



BITS Pilani –Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) Dual-Degree Programme FAQs

What is the BITS Pilani-RPI Dual-Degree Programme?

BITS Pilani and RPI, have partnered to offer an exciting opportunity for students to pursue a unique dual-degree academic programme, where students can obtain an engineering degree from BITS Pilani and a degree from RPI upon successful completion of the programme requirements at both Institutions in the following areas:

Discipline	BITS degree	RPI Degree*
Mechanical Engineering	B.E. Mechanical	Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
Electrical and Electronics Engineering	B.E. Electrical and Electronics	Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering

*All engineering degrees at RPI are Bachelor of Science degrees. A Bachelor of Science (B.S.) is the standard degree title for four-year engineering bachelor's degree programmes used by most US universities. For more information about RPI programmes and their accreditation visit:

<https://eng.rpi.edu/>, <https://mane.rpi.edu/>, <https://ecse.rpi.edu/>

Is RPI well-known for its engineering programmes?

Indeed! RPI is an iconic Engineering Institution in the United States, known for its world-class engineering programs.

Founded in 1824, RPI is America's first technological research university and is frequently ranked among top 20 in the US for return on investment. RPI is famous for its rigorous engineering education that include fundamentals as well as practical hands-on learning and an entrepreneurial culture. RPI's graduates are famous – they led the U.S. space exploration and helped put man on the moon (George Low '48 directed the Apollo Space Program for NASA), launched the digital revolution (M. Ted Hoff '58 invented the microprocessor, Steve Sasson '72, '73G invented the digital camera, and Curtis R. Priem '82 designed the first graphics processor and co-founded NVIDIA). More recently, G. Reid

Wiseman '97 was named as the commander of the Artemis mission and will lead the first crewed moon mission in over five decades.

RPI faculty and alumni include ~100 members of the National Academy of Engineering, 17 members of the National Academy of Sciences, 25 members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 8 members of the National Academy of Medicine, 8 members of the National Academy of Inventors, and 5 members of the National Inventors Hall of Fame, as well as 6 National Medal of Technology winners, 5 National Medal of Science winners, and a Nobel Prize winner in Physics. With 7,000 students and nearly 110,000 living alumni, RPI is addressing the global challenges facing the 21st century—to change lives, to advance society, and to change the world for the better.

What are some advantages of pursuing the BITS-RPI dual degree programme?

There are many advantages. First, students who successfully complete all four years of the BITS-RPI International Collaborative dual degree programmes will be eligible to receive degrees from both BITS Pilani and RPI. The degrees will be the same as the standard degrees from each institution –students will receive two separate testamurs (transcripts) and degree certificates from each university. In addition, students will get exposure to world-class STEM ecosystems at BITS and RPI, international experience and exposure, and will build a strong network with BITS and RPI alumni communities.

Are there opportunities to receive scholarships for students pursuing this dual degree programme?

Yes, tuition scholarships will be awarded to qualified BITS-RPI students. RPI will award tuition scholarships of about \$25,000 to \$30,000 per year for their two years at RPI. RPI will award tuition scholarships to the top 75 percent of each BITS-RPI cohort. RPI will consider the remaining 25% of the students in the cohort on individual basis, reviewing their overall performance and awarding appropriate scholarships.

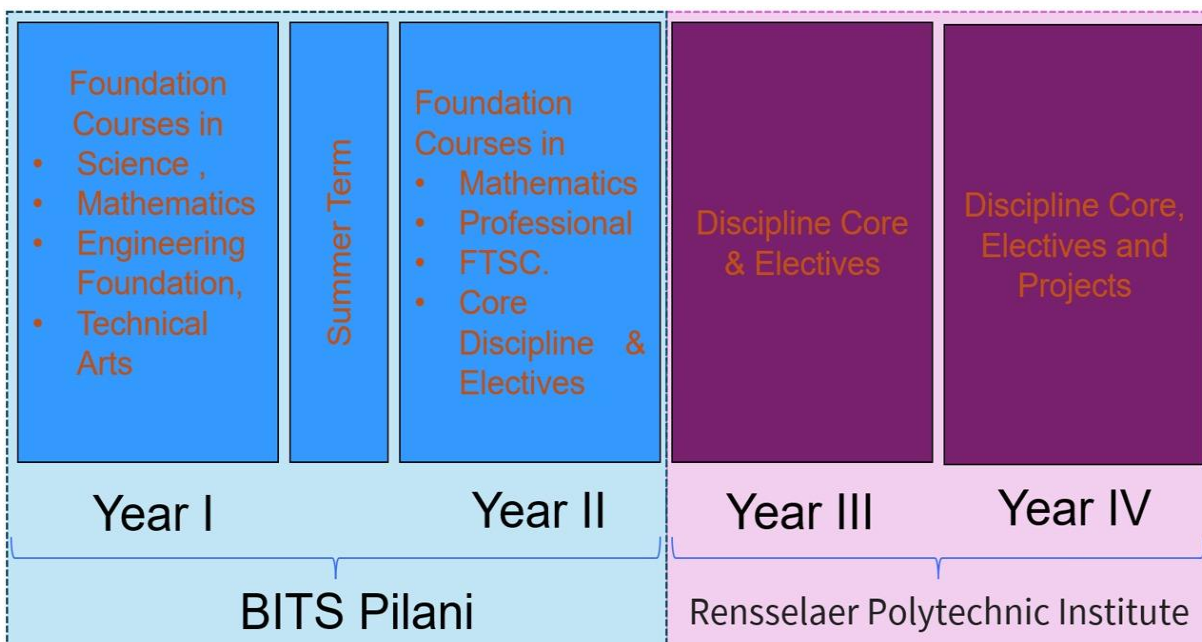
What is the tuition and fee schedule for this programme?

Students will pay the BITS scheduled tuition and fees for the first two years. Once they are admitted into RPI, students will pay the RPI scheduled tuition and fees, minus a tuition scholarship of \$25,000-\$30,000 per year. The current tuition and fees per academic year are listed at <https://financialaid.rpi.edu/cost-attendance>. Future tuition and fees at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) are subject to periodic increases, typically of the order of 3%.

What are the degree requirements?

Students will complete the first two academic years at BITS and the following two academic years at RPI. Progress and completion of the programme within four years is dependent on satisfactory progress and performance in the courses that the student takes. A four-year plan for students for each programme (i.e., B.E. Mechanical + Bachelor

of Science in Mechanical Engineering & B.E. Electrical and Electronics + Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering) is provided below:



Programme's progression

What should I do to apply to this programme?

Procedure to Apply for admission to BITS-RPI International Collaborative Programme:

In addition to applying and appearing for BITSAT-2025, candidates must apply for admission to BITS-RPI giving details of their 12th standard marks and preferences to different degree programmes offered at Indian campuses of BITS and RPI. The prescribed application form for admission and the detailed application procedure will be made available at the BITS admission website, tentatively in June 2025. The completed application form with the details of their 12th marks and preferences to different degree programmes along with the required application fee must be submitted online at the BITS admission website on or before the deadline mentioned on BITS Pilani admission website.

RPI faculty and staff will engage with students in the dual degree programme in the first two years through Zoom sessions and visits to the BITS campus to ensure students are on track for transition to RPI. In the second year, students will apply as transfer student to complete RPI admission procedures via the RPI International Admissions website.

Does BITSAT score matter in the admission process?

Applicants who meet the minimum academic requirements will be ranked based on their Final BITSAT score. Offers will be issued to the top ranked applicants down, until available places are filled.

What are the prerequisites to transfer to the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) including any English proficiency requirements?

You are required to provide current evidence of your English language proficiency for admission to RPI. Students can provide their results in the form of one of these common English language proficiency tests:

Below are the minimum scores to be eligible for consideration for admission to RPI's undergraduate programmes:

- ≥ 88 TOEFL
- ≥ 7.0 IELTS
- ≥ 115 Duolingo
- ≥ 59 PTE

If you need to complete an English Language test, you will need to have done so prior to applying to RPI (usually Fall semester of your second year at BITS or earlier). These tests are held regularly in major cities across India. Depending on your current English strength, you may wish to prepare for your test. We recommend starting as soon as possible and giving yourself every chance to do well.

When would I have to take the English language proficiency test?

You should submit scores for one of the eligible English proficiency tests no later than March 1, 2027. TOEFL and IELTS are held regularly in major cities across India. However, in light of the limited time, it is recommended that BITS-RPI applicants take the Duolingo test, which is available on-demand and can be taken at home; official Duolingo test scores can be reported to RPI within 2 days. Depending on your current English strength, you may wish to prepare for your test. We recommend starting as soon as possible and giving yourself every chance to do well.

Will I get one or two degrees from this programme?

Students who successfully complete all four years of the BITS-RPI International Collaborative dual degree programmes will be eligible to receive degrees from both BITS Pilani and RPI. Both BITS Pilani and RPI have worked carefully together to align programme curricular offerings, and each will recognize the study completed at the other institution, enabling completion of requirements for each degree at both institutions. The degrees will be the same as the standard degrees from each institution - students will receive two separate testamurs (transcripts) and degree certificates, one from each university.

Can I do undergraduate and graduate degrees with additional years?

Yes. There are many opportunities for graduate (master's and PhD) study at RPI and BITS. In fact, the BITS-RPI programme has opportunities to prepare you well for graduate study. For example, engaging in research with faculty while completing your degree programme at RPI can also help you with your admission to graduate programmes.

Is RPI a welcoming place for international students?

Yes. RPI is located in a vibrant multicultural region in the Capital district of NY State which includes the cities of Troy, Albany, Schenectady, and vicinity. RPI community includes students, faculty, and staff from across the United States and the world, representing the wonderful cultural diversity of the US and strong ties to the broader world. RPI has welcomed students and faculty from India for many decades. Distinguished alumni include Jay Baliga (inventor of IGBT transistor and winner of the National Medal of Technology), Mukesh Chatter (an alum of both RPI and BITS, successful entrepreneur, most recently, co-founder of Alsym), Siva Sivaram (CEO, Quantumscape), Sam Guhan (Amgen), and many others.

What are accommodations options at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI)?

At RPI, students may live on-campus in dormitories or off campus in local apartments or housing. It is encouraged that students live on campus to take fullest advantage of the campus opportunities. Details relating to housing can be found at <https://sll.rpi.edu/>.

What happens if I can't transfer to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) at the end of year two?

This International Dual Degree Programme is structured to include two years of study at BITS Pilani, followed by two years at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), culminating in the award of degrees from both institutions. However, if you are unable to proceed to RPI due to compelling reasons, the following alternatives may be considered at the sole discretion of BITS Pilani:

- a)** BITS Pilani may, at its sole discretion, reassign you to a new programme depending on your BITSAT-2025 score and its position in the regular merit list prepared for students admitted to First Degree programmes through BITSAT-2025 (and not through the BITS-RPI International Dual Degree route).
- b)** BITS Pilani may certify your completed coursework for credit transfer to another recognized institution, which may consider it towards awarding a degree, subject to their norms.
- c)** You may be offered the option to continue and complete your degree at the BITS Pilani Dubai Campus. In such cases, you will be required to pay the fees applicable to the Dubai Campus.

What are the academic standards I need to meet at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI)?

In order to graduate with a B.S. from RPI, a students must complete all course work with a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or greater. While this is a minimum requirement, we expect students in the BITS-RPI programme to excel with a much higher GPA as well as experience on campus through participation and leadership in technical and other clubs, engaging in research, and other student experience opportunities that distinguish RPI.

What about Practice School? Would I have the option to take internships at RPI? How does RPI offer Industry exposure for UG students?

RPI offers many opportunities for exposure and experience with industry. BITS-RPI students will have an opportunity to do a summer internship in industry either in the US or in India during the summer between their 3rd and 4th year of study (that is between their 1st and 2nd year at RPI). RPI has a strong Center for Career and Professional Development (<https://ccpd.rpi.edu/>) which helps students connect with industry internship opportunities. In addition, throughout the academic year, students have a chance to interact with visitors from industry (guest lecturers, department and school industry advisory council members, etc.). Finally, engineering programmes at the RPI include a required capstone design experience that during the senior year. Students work in teams to tackle real-world engineering design problems. It is common for students to work with industry partners on these senior design projects. The experiences leverage the technical and professional skills (e.g., teamwork, communication, creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, leadership) students acquire over the span of the four-year programme. At the end of the project, teams present their work in various forums. Below are programme-specific details:

<https://designlab.rpi.edu/>

<https://mane.rpi.edu/student-resources/learn-doing/maneinnovation-spine>

