

ISP: Description and Forms of Participation for MSc Students

WHAT IS ISP?

The ISP (Independent Studies Period) runs three weeks in January and is a time of flexible teaching and learning experiences, research, and independent study. Basically, ISP courses focus on professional hard skills training, Entrepreneurship and Innovation (E&I) courses, soft skills workshops and enjoyable active learning.

The ISP is an elective period during which students are encouraged to organize unique courses of their own design, as well as participate in courses proposed by Skoltech faculty and researchers, invited lecturers.

The ISP offers students a world of opportunities to be active, and to take courses that are not connected to their main educational field, which allows them to enhance and extend their knowledge and get experience in creation of innovative interdisciplinary projects.

We strive to offer courses that combine practical skills, theoretical knowledge and to pursue studies in exciting and very new fields.

To learn more about the ISP, please follow the [links](#) to the Skoltech's web site .



You can also read **Course Catalogs** with the lists of all ISP activities 2015-2018 to get a sense of types of ISP activities of the previous Academic Years.

DIFFERENT FORMATS OF PARTICIPATION ARE AVAILABLE TO STUDENTS:

1) **Course lead of ISP activities.** Students are strongly encouraged to explore Skoltech's educational resources by pursuing options not possible during the regular terms. For example, students can propose to lead their own courses, such as pilot school, aircraft manufacturing, software masterclasses, personal interest, and/or soft skills related.

- ❖ ISP Course Instructors will receive Certificates of Recognition for contributing to Skoltech's educational process during the Independent Studies Period.

- ❖ ISP Course Instructors' workload will be increased and calculated based on the formula presented in the ISP GUIDELINES FOR COURSE INSTRUCTORS.

[**Note:** the following activities are not acceptable for ISP: sports activities, trips, internships in companies, games or any activities with large budget requirements].

To propose your activity, follow the Guidelines for ISP course instructors.

2) **ISP activities participant.** Most students will participate in ISP activities (depending on requirements – see below).

Guidelines for ISP Registration are in SIS.

3) **Independent short-term projects (as usual).** Students can propose credit-bearing or non-credit-bearing independent projects (research/E&I). Proposals are accepted until **the settled deadline**.

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Skoltech MSc students **must be engaged full-time (at least 115 hours workload)** during January period, in order to maintain good standing and receive the scholarship. Skoltech students must participate in the ISP actively; failure to do so will result in disciplinary action for violation of the [REGULATIONS ON SKOLTECH STUDENT ATTENDANCE AND FULL-TIME STATUS REQUIREMENT](#).

* Requirements for the ISP period: 115 hours workload for all MSc students

First-year students must take at least 55 hours of ISP activities + one of the following:

Other ISP activities,
up to 60 hours

Research/E&I/ projects,
3 credits

Second-year-students' workload will be assigned to MSc Thesis Pre-pre-defenses preparation and calculated based on its results.

Second-year students are welcome to participate in ISP activities. But this will not be included into their January workload.

*minimum

[**Note:** In highly exceptional cases, 1st Year MSc students can apply for a Short-term academic trip during ISP if it is justified and approved by their Program Coordinator. This kind of application will go through additional review and approval. The application procedure for a Short-Term Academic Trip is in SIS-Resources-Academic Mobility.]