

**The Office of the International Affairs
ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi 110012**

IARI-Western Sydney University (WSU) Dual PhD Degree program

Call for Expression of Interest from students 2025

The Graduate School, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) is inviting doctoral students enrolled in the Graduate School, IARI during 2024-25 academic sessions to submit Expressions of Interest (EoIs) in the [prescribed format](#) to join the Dual PhD Degree program with Western Sydney University (WSU), Australia. Alongside the EoIs, students are requested to include proposals for research to be conducted at WSU, based on the broad areas given below. ICAR-IIHR enrolled students are considered under the work plan IIHR has with WSU.

WSU is currently looking for students interested/ working in the fields of,

- 1) Any berries related research,
- 2) Agronomy/ soil science student interested in sensor technology and related objectives,
- 3) Future proofing Australian truffle: climate resilience and sustainability
- 4) Resilient Restoration: How do we make our investments in restoration pay off ecologically, culturally and socially?
- 5) Fuel dynamics for the Australian Fire Danger Rating System
- 6) Understanding climate change impacts on grassland biodiversity and function

The aforementioned areas are indicative but not exhaustive. For more information on research profile of Western Sydney University, please use following weblinks for a better understanding of the research areas across various schools/ institutes at Western.

Research at Western Sydney University is structured around four multidisciplinary themes. These themes reflect the University's rich history and cultural context, while shaping a shared vision for the future of its communities.

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/research/research/research_concentrations

Western Sydney Universities Schools

School of Science

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/schools/sosc/research>

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/schools/sosc/our-people>

School of Business

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/schools/sobus/people/listing>

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/schools/sobus/our_research

The School of Computer, Data and Mathematical Sciences (CDMS)

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/schools/socdms/our-people>

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/schools/socdms/research>

The School of Engineering, Design and Built Environment

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/schools/soedbe/our-people>

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/schools/soedbe/research>

The School of Humanities and Communication Arts

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/schools/sohca/people>

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/schools/sohca/research>

The School of Social Sciences

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/schools/soss/our-people>

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/schools/soss/research>

School of Law

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/schools/sol/key_people

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/schools/sol/research>

School of Psychology

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/schools/sop/our-people>

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/schools/sop/research>

Western Sydney Universities Institutes

Hawkesbury institute for the environment (HIE)

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/hie/people/researchers>

NICM Health Research Institute

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/nicm/about_us/people/researchers

Institute for Culture and Society

https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/ics/research/research_programs

The MARCS Institute for Brain, Behaviour and Development

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/marcs>

Translational Health Research Institute

<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/thri>

Highlights of the program

- a) The dual-degree PhD program adheres to (i) [University Grants Commission \(Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Higher Educational Institutions to offer Twinning, Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programmes\) Regulations, 2022](#), (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and WSU, (iii) ICAR-WSU Workplan 2024-29 and with (iii) the Memorandum of Agreement between IARI and WSU.
- b) This program enables students to obtain two doctoral degrees separately and simultaneously—one from IARI and one from WSU. This shall not in any way be construed as two-degree programmes in separate disciplines/ subject areas

and/or levels being pursued simultaneously (Clause 3.3.1 of UGC regulations). This arrangement significantly broadens students' international competence, capacity building and advanced research opportunities.

- c) The program entails a minimum study period of 18 months at IARI followed by 18 months at WSU. However, variations in the duration may occur based on the respective institutions' work schedules. The maximum duration permitted under this program is in accordance with IARI regulations.
- d) Students selected under this call shall be joining WSU during 2026.
- e) WSU will grant a full tuition fee waiver (approximately \$31,340- \$40,000 AUD per annum) for the duration of students' enrollment at the university and a pro-rata annual research grant of approximately \$4000-\$6000 AUD. The minimum support period is 18 months, with the possibility of extension up to 24 months.
- f) There shall be no other fellowship for the students under this call. However, there might be chances of some research support fundings or top-ups (based on the project fundings), but no full stipend.
- g) Students are responsible for covering visa fees, travel expenses, medical insurance, and living costs during their stay in Australia. Although the institutions may endeavor to provide support through stipends or fellowships, such assistance is not guaranteed. Furthermore, Australian universities encourage opportunities for student employment, which enrolled students can pursue while in Australia.
- h) Participants in this program are expected to conduct high-quality research at both institutions, leading to the development of impactful publications, patents, products, or protocols.

Selection and admission processes

There will be four stages in the selection and admission process. Details along with approximate duration of each stage are provided below:

(a) Stage I (90 days):

- (i) Invitation of research proposals with expression of interest (EoI) – this call
- (ii) Interested students are requested to file their EoI and research proposals duly approved by the Chairman of Advisory committee and endorsed by the Board of Studies and approved by the Head of the Division. Proposals in PDF format along with the personal information are to be filed online using the form, <https://forms.gle/wEEToQFb2rLmrf8y6>, on or before the last date specified (duration: 30 days).
- (iii) On receipt of the proposals, the Graduate School (TGS) at IARI will scrutinize the applications for shortlisting. Student selection for this program is competitive and is based on the academic merit, communication skills, alignment to the topics communicated above, along with willingness and commitment to undergo this program. EoI and research proposal are initially screened by a committee appointed for

this process and approved by the Graduate School of IARI, before being transmitted to WSU. It is important that research proposals must align completely with the student's research program at IARI and with those available at WSU (duration: 15 days).

- (iv) On receipt of the proposals at WSU, the same will be distributed to prospective supervisors as per the topics proposed.
- (v) On identifying the supervisor, candidates will be required to attend interview/discussion during the shortlisting process, either through online/offline mode. Such discussions shall be arranged by WSU in consultation with TGS, IARI. Offline discussions, if any, shall be done at IARI only. The decision of the WSU supervisor to continue with the student proposal will be communicated to TGS, IARI by E-mail by WSU (45 days).

(b) Stage II (90 days)

- (i) On receipt of the decision, the supervisory committees of the student, at both IARI and WSU, collaboratively develop a detailed work program. Multiple meetings may be required for this process.
- (ii) On completion of the work plan finalization, WSU Supervisor will issue letter of support (LoS) to the student (90 days).
- (iii) On receipt of LoS, student will apply for admission to Dual Degree program in WSU portal, <https://apply.westernsydney.edu.au/>
- (iv) Student will simultaneously file their ORW in IARI AMS portal for approval of their comprehensive research program by IARI Graduate School.

(c) Stage III (60 days)

- (i) The Graduate Research School (GRS) of WSU will process the student applications leading to creation of an Individual Candidature Agreement (ICA). ICA will be signed tripartite by student, and the deans of graduate schools of both the institutions. Hub students, will sign the ICA quadripartite, the Director of the Hub being the fourth signatory.
- (ii) Students will complete their mandatory English language test such as IELTS, TOEFL iBT, Pearson PTE etc., during this stage. The expenses of such tests are to be borne by the students. Students on successful clearance of the Language Test can upload the results into WSU portal into their login accounts. Please note that WSU requires a minimum IELTS score of 6.0 per each band, with cumulative score of not less than 6.5. For TOEFL iBT, a minimum total score of 82, with specific minimum scores in writing (21), speaking (18), reading (13), and listening (13). For PTE, a minimum overall score of 58, with no communication skills falling below 50 is required.
- (iii) IARI students are required to clear their Qualifying Examination (QVVE) at IARI before moving to stage IV.

- (iv) At this stage, student will come to know their admission quarter at WSU and the date of commencement. Normally there are four research quarters of admission in WSU, named Q1 (Jan), Q2 (Mar), Q3 (Jun) and Q4 (Sep). For specific dates, please see WSU academic calendar, https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/dates

(d) Stage IV (Approximately 90 days)

- (i) On successful processing of student's application, the GRS will issue, offer of Admission for higher degree research specifying fees to be paid (if any) and the mandatory requirement of overseas students health cover (OSHC). Student will be required to accept the offer in a specified form, and to send the OSHC along with the confirmation. OSHC can be individually purchased by the student or can be purchased through the GRS. The cost of OSHC is to be borne by the student.
- (ii) If any scholarship is offered to the student by WSU, the student will also receive a separate scholarship offer letter along with the offer of admission. The same has to be accepted by the student in a specified form. Please be reminded that, WSU is not offering any assured scholarship with this call.
- (iii) On completion of above requirement, GRS will issue Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE). CoE is essential for applying for study Visa at <https://online.immi.gov.au/>. Visa charges and associated medical test expenses are to be borne by the students.
- (iv) On receipt of Visa, student will apply for relief from IARI as per the procedures outlined by the graduate school.
- (v) Student after completion all IARI formalities can report on shore at WSU as per the time specified in the CoE.

Terms and conditions

- a) Only students committed to working in Australia need to apply.
- b) Students who have submitted the EoI and research proposal may withdraw from the program up to Stage II (Before the issuance of support letter). Withdrawal beyond this stage shall be considered irrevocable under normal circumstances.
- c) If a candidate withdraws at Stage I, the opportunity may be offered to another willing student.
- d) Selected students must obtain necessary approvals for the entire research program from IARI before proceeding to create the Individual Candidature Agreement (ICA) (Stage III).
- e) Students must complete all comprehensive and qualifying examinations at IARI before transitioning to WSU (Stage IV).

- f) Students must complete all the research work committed at IARI before moving to WSU (Stage IV).
- g) Before departing from IARI to WSU, students are required to sign an indemnity bond with the Graduate School, IARI (Stage IV).

Interested students are hereby directed to submit their EoI along with the research proposal to this office within 30 days of this notification (**on or before 22 June 2025**). This internal notification bears the approval of Competent Authority.

For more information, contact Associate Dean (IA), Office of the International Affairs, The Graduate School, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi. Email: assocdeania@iari.res.in (or) assocdean.ia@gmail.com.

Associate Dean (IA)

**Expression of Interest (EoI) and Statement
of research proposal submitted by
students of ICAR-Indian Agricultural
Research Institute (IARI) for the Dual
Degree PhD programme at Western
Sydney University (WSU), Australia
(IARI-WSU DDP 2025)**

Student:

Major:

Student Information

1. Candidate details	
Given name(s)	
Last name	
Email	
Gender (<i>Male/Female/Other</i>)	
Mobile number	
Country of citizenship	
Passport details	
2. Details of research program at IARI	
Date of enrolment	
Academic year of enrolment	
Division	
Campus of Enrolment	
Major subject	
Current Semester	
Supervisor (Name & E-mail)	
Co-supervisor (Name & E-mail)	
3. Statement of Purpose (SOP)	
<p><i>Articulate your academic background, career goals, skills and justify your suitability to this program narrating your motivations and aspirations.</i></p>	



4. Declaration

I hereby declare that the statements given above are true to the best of my belief and understanding; and I have read and understood all the conditions of the IARI-WSU Dual Degree PhD program. I am committed to work at Western Sydney University (WSU), Australia, if selected.

I am fully aware of the financial commitments in this program, and in case if I am selected, I am ready/ not ready* to fully support myself during my stay at WSU, Australia.

I am also aware that any false information herein provided can attract disciplinary proceedings amounting to revocation of enrollment at the Graduate School, IARI.

Signature of the Student with date



Research Program Proposal

5. Details of the research program at IARI

Research title	
----------------	--

a) Research objectives at IARI

Objectives	
------------	--

Expected duration in months	
-----------------------------	--

b) Research objectives being proposed at WSU

Objectives	
------------	--

Expected duration in months	
-----------------------------	--

c) Brief expected outcome of the total research program (IARI and WSU)

3. Research program proposal at WSU

a) Introduction



b) Objectives

c) Brief review of previous work

d) Methodology

e) Proposed program of work

d) Expected outcome

e) References

4. Signature of the student with date

Expression of interest and Statement of Research Proposal for IARI-WSU DDP 2025

5. Recommendations of the Student Advisory Committee

Chairperson
Co-Chair
Members

6. Recommendations of Board of Studies (BoS) [with official seal]

Professor

Head of the Division

6. The Graduate School (For office use only)

Recommended/ Not recommended

Associate Dean (IA)

Academic records Verified

AAO (TGSII)

Approved/ Not approved

Dean & Jt. Director (Edu)