

Ascent: ISOFT Research Internship Program

Objectives of the Ascent Initiative

Many undergraduate and master's students aspire to pursue research in Software Engineering and related fields and aim to publish in top-ranked international venues. However, they often lack access to a strong research ecosystem and mentorship from world-class faculty.

The Ascent initiative seeks to bridge this gap by:

- **Offering a two-month research internship** under the mentorship of faculty members at leading Indian institutes.
 - **Recognizing excellence** by supporting and celebrating high-quality research publications that emerge from the internship.
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Eligibility

- **Student Status:** Applicants must be full-time students enrolled in a degree-granting institute in India.
 - Bachelor's students in a 4-year program must be in their **3rd year** at the time of application.
 - Students in 5-year integrated/dual degree programs must be in their **3rd or 4th year**.
 - Master's students must have completed **at least one year** of their program by **May 31**.
 - Students already in their final year, or graduating during or immediately after the internship, are **not eligible**; at least one regular semester must remain.
 - There are **no restrictions** on discipline or specialization as long as all other criteria are met.
 - **No-Objection Certificate:** Selected students must submit a no-objection letter from their home institute. While this will be required only after selection, applicants are advised to confirm feasibility beforehand.
 - **Academic Preparation:** Candidates should ideally have a strong foundation in algorithms, data structures, programming, and have completed at least one Software Engineering course. Experience in designing or developing a substantial software system is preferred.
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Notable Features of the Internship

- **Duration:** Two-month internship between **May 1 and July 31**.
- **Stipend:** A total stipend of **INR 50,000**, payable upon successful completion of the internship.

- **Extension of internship:** The faculty mentor may decide to extend the internship beyond the two months period if the student is available (and student's university/institute allows it). However, ISOFT will pay the stipend only for two months.
 - **Recognition:** Interns will receive the “**ACM ISOFT Ascent Intern**” badge upon completion.
 - **Publication Support:** If the internship results in a paper accepted at a **CORE A*** venue, ISOFT will partially support the student's conference registration. Students are also encouraged to submit their work to **ISEC**.
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Student Responsibilities

- **Acceptance:** Selected students will receive an email from ISOFT (copied to the faculty mentor). Acceptance must be confirmed within one week along with the required no-objection letter. Failure to do so will result in withdrawal of the offer.
 - **Engagement:** Students must contact their mentors and begin full-time work by the start date specified by the mentor.
 - **Commitment:** Students must be available **full-time (at least 40 hours/week)** throughout the internship period.
 - **Reporting:** Students must submit a final internship report to their mentor by the last day of the internship.
 - **Presentation:** Students must present their work at an end-of-internship forum organized by ISOFT.
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Faculty Mentor Responsibilities

- Provide a **clear research problem statement** and relevant datasets/tools at the start of the internship.
 - Meet regularly with the intern throughout the internship to guide research progress.
 - Provide access to any **required computing infrastructure**.
 - Issue an **internship completion certificate** to the student.
 - Notify ISOFT of the student's successful completion and of any **A*** publication resulting from the internship.
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ISOFT Responsibilities and Additional Guidelines

- Disburse the full stipend directly to the student upon successful completion.
- Provide a grant to partially support conference registration for **CORE A*** papers arising from the internship, provided the acceptance notification is received within **12 months** of the internship start date (i.e., by May 31 of the following year).
- ISOFT will have **no ownership or claim** over any intellectual property resulting from the internship.

- The internship is voluntary and ISOFT bears **no responsibility** for the quality or outcomes of the research work.
- ISOFT is not liable for any misconduct or misuse of facilities by the intern, nor for any obligations of the host institution beyond the internship grant.