Academic Guidelines
2021-22

Integrated PhD Programme
(For 20IP onwards)

IISER KOLKATA

5. Integrated PhD Programme (20IP onwards)

5.1. Introduction:

The Integrated Doctor of Philosophy (IPhD) Programme at IISER Kolkata is aimed at attracting talented and innovative fresh undergraduate degree holders towards cutting-edge research in basic sciences. In the IPhD programme, the students are offered specialized coursework of 96 credits for the first two years. In the second year of the program, they also carry out a project to acquire research and analytical skills before they embark on their research leading to the PhD thesis. At the end of the Programme students are awarded both the Master of Science and the PhD degrees.

Students are admitted through a department-level selection procedure comprising initial shortlisting on the basis of academic scores, a written test, and an interview.

Admission to the IPhD Programme is conducted across five departments - Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Earth Sciences, Mathematics & Statistics, and Physical Sciences. The eligibility criteria for application to this Programme are uploaded in the Application Portal of the Institute website around March-April every year.

PIO/OCI card holders will be allowed to apply directly through IPhD admission portal, for seats not specially booked for Indian citizens. All other eligibility criteria will be applicable to them as well. The number of seats for such candidates will not be counted under any separate quota.

For the first two years they are treated as MS students and the rules and regulations pertaining to MS students would apply. From the 3rd year onward, they are treated as PhD students, and the rules and regulations pertaining to the PhD Programme would apply.

The tenure of the Integrated PhD Programme will be of 6 years, with effect from Academic Session 2020-21. All coursework will have to be completed in the first 2 years and there will be no exit policy.

The following are the guidelines pertaining to this Programme.

5.2. Credit Structure:

The total number of credits for the MS programme will be 96 credits. Refer to the 'Courses of Study' document in the website homepage under 'Academic' tab.

5.3. Integrated PhD (IPhD) Project:

In the IPhD Project the student should ideally commence the research work leading to the PhD degree.

The distribution of the IPhD Project over the duration of the Programme can be different for different departments. There is credit assigned to the project work in each semester in this period, and Evaluation will be done on the basis of a presentation and a report. A project report has to be submitted in each of the project semesters, containing a literature survey, problem statement, and a detailed account of the research results. Students will submit their project reports only to their concerned departments; it is not necessary to submit a copy to the Academic Cell.

The student will have to make a presentation before the Research Progress Committee. The RPC will be formed at the start of the 3rd Semester. The project has to be evaluated by the RPC.

5.4. Course work and Comprehensive Examination:

  i.   The Comprehensive Examination, meant for testing a student's comprehensive understanding of the discipline, will be part of the IPhD Project, and no separate Comprehensive Examination will be conducted.

  ii. In addition to the mandatory viva voce, a department may choose other means of evaluation, like written test.

iii. Successful completion of MS coursework will automatically qualify a student for continuation as a PhD student.

iv. During the master's coursework, if an IPhD student is unable to meet the promotion criterion (i.e., failure in more than two subjects) after the supplementary exam, his/her studentship will be terminated without award of any degree.

v. Collection of grades of the IPhD students and updating the same in *WeLearn* will continue to be under the purview of the UGAC.

5.5. Supervisor:

In the semester in which the IPhD Project starts, the department PGAC committee will assign each student to a research supervisor, taking into account the following factors:

i. The student's choice of supervisor, research interests and performance in the course work and consent of the faculty member concerned

ii. A student may not change his/her IPhD Project Supervisor during the period of the Project, but may be assigned a co-supervisor, if approved by the supervisor.

iii. The student may change his/her supervisor only once within the first month of the semester immediately after the completion of his/her IPhD Project work. Any further change of the supervisor is not allowed.

iv. If a student wishes to work with an IPhD Project advisor (starting from the 3rd/4th semester) from a department other than his/her parent department, he/she may do so with the permission from the Heads of both the departments. However, to continue with his/her PhD work in the other department, he/she will have to fulfill the degree requirements of the parent department including the course work and the Graduate Seminar at the end of the second year of the IPhD program, and he/she will have to take a minimum of two courses from the PhD coursework of the other department. In addition, he/she will be assigned a Program Advisor from his/her parent department. His/her PhD degree will be awarded from his/her parent department.

5.6. Fellowship Structure:

i. An IPhD student will get the basic scholarship (12,400/-per month) for the first two years (month of August in the 1st year to the month of July in the second year) provided his/her CGPA does not fall below 6.0 and/or he/she does not have any backlog. The scholarship will be restored if the CGPA goes above 6.0 in the subsequent academic year.

ii. The student will be entitled to get the Institute JRF Scholarship (PhD scholarship) provided that he/she has passed the course work. The entitlement starts from the third year (month of August in the 5th semester).

iii. Upgradation to the SRF position and fellowship will be governed by the rules of the Institute-funded PhD Programme. An IPhD student will be eligible for SRF upgradation at the end of the fourth year, if it is recommended by the Research Progress Committee.

iv. IPhD Students admitted from 2020 will be entitled to get full fellowship for a total period of 6 years (2 years MS+ 4 years PhD).

5.7. External Funding:

i. IPhD students are strongly encouraged to apply for external fellowships (such as CSIR, UGC, and INSIPRE) etc.. However, an IPhD student cannot activate his/her external research fellowship unless he/she qualifies to continue as a PhD student.

ii. If an IPhD student activates his/her external fellowship before completing the credit requirement of the IPhD Programme, but eventually fails to clear one or more of the required courses or the IPhD Project up to the end of his fourth year after admission, the student will have to quit the Programme regardless of the fate of his/her external fellowship.

5.9. PhD Thesis:

    i.   Once the student completes the coursework, she/he will be considered as an Institute JRF from the beginning of the third year.

    ii.   Once the credit requirement (96 credits) is completed, the rest of the IPhD Programme will be regulated by the guidelines of the PhD Programme.

    iii.   The PhD Thesis of an IPhD student may not be submitted and defended before the end of the fourth year after admission, and the PhD degree may not be awarded before the Convocation at the end of the fourth year.

    iv.   The format of the thesis will be the same as prescribed for the PhD students.

5.10. Registration: Registration of IPhD students admitted from 2020 will be valid for 8 years. For fellowship tenure, see Point 5.6.iv above.

5.11. Orientation: Each department conducts an orientation for the fresh batch of IPhD students, normally within two working days of IPhD registration. During the orientation the concerned HoD welcomes the students and introduces them to the departmental UGAC Convener. The students are briefed about the course choices, department's activities and about general IPhD rules. The students have to register to the courses of the semester before the commencement of classes, avoiding timetable clashes.

5.12. After Completion of PhD degree, students admitted under IPhD Programme have to submit one special declaration along with the general declaration submitted by the students admitted under PhD Programme. The Senate approved format of the same is given below.

Declaration of Authorship of the IPhD Thesis

I, …………………………………………………………………………………. declare that this thesis and the results presented herein are my own and has been generated by me as a result of my own original research under the supervision of my thesis supervisor/ and co-supervisor (delete if you don't have a co-supervisor).

[Title of thesis] ……………………………………………………………………………………

I confirm that:

1. This work was conducted by me primarily as a Ph.D. candidate at IISER Kolkata;

2. To maintain the coherency of my work in the Integrated PhD Programme, if any of the part of this Ph.D. thesis has previously been taken for my MS Thesis, I have clearly stated it. Other than this it has not been previously submitted, in part or as a whole, to any university of institution for any degree, diploma, or other qualifications;

3. Collaborations of others have been mentioned with explicit acknowledgements and clear citations. My own contribution is also clearly outlined whenever a work has jointly been carried out with a collaborator;

4. The work that has/have been published in peer reviewed journal/s is/are reported here in compliance with the copyright issues of the journal and do not violate the publication norms of the publisher. If there is any violation or infringement of Intellectual Property Rights, I take its full responsibility.

5. This thesis also follows the research ethics of IISER Kolkata.

Signature: ………………………………
Date: ………………………………