**University of Manchester (UoM) – Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore Joint Award PhD Programme**

**Proposal for Project and Student Selection- Guidance Notes & Selection Criteria**

Admission for the third cohort of students for the University of Manchester and IISc Bangalore Joint Award PhD programme is being rolled out.

**Funding**

A minimum of 4 scholarships (all basic level tuition fees, standard living allowances for all 4 years of programme, including 2 years of allowances at UKRI equivalent stipends, 2 for IISc-based projects, and 2 for UoM-based projects) are available for suitable candidates to commence on this 4-year programme at UoM in October 2025 and at IISc 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**](mailto:fse.doctoralacademy.specialistprogrammes@manchester.ac.uk)and [**iro.admin@iisc.ac.in**](mailto:iro.admin@iisc.ac.in) by **6th January 2025.**

**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 IISc Bangalore.
* The main supervisors are both permanent members of academic staff of their respective institutions.
* University of Manchester and IISc supervisors can only submit one project proposal for this call.
* Confirmation that the joint project supervisory team have agreed leading institution, project title, and outline project plan with milestones and timelines showing the progression of the PhD 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 according to the leading institution timeline (see below).
* UoM Supervisors have undertaken an appropriate [Export Control self-assessment](https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/export-controls-info/explained/controlled/) for the project in line with University of Manchester requirements and 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 IISc Bangalore and University of Manchester supervisory teams
* Demonstrated strength of joint project supervisory team
* Demonstrated value added of the project arising from the collaboration between IISc Bangalore and University of Manchester
* Demonstrated (as evidenced by an appropriate letter of support or email) the 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

**Student eligibility**

IISc-based projects:

1. Candidates may only apply for projects approved by the Joint Programme Board.
2. Candidates must have successfully completed the required coursework and comprehensive examination within 24 months of enrolment/joining at IISc with a minimum CGPA of 8.0/10.
3. Candidates must be able to enrol in the Joint PhD Award at IISc from August 2025 or as soon as possible thereafter with no requirement for a (further) visa to study in India.
4. Hold (or expect to achieve) a First Class or 2:1 UK honours degree (or international equivalent to be checked with [UoM admission team](mailto:FSE%20DA%20Admissions%20%3cFSE.doctoralacademy.admissions@manchester.ac.uk%3e)).
5. Ideally hold a master’s-level qualification at merit or distinction (or international equivalent to be checked with [UoM admission team](mailto:FSE%20DA%20Admissions%20%3cFSE.doctoralacademy.admissions@manchester.ac.uk%3e)).
6. 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 in writing and listening, and 5.5. in all other sub-tests OR securing a TOEFL iBT score of 90 with no less than 20 in each component equivalent OR equivalent. Please note that a timely demonstrable minimum English language level is a requirement of the UK Home Office for the issue of student visas to the UK. For some projects an ATAS certificate may also be required by them.
7. Willingness to travel to the partner institution to undertake 2 years of study if such travel is permitted by UK and India governments.
8. Demonstrate to reflect the [Faculty of Science and Engineering Postgraduate Researcher person specification](https://livemanchesterac-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/s_kershaw_manchester_ac_uk/ERJ-ydpcMYdJnPwYXuLudNgBdWbuERYjnUuJQCb1JOeFjg?e=4%3AI3bxxp&at=9&wdLOR=cDB54EA45-0740-4A64-85C3-BF4977B0CA2F):
   1. Educational background matches research project.
   2. Potential to form effective working relationships with a diverse range of people, including working inclusively and as part of a team.
   3. Potential to take the initiative, lead on projects, and be proactive in prioritising a dynamic, agile, and diverse workload.
   4. Potential to develop understanding of complex problems, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of a given scenario, and apply in-depth knowledge to address them.
   5. Potential to develop expertise in new areas of the subject.
   6. Evidence of an understanding of the proposed area of research, including knowledge of current challenges and opportunities.
   7. An interest in continuous personal and professional development.
   8. Potential to communicate ideas and conclusions, verbally and in writing, clearly and effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
   9. Preliminary knowledge of research techniques/track record of engaging with research.
   10. Commitment to principles of [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion](https://www.manchester.ac.uk/connect/jobs/equality-diversity-inclusion/) in teaching, research, or experience

UoM Based projects:

1. Hold (or expect to achieve) a First Class or 2:1 UK honours degree (or international equivalent to be checked with [UoM admission team](mailto:FSE%20DA%20Admissions%20%3cFSE.doctoralacademy.admissions@manchester.ac.uk%3e)).
2. Ideally hold a master’s-level qualification at merit or distinction (or international equivalent to be checked with [UoM admission team](mailto:FSE%20DA%20Admissions%20%3cFSE.doctoralacademy.admissions@manchester.ac.uk%3e)).
3. 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 in writing and listening, and 5.5. in all other sub-tests OR securing a TOEFL iBT score of 90 with no less than 20 in each component equivalentOR equivalent**.** Please note that a timely demonstrable minimum English language level is a requirement of the UK Home Office for the issue of student visas to the UK. For some projects an ATAS certificate may also be required by them.
4. Willingness to travel to the partner institution to undertake 2 years of study if such travel is permitted by UK and India governments.
5. Demonstrate to reflect the [Faculty of Science and Engineering Postgraduate Researcher person specification](https://livemanchesterac-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/s_kershaw_manchester_ac_uk/ERJ-ydpcMYdJnPwYXuLudNgBdWbuERYjnUuJQCb1JOeFjg?e=4%3AI3bxxp&at=9&wdLOR=cDB54EA45-0740-4A64-85C3-BF4977B0CA2F):
   1. Educational background matches research project.
   2. Potential to form effective working relationships with a diverse range of people, including working inclusively and as part of a team.
   3. Potential to take the initiative, lead on projects, and be proactive in prioritising a dynamic, agile, and diverse workload.
   4. Potential to develop understanding of complex problems, evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of a given scenario, and apply in-depth knowledge to address them.
   5. Potential to develop expertise in new areas of the subject.
   6. Evidence of an understanding of the proposed area of research, including knowledge of current challenges and opportunities.
   7. An interest in continuous personal and professional development.
   8. Potential to communicate ideas and conclusions, verbally and in writing, clearly and effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences.
   9. Preliminary knowledge of research techniques/track record of engaging with research.
   10. Commitment to principles of [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion](https://www.manchester.ac.uk/connect/jobs/equality-diversity-inclusion/) in teaching, research, or experience

**Project and student selection process**

IISc-based projects:

* Each project must have identified an eligible PhD student, enrolled at IISc.
* All the projects will be reviewed by a Faculty Panel and 2 will be selected using the eligibility criteria. The Faculty Panel will also assess the PhD candidates based on their comprehensive exam and overall grades.
* The office of International Relations will communicate the outcomes to candidates and supervisors.

UoM Based projects:

* A maximum of 20 projects will be selected to be open for applications.
* Projects will be ranked by a Faculty Panel using the eligibility criteria (academic leads of the Faculty Internationalisation and Postgraduate Research Team).
* Shortlisting of candidates will be undertaken by a supervisor team based on student eligibility criteria as evidenced by the application and an interview with the candidate. One candidate per project can be shortlisted.
* All shortlisted candidates will be invited to be interviewed by a Faculty Panel.
* The Faculty Panel will include representatives from the Internationalisation team and the Postgraduate Research team.
* Interviews will be conducted via Zoom.
* The Faculty Panel will assess candidates based on a short verbal presentation and standard set of interview questions mapping to a PhD person specification.
* Candidates will be ranked following interview and funding will be assigned to the top-ranked students.

**Timeline**

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| **Process** | **Date** | **Owner** |
| Agree and circulate invitation for project summaries for supervisory teams | By September 2024 | Barbara Ruggeri (UOM) & Amita Sneh (IISc) |
| Deadline for submission of projects | 6th January 2025 | Prospective project supervisory teams |
| Faculty Panel meeting and selection of approved projects | UoM: Week commencing 13th January 2025  IISc: Week commencing 13th January 2025 | Barbara Ruggeri (UOM) & Amita Sneh (IISc) |
| Outcome communicated to supervisors | UoM: Week commencing 20th February 2025  IISc: Week commencing 20th February 2025 | Barbara Ruggeri (UOM) & Amita Sneh (IISc) |
| Applications opened for candidates to apply for approved projects at both institutions | UoM: week commencing 27th January 2025  IISc: NA | Barbara Ruggeri (UOM) & Amita Sneh (IISc) |
| Deadline for submission of applications | UoM: 7th April 2025  IISc: NA | Applicants – prospective research students |
| Application shared with the supervisory team | UoM: 14th April 2025 |  |
| Deadline for supervisory teams to notify the Programmes team of their top two ranked candidates for each approved project | UoM: 25th April 2025  IISc: NA | Project supervisory teams |
| Top ranked candidates screened for eligibility and invited for interview | UoM: week commencing 28th April 2025  IISc: NA | Barbara Ruggeri (UOM) & Amita Sneh (IISc) |
| Candidates interviewed, ranked and notified of outcomes. | UoM: weeks commencing 5th and 12th May 2025  IISc: July 2025 | Barbara Ruggeri (UOM) & Amita Sneh (IISc) |
| Commencement of programme | UoM: October 2025  IISc: August 2025 | Successful students |

**Contact details**

For further information, please do not hesitate to contact to [fse.doctoralacademy.specialistprogrammes@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:fse.doctoralacademy.specialistprogrammes@manchester.ac.uk) and [iro.admin@iisc.ac.in](mailto:iro.admin@iisc.ac.in)