



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान खड़गपुर
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY KHARAGPUR

IIT Kharagpur - Melbourne 2026 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT Kharagpur) and the University of Melbourne (Melbourne) continue to develop their strategic partnership through the [Melbourne India Postgraduate Academy \(MIPA\)](#), offering opportunities for research collaboration and engagement.

In 2026, IIT Kharagpur and Melbourne are calling for project proposals from engineering, IT, and science, to establish up to three (3) pairs of supervisors, with each supervisory team supporting one (1) joint PhD candidate. Candidates participating in the program are jointly supervised by academics from Melbourne and IIT Kharagpur.

Each recruited PhD candidate will receive a funding package that includes tuition fee waivers/remission scholarships, a stipend, health insurance, travel insurance, relocation and travel support. Candidates will be enrolled at, and meet, both institutions' academic standards and requirements. They will be co-supervised by collaborative teams.

Candidates will work towards submission of a single thesis that meets both institutions' requirements and undertake a final oral examination. Upon completion, candidates will be eligible to graduate with two testamurs – one from each institution, noting the partnership with the other – and participate in the convocation ceremonies at both universities, should they choose to do so.

All recruited PhD candidates must meet the eligibility requirements and be enrolled in the relevant PhD course at both universities.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

The supervisory team must consist of at least two Principal Investigators (PIs), one from IIT Kharagpur and one from Melbourne. The PIs must have the capacity to serve as principal supervisors for jointly enrolled PhD candidates. Each PI must meet the supervisor eligibility criteria set by their own institution and each PI is responsible for checking their own eligibility to apply.

This call is open to proposals from engineering, IT, and science.

The University of Melbourne

Melbourne academics must be registered to supervise as per the [Graduate Research Training Policy \(MPF1321\)](#). Principal supervisors should be employed at Melbourne beyond the envisaged submission date of their PhD candidate (2031). If their employment contract does not extend beyond the candidates' submission date, then alternative arrangements must be in place, by either having:

- a) A named co-supervisor employed at Melbourne beyond the envisaged submission date of their PhD candidate (2031); *or*
- b) A letter of support from the respective Head of Department/Head of School detailing the arrangements in place to ensure continuity of supervision.

For more information, including forms for supervisor registration, please consult the [information for supervisors section on the Graduate Research Hub](#).

Honorary employees whose primary academic affiliation is with Melbourne are eligible to lead an application as a PI if they are a registered Principal Supervisor at Melbourne, and either:

- a) Their primary employer has entered into a written agreement for this call, using the provided approval form to fund the Melbourne cash component (AUD\$5,000) of the collaborative activity; *or*
- b) They participate at their own expense if they are otherwise unaffiliated (for example, they hold an emeritus position).

Melbourne academics must not have outstanding Progress Reports or Final Reports from any other University of Melbourne Researcher Development or ICRA Schemes.

IIT Kharagpur

IIT Kharagpur PIs must be full-time permanent academic faculty members in any Department, Centre, or School of the Institute.

Additional notes for all applicants

Additional academics (including other partners in Australia, India, or internationally) are not eligible to apply as principal supervisors, although they can participate in the co-supervision of joint PhD candidates. However, involvement of shared external partners that benefit the project, for example through translation support or providing internship opportunities, is encouraged. PIs cannot submit more than one proposal for one (1) joint PhD candidate as part of this call but can co-supervise other projects.

Adherence to respective equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) policies are a core feature of this scheme to ensure that all participants can do their best work, thrive and succeed. Applicant teams should consider how they can take meaningful steps in their future collaborations to foster an environment that values, supports and respects a diverse range of views, knowledge and experiences. Applicants should consider EDI as it applies to gender, indigenous peoples, disabilities, career stages and sectors.

To be eligible every application must satisfy the specified eligibility requirements as above.

PROJECT STRUCTURE AND FUNDING

Up to a total of three (3) project proposals will be funded.

Each project must identify IIT Kharagpur or Melbourne as the Home/Lead Institution. The Home Institution is where the candidate spends most of their research time and will commence and conclude their degree. The Host Institution is where the candidate spends the remainder of their candidature as part of a research stay. Candidates **must** spend at least 12 months at each institution.

At Melbourne, all candidates will receive a [Graduate Research Scholarship](#) for the time they are at Melbourne*.

At IIT Kharagpur, all candidates will receive an equivalent to the Institute Fellowship for the time they are at IIT Kharagpur. Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) rate is INR 37,000 per month for the first two years, upgrading to a Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) rate of INR 42,000 per month for the remaining period of their study.

Split Funding Model:

The Split Model is where the living stipend is paid by the institution where the candidate is located at the time.

In this model all candidates (Home and Host) are offered a standard Graduate Research Scholarship for the time they are at Melbourne*, and IIT Kharagpur offer their standard stipend/scholarship payment when the candidates are physically located there.

*Noting, a Melbourne Graduate Research Scholarship is paid when the candidate is located in Melbourne for up to 2.5 years (Melbourne Home institute) or up to 2 years (Melbourne Host institute).

Summary of funding for each project:

University of Melbourne	The Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
Faculty funded tax-free scholarship (stipend) for each candidate when at Melbourne. See the Graduate Research Scholarship page for full details.	Tax-free scholarship (stipend) and accommodation for each candidate when at IIT Kharagpur.
Tuition-fee waiver/scholarship for each candidate.	Tuition-fee waiver/scholarship for each candidate.
Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) Single Membership for any candidate who is an international candidate and requires a student visa to study in Australia, and <i>Travel insurance</i> for Melbourne Home candidates while on approved Study Away.	Travel insurance for IIT Kharagpur Home candidates while in Melbourne.
Relocation allowance to come to Melbourne for joint PhD candidates: \$2000 AUD for candidates moving / relocating from States or Territories other than Victoria or \$3000 AUD for candidates moving / relocating from outside Australia.	1 return airfare for travel to and from Melbourne for IIT Kharagpur Home candidates. (as per IITKGP protocol)
Each participating Faculty to provide \$5,000* per candidate to support**: • Melbourne PI travel • Melbourne Home candidate travel to IIT Kharagpur • Graduate recruitment • ICRA workshop costs or virtual collaboration expenses	IIT Kharagpur to support: • Virtual collaboration expenses • Candidate office space and office expenses

**The funds provided by the Faculty is pooled and allocated to the Academic Lead of the joint PhD program. The Academic Lead is responsible for overseeing the funds, with the administrative support of the SASS ICRA team for the uses described.*

***Please note that ineligible costs include: directly incurred staff (e.g. Research Assistants), replacement research/teaching costs, directly allocated costs including applicants' time, indirect costs/estates costs, travel costs beyond mobility to the partner institution, publication costs, equipment, consumable costs, additional scholarships, conference attendance, bench fees, registration or enrolment fees, tuition fees, and honoraria. Melbourne and IIT Kharagpur reserve the right to determine the eligibility of expenses.*

PROJECT PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

Before preparing a proposal, please note the following about the structure of the program:

- Up to three (3) applications will be successful as part of this call. Projects should be co-designed by the participating PIs.
- PIs should ensure that they have the capacity to take on a new PhD candidate in line with their institution's policies and meet the eligibility requirements to participate in the scheme.
- PhD projects should be designed to be submitted within four years of full-time enrolment at Melbourne.

The online application form requests:

- The details of the PIs/research groups involved, including CVs and links to each PIs website
- An abstract for the PhD project, which will be used for recruitment if the proposal is successful
- An overview of the PhD project, providing:
 - IIT Kharagpur or Melbourne as the Home/Lead Institution
 - Outline of the project, including expected outcomes
 - A supervision plan, highlighting why the project requires time to be spent at the partner institution and benefits of doing so
 - A GANTT chart showing the division of time to be spent by the candidate at both institutions and the scheduled visits by the PIs to the Partner institution
 - How the proposed project reflects the equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) priorities
 - The project and applicant's suitability must align with the relevant foreign engagement regulatory frameworks. For more details, including access to the self-assessment decision tool, FAQs and the link to request an assessment from the Office of Research Ethics and Integrity (OREI), Melbourne PIs please refer to the [International safeguards and research security](#) and [Export Controls](#) pages.
- A summary of the collaboration value and potential impact, noting:
 - The extent of the planned collaboration between the PIs beyond joint supervision
 - How the proposal could lead to the development of a larger network of researchers across both institutions
 - A plan for leveraging future external funding, if applicable.
- The Melbourne PI to upload endorsements from the respective Head of School/ Department and Associate Dean (Graduate Research) [Melbourne] and the respective PI, Head of Centre/School/Department, and Dean International Relations [IIT Kharagpur].

It is recommended that applications are written in lay terms for reviewers to better understand the project's potential impact and its anticipated outcomes.

Key dates:

Submissions open	2 February
Deadline for project proposal applications	15 March
Outcome notifications and projects advertised for recruitment*	May
PhD candidates to commence	2026

PIs must ensure their preferred candidate* has commenced by December 2026. If the PIs do not meet this deadline, the scholarship and mobility funding will be recalled for use in a future call.

*Candidates from IIT Kharagpur are eligible to be recruited to the joint PhD project if they were admitted to the Ph.D at IIT Kharagpur in **Autumn 2025** and **Spring 2026**.

REPORTING AND OTHER CONDITIONS

Melbourne recipients will be required to provide regular updates on project progress during the

candidature of their joint PhD candidate. These updates will be requested annually by the International Collaborative Research Academy (ICRA) Academic Lead. Recipients who fail to participate in regular reporting mechanisms for this ICRA may be found ineligible for participation in future ICRA Schemes.

The information will be shared with IIT Kharagpur.

EVALUATION OF PROJECT PROPOSALS

Melbourne and IIT Kharagpur will rank the proposals in order of meeting the selection criteria and agree on the top-ranking projects to award funding.

Selection Criteria

- **Collaborator complementarity** – What is the added value of a new collaboration or building on an existing research relationship? How does the collaboration combine mutual areas of interest and strength?
- **Quality of supervision** – Do the PIs have a track record of supervising PhD candidates to completion? Do the PIs have experience of co-supervising PhD candidates internationally? How will the PIs work together effectively in jointly supervising their shared PhD candidates? What are the beneficial learning outcomes and experiences for the joint PhD candidates?
- **Project design and rationale** – How clearly presented and justified is the basis for, and design of, the joint PhD project? What are the anticipated benefits of involving joint PhD researchers in the collaboration for the project, the PhD researchers, and PIs? What is the benefit of the candidate spending a minimum of 12 months at each institution?
- **Potential impact** – What is the level of originality and innovation in the research proposal? To what extent does the research proposal plan to address significant challenges and what is the anticipated benefit to local or international communities?
- **Capacity for expanded collaboration** – What is the extent of the planned collaboration between the PIs beyond joint supervision? How well does the proposal plan to leverage external funding? To what extent are future collaborations made possible as a result of the proposed activities?

SUBMISSION AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Melbourne PIs must submit a single, jointly prepared application via the [Microsoft form](#) by Sunday 15 March at 5.00pm AEST/11.30am IST. **Applications should be written for an audience proficient, but not expert, in the field.** The Melbourne administration team will transfer all submitted applications as pdf to the IIT Kharagpur research co-ordination office after the deadline. There is no need for IIT Kharagpur PI's to submit an application directly to the IIT Kharagpur administration in parallel.

All applications must include endorsements from the respective Head of School/ Department and Associate Dean (Graduate Research) [Melbourne] and the respective PI, Head of Centre/School/Department, and Dean International Relations [IIT Kharagpur]. Melbourne PIs must ensure that the endorsement is uploaded to the application using the approval forms provided on the [website](#). Endorsement must include the commitment of a scholarship. Melbourne applicants who hold an Honorary position must also complete the Honorary declaration form.

APPLICATION FORM

The link to apply is: [Microsoft form](#)

Submission and Melbourne contact details:

The International Collaborative Research Academies Team
Graduate Research, Student and Scholarly Services
The University of Melbourne
jointphd-admin@unimelb.edu.au

IIT Kharagpur contact details:

Office of International Relations
The Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur
ir-office@adm.iitkgp.ac.in