



Office of International Relations
Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
Kharagpur – 721 302



Ref: 2320/2024/OIR

Date: 05.09.2024

NOTE

Sub: Releasing Call for submission of project proposals for IITKGP-University of Manchester Joint Doctoral Program in September 2024

University of Manchester is one of our most valued partners and in the last few years we have made significant strides in developing the Joint Doctoral Program between our two Institutes. There have been 12 students who have been enrolled in the JDP since its inception in 2021-22 academic year (Flag 1).

This year, it is being requested that the call for submission of project proposals from academic faculty members be released in End September/Early October, 2024.

Submitted for necessary approvals.

Enclosed Flags:

1. Project Proposal-Guidance Notes, with tentative calendar schedule
2. Project proposal form.

Dean IR

Reb. Bral - Mr. Khaj
05.09.2024

Dy - Director

Bojee
18/9/24

IR Executive

05/09/24

University of Manchester (UK) -IIT Kharagpur (India) Dual Award PhD Programme Proposal for Project – Guidance Notes & Selection Criteria

Admission for the fifth cohort of students for the University of Manchester and IIT Kharagpur Dual Award PhD programme is being rolled out.

Funding

Up to 3 fully funded (all basic level tuition fees, standard living allowances at Manchester and Institute scholarship while at IITKGP for all 4 years of programme, including 2 years of allowances at UKRI equivalent stipends) scholarships are available for suitable candidates to commence on this 4-year programme initially at IIT Kharagpur in August 2025.

How to apply

For a proposed project to be considered for approval, please complete the attached form and email to fse.doctoralacademy.specialistprogrammes@manchester.ac.uk , deanir@adm.iitkgp.ac.in and koushiki@adm.iitkgp.ac.in by 2nd December 2024.

Project eligibility

In order to receive approval, a project must meet the following essential criteria:

- Have an agreed joint project supervisory team comprising at least a main supervisor and co-supervisor from University of Manchester and a main supervisor from IIT Kharagpur.
- The main supervisors are both permanent members of academic staff of their respective institutions.
- University of Manchester supervisors can only submit one project proposal for this call.
- Confirmation that the joint project supervisory team have agreed a project title and an outline project plan with milestones and timelines showing the progression of the Ph.D. over the 4 years.
- Confirmation that the joint project supervisory team have collective access to the resources, other than tuition fees and living allowances, to enable the proposed PhD project to be executed.
- Confirmation that the joint project supervisory team have availability to discuss with, interview and rank before 26th March 2025, candidates who apply to their project by 2nd March 2025.
- The UoM supervisors must have submitted an [Export Controls Compliance Request](#) with the Regulatory Compliance team (as India is considered a key country), description of outcome and details of the export control licence (if applicable) and they must have conducted a compliance risk assessment for the project (e.g. ATAS clearance and export control clearance) and put mitigating measures in place.

The following desirable characteristics will also be used to rank these proposals

- Demonstrated extent of previous collaboration between the IIT Kharagpur and University of Manchester supervisory teams
- Demonstrated strength of joint project supervisory team
- Demonstrated value added of the project arising from the collaboration between IIT Kharagpur and University of Manchester
- Inclusion of co-supervisor from IIT Kharagpur on supervisory team
- Demonstrated (as evidenced by an appropriate letter of support or email) and extent of involvement of a suitable business, NGO or government agency partner

- Potential of research to address strategic research priorities of India, UK or global challenges

A maximum of 20 projects will be approved for potential students starting in July 2025. Applications will open for candidates to apply for approved projects at IIT KGP on 13th January 2025 with application deadline on 2nd March 2025.

Interviews will be conducted tentatively in the week commencing 14th April 2025.

Student eligibility

1. Candidates may only apply for projects approved by the Joint Academic Board.
2. For Indian residents, the programme is open to graduates B.Tech. or M.Sc./M.Tech. graduate from any Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) with a minimum CGPA of 7.5 on a scale of 10.
3. For residents of other countries, it is open to graduates of [Institutes/Universities within QS WUR of 500](#) (published in 2024).
4. Candidates must be able to undertake PhD studies at IIT Kharagpur from July 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter with no requirement for a (further) visa to study in India.
5. Willingness to travel to the UK to undertake 2 years of study based at The University of Manchester if such travel is permitted by UK and India governments.
6. Holds or expects to obtain a 2:1 class honours undergraduate degree or higher (or international equivalent).
7. Ideally holds a master's-level qualification at merit or distinction (or international equivalent).
8. Demonstrable excellent communication skills, including in English language, a proficiency in which should be demonstrably indicated by meeting the requirements as indicated on <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/international/admissions/language-requirements> and in particular securing an IELTS score of at least 6.5 overall with a minimum of 6.0 in each component OR securing a TOEFL iBT score of 90 with no less than 20 in each component equivalent OR equivalent. The TOEFL/IELTS exam may be taken after the final selection and award of scholarship and prior to joining IIT Kharagpur.
9. For some projects an ATAS certificate may also be required by them.
10. Demonstrate to fulfil the University of Manchester [Faculty of Science and Engineering Postgraduate Researcher person specification](#):
 - a. Educational background matches research project.
 - b. Potential to form effective working relationships with a diverse range of people, including working inclusively and as part of a team.
 - c. Potential to take the initiative, lead on projects, and be proactive in prioritising a dynamic, agile and diverse workload.
 - d. Potential to develop understanding of complex problems, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of a given scenario, and apply in-depth knowledge to address them.
 - e. Potential to develop expertise in new areas of the subject.
 - f. Evidence of an understanding of the proposed area of research, including knowledge of current challenges and opportunities.
 - g. An interest in continuous personal and professional development.
 - h. Potential to communicate ideas and conclusions, verbally and in writing, clearly and effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
 - i. Preliminary knowledge of research techniques/track record of engaging with research.

- j. Commitment to principles of **Equality, Diversity, Inclusion, & Accessibility** in teaching, research, or experience.

Project and student selection process

- A maximum of 20 projects will be selected to be open for applications.
- Projects will be ranked by the Joint Academic Board using the eligibility criteria.
- Students will apply to IITKGP in the first instance.
- Shortlisting of candidates will be undertaken by supervisor team based on student eligibility criteria as evidenced by the application and an interview with the candidate. Two candidates per project can be shortlisted.
- All shortlisted candidates will be invited to be interviewed by the Joint Academic Board that will assess candidates based on a short verbal presentation and standard set of interview questions mapping to a PhD person specification.
- Interviews will be conducted via Zoom.
- Candidates will be ranked following interview and funding will be assigned to the top-ranked students.

Timeline

Date	Process	Action By
September 2024	Agree and circulate invitation for project summaries for supervisory teams	DC (IITKGP) & BR (UOM)
Monday 2nd Dec, 2024	Deadline for submission of projects	Prospective project supervisory teams
Week commencing 9th Dec, 2024 (10th Tuesday or 11th Wednesday)	Meeting of JAB for review and selection of projects – limited to 20 – Communication to supervisory team	Joint Academic Board chaired by RM (IITKGP) & IC (UOM) preferably around 10 AM GMT (3:30 PM IST)
Monday 16th Dec, 2024	Selection of approved projects – limited to 20 – Communication to supervisory team	Joint Academic Board chaired by DC (IITKGP) & IC (UOM)
Week commencing 13th January, 2025	Websites updated and applications opened for candidates to apply for approved projects	
Monday 3rd March, 2025	Deadline for submission of applications to IITKGP and UOM	
Wednesday 10th March, 2025	Applications shared with supervisory teams	
Wednesday 26th March, 2025	Deadline for supervisory teams to notify Joint Academic Board of their top two ranked candidates for each approved project	

Monday 7th April, 2025	Info on Top candidates shared with JAB	Meeting of JAB should be convened in the week starting 7 th April to discuss the top candidates selected for interviews, finalize dates of the final interview, discuss interview questionnaire and address any other issues/concerns
Tuesday 8th April, 2025	Top ranked candidates screened for eligibility and invited for interview	
Wednesday 9th April, 2025	Information (applications, scoring and ranking information) shared with the Panel members	
Week commencing 14th April, 2025	Candidates interviewed, ranked and notified of outcomes.	
July 2025	Commencement of programme at IIT Kharagpur	

Contact details

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact to

fse.doctoralacademy.specialistprogrammes@manchester.ac.uk , deanir@adm.iitkgp.ac.in, and Koushiki@adm.iitkgp.ac.in

University of Manchester-IIT Kharagpur Dual Award PhD Programme

2025 Project Proposal Form

Please complete in far as is appropriate. If selected, this form also forms the basis of a student study plan – so please do not complete cells marked [do not use]. Please do not modify cells for which an answer has already been inserted.

If insufficient space for answer please provide at the end of the form. Not all fields require completion as indicated if not applicable.

Research Student	Full name	[do not use]
	Email (IITKGP)	[do not use]
	Email (UoM)	[do not use]
	Email (other)	[do not use]
IIT Kharagpur Main Supervisor	Name	
	Department	
	Email	
University of Manchester Main Supervisor	Name	
	Department	
	Email	
IIT Kharagpur Co-supervisor 1	Name	[not required but desirable]
	Department	[not required but desirable]
	Email	[not required but desirable]
IIT Kharagpur Co-supervisor 2	Name	[not required]
	Department	[not required]
	Email	[not required]
University of Manchester Co-supervisor 1	Name	
	Department	
	Email	
University of Manchester Co-supervisor 2	Name	[not required]
	Department	[not required]
	Email	[not required]
IIT Kharagpur Advisor	Name	(Chairperson DSC)
	Department	[do not use]
	Email	[do not use]
University of Manchester Advisor	Name	[do not use]
	Department	[do not use]
	Email	[do not use]
Partner Organisation 1	Organisation	[not required if not applicable]
	Contact name	[not required if not applicable]
	Contact email	[not required if not applicable]
Partner Organisation 2	Organisation	[not required if not applicable]
	Contact name	[not required if not applicable]
	Contact email	[not required if not applicable]
Proposed area of research		
Length of project (maximum 4 years)		4 years
Estimated period required for literature review & project design		6 – 9 months

University of Manchester-IIT Kharagpur Dual Award PhD Programme

Project Proposal Form

Summary of student researcher's training needs		[do not use]
Frequency of meetings with main supervisor whilst student hosted at their institution	IITKGP	[at least fortnightly]
	UoM	[at least fortnightly]
Frequency of meetings with main supervisor when student hosted away from the institution	IITKGP	[at least monthly]
	UoM	[at least monthly]
Planned visits of student to host institutions and brief outline planned activities [please modify as appropriate]		<p>Beginning year 1 – travel to IITKPR</p> <p>Year 1 (IITKGP) Literature reviews / design of project / preliminary experiments. modelling / fieldwork</p> <p>End year 1 – travel IITKGP to UoM</p> <p>Year 2 (UoM) Experiments / Modelling / Fieldwork</p> <p>Year 3 (UoM) [or IITKGP] Experiments / Modelling / / Fieldwork</p> <p>End year 3 – travel UoM to IITKGP</p> <p>Year 4 (IITKGP) [or UoM] Write up thesis and publications / follow up career development opportunities</p>
Confirmation that main supervisors at host institutions will jointly meet with student monthly throughout the PhD programme	IITKGP	Confirmed.
	UoM	Confirmed.
Equipment access arrangements	IITKGP	[do not use]
	UoM	[do not use]
Confirmation that the supervisory teams have collective access to the resources, other than tuition fees and living allowances, to enable the proposed PhD project to be executed.		[confirmation is required]

Arrangements of submission and review of annual reports	IITKGP	Annual reports will be submitted via standard IITKGP systems and examined by IITKGP appointed examiners subject to ratification review by joint IITKGP-UoM Dual Award PhD Board (JAB)
	UoM	Annual reports will be submitted via the eProg system and examined by UoM appointed examiners subject to ratification review by joint IITKGP-UoM Dual Award PhD Board (JAB)
Arrangements for management of progress	IITKGP	Progression will be monitored via standard IITKGP systems including whilst the student is hosted at UoM. Annual review by joint IITKGP-UoM Dual Award PhD Board (JAB) or more frequently if indicated by supervisors, student or otherwise.
	UoM	Progression will be monitored via eProg, including whilst the student is hosted at IITKGP. Annual review by joint IITKGP-UoM Dual Award PhD Board (JAB) or more frequently if indicated by supervisors, student or otherwise.
Arrangements for writing, submission and examination of final thesis		<p>To facilitate writing up, (i) electronic as appropriate other library facilities will be made available to the student at both IITKGP and UoM irrespective of where they are hosted; (ii) access to UoM office software will be made available subject to adequate internet access, VPN and compliance with UoM IT policies, irrespective of the where the student is hosted.</p> <p>IDENTICAL versions of the final thesis will be submitted as practicably as possible simultaneously to both IITKGP and UoM via standard systems (e.g. eProg at UoM).</p> <p>External and internal examiners will be jointly agreed by the main supervisors and student.</p> <p>As far as is practicable, the final viva will be conducted using video-link facilities to enable the simultaneous participation of examiners from IITKGP, UoM and elsewhere as appropriate and agreed.</p> <p>The student will be provided in advance clear details of the examination process(es).</p>
Confirmation that a viva will be held at IIT Kharagpur and/or University of Manchester		[confirmation is required]
Confirmation that the supervisory team is available to discuss with, interview and rank candidates applying to their project by stipulated deadline.		[confirmation is required]

Extent of previous collaborations and discussions between IIT Kharagpur and University of Manchester project supervisory teams		
Summary of the strength of the joint supervisory team and its members (please provide links to relevant personal or research pages)		
Highlight value added from the proposed IIT Kharagpur / University of Manchester collaboration		
Potential of project to address strategic priorities of the UK and/or India		
Any further comments / information		

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Agreed / Confirmed

Role	Name	Date	Signed or Nature of Confirmation
Main Supervisor (IITKGP)			
Main Supervisor (UoM)			
Student Researcher	[do not use]	[do not use]	[do not use]

Dated emails will be accepted as evidence of confirmation rather than a scanned signature.