



INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY RESEARCH UNIT

Savitri Bai Phule Bhawan, Maidan Garhi,
New Delhi – 110 068

Information Brochure

Ph.D. Programme & Post-Doctoral Fellowship

Electronics and IT – Phase II | Academic Year 2026–27

Sponsored by the Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India

APPLICATION DEADLINE | 4 NOVEMBER 2026

Online application portal:

<https://ignou-phd.samarth.edu.in/index.php>

ABOUT THE OPPORTUNITY

Advance research. Develop solutions. Shape the future.

The School of Computer and Information Sciences (SOCIS), Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), New Delhi, invites applications from eligible candidates for opportunities under the Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme for Electronics and IT – Phase II. The Scheme is implemented by the Digital India Corporation (DIC), Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India.

The Scheme supports doctoral and post-doctoral research in Electronics System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) and IT/IT-Enabled Services (IT/ITES). At SOCIS, the opportunities are aligned with research in Computer Science and allied and emerging areas.

Seats and financial support

Opportunity	Mode	Seats	Financial support
Ph.D.	Regular (Full-time)	01 (UR)	● ₹46,250/month in Years 1–2; ₹52,500/month in Years 3–5, subject to Scheme conditions ● Support is available up to completion of Ph.D. or five years, whichever is earlier. ● Reimbursement of Rent (RoR) is admissible as per the applicable Scheme provisions. ● Research Contingency Grant: ₹1.20 lakh per year, subject to the prescribed conditions. ● Selected Full-Time scholars may also be eligible for Scheme-supported participation in approved international conferences and a one-time Visit to Labs Abroad from the third year, subject to the applicable Scheme conditions.
Ph.D.	Regular (Part-time)	01 (UR)	● One-time incentive of ₹3,00,000 on successful completion, subject to Scheme conditions
Post-Doctoral Fellowship (PDF)	Regular (Full-time)	01 (UR)	● ₹1,08,393/month for 12 months, ● plus contingency support as prescribed ₹1,00,000/- per year

Broad research areas

• Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning	• Data Science and Analytics	• Big Data Analytics
• Cyber Security	• Blockchain and Distributed Computing	• Computer Vision and Image Processing
• Natural Language Processing	• Internet of Things (IoT) and Intelligent Systems	• Cloud and Edge Computing
• Software Engineering	• Human–Computer Interaction	• Other emerging areas of Computer Science and IT/ITES

The final research area and topic will depend on approved research areas, the availability of eligible research supervisors, SOCIS research priorities, and applicable University and Scheme rules.

ELIGIBILITY — FULL-TIME Ph.D.

Applicants must meet the applicable UGC and IGNOU admission requirements for Ph.D. programmes and the additional conditions of the Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme.

Academic qualifications

- M.E./M.Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering, Information Technology or an equivalent discipline; OR MCA; OR M.Sc. in Computer Science, IT or equivalent, with at least 55% aggregate marks or equivalent grade at the postgraduate level.
- OR B.E./B.Tech. in Computer Science and Engineering, IT or equivalent, with at least 75% aggregate marks or equivalent grade.
- A valid UGC-NET or GATE score is required.

ELIGIBILITY — PART-TIME Ph.D.

The Part-Time Ph.D. seat is intended for professionals employed at a reputed organisation. Applicants must satisfy the applicable UGC/IGNOU admission requirements and the Scheme conditions. Academic eligibility is the same as that specified for the Full-Time Ph.D. category above.

- Applicants must not be receiving a Ph.D. fellowship or scholarship under another Central or State Government scheme.
- Employed applicants must submit a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from their employer in the prescribed format, wherever applicable.

IMPORTANT CONDITIONS

1. Selected candidates must comply with the Scheme Terms and Conditions, Standard Operating Procedure (SoP), applicable UGC norms and IGNOU rules.

2. The Ph.D. programme is governed by the IGNOU Ph.D. Guidelines, 2022, read with the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022, and amendments issued from time to time.
3. Selected PDF candidates will be governed by the IGNOU Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for affiliating Post-Doctoral Fellowships.
4. All selected Ph.D. and PDF candidates must comply with the IGNOU Code of Conduct for Research Students.
5. Seats allotted for AY 2026–27 must be utilised in the same academic year; unfilled seats may be returned to the Scheme's general pool.
6. Selected candidates must be registered/verified under the Scheme as required by DIC/MeitY. Candidates not registered under the Scheme are not eligible for Scheme support.
7. Financial support is subject to satisfactory progress and compliance with Scheme guidelines.
8. DIC/MeitY may hold, stop or discontinue support in cases of inadequate progress, non-compliance, improper utilisation of grants or other circumstances specified under the Scheme.

HOW TO APPLY — Ph.D.

Applications for the Full-Time (01 seat) and Part-Time (01 seat) Ph.D. opportunities in Computer Science for the July 2026 admission cycle are to be submitted online through the IGNOU Samarth portal.

APPLICATION PORTAL
<https://ignou-phd.samarth.edu.in/index.php>
Application fee: ₹2,000 (non-refundable)

The programme is offered in accordance with the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022, and amendments thereto.

Step 1 — Register

- Register on the portal using a valid and active email address and mobile number.
- Login credentials, application status and admission/interview updates will be communicated through the registered email address /mobile number. Keep both active throughout the process.

Step 2 — Prepare scanned documents

- Recent passport-size colour photograph and candidate signature
- Aadhaar card or valid photo identity proof
- Date-of-birth proof / Class X certificate
- Marksheets and certificates of qualifying examinations
- SC/ST/OBC-NCL/EWS category certificate, if applicable
- PwBD certificate, if applicable
- Valid UGC-NET/JRF or GATE certificate, wherever applicable
- Experience certificate and employer NOC for Part-Time applicants, wherever applicable
- Any other document required for eligibility verification

Before final submission

- Upload clear, legible documents and self-attest them wherever required.

- Check all entries, eligibility details, category and programme selection carefully; submitted details may not be editable after final submission.
- Keep document scans and payment details available while completing the form.
- Download and retain the completed application form and payment receipt.
- Application submission does not automatically establish eligibility or guarantee admission; applications will be scrutinised under University rules.
- Use an up-to-date version of Chrome, Edge, Firefox or another supported browser.

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP (PDF) ONE FULL-TIME FELLOWSHIP | TENURE: 12 MONTHS

The PDF is a full-time, temporary and non-transferable fellowship tenable in India for one year.

Eligibility

- Applicant must be an Indian citizen.
- Must hold a Ph.D. in Computer Science, IT or an equivalent discipline from a recognised university, with first class at all preceding levels and a consistently good academic record.
- Must have completed the Ph.D. within the five years preceding the application deadline.
- Must not be more than 40 years of age as on the last date of application.
- Must not have obtained the Ph.D. from the same institution where the PDF is proposed to be undertaken.
- Must submit a research proposal with clear objectives, outcomes, timelines and deliverables.
- Candidates in regular employment are not eligible. Scientists/researchers in temporary positions may be considered but must relinquish their current position if selected.
- Candidates who have already availed PDF support under the Scheme are not eligible for support again.

Preference will be given to applicants with active industry linkages and research proposals addressing industry-specific problems.

PDF application documents

- Prescribed application form (Annexure I)
- Proof of educational qualifications and marks/grades
- Proof of date of birth
- Category certificate, where applicable
- Valid identity and address proof
- Detailed Curriculum Vitae
- Research proposal/synopsis specifying objectives, outcomes, timelines and deliverables
- Details of research publications, if applicable
- Experience certificate and employment/professional-status documents, wherever applicable
- Any other document prescribed by IGNOU/SOCIS/DIC/MeitY

Kindly take the printout of application form provided at Annexure-I below, Complete the application in all respects and submit the hard copy along with requisite enclosures to the Director, Research Unit, Savitri Bai Phule Bhawan, IGNOU, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi - 110068 through speed post. The envelop should contain the caption "Application for PDF - 2026". The

applicants of PDF needs to also submit the application fees of Rs. 2000/- to be paid to the Bank Account as follows:

Bank Name : IDBI Bank
 Account No. : 010104000063425
 Account Type : Savings Account
 IFSC Code : IBKL0000010

After the payment kindly take the screenshot and attach the printout alongwith your application form.

TENTATIVE ADMISSION MILESTONES

Milestone	Tentative date
Date of advertisement	14 October 2026
Last date for submission of applications	4 November 2026
Scrutiny of applications	11 November 2026
Publication of shortlisted candidates for interview	12 November 2026
Window to register applicant grievances	13 November 2026
Publication of revised list, if required after grievances	17 November 2026
Interview	2 December 2026
Completion of enrolment/verification	As per actual schedule

GENERAL INFORMATION & SELECTION

- IGNOU offers Ph.D. programmes in Full-Time and Part-Time modes. Scholars in both modes must attend coursework in accordance with the IGNOU Ph.D. Guidelines.
- The minimum and maximum duration of the Ph.D. programme is three and six years, respectively. Women candidates and Persons with Disabilities meeting the applicable criteria may receive an additional two years beyond the maximum duration, as specified in the Guidelines.

- Coursework is conducted during the first six months at the IGNOU Campus, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi. Regular attendance is required, with at least 80% attendance.
- IGNOU does not currently provide hostel accommodation; students must make their own arrangements for stay in Delhi.
- Admission is based on the applicable UGC-NET or GATE score and interview, as described below.

Selection process

- UGC-NET JRF candidates: interview performance carries 100% weightage.
- UGC-NET qualified candidates without fellowship (Categories 2 and 3): NET score carries 70% weightage and interview performance carries 30%.
- GATE-qualified candidates: GATE score carries 70% weightage and interview performance carries 30%.
- The interview is conducted at IGNOU Headquarters, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi, by the Admission Committee constituted by SOCIS. Updates will be published on the University website.
- Interview components: Research Methodology (40%), subject domain (40%) and communication skills (20%). Candidates must bring original identity proof.
- Final selection is subject to the Government of India reservation policy. The selected-candidate list will be published on www.ignou.ac.in; individual intimation may not be sent.
- Offer letters will be issued only to selected candidates.
- Being called for interview does not confer a right to admission. The University may decline to recommend a candidate if the required specialisation is unavailable. IGNOU reserves the right not to fill some or all seats if suitable candidates are not found.
- Five per cent of seats shall be reserved for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities, as applicable under Government of India norms, and adjusted against the relevant vertical category.

Disclaimer

IGNOU reserves the right to revise, amend or withdraw any part of the information without prior notice. Changes will be notified on the official IGNOU website and will take effect from the date of publication. Applicants are responsible for regularly checking www.ignou.ac.in and the admission portal for updates.

APPLY ONLINE | <https://ignou-phd.samarth.edu.in/index.php>
For official updates: www.ignou.ac.in
Research Unit, Savitri Bai Phule Bhawan, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi – 110 068

ANNEXURE-I**INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY**

Research Unit, Savitri Bai Phule Bhawan

Maidan Garhi, New Delhi – 110 068

APPLICATION FORM**POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP (PDF)****Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme for Electronics and IT – Phase II****Academic Year 2026–27**

This application form is to be submitted along with all applicable supporting documents and the research proposal/synopsis.

PART A — FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Particular	Details
Application No.	
Date of Receipt	
Applicant Name	
Proposed Research Area	
Eligibility Status	Eligible / Not Eligible
Scrutiny Remarks	
Shortlisted	Yes / No
Final Selection	Selected / Not Selected
Remarks	

PART B — PERSONAL DETAILS

Particular	Information
Full Name (as per official records)	
Father's/Mother's/Guardian's Name	
Date of Birth	
Age as on last date of application	
Gender	
Nationality	
Category (where applicable)	General / SC / ST / OBC / EWS / Other
Address for Correspondence	
Permanent Address	
Mobile Number	
Email ID	
Alternate Contact Details	
Identity Proof Type & Number	

PART C — EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Examination / Degree	Institution / University	Discipline / Specialization	Year	Marks / CGPA	Class / Grade
Ph.D.					
Master's Degree					
Bachelor's Degree					
Other Qualification					

Ph.D. Details

Particular	Details
Ph.D. Discipline	
University / Institution	
Title of Ph.D. Thesis	
Date of Award of Ph.D.	
Date of Viva-Voce, if applicable	
Name of Ph.D. Supervisor	
Ph.D. Award / Certificate No.	

PART D — RESEARCH PROFILE

Proposed Broad Research Area (tick one or more):

- ☐ Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- ☐ Data Science and Analytics
- ☐ Big Data Analytics
- ☐ Cyber Security
- ☐ Blockchain and Distributed Computing
- ☐ Computer Vision and Image Processing
- ☐ Natural Language Processing
- ☐ IoT and Intelligent Systems
- ☐ Cloud/Edge Computing
- ☐ Software Engineering
- ☐ Human-Computer Interaction
- ☐ Other emerging area of Computer Science and IT/ITES: _____

Particular	Details
Proposed Research Title	
Keywords	
Brief Research Problem	
Proposed Methodology (brief)	
Expected Outcomes	
Expected Deliverables	
Proposed Timeline	

PART E — RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

S. No.	Authors	Title of Paper	Journal / Conference (details)	Year	DOI / URL	Whether SCOPUS OR Web Of Science Indexed
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						

Total number of research publications: _____

PART F — RESEARCH / PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Organization / Institution	Position	Nature of Work	Research Area	From	To

PART G — INDUSTRY LINKAGE

Provide details of existing industry linkage, where applicable. This section is for documenting such linkage and is not an additional eligibility requirement.

Particular	Details
Existing Industry Collaboration	
Name of Organization	
Nature of Collaboration	
Research Problem / Project	
Duration	
Supporting Document Available	Yes / No
Contact Person / Designation	

PART H — EMPLOYMENT / PROFESSIONAL STATUS

Particular	Details
Current Employment Status	Not employed / Regular employment / Temporary position / Other
Organization	
Designation	
Nature of Employment	
Date of Joining	
Current Status / Remarks	

PART I — PREVIOUS VISVESVARAYA PDF SUPPORT

Have you previously availed Post-Doctoral Fellowship support under the Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme?

☐ No ☐ Yes

If Yes – Particular	Details
Institution	
Year	
Duration	
Fellowship Details	

PART J — DOCUMENT CHECKLIST

The applicant should tick the appropriate box and indicate the page number(s) in the submitted application file.

S. No.	Document	Attached	Page No.
1	Completed Application Form	☐	
2	Proof of Educational Qualifications and Marks / Grades	☐	
3	Proof of Date of Birth	☐	
4	Category Certificate, wherever applicable	☐	
5	Valid Identity Proof	☐	
6	Address Proof	☐	
7	Detailed Curriculum Vitae	☐	
8	Research Proposal / Synopsis	☐	
9	Details / Evidence of Research Publications, if applicable	☐	
10	Experience Certificate, wherever applicable	☐	

11	Employment / Professional Status Documents, wherever applicable	☐	
12	Industry-linkage supporting documents, if applicable	☐	
13	Any other document prescribed by IGNOU / SOCIS / DIC / MeitY	☐	

PART K — DECLARATIONS BY THE APPLICANT

- I hereby declare that the information furnished by me in this application and the documents submitted in support thereof are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- I confirm that I am an Indian citizen and satisfy the applicable eligibility requirements for the Post-Doctoral Fellowship.
- I confirm that I have completed my Ph.D. within the preceding five years as on the last date of submission of application.
- I confirm that I am not more than 40 years of age as on the last date of application.
- I confirm that I have not obtained the Ph.D. from the same institution where the PDF is proposed to be undertaken.
- I declare that I am not currently in regular employment. If I am holding a temporary position and am selected, I undertake to relinquish my current position as required under the Scheme conditions.
- I confirm that I have not previously availed Post-Doctoral Fellowship support under the Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme.
- I understand that mere fulfilment of minimum eligibility requirements does not automatically entitle me to selection.
- I understand that final selection is subject to verification of eligibility, academic/research credentials, suitability of the proposed research, availability of an appropriate Supervisor/Mentor and fulfilment of applicable Scheme and University requirements.
- I undertake to comply with the Terms & Conditions, Standard Operating Procedure, UGC norms, IGNOU rules and applicable requirements of DIC/MeitY.
- I understand that fellowship/support is subject to satisfactory progress and compliance with the Scheme guidelines.

Place	Date	Signature of Applicant

Name of Applicant: _____

ANNEXURE-A — RESEARCH PROPOSAL / SYNOPSIS FORMAT

The research proposal/synopsis should clearly specify the proposed research objectives, outcomes, timelines and deliverables.

Section	Details to be provided
1. Proposed Research Title	
2. Background / Rationale	
3. Research Problem / Gap	
4. Objectives	
5. Proposed Methodology	
6. Expected Outcomes	
7. Expected Deliverables	
8. Proposed Timeline	
9. Potential Application / Industry Relevance	
10. Key References	

ANNEXURE-B — PUBLICATION DETAILS

S. No.	Authors	Paper Title	Journal / Conference	Year	DOI / URL	Relevance to Proposed Research
1						
2						
3						
4						
5						

ANNEXURE-C — EXPERIENCE / PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Organization	Position	From	To	Nature of Work / Research	Supporting Document

ANNEXURE-D — INDUSTRY LINKAGE DETAILS

Organization	Nature of Linkage	Research Problem / Project	Duration	Contact Person	Evidence Attached

ANNEXURE-E — FINAL SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

- ☐ Application Form completed and signed
- ☐ All applicable educational qualification documents attached
- ☐ Date of Birth proof attached
- ☐ Identity and address proof attached
- ☐ Category certificate attached, wherever applicable
- ☐ Detailed CV attached
- ☐ Research Proposal / Synopsis attached
- ☐ Publication details/evidence attached, if applicable
- ☐ Experience certificate attached, wherever applicable
- ☐ Employment/professional status documents attached, wherever applicable
- ☐ Mentor/Guide details included
- ☐ Industry-linkage documents attached, if applicable
- ☐ Applicant declarations signed

Note: The application shall be considered subject to the applicable UGC/IGNOU rules, Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme guidelines, Terms & Conditions, Standard Operating Procedure and requirements prescribed by DIC/MeitY.

For official use: SOCIS may insert the approved submission address, official email ID, website, application deadline and any additional document requirements before issue.