

No. T-16017/14/2020-iGOT
Government of India
Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
Department of Personnel and Training
Training Division

Block-IV, 4th Floor, Old JNU Campus,
Opposite Bersarai Market, New Delhi-110067

Dated: 24th August, 2020.

To,

- 1) The Secretaries of all the Ministries / Departments of Govt of India.
- 2) The Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments / Union Territories.
- 3) All the Cadre Controlling Authorities of Central Group 'A' Services.

Subject:- **5th Batch of MITx Micro Masters programme in Data, Economics and Development Policy (DEDP) under Integrated Government Online Training (iGOT) Programme through Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs) mechanism - reg.**

Sir / Madam,

I am directed to refer to this Department's Office Memorandum and Letter No. T-16017/42/2018-Trg(TFA) dated 17th May, 2019 (copy enclosed) regarding MITx Micro-Masters programme in Data, Economics and Development Policy (DEDP) under Integrated Government Online Training (iGOT) Programme through Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs) mechanism.

2. As you are aware that this Department has offered the following six online courses of MITx Micro-Masters programme in Data, Economics and Development Policy (DEDP) in collaboration with Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), South Asia and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA under the iGOT initiative:-

- (i) The Challenges of Global Poverty;
- (ii) Designing and Running Randomized Evaluations;
- (iii) Data Analysis for Social Scientists;
- (iv) Principles of Microeconomics;
- (v) Foundations of Development Policy; and
- (vi) Political Economy and Economic Development

3. These courses are offered three times in a year viz., February, June and September. **This Department is now inviting applications for the Fifth Batch of J-PAL's MITx Micro-Master Programme in DEDP starting on 8th September, 2020.** All the details regarding MITx Micro-Masters programme regarding eligibility, registration process, payments and reimbursements etc. are given below.

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4. The last date for receiving online applications for the Fall 2020 batch (starting from September 8, 2020) is 5th September, 2020. The last date for making payment is October 9, 2020.

5. It may be noted that in the Spring 2021 batch, only 3 courses (Data Analysis for Social Scientists, Designing and Running Randomized Evaluations, The Challenges of Global Poverty) will be offered. Similarly in the Summer 2021 batch, 3 courses (Microeconomics, Foundations of Development Policy, Political Economy and Economic Development) will be offered.

6. The **eligibility criteria** for enrolling for the said courses are:

6.1 **Officers eligible:**

All officers of Indian Administrative Service (IAS), Indian Police Service (IPS) and Indian Forest Service (IFoS), Central Civil Services Group 'A' Officers and all Group 'A' officers belonging to Central Secretariat Service (CSS), Central Secretariat Stenographer Service (CSSS) and State Administrative/Civil Service.

6.2 **Eligibility in terms of Length of Service:**

All the eligible officers should have served for at least two years from the end of the calendar year of their joining of service in their respective cadres.

6.3 **Age Limit:**

The Upper Age limit is 56 years as on 1st July of the year of commencement of training.

6.4 The officers are requested to ensure that they fulfill the eligibility conditions as reimbursement of course fee will be made only to the officers who satisfy the eligibility conditions mentioned above.

7. **How to Apply**

7.1 Please read all the Instructions/Frequently Asked Questions available on J-PAL's website carefully before applying. The FAQs are also attached at Annexure-I to this circular.

7.2 Though there is no restriction regarding enrolment for more than one Course in one batch by any officer, given the time commitment that each course requires, it is advised that only one course should be enrolled in one batch by an officer.

7.3 For Registration, log on to <https://igot.nic.in>. Then click on 'Approved Courses'. After selecting a course, click on the link "Register Here" below the name of that course. It will lead to J-PAL's website {J-PAL/MITx MicroMasters in Data, Economics, and Development Policy for Government of India Officials}. Follow all the steps for Registration given under 'How To Apply' on J-PAL's Website.

7.4 After registration on edX and Micro-Masters in the DEDP portal, it is mandatory to fill the J-PAL Google Form as explained and the link provided on J-PAL's website. It may be noted that there are separate Google forms for the officers who are applying for the first time and who have already registered earlier. In the form, candidates are required to select the course that they want to enrol for in the current batch. Based on their selection, they will receive the coupon code for that specific course only. After completion of the Google Form, a confirmation from J-PAL will be received through e-mail in due course. Thereafter, J-PAL will provide coupon code(s) for the discounted price of US\$ 100 per course per officer. This coupon code will be issued a few weeks after submission of application form and prior to the payment deadline of October 9, 2020.

7.5 The last date for applying is **September 5, 2020 by 11:59 PM IST**. It will not be possible for J-PAL to issue coupon codes or consider any changes in course selection after the 5th September deadline.

8. Course Completion, Payment, and Reimbursement

8.1 After completing the steps above, the candidates are required to start the course on **September 8, 2020** and complete it by **November 24, 2020**.

8.2 The candidates will receive a course-specific discounted coupon code, which will enable the candidates to pay for the course at a discounted price of \$100 USD. The said coupon code will be shared by J-PAL with the candidates before the payment deadline, along with instructions on how to apply it through the Micro-Masters profile. The candidates are required to apply the coupon code **and make payment before the payment deadline of October 9, 2020** in order to enroll on the full Micro-Masters track and earn a course certificate. It is not necessary to make the payment prior to starting the course on September 8, 2020.

8.3 The candidates may receive an e-mail from MIT requesting for financial documents/income statement. Please note that as an applicant through the DoPT partnership, candidates are not required to send MIT these documents or indicate the income status anywhere on the Micro-Masters portal.

8.4 In order to earn a Micro-Masters course certificate, the candidates will be required to (i) attain passing grades in the online component of the course (delivered on edX) and (ii) pass an online proctored exam. The candidates who successfully earn this course certificate will then be reimbursed the course fee of \$100 USD by D/o Personnel & Training.

8.5 After successful completion of course, the candidates should intimate Section Officer (iGOT), Training Division, Department of Personnel & Training, Old JNU Campus, New Delhi at email id - soigot-dopt@gov.in alongwith details of payment made, course completed and copy of Certificate. DoPT will get the details verified from the Cadre Controlling Authority concerned and the course fee paid by the candidates will be reimbursed to them directly.

8.6 It is clarified that course fee will be reimbursed to an officer in respect of a particular course only once.

9. It is requested that this initiative of iGOT programme for the Central and State Government officers may be given wide publicity and officers may be encouraged to apply for the courses for the 5th Batch starting in September, 2020 under iGOT programme.

10. For any query/help, candidates are required to carefully go through the FAQs in the appendix carefully. In case of any other doubt or question, the officers may consider the following :

10.1 For questions regarding dates and deadlines, the candidates are advised to go through the J-PAL's website and the "Upcoming Dates" page on the Micro-Masters DEDP website carefully.

10.2 For questions on the Micro-Masters course or technical difficulties with the payment/course portal, the candidates may contact micromasters-support@mit.edu with the subject line 'DoPT'.

10.3 For technical issues with the edX platform or online proctored exam, the candidate may contact edX support.

10.4 For questions regarding the courses, the candidates may contact J-PAL at e-mail id - dopt@povertyactionlab.org.

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10.5 For questions on reimbursement and any other assistance/suggestions, the following officers of D/o Personnel & Training may be contacted:

- (i) Shri Manoj Gupta, Under Secretary(iGOT), DoP&T
[Mobile No. 9811481448, Email- manoj.gupta74@nic.in]
- (ii) Ms. V. Niang Langel, Section Officer(iGOT), DoP&T
[Mobile No. 9910702982, Email - soigot-dopt@gov.in]
- (iii) Shri Abhay Kumar, ASO (iGOT), DoP&T
[Mobile No. 9631834325, Email- abhay.kumar1012@gov.in]

Yours faithfully,



(Manoj Gupta)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

**Frequently Asked Questions
(Available on J-PAL's Website)**

1. What is the MITx MicroMasters credential in Data, Economics, and Public Policy?

MIT's Department of Economics and the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) designed the MicroMasters® program credential in Data, Economics, and Development Policy (DEDP) to equip learners with the practical skills and theoretical knowledge to tackle some of the most pressing challenges facing developing countries and the world's poor. To earn the DEDP MicroMasters program credential, learners complete three core courses (Microeconomics, Data Analysis for Social Scientists, and Designing and Running Randomized Evaluations) and two of three electives (The Challenges of Global Poverty, Foundations of Development Policy, and Political Economy and Economic Development) online and pass their corresponding in-person exams. Learners who receive the MicroMasters program credential will then be eligible to apply to MIT's Blended Master's program in Data, Economics, and Development Policy. If accepted, students will earn MIT credit for the MicroMasters program courses, and will be able to pursue an accelerated on-campus Master's degree at MIT.

2. Why should I enroll?

The basic objective of the MITx MicroMasters program is to equip officials with the practical skills and theoretical knowledge to tackle some of the most pressing challenges facing developing countries and the world's poor. The program is crucial to familiarize policymakers and practitioners in the Government with identifying and analyzing the root causes of underdevelopment using principles of economics. The courses under MITx MicroMasters program are useful in interpreting the findings of empirical research that evaluates the effectiveness of anti-poverty strategies, policies and interventions. It also provides practical knowledge on how to design and implement rigorous randomized evaluations and other econometric methods of evaluating policies and programs. The program is intended to help officials build a set of tools and skills required for data analysis in the social sciences, understand the problems facing the world's poor, and learn how to design and evaluate social policies that strive to solve them. Through these courses government officials will be equipped with the tools of comparative cost-effectiveness analysis which will prove highly beneficial for informed policy-making.

3. How do I pay for these courses and how will I be reimbursed?

After applying for the course, eligible officers will receive a special coupon code to allow them to pay for the course at a discounted price of \$100 USD, along with instructions on how to apply through their Micro Master profile. In order to earn a MicroMasters course certificate, officers will be required to (a) receive a passing grade and (b) pass an online proctored exam.

The officers who successfully earn this course certificate will be reimbursed the course fee of \$100 USD by the Department of Personnel and Training.

4. When should I start the course? Do I need to make the payment before beginning the course?

Please begin the course as soon as you start receiving material from the MicroMasters portal. You do not need to make the payment before starting the course, but please be sure to make the payment before the payment deadline.

5. What is the expected time commitment per week?

Each week, each individual course releases a lecture, broken into a series of mini-videos, with finger exercises and homework assignments that correspond with the material. This usually takes approximately 10-12 hours per week, but may vary depending on the individual learner.

6. How many MicroMasters courses can I register for at once?

Given the time commitment that each course requires, we strongly encourage you to register for only one course in a given term.

7. What are the passing criteria for each of the MicroMasters classes?

To pass a MicroMasters course, students need to attain passing grades both in the online component of the course (delivered on edX) and the proctored exam. The specific grade cut-offs for the online component of each class are detailed in the relevant course syllabi on edX. Note that only students who attain a passing grade in the online component will be authorized to register for the proctored exam. Your final MicroMasters course grade will be calculated as follows:

-edX course: 40%

-proctored exam: 60%

8. If I fail or unenroll the online course, can I take it again?

Yes! By completing your personalized course payment, you are eligible to take the online course whenever and however many times you wish. This means if you fail or unenroll, you have the option to re-enroll whenever you wish.

9. If I fail the proctored exam, can I take it again to try and get a better score?

Yes! By completing your personalized course payment, you are eligible to take the proctored exam up to two times. You also have the option to keep your current online course score or take the course again to try to get a higher grade.

10. Can I take the course now but take the exam in a future semester?

Yes! By completing your personalized course payment, you are eligible to take the online course whenever and however many times you wish. Additionally, you can take the proctored exam up to two times - whenever you'd like. We want the courses and timing to be accessible and flexible if need be. Please reference the dates and deadline page for more information about future course sessions and proctored exam time periods.

11. Can I make up the assignments that I've missed?

Unfortunately, no dates or deadlines can be pushed back. We understand that this can be a bit disappointing, but this is our course policy due to the platform we use.

12. I have already applied the coupon code and paid for my course, but would like to reschedule to future semester. What steps do I need to take?

There is no action required. If you have already paid, you are eligible to take the course(s) at any time now or in the future. Please note that your payment also includes up to 2 proctored exam attempts.
