SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES

FOR STUDENTS

2026

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
TIRUCHIRAPPALLI – 620 015
TAMIL NADU, INDIA.

National Institute of Technology, Tiruchirappalli

Students' Conduct and Disciplinary Code

Annexure A

Social Media Guidelines for Students

1. PRELIMINARY

a. Social media refers to digital platforms (Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, Tiktok, You Tube, X, etc.,) / applications that allow users to create, share content, and interact with virtual communities.
b. Social media communications pervaded every aspect of space and life. The Institute recognizes the value of social media and social networking in education. The use of information technology has been continuously leveraged in the institutional system.
c. Institute nurtures a culture of mutual respect for every individual and the Institute. There arises a mandate for underlining the ethical and legal challenges. This regulation spells out the social networking policy/guideline of the expected net-etiquette for students and caveat the consequences of breaches. The object is to honour and protect personal and professional integrity and certainly image and reputation of institute. It aims to make aware of the stakes of social media usage in the institute.
d. The focus is on ethical expectations and legal implications critical to acts and omissions inviting penal consequences.
e. The endeavour is to caution students in the interest of well-being, privacy, personal security, current/future career prospects and the reputation of individuals and the Institute at large.
f. The Institute reserves the right to disciplinary proceedings in cases of violations and/or offending acts.

2. GENERAL CONDITIONS:

a. The students should read, understand and act in accordance with the stipulations set out by the Institute, the state, and particularly the social media intermediaries in the context of social intercourse;
b. The students should not post any misrepresentation on social media about the institutional courses/ studies/ research/ project works/and/or any comment/ opinion in the form of text, picture, a video which may fall within the ambit of be

offence/derogation/defamation and/or undermining the Institute and/or individual's reputation;

c. The students remain informed that the prospective employers may trawl the social media sites as part of their selection process and the social media posts those made could undermine the future employment prospects of the concerned.
d. The students remain informed that no one is authorized to use Institute logo and brand in social media/platform for any purpose, whatsoever, without the express authorization to that effect;
e. It is very important to take a note that students must not use the social media posts/ platforms in any way which may spoil their job opportunities;
f. Students remain informed that no one can use social media ports/ platforms for raising and escalating concerns relating to the Institute, the courses, admissions, examinations, research, including the centres of study/ research, constituent schools/ colleges, councils/ committees/ management bodies of the Institute and/or any personnel of the Institute.

3. SOCIAL MEDIA OFFENDING POSTINGS & CENSORS:

a. Any adverse content that goes against the stipulations/rules of the Institute, the Constitution of India and/or Social-Network Intermediaries, and does not promote general harmony would entail incriminating conduct at the Institute. The Institute may issue fresh censors;
b. The Institute reserves the right to order for the removal of content from an official social media account if it is deemed that such posting or on account of it or its submissions pose a risk to the reputation of the Institute or any of one of its members;
c. Students who post views, opinions or images online in breach of any norms are liable to undergo Institute's disciplinary proceedings. Such actions may also entail prosecution under criminal and civil proceedings;
d. Students shall remain personally responsible/ liable for anything he/she publishes on social media;
e. Notwithstanding anything herein-above, if any act of social media has been adjudicated by any court of law/ tribunal / quasi-judicial body as illegal, it will also be deemed as a fit case for disciplinary proceedings of the Institute.

4. SOCIAL MEDIA POSTINGS: VALIDATING IT ACT;

(As per Information Technology Act, 2000)

Posting on Social Media in a personal capacity –

1. Must not be unlawful (i.e. breach any criminal and/or civil statute);

2. Must not include anything that could be considered discriminatory against, or harassment of, any individual such as –
    a. making offensive or derogatory remarks/comments through text/image/video linking to caste, religion, belief, age, colour, nationality, disability, sex, gender, sexual orientation or social status;
    b. promote unacceptable, violent, incitement, seditious, defamatory, provoke, induce, aid or signal dangerous activities including illicit drugs and narcotics- related activity;
    c. make any attempt of violation of copyright, confidentiality or breach of privacy of an individual, organization/ institutional branding or emblem.

Explanation

- Any act or omission on part of the social-media-user which may amount to an offence will be subjected to the investigation as per law.
- Any inappropriate material, if found authored, which may affect the perception of the general public towards the Institute would attract legal consequences on the wrongdoer.

5. ETHICAL PRACTICES (DOS AND DON'TS) :

- Diligent and judicious while authoring and posting any content online. Never allow old social media postings to come back to haunt in future.
- In honouring the standard privacy settings while using any electronic device or internet platform, take care to protect personal information/ privacy/ security from unauthorized processing and dissemination.
- Never infringe or trespass in the cyberspace of one's good neighbour.
- Never post things that may be cruel or make 'joke' threats.
- Ensure of contributing valuable insights as a valued and respectable member of social networking intermingling.

6. BEST PRACTICES:

- Use devices and the internet as a tool of assistance for achieving career goals.
- Make it a point to schedule "Internet Time" and keep parts of the day "Internet Free"
- *Make the Internet Work for You* and Don't make Internet use *You and Your Valuable Time.*