University of Manchester (UK) - IIT Kharagpur (India) Dual Award PhD Programme

Ranking of Students for Approved Projects – Guidance Notes & Selection Criteria

Up to 3 fully funded (all basic level tuition fees, standard living allowances 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 2024. Further details are provided in the attached documents.

The two candidates top ranked by each joint project team will then be considered for interviews organised by the Joint Programme Board.

At interview, candidates will be expected to be prepared to answer questions including but not restricted to their academic background, their understanding of the proposed project and their perceived suitability for it, and examples of where they have demonstrated curiosity and resilience. Scholarship recommendations will be made on the basis of criteria related to both the applicant and the project.

In particular, the panel is looking to appoint outstanding candidates that (a) have the potential to generate publishable output in good international journals in a research area that is of importance to either the UK, India or both, (b) have the potential to benefit from the particular facilities and complementary expertise at UoM and IITKGP, with weight being given to (c) candidates for projects which are supervised by a strong supervisory team with evidence of external support (e.g. in-kind or financial support from industry, NGOs or appropriate government agencies).

All candidates-projects must meet the screening criteria outlined in Schedule 1. These should already have been checked prior to interview.

Information from applications, the project supervisory team and from interview will then be used to rank candidate-project combinations according to the criteria in Schedule 2.

All interviewers/panel members will independently rank the candidates/projects according to the selection criteria prior to the interviews. They will not share these rankings with other panel members.

All interview/panel members will update their rankings after each interview taking into account the further information/impression gained from the interview of the candidate.

At the completion of ALL the interviews to be conducted (unless there are exceptional circumstances), the panel will discuss the candidates and agree a ranking order.

In the event that a consensus cannot be reached, the ranking will be determined by the arithmetic mean of the rankings of all the panel members, but excluding the top and the bottom ranking for each candidate.

Schedule 1

<u>Essential criteria</u> (I) (for candidates applying to commence programme in 2024/25)

1. Candidates may only apply for projects approved by the Joint Programme Board.
2. Candidates must be a B.Tech.or M.Sc./M.Tech graduate from any Indian Institute of Technology (IIT)   graduate from any Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) with a minimum CGPA of 7.5/10.0.
3. For residents of other countries, it is open to graduates of Institutes/Universities within QS WUR of 500 (published in 2023).
4. Candidates must be able to undertake PhD studies at IIT Kharagpur from July 2024 or as soon as possible thereafter with no requirement for a (further) visa to study in India.

<u>Essential criteria</u> (II)

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**.**
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.

<u>Essential criteria (III) (in relation to projects)</u>:

- 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.

- Confirmation that the joint project supervisory team have agreed a project title.

- Have an agreed outline project plan with milestones and timelines showing the progression of the Ph.D. over the 4 years.

- The joint project supervisory team confirms that they have collective access to the resources, other than tuition fees and living allowances, to enable the proposed PhD project to be executed.

- Supervisory teams confirm their availability to discuss with, interview and rank before 20th March 2024 candidates who apply to their project by 04th March 2024.Supervisors have undertaken an appropriate export controls self-assessment in line with University of Manchester requirements

- The UoM supervisors must have conducted the Export Control self-assessment for the project and are undertaking the necessary step to put an Export Control licence (if applicable).

<u>Schedule 2</u>

<u>Desirable criteria - project</u>

1. Demonstrated extent of previous collaboration between the IIT Kharagur and University of Manchester supervisory teams
2. Demonstrated strength of joint project supervisory team
3. Demonstrated value added of the project arising from the collaboration between IIT Kharagpur and University of Manchester
4. Inclusion of co-supervisor from IIT Kharagpur on supervisory team
5. Demonstrated (as evidenced by an appropriate letter of support or email) and extent of involvement of a suitable business, NGO or government agency partner
6. Potential of research to address strategic research priorities of India, UK or global challenges

All applicants must be given full consideration without regard to race, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, nationality, disability, age, marital or pregnancy status, or socioeconomic background.

Schedule 2   Summary Sheet for Candidate Ranking for Approved Joint Projects

Programme	**Dual Award PhD IIT Kharagpur – University of Manchester**	Lead Supervisor IITkgp	
Year of Proposed Entry	**2024/2025**	Lead Supervisor UoM	

Candidate	5 Willing to travel ? (Y/N)	10a/f/i Educational background matching project and technical knowledge	10b Team-working	10c Organisational skills and independence	10d/e Problem solving and potential to develop expertise in new area	10g Interest and curiosity	10h Communication skills	10j EDIA understanding and commitment	Rank / Grade	Brief Reasons ranking / grading	Candidate Notified ? (Y/N)

Please numerically rank (1 = top) all appointable short-listed candidates; grade other candidates as EITHER un-appointable short-listed candidates (USL) OR not short-listed candidates (NSL). Please use further sheets as appropriate.