

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.

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