



UQ-IITD Research Academy

The University of Queensland (UQ), a top 50 global university, and the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi (IITD), an Institute of Eminence in India, have joined forces to create a joint PhD program that will support PhD scholars to deliver global impact.

Overview

UQ has a reputation built on research, boasts state-of-the-art facilities and is located in Brisbane, one of Australia's most liveable cities, offering a safe, friendly and multicultural environment. More information about UQ can be found at life.uq.edu.au.

Located in India's bustling and diverse capital city, IITD aims to foster imaginatively gifted leaders and to generate new knowledge by engaging in cutting-edge research. More information on student life, campus activities and social initiatives can be found at international.iitd.ac.in/life.

A joint PhD with the UQ-IITD Research Academy will enable you to:

- Study in both Australia and India as a part of your joint degree.
- Gain a global joint qualification from 2 world-leading institutions in 4 years.
- Receive a generous scholarship, including a living stipend and UQ tuition fee scholarship for 4 years, as well as a relocation grant for travel between UQ and IITD.
- Benefit from global expertise through dual supervision between UQ and IITD, as well as potential collaboration with industry.
- Gain access to broad research and industry networks in India and Australia.

Joint PhD program

The UQ-IITD Research Academy joint PhD is a 4-year doctoral program. Joint PhD students produce a thesis of 80,000 words, with their research representing a significant new contribution to the discipline.

Graduates receive a jointly awarded Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) from both UQ and IITD upon successful completion of the program.

Student types

The Academy has 2 types of students: i-students and q-students.

- **i-students** include Indian national students and international students (with citizenship other than Australia). Their home institution is IITD. The host institution is UQ. i-students commence their joint PhD program at IITD, and complete one year at UQ during their candidature. The allocation of time between the home and host institutions for i-students is as follows:
 - Year 1 at IITD.
 - Year 2 at UQ; travel to the host takes place after completion of the first milestone (confirmation).
 - Year 3 and Year 4 at IITD.
- **q-students** include Australian domestic and international students (with citizenship other than India). Their home institution is UQ. The host institution is IITD. q-students commence their joint PhD programs at UQ and complete one year at IITD during their candidature. The allocation of time between institutions for q-students is as follows:
 - Year 1 at UQ.
 - Year 2 at IITD; travel to the host takes place after completion of the first progress review (confirmation).
 - Year 3 and Year 4 at UQ.

Notes on the student types:

- A maximum of 25 places will be available annually with up to 12 places allocated for the q-student pathway.
- International students (other than Indian nationals and Australian domestic applicants) will have the flexibility to choose whether to apply as i-students or q-students, according to their preferences and research alignments.
- Indian nationals must apply as i-students and follow the i-student pathway set out above.
- Australian applicants must apply as q-students and follow the q-student pathway set out above.



Scholarship information

Scholarship for i-students

Eligible i-students will be awarded a scholarship which includes:

- A monthly stipend of Rs 37,000 in year 1 and Rs 42,000 in years 3 and 4 at IITD.
- A top-up amount of INR 10,000/month is provided in addition to the regular funding or stipend.
- An annual stipend at the UQ rate (AUD \$36,400 in 2025) during the research stay at UQ (in year 2).
- A UQ tuition fee scholarship to cover tuition fees at UQ for the 4-year duration of the joint PhD program.
- A relocation grant (AUD \$5,200 in 2025) to support relocation from Delhi to Brisbane (in year 2).
- Overseas student health cover (single policy) for the research stay in Brisbane (in year 2).

Notes on the scholarship for i-students:

- i-students will be required to pay the IITD tuition fee for the duration of their enrolment in the program.
- i-students will be required to pay the quarterly **Student Services and Amenities Fee** (SSAF) during their research stay at UQ. The SSAF is waived for periods of study at IITD.
- i-students will also be eligible for benefits offered to full-time PhD students at either institution.

Scholarships for q-students

Eligible q-students will be awarded a scholarship which includes:

- An annual stipend at the UQ rate (AUD \$36,400 in 2025).
- A UQ tuition fee scholarship to cover tuition fees at UQ for up to 4-years.
- A relocation grant of AUD \$2,500 to support relocation from Brisbane to Delhi (in year 2).
- UQ travel insurance for up to 12 months maximum for approved research activities whilst at IITD.

Notes on the scholarship for q-students:

- q-students will not be required to pay the IITD tuition fee.
- i-students will be required to pay the quarterly **Student Services and Amenities Fee** while based at UQ. The SSAF is waived for periods of study at IITD.
- During their research stay at IITD, q-students will receive a House Rent Allowance if they do not stay in campus accommodation (hostel), as per the existing norms of IIT Delhi for PhD students.
- q-students will also be eligible for benefits offered to full-time PhD students at either institution.
- UQ Scholarships are indexed annually and subject to change.

Eligibility criteria

All applicants must meet entry requirements for PhD program of both UQ and IITD.

Academic requirements for entry at IITD

As this is a competitive program, the standards for admission may be higher than the minimum qualifications set out below.

Qualifying degree	General/OBC/General-EWS students	SC/ST/PH students	Scores in public examinations
Master's Degree in Engineering/ Technology	• CGPA of 6.50 on a 10.00 point scale • Aggregate percentage of 65% • First Class (wherever awarded)	• CGPA of 6.00 on a 10.00 point scale • Aggregate percentage of 60% • Minimum 55% in other academic examinations	No requirement. However, a high score/rank in GATE, UGC-NET, CSIR, ICAR, ICMR, DST-INSPIRE will be given due consideration.
Bachelor's Degree in Engineering/ Technology	• CGPA of 8.00 on a 10.00 point scale • Aggregate percentage of 80% • First Class (wherever awarded) • 2 years of relevant research experience, including at least one first-author research publication (see Research Preparedness below)	• CGPA of 8.00 on a 10.00 point scale • Aggregate percentage of 80% • Minimum 55% in other academic examinations • 2 years of relevant research experience, including at least one first-author research publication (see Research Preparedness below)	No requirement for candidates from CFTI's. For others a High score/rank in GATE, UGC-NET, CSIR, ICAR, ICMR, DST-INSPIRE.
Master's Degree in Sciences	• CGPA of 6.50 on a 10.00 point scale • Aggregate percentage of 65% • First Class (wherever awarded)	• CGPA of 6.00 on a 10.00 point scale • Aggregate percentage of 60% • Minimum 55% in other academic examinations	High score/rank in GATE, UGC-NET, CSIR, ICAR, ICMR, DST-INSPIRE.
M.B.B.S./B.D.S/ M.D.S./B.H.M.S	• CGPA of 6.00 on a 10.00 point scale • Aggregate percentage of 60%	• CGPA of 5.50 on a 10.00 point scale • Aggregate percentage of 55%	High score/rank in GATE, UGC-NET, CSIR, ICAR, ICMR, DST-INSPIRE, Any national level examination for graduate studies.
Master's Degree in Arts or Humanities	• CGPA of 6.50 on a 10.00 point scale • Aggregate percentage of 65% • First Class (wherever awarded)	• CGPA of 6.00 on a 10.00 point scale • Aggregate percentage of 60% • Minimum 55% in other academic examinations	High score in UGC-NET, CSIR.

Additional notes

- For purposes of comparison, it is understood that a Bachelor's degree in Engineering/Technology is an 8-semester program with course components including basic sciences, engineering fundamentals, and specialisation in a chosen discipline.
- For purposes of comparison, it is understood that a Master's degree in Engineering/Technology is a 4-semester program with specialization in a chosen discipline, and a significant research component.
- For Arts and Humanities disciplines, an MPhil degree will be considered on par with a Master's degree in Engineering / Technology (and hence will have only a minimum marks/grades requirement with no additional requirement for public examinations).
- While it is not a requirement that all candidates possess a valid GATE, GRE, NET, CSIR score/rank (or score/rank of any competitive entrance test), it is expected that successful applicants will have a good score/rank in any of these exams in order to be competitive.
- Students from CFTIs (B.Tech./B.E., JEE-based, minimum 4-year programs) with a CGPA ≥ 8.0 (or 80%) at graduation are eligible for admission to the joint Ph.D. program without a valid GATE score or national fellowship. However, such candidates must have a minimum of 2 years of relevant research experience, including research publications, as per the research preparedness criteria.
- M.A./M.Sc. graduates from IITs with a CGPA ≥ 8.0 are also eligible for the joint Ph.D. program, provided they have a minimum of 2 years of relevant research experience, including research publications, as outlined in the Research Preparedness Criteria.
- In addition to meeting the educational eligibility requirements, applicants must also fulfill the criteria for research preparedness.

International i-students

- For i-students applying from countries other than India, a high score/rank in any national examination (in the candidate's home country) or international examination (such as GRE) will be given due weightage, in lieu of the required public examinations listed in the table above.
- Candidates who have been awarded a CSIR/UGC/DBT Research fellowship (government fellowships) are encouraged to apply.
- All applicants must meet the criteria for research preparedness and English Language Proficiency.



Academic requirements for entry at UQ

Minimum required qualifications:

- Master of Philosophy (or another research master's degree); or
- Bachelor's degree from an approved university with at least honours class IIA or equivalent*; or
- Coursework master's degree with an overall grade point average of 5.65 on the 7-point UQ scale which includes relevant research experience to be approved by the Dean; or
- Postgraduate degree (at least 2-years full-time or equivalent) with an overall grade point average of 5 on the 7-point UQ scale, together with demonstrated research experience**; or
- Bachelor's degree plus at least 2 years of relevant research experience**, including at least one first-authored research publications.

*An Australian honours degree includes an extra year of supervised research following an undergraduate program to produce a thesis or dissertation of approximately 10,000 words on a chosen topic.

**Research experience equivalent to an Australian honours degree will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Find out more at study.uq.edu.au.

International q-students

- All applicants must meet the criteria for research preparedness and English Language Proficiency.

Research preparedness criteria

All candidates applying for the UQ-IITD joint PhD program need to meet the requirements for 'research preparedness'.

The candidates must provide evidence that they have planned and executed project work and/or a body of research with some independence. To demonstrate this, we'll ask the candidate to provide evidence of the following:

- Completed a supervised research project that includes an individually graded written report;
- Scholarly papers involving a substantial contribution as an author, appearing in recognised academic journals or in volumes published by recognised academic publishers;
- Research or technical reports prepared for industry, government or business, which adhere to the broad conventions of academic publishing (i.e., contain an up-to-date review of relevant literature, a description of relevant research methods and an evaluation of results, etc.) and which identify you as a significant contributor;
- Demonstrable industry or work experience where you can demonstrate that you have planned and executed a project, working with a high level of independence.

Please note that an applicant's degree and/or professional experience must demonstrate that the applicant's knowledge of the discipline in which they plan to undertake their PhD is current. It is therefore expected that an applicant will have completed their tertiary studies and/or any relevant professional experience in the 10 years immediately prior to their intended entry to the PhD.

English Language Proficiency (ELP) requirements

All applicants must meet the Academy's ELP requirements for consideration for entry into the UQ-IITD joint PhD program

ELP deeming based on prior studies

Applicants may be considered to meet the Academy's ELP requirements if they have completed a Bachelor or Master's degree program, or have evidence of at least 2 years of full-time study from an institution that is recognised by the Academy where:

- English was the medium of instruction; and
- English was the medium of assessment; and
- The final year of study has been undertaken within the last 5 years.

To be deemed for ELP on the basis of prior studies, applicants will need to provide an academic transcript or an official letter (on letterhead with the date) from an approved institution confirming that English was the medium of instruction and assessment.

Minimum achievements in English language proficiency tests

If an applicant's qualifying degree was in a language other than English, the student must demonstrate English proficiency as follows:

Test	Minimum overall score	Minimum additional scores
IELTS* (clinical projects)	7.0	6 in each sub-band of Writing, Reading, Speaking and Listening*
IELTS (all other disciplines)	6.5	60 in each communicative skills section
TOEFL (test-centre only, home edition not accepted)	570	5.0 in the Test of Written English (TWE) 54 in Listening and Reading

English language tests must have been taken within 2 years of commencing study at UQ-IITD Academy to be considered valid. We verify all test results with the relevant test authority.

*A PhD in the Health Sciences where research is undertaken in a clinical placement setting accepts IELTS, with an overall band score of 7, with a score of 7 in each sub-band of listening, reading, writing, and speaking (or an equivalent score in a recognised ELP test).