

# SNAPSHOT: Joint PhD Program



An Indian-Australian research partnership

## IITB-Monash Research Academy:

- is a joint venture between IITB and Monash University
- is a not-for-profit, Section 8, autonomous, independent entity with its own governance board and advisory council
- manages a joint PhD program which is overseen by the Cross Institutional Program Committee (CIPC).

## Critical objectives:

- to conduct high quality research
- to contribute to economic, business, research and social impacts
- to train research talent to meet future innovation challenges in India and Australia
- to engage strongly with industry and to connect industry across continents

## Students:

- are jointly enrolled at both IITB and Monash
- are jointly supervised and receive a jointly badged PhD testamur degree
- receive scholarship from the program
- complete coursework at IITB at the start of their program of study
- spend at least 12 months at Monash

## Supervisors:

- will gain access to quality students from leading academic institutions and industry
- forge collaborative partnerships with academia in a top Australian institution
- gain valuable access to contacts in Australian Industry

## Initiating Collaboration

- Projects may be suggested/specified by:

IITB Academic

or

Monash Academic

or

Industry

or

All collaboratively

- Collaboration either initiated by project specifier or initiated by The Academy office
- Students (mostly from India) recruited twice a year in 2 intakes: May and Nov
- Project Specification in Feb-Mar (for May) and Jul-Aug (for November)
- Projects initiate the collaboration and must be specified before students commence
- Projects need at least one supervisor from Monash and from IITB
- Projects specify proposal, brief research aim, and capabilities required of potential student
- Students apply to projects
- Supervisors select students for their projects after an online application filtering and interviewing process
- Supervisors who know who they wish to collaborate with can write or call direct. If not The Academy is able to assist. Contact Adrian Gertler x55119 or the CEO of The Academy, Prof Murali Sastry ([murali.sastry@iitbmonash.org](mailto:murali.sastry@iitbmonash.org))

Year 0

## Application

### Application Form

- All applicants apply to projects that are jointly specified by a supervisor from IITB and Monash (could also involve industry)
- Intakes take place twice a year commencing March until May; commencing August until December (for more details see *Intake flow chart*)
- Completed students are treated as normal IITB completions

### System Support:

- Application process is managed through an online recruitment portal - 'AFORS'
- System manages supervisor, and HoD approvals online
- Manages entire selection process from Expression of Interest to acceptance of student
- [AFORS Link](#)

**Year 1****Coursework/Develop Research Plan****Coursework**

- Students undertake coursework for either 6 months (typically M.Tech, MA/MS, MPhil) or 12 months (typically B.Tech)
- Literature search commences
- Funding support provided to students for 3 years after coursework,
- Application required for extension of scholarship and candidature.

**Confirmation**

- Students must obtain a CPI of at least 8.0 to be confirmed in the program

**Year 2-3****RESEARCH/PROGRESS ASSESSED****Research**

- One Annual Progress Seminar (APS) and written report and presentation provided each year to assess progress
- APS is assessed by supervisors and Research Progress Committee (RPC) members
- RPC is defined at the commencement of the collaboration. The RPC includes IITB supervisor(s), Monash supervisor(s), one member from IITB and one other member from Monash
- APS and RPC manage poor performance

**Supervisor Responsibilities**

- Establish timelines, ongoing communication via Skype
- Conduct meetings and involvement in departmental activities
- Encourage publication/patenting and co-authorship/co-inventorship with students
- Thesis preparation and presentation.

**Monash Stay:**

- Occurs when this is suitable for the project as decided by both supervisors
- The student will be at Monash for minimum 12 months.

**Year 4****EXAMINATION/COMPLETION****Pre-synopsis**

- Oral presentation to pre-synopsis committee, extended abstract submitted
- Candidate has four months to submit thesis and the full synopsis.

**Nomination and selection of examiners**

- Supervisors nominate 4 confirmed external examiners and the names of two chairs of the Viva Voce committee
- Management of the examinations process rotates between Monash and IITB each year

**Submission of Thesis and Synopsis**

- Thesis submitted with synopsis (1000-4000 words)
- Requires at least 2 papers published/accepted for publication in recognized refereed journals or in proceedings highly rated conferences

**Examination Process**

- 6 weeks from receipt of synopsis and thesis.

**Viva Voce examination**

- Candidate is required to defend work via a Viva Voce examination conducted by Examiners
- For additional details, see the *Monash IITB Joint PhD Program Thesis Examination Process*

More information contact: Prof Sastry (x4731, murali.sastry@iitbmonash.org)