CAN I CHANGE MY SUBJECT OF INTEREST AFTER FINISHING MY BACHELOR'S?

Yes, especially in today's interdisciplinary world, where the boundaries between subjects are dissolving.

WHAT IS THE ATTENDANCE POLICY?

A minimum of 80% attendance must be maintained in all courses, failing which one will be barred from taking the examination for the course. It can be condoned only on medical grounds when supporting documents are presented.

If you have any queries, you can ask us on the WhatsApp group — BS (Research) doubts:

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/l737SjfmRK8Kj2MD0NEYz0>



testimonial.

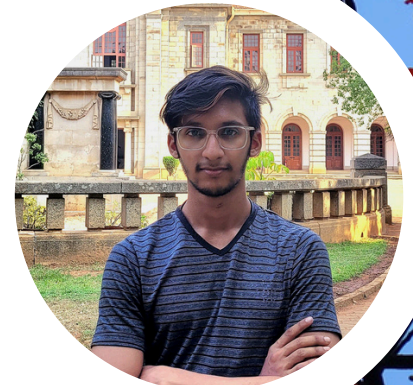


“One of the best undergraduate programs in the country, especially if you are interested in research. The exposure and opportunities you get here are unmatched. What I liked most was the flexibility to choose your courses; you also get to explore different subjects in the first three semesters before choosing a major, which helps you make an informed decision.”

- Gopesh Kumar Gupta, Batch of 2022

“The BSc (Research) program is probably the most cutting-edge research-oriented degree in the country. The coursework and exams push you to be your best. All courses may not be mandatory for all students, but they surely give us an all-around flavor of everything there is. The access we get to any lab in the institute is incredible! Glad to be here.”

- Kalidas Viswam, Batch of 2022



“Of all the things I love at IISc, the one thing I love the most is the immense academic freedom given to the students. Despite being a math major, I have taken many courses from other departments because of this freedom. Apart from the academics, I love the greenery across the campus, and the amazing blooming flowers during the spring have never ceased to amaze me.”

- Jahin Sadat Mollah, Batch of 2023



"My undergraduate journey at IISc has been a perfect blend of experiences that have helped me grow both as a person and as a researcher. It taught me how to make independent decisions and discover what I truly want for my future. IISc provided me with the freedom and space to shape my own path. What I admire the most about research at IISc is its interdisciplinary nature."

- Shreya Pithva, Batch of 2022



"The past three years of my life at IISc have been some of the most memorable and cherishable so far. I feel fortunate to have received a sound foundation in scientific training. We are encouraged to question, hypothesize, and design experiments, all of which fuel our scientific temperament. Most importantly, however, studying here has allowed me to be among some of the most curious and creative people I've known."

- Manya Ganapathy, Batch of 2023



"The BSc (Research) program at IISc provides the much-needed exposure to different fields in the first three semesters and gives one the freedom to choose the courses of their liking later. The research environment is motivating and conducive, and most professors are very approachable. The academics are challenging but manageable, leaving ample time for your hobbies."

- Chandana Valaboju, Batch of 2024



"Beyond academics, IISc offers a vibrant campus life. I personally picked up snooker here thanks to our access to Olympic-sized tables. Overall, my time at IISc has been a true roller coaster. Some days I felt invincible and confident, while others found me rethinking my life decisions. Ultimately, IISc doesn't just shape you intellectually. It refines you as an individual and pushes you to become stronger."

- Mohana Tharini, Batch of 2022





IMAGE CREDITS

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For more images from IISc Campus and Bangalore, Check out -

@life_at_iisc, @quarks_ug_iisc on Instagram

A Day in the life of an IISc UG Student -

<https://youtu.be/sjraE-WiQJg>

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QUARKS