Dear Parent/Guardian,

Congratulations! The Institute Student Mentorship Program (ISMP) would like to welcome you and your ward to one of the most prestigious institutes in the country, the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB). As you may know, this institute is the alma-mater to some of the most distinguished personalities, globally. The institute aims, and strives to produce alumni who shall serve for the betterment of the society, country and above all, mankind.

We believe that, as well-informed parents, you should become familiar with both the academic and extra-curricular lifestyle of the students on this campus, and get an idea about the opportunities that your ward will have here, as well as the underlying responsibilities that would be expected of him/her.

Institute Student Mentor Programme (ISMP)

In the Institute, we have a group of respected and well accomplished senior students in their fourth/ fifth year of study mentoring all first-year students. The Institute Student Mentor Programme, aims at providing guidance and help to all the first-year students. The mentors help the new entrants make a smooth transition from their life at home to life on campus. It would be advisable for you to meet the mentors virtually on the day of the orientation. Moreover, it would be beneficial if you could also stay in touch with mentors during the course of the semester.

Academic Structure

A typical academic year at IIT Bombay is divided into two semesters – Autumn Semester (July-November) and Spring Semester (January-May). The curriculum at IIT Bombay is based on the credit system. Each course is allotted credits based on the number of lectures, tutorials and lab hours per week. This time the first year, however, due to a delay in the JEE Advanced examination owing to the COVID-19 pandemic would run in a more condensed format where the two semesters would be divided as - Autumn Semester (November- March) and Spring Semester (March-June).

There is a continuous evaluation by means of quizzes, assignments, mid-semester, end-semester examinations and lab work throughout the semester. At the end of each semester, the student gets an SPI (Semester Performance Index) which is an average of the grades in each of the courses he/she had registered for in that semester, weighted with the credits of those courses respectively. CPI (Cumulative Performance Index) is a weighted average of all the SPIs (till date) weighted on the number of total credits each semester.

It is advised that students do not miss classes due to trips home or otherwise. Also, it is important for all students to attend classes during the first week of each semester, except for genuine medical
reasons. When medical problems arise, the student is advised to inform the mentor and the professors concerned if he/she is missing classes. Professors might require medical certificates issued or authenticated by the IITB Hospital or other supporting documents in such cases.

Students who enter this institute every year are some of the best students in the country. Due to the competitive environment here, we have often seen students, who have until now always topped their class, find it difficult to obtain grades that meet their expectations. This has often led to students experiencing excessive pressure or students adopting an indifferent attitude which further reduces their academic performance. We hope that you would encourage your ward to put his/ her best foot forward - put in the best effort from his/her side.

**Hostel Life**

At this institute, we believe in the overall development of our students. The general lifestyle of students includes a lot of extracurricular activities in the fields of sports, cultural and technical activities, at intra-hostel, inter-hostel and inter-college events. The environment here is very conducive to growth and our institute has some of the best facilities across all other colleges/institutes in India. So, we encourage students to take up whatever interests them, and we request you to support them in their choices. There is enough time in a normal IIT student's day to fit in both academics and extracurricular activities without much stress. But, at the same time, it is advised that care must be taken to ensure proper time management such that academics are not neglected because of such activities.

Hostels are an integral part of every IIT students’ life. The hostels are well equipped with the necessary infrastructure and mess facilities. First-year students stay in double-sharing hostel rooms with their batchmates.

The transition of your ward, from your loving and caring hands to a completely new and competitive environment of IIT, could occasionally cause adjustment problems in the initial period of their stay. Many students find it difficult getting used to a roommate and hostel life for the first time. Sometimes, cultural, social and language differences further delay the settling in process. As mentors, we help the freshmen have a smooth transition so that this settling-in process is as short as possible and your ward feels comfortable in this new setting quickly.

**Financial Help**

In case you are worried about the financial expenses, please note that help is available. Merit-Cum-Means Scholarship, Facility for Free Messing, Named Scholarships and Remission of Fee are some of the ways through which the students in need can be provided with financial help. The details are available at the following link:

http://www.iitb.ac.in/newacadhome/scholar.jsp

Apart from these, an IT scholarship will be provided by the Dean ACR office for this year to help students in need to avail the necessary technology and internet requirements needed to study in an
online mode. Further details on the scholarship would be provided to students after the identification process.

Language Help

English is used for all official purposes and is the medium of instruction during classes. We understand that learning to speak and grasping English might prove to be a challenge for some students. We try to fulfill this need via our British Council program where trained professionals come and teach students the language from its very basics. Apart from that, students enthusiastic to learn English can also benefit from student-run ELIT (English Language Improvement Training) classes which can help your wards improve their English language.

Some important issues

Ragging in any form is strictly banned on campus. The student should report any such untoward incident to his/her mentor immediately. We assure you that it will be dealt with confidentiality and with the highest priority. We believe that you will be reassured by the steps that have been taken by the Institute to prevent ragging. Interaction of the freshmen with seniors (other than the appointed mentors) is also regulated during their initial stay, so they get time to adjust. Strict penalties are very much in place, and mentors are always available to resolve any situations promptly. Rest assured, ragging has vanished from the IIT-Bombay campus.

However, it is expected that the freshmen also develop a healthy rapport with their seniors who are amongst the brightest in the country and excel in various activities. In fact, a healthy senior junior interaction has been the hallmark of this institute and we would like to maintain it in that way.

We hope that this gives you a fair idea about life here on campus. This institute offers a wide range of opportunities and we hope that your ward shall have a productive and memorable time in the institute.

In case you have any doubts or need to know more about any aspect of the life of a student at IITB, feel free to reach out to us using the information provided on the official Student Mentor Program (SMP) website and we will be happy to answer all your questions.

Best Wishes,
Student Mentor Programme

Appendix

Detailed ‘Rules and Regulations’ are available on the following link:

http://www.iitb.ac.in/newacadhome/rules.jsp