

Ph.D. (Economics) Programme 2025

Indian Institute of Foreign Trade invites applications for its Ph.D. in Economics Programme from both domestic and overseas candidates for the year 2025.

Eligibility

The eligibility criteria for applying to IIFT's Ph.D. Programme (Economics) are the following:

➤ For Indian Scholars: Ph.D. (Economics):

1. Candidates who have completed:

- i. 1-year/2-semester master degree programme in Economics after a 4-year/8- semester bachelor's degree programme or a 2-year/4-semester master's degree programme in Economics after a 3-year bachelor's degree programme or qualifications declared equivalent to the master's degree by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed or equivalent qualification from a foreign educational institution. The courses must be as per the Equivalence Granted by AIU to the Institute / University during that duration.
- ii. A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/ Differently-Abled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time.
- iii. Provided that a candidate seeking admission after a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree programme with Economics major should have a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is followed. A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time.

2. Candidates who have completed the M.Phil. programme with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed or equivalent qualification from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognized, or authorized by an authority, established or incorporated under law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country to assess, accredit or assure quality and standards of educational institutions, shall be eligible for admission to the Ph.D. programme in Economics. A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time.

3. Candidates who are in the final year of the above-mentioned degree programme(s) are also eligible to apply. However, if selected, their admission will be on a provisional basis. Admission of such candidates who joins the Ph.D. Programme on a provisional basis but fails to obtain minimum percentage in the as defined above is liable to be cancelled forthwith. Such candidates should immediately inform the Institution of the declaration of her / his results. Admission of candidates who do not inform the Institute of such situation will automatically stand cancelled on 15th December 2025. No request for extension of time for re-evaluation, etc. will be entertained.

➤ For Overseas Scholars

- Overseas candidates who have a Master's/M.Phil. degree in any discipline from a recognized university with at least 55% marks or a CGPA equivalent to B Plus in aggregate can apply only to IIFT's full-time Ph.D. programme in Economics.

- Minimum knowledge of spoken and written English is essential.
- There is no scholarship, or residential / hostel facility available for overseas scholars in the Institute.

Age Limit: There is no age limit.

Admission Process

In accordance with the UGC guidelines, admission to the Ph.D. (Economics) Programme for the academic year 2025 will be based on UGC NET scores in Economics only. There shall be no separate entrance test.

Admission Criteria:

1. Candidates who have qualified UGC JRF in June 2023 and December 2023 are eligible to apply for the Ph.D. Programme.
2. Candidates who have qualified UGC NET or JRF in June 2024 and December 2024 are eligible to apply under the following three categories:
 - Category 1: Eligible for (i) admission to the Ph.D. with JRF and (ii) appointment as Assistant Professor.
 - Category 2: Eligible for (i) admission to the Ph.D. without JRF and (ii) appointment as Assistant Professor.
 - Category 3: Eligible for admission to Ph.D. Programme only and not for the award of JRF or appointment as Assistant Professor.

Selection Process

- i. Shortlisting of candidates for interviews will be based on the number of available Ph.D. seats.
- ii. The weightage for the selection process will be:
 - 70% based on UGC NET scores
 - 30% based on performance in the interview.

Centres for Ph.D. Programme

A Candidate must clearly mention in the online application, whether he /she is applying for admission to Ph.D. in Economics (Full- time or Part- Time) Programme, 2025 for Delhi Campus or Kolkata Campus.

Fee

➤ Indian Scholars

1. Full-Time Ph.D. Scholars

There is no programme fee for Indian Full- Time Ph.D. Scholars. However, they have to pay Library Security Deposit (Refundable) of ₹ 5,000/-.

2. Part-Time Ph.D Scholars

Part-Time Scholars have to pay following Programme Fee:

- 1st Installment (At the time of joining) : ₹ 2,00,000/-
- 2nd Installment (January 2026) : ₹ 67,500/-
- 3rd Installment (January 2027) : ₹ 67,500/-
- 4th Installment(January 2028) : ₹ 67,500/-

- 5th Installment(January 2029) : ₹ 67,500/-

Student Activities Fee to be paid at the time of joining (for three years): ₹15,000.00

Alumni Fee to be paid at the time of joining – ₹ 10,000/-

Library Deposit (Refundable) to pay at the time of Joining – ₹ 5,000/-

Examination Fee to be paid by June 2029 or at the time of thesis submission – ₹ 35,000/-* There will be relaxation of 50% fee in Programme fee & Examination Fee (except Library Fees, Alumni and student activities fee) for SC/ ST/PWD students.

Additional fees to be paid at the time of re-registration and thesis submission or delay in payment will be decided as per the Institute's rules at the time.

Candidates need to confirm the Synopsis and Title of the Thesis within one year of the completion of course work. For details, see the Rules for the Ph.D. Programme.

* There will be relaxation of 50% fee in Programme Fee & Examination Fee (except Library Fees, Alumni and student activities fee) for SC/ST/PWD students.

IIFT reserve the right to change the mode of conduct of Ph.D . Programme according to its rules.

Please note: If a scholar drops a year with due approval, s/ he has to submit the fee as per the fee schedule mentioned above.

➤ **Overseas Scholars**

The total programme fee for Foreign Scholars is US\$10,000 (US\$2,000 per year)

About the Programme

Objectives

One of the primary purposes of the Ph.D. programme is to encourage scholars to undertake research and in-depth analysis and enrich knowledge in their chosen field. It includes the ability to independently apply methodologies of scientific research as well as to create new scientific knowledge. Further, the scholars are expected to demonstrate an ability to critically analyze research findings and to understand their importance in the wider contexts and effectively communicate and disseminate research results.

Duration & Process

Ph.D. Programme shall be for a minimum duration of three (3) years, including course work, and a maximum duration of six (6) years from the date of admission to the Ph.D. programme.

(2) A maximum of an additional two (2) years can be given through a process of re- registration as per the Statute/Ordinance of the Higher Educational Institution concerned; provided, however, that the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme should not exceed eight (8) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme. Provided further that, female Ph.D. scholars and Persons with Disabilities (having more than 40% disability) may be allowed an additional relaxation of two (2) years; however, the total period for completion of a Ph.D. programme in such cases should not exceed ten (10) years from the date of admission in the Ph.D. programme.

(3) Female Ph.D. Scholars may be provided Maternity Leave. This will be updated from time to time as per the UGC Rules.

During the first year, selected scholars need to complete the course work at the Institute covering two semesters. On successful completion of the course work including Seminar Paper and approval of the proposed research topic (Synopsis Confirmation), a confirmation certificate will be issued along with the name of Ph.D. Supervisor. A three-member Doctoral Advisory Committee (DAC) will be set up for each scholar for his / her doctoral research. The scholar has to present his/her research progress to the DAC at least two times a year. There is a minimum period of 2 years from the date of receiving the synopsis confirmation certificate after which the doctoral thesis can be submitted for external evaluation.

A maximum of 12 students in Delhi and 10 students in Kolkata, will be admitted to the Ph.D. programme of the Institute this year subject to suitability of candidates. However, the reservations will be as per Government of India's Rules.

Course Structure

Selected scholars are required to attend course work at IIFT during the first year of the Programme. The total course work is of 16 credit hours (except the course on Research and Publication Ethics which is a 2-credit course of 30 hrs. duration). The course work is divided over two semesters: Semester 1 (tentatively August-December) and Semester 2 (tentatively January- June). Total credit hours are 160. All full-time PhD classes will be held between Monday and Friday.

How to Apply

Please visit IIFT website, i.e. www.iift.ac.in and search for the Ph.D. ADMISSIONS 2025 under current admission. Submit the online form along with necessary enclosures as per details given in website.

Application Fee:

The cost of Application Form is one-time payment of ₹2,500/- (₹ 1,250 in respect of SC/ST/PwD candidates and US\$120/₹8,500/- for NRI / Foreign Nationals). The Fee is payable online while submitting the Application Form. The candidates are not required to pay any other fee.

All communication may be sent to:

The Admissions Cell
Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
B-21 Qutub Institutional
Area New Delhi-110016
E-mail:
ecoadmission@iift.edu Tel:
91-11-39147213(Direct),
91-11-39147200-205 (Extn. 621)

For any Academic Query relating to the Ph.D.

Prof. Bibek Ray Chaudhuri
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Madhurdaha, Chowbagha
Road, Ward no. 108, Borough
XII, Kolkata-7000107
E-mail: brchaudhuri@iift.edu
Tel: 91-11- 39147200-205 (Extn. 415)

Important Dates

Last date of submission of application, letter of recommendation and statement of purpose	27 th June 2025
Declaration of results of the examination	Last week of June 2025
Personal Interview (offline)	3 rd week of July 2025
Declaration of Final Results	Last week of July 2025
Commencement of the Programme	Mid-August 2025

Important Enclosures to be uploaded with Online Application Form

1. Copy of "Statement of Purpose" for the proposed Ph.D. Programme, clearly indicating the Research Interest/ Discipline/Area objective, etc. (4-5 pages).
2. Self-Attested copies of certificates & mark-sheets of qualifying degrees and other certificates (from SSC level).
3. One letter of recommendation (in the format provided in the Application Form).
4. Example of scholarly research or professional writing (Preferable though not mandatory)
5. SC/ST/OBC (NCL)/GEN (EWS)/PwD category candidates need to attach category certificate.

**** Any change in the admission schedule would be notified to all candidates through announcements in the IIFT web-page.**

