

**THE OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL  
ICAR-INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE, NEW DELHI 110012**

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

**Call for Expression of Interest from students 2024**

The Graduate School, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) is inviting doctoral students enrolled during 2022-23 and 2023-24 academic sessions to submit Expressions of Interest (Eols) to join the Dual PhD Degree program with Western Sydney University (WSU), Australia. Alongside the Eols, students are requested to include proposals for research to be conducted at WSU.

**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, and with (iii) the Memorandum of Agreement between IARI and WSU.
- b) This program enables students to obtain two doctoral degrees concurrently—one from IARI and one from WSU. This arrangement significantly broadens students' international prospects for employment and advanced research opportunities.
- c) The program entails a minimum study period of 18 months at IARI followed by 18 months at WSU. However, slight 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) WSU will grant a full tuition fee waiver (AU\$ 35000) for the duration of students' enrollment at the university and a pro-rata annual research grant of AU\$ 4000. The minimum support period is 18 months, with the possibility of extension up to 24 months.
- e) 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 offer opportunities for student employment, which enrolled students can pursue while in Australia.
- f) 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 process**

- a) Student selection for this program is competitive and is based on the Eol and research proposal approval by the Graduate School of IARI. In cases where

multiple Eols emerge from a specific academic stream, applicants' academic merit will be considered for shortlisting.

- b) Research proposals must align with the student's research program at IARI and with those available at WSU.
- c) The Graduate Research School of WSU will review the proposals for final shortlisting and research support (Stage 1).
- d) Subsequently, the supervisory committees of the student, at both IARI and WSU, collaboratively develop a detailed work program, leading to the issuance of a support letter and commencement of the admission process (Stage 2). This is followed by the creation of an Individual Candidature Agreement (ICA) (Stage 3) and confirmation of Candidature (CoC) from WSU (Stage 4). At Stage 5, the student is required to physically report to WSU.
- e) By Stage 3, students must demonstrate certified proficiency in English, such as through IELTS or TOEFL examinations.
- f) The students who are enrolled during 2022-23 academic session shall make the Eol only if they are truly committed in pursuing the Dual PhD Degree program at WSU. Since they have already finalized their research program, selection shall only be based on an internal evaluation by a screening committee.

### **Terms and conditions**

- a) Only students committed to working in Australia need to apply.
- b) Selected students must obtain necessary approvals for the entire research program from IARI before proceeding to create the Individual Candidature Agreement (ICA) (Stage 3).
- c) Before departing from IARI to WSU, students are required to sign an indemnity bond with the Graduate School, IARI (Stage 4).
- d) Students must complete all comprehensive and qualifying examinations at IARI before transitioning to WSU (Stage 4).
- e) Students who have submitted the Eol and research proposal may withdraw from the program up to Stage 1. Withdrawal beyond this stage shall be considered irrevocable under normal circumstances.
- f) If a candidate withdraws at Stage 1, the opportunity will be offered to another willing student.
- g) Students are advised to go through the profile of Western Sydney University, particularly of Hawkesbury Institute of Environment (HIE) before making the research proposals (<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/hie>)

Interested students are hereby directed to submit their Eol along with the research proposal to this office within 30 days of this notification. This internal notification bears the approval of Competent Authority.

  
Associate Dean (IA)