

Guidelines for the formation of student chapters of IGS

Need for formation of student chapters

The scope of Geotechnical Engineering expanded significantly in the last 30 years whereas the coverage of geotechnical engineering in the curriculum is limited to two/three subjects and a maximum of two electives in some institutions and colleges. The syllabus is restricted and as a result, many students are not exposed to the wide coverage of current trends and exciting professional/teaching/research opportunities in geotechnical engineering. There is a need to motivate students to give exposure to careers and opportunities in this area and also develop leadership skills among students which will help them in their career. Student chapters provide an opportunity for Bachelor Degree students of 2nd, 3rd and 4th year in Civil Engineering and Master's Degree students of Geotechnical Engineering program. Activities such as seminars/workshops/lectures conducted by student chapters under the guidance of faculty coordinators from the Institutions/colleges and the members of local chapters will significantly help the student community.

A student chapter may be established at any university/institute with the following qualifications:

- University/Institution has a Bachelors' in Civil Engineering/Master's program in Geotechnical Engineering/Soil Mechanics or equivalent.
- University/Institution has one full-time faculty member who is IGS Fellow/Member/Associate Member and who agrees to serve as a faculty advisor.
- The chapter will have a minimum membership of 12 students and if the college has Master's program in Geotechnical Engineering or equivalent of Civil Engineering or related engineering or technology, these students can also join in the chapter and advice and motivate the young members from undergraduate program.

When to submit an application for Student Chapter?

Stage – I

1. The student group shall approach IGS member(s) of the institute with a proposal and obtain his/their consent to mentor them;
2. Obtain endorsement of the proposal by the Head of Civil Engineering department and the endorsement of the proposal by the IGS local chapter in whose jurisdiction the institute is located;
3. Student members may join and form a student chapter by paying a nominal amount of INR 250 towards annual membership to the student chapter. These funds shall be maintained by them for use as a corpus to organize technical events. The college can also support the student chapter financially. The leadership committee formed within the students will organize technical events such as guest lectures/seminars/workshops/field visits etc. for the students to undertake and learn from.

The following officers are to be appointed with the help of IGS member(faculty):

- A student chapter President
- A student chapter Vice-president
- A student chapter secretary
- A student chapter treasurer

These officers need to be nominated/elected from the group members. Attached is a description of the Student officer functions. The activities that Student Chapter can do are as follows:

- Creation and maintenance of homepage of student chapter
 - Host lectures of engineers/professionals in civil/geotechnical engineering
 - Invite professional organizations for lectures and also explore possibilities for internships
 - Use online materials from ISSMGE/IGS and other related sources for discussion/presentation/knowledge enhancement
 - Organise debates/lectures/quiz programs among students
 - Participation in programs such as Swatch Bharath/Save planet etc.
 - Develop oral and written communication skills by preparing presentations/ articles for Magazines/Newsletter
 - Organise/participate in annual programs such as GEOFEST along with student chapters of other colleges
4. The leadership committee shall organize technical events in the institute with the help of faculty mentor(s) for one year by using the corpus fund/college support, which shall be managed by the faculty mentor and the Student Chapter leadership;
 5. Shall participate as volunteers and student delegates in various technical events organised by the local IGS chapter;
 6. Completion of one year of successful operation under the effective guidance of the IGS members/chapter in whose jurisdiction the institution is located;
 7. The database of students will be maintained by IGS local chapter and student members will be given Certificates of participation/awards by the local chapter of IGS.

Stage – II

1. On Completion of one year of successful operation under the effective guidance of the IGS members/chapter a formal application shall be submitted along with the details of all the events organised in one year;
2. The application for the student chapter shall be formally endorsed by the head of the institution and IGS local chapter to establish an IGS Student Chapter and attain the official recognition of the Committee on Student Activities of IGS National Executive Committee.
3. Once the Chapter is officially recognized, it will be listed in the IGS homepage and the chapter is expected to continue its activities and promote geotechnical engineering.
4. The student chapter needs to submit annual progress report to maintain the student chapter status;
5. A student chapter will lose its status and become dormant, if the annual reports are not submitted.

Benefits for students

1. Contributes to developing leadership skills and public relationship skills
2. Creates interest in the subject, motivation and passion in engineering professional work
3. Creates opportunities for internships and jobs
4. Improves chances of admission in Masters program abroad and the work done as student member can be indicated in the Statement of Purpose (SoP)

Clarifications if any can be obtained from IGS office by email (admin@igs.org.in).