



स्नातक विद्यालय
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान संस्थान, नई दिल्ली-110 012
INDIAN AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
(A Deemed to be University Under Section 3 of UGC Act, 1956)
NEW DELHI - 110 012 (INDIA)

No. ICAR IARI-TGS/OIA/WSU-DDP/2026

Dated: 20.05.2026

NOTIFICATION

Subject: Call for Expression of Interest and Research Proposals for IARI-Western Sydney University (WSU) Dual PhD Degree program for Academic Year 2025-26

The Graduate School, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) is inviting doctoral (PhD) scholars already enrolled in the Graduate School, IARI during academic year 2025-26 to submit Expression of Interest (EoIs) in the prescribed format to be considered for the Dual Degree PhD 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 subject areas given below.

All students admitted during Academic Year 2025-26 across all Hubs/off-campus are eligible to apply. Students enrolled at ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR), Bengaluru are considered under the ICAR-WSU work plan.

(a) Subject areas

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

1. Research related to medicinal plants
2. Research related to applications of remote sensing
3. Automated pest monitoring system
4. Horticultural crops (with a focus on Fusarium wilt control)
5. Data science
6. Soil microbiomes
7. Agricultural Engineering/Physics (any fields including water, robotics, sensors etc.)

*See Section (c).7 for scholarship opportunities

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

(b) Research at WSU

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 University's 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

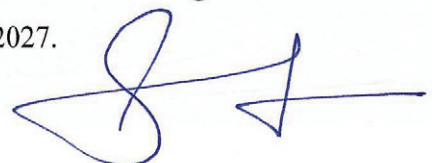
Institute for Culture and Society
https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/ics/research/research_programs

The MARCS Institute for Brain, Behaviour and Development
<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/marcs>

Translational Health Research Institute
<https://www.westernsydney.edu.au/thri>

(c) Program Highlights

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. Under this program, there shall not be two different subject areas for research at IARI and WSU. The research at WSU must be an integral part of the research at IARI. At the end of the program, students shall submit single thesis (Clause 3.2.6. of UGC regulations) to both IARI and WSU for consideration of the award of Dual Degree.
4. 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.
5. Students selected under this call shall be joining WSU during 2027.



6. 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.
7. With this call, among the subject areas given in (a) above, there may be scholarships available for (i) Remote Sensing and (ii) Automated Pest Monitoring System (one scholarship shall be for IIHR enrolled scholar under IIHR-WSU work plan), subject to approvals at the relevant stage.
8. There are no assured scholarships attached to other subject areas, at present. Although there might be arising scholarship support or top-ups based on the project fundings, such assistances are not currently guaranteed. Australian universities encourage student employment opportunities, which enrolled students can pursue while in Australia.
9. If selected, students shall be responsible for covering visa fees, travel expenses, medical insurance, and living costs during their stay in Australia.
10. 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.

(d) 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:

1. 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/jsWoes8Q67SCwD5cA>, 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. Once a WSU Supervisor has shown interest in a proposal, corresponding candidates will be invited 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).

2. 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 plan. Multiple online meetings may be required during this process.
- (ii) On completion of the work plan finalization, WSU Supervisor will issue Letter of Support (LoS) to the student (90 days).
- (iii) 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.

- (iv) On receipt of LoS, student will apply for admission to Dual Degree program on the WSU portal, <https://apply.westernsydney.edu.au/>. Please note that while applying, students need to upload any one of the following English language proficiency scores. WSU requires a minimum IELTS score of 6.0 per each band, with cumulative score of not less than 6.5 (or) a minimum total TOEFL iBTscore of 82, with specific minimum scores in writing (21), speaking (18), reading (13), and listening (13) (or) a minimum overall PTEscore of 58, with no communication skills falling below 50.
- (v) Student will simultaneously file their ORW in IARI AMS portal for approval of their comprehensive research program by IARI Graduate School.

3. Stage III (60 days)

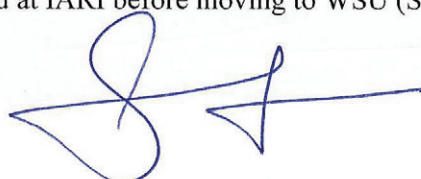
- (i) The Graduate Research School (GRS) of WSU will process the student applications leading to creation of an Individual Candidature Agreement (ICA). ICA will be signed tripartite by student, and the deans of graduate schools of both the institutions. IIHR students, will sign the ICA quadripartite, the Director, IIHR being the fourth signatory.
- (ii) IARI students are required to clear their Qualifying Examination (QVVE) at IARI before moving to stage IV.
- (iii) 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

4. 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.
- (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.

(e) Terms and conditions

1. Only students committed to stay and work in Australia for the period of assignment need to apply.
2. 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.
3. If a candidate withdraws at Stage I, the opportunity may be offered to another willing student.
4. Selected students must obtain necessary approvals for the entire research program from IARI before proceeding to create the Individual Candidature Agreement (ICA) (Stage III).
5. Students must complete all comprehensive and qualifying examinations at IARI before transitioning to WSU (Stage IV).
6. Students must complete all the research work committed at IARI before moving to WSU (Stage IV).




7. 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.

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.

This issues with the approval of the Competent Authority.



(Suresh Kumar)

Jt. Director (Admn.) & Sr. Registrar

Distribution:

1. Professors of all the teaching disciplines
2. Associate Dean, Designated Off-Campuses, ICAR-IARI
3. Program/Academic Coordinator, Designated Off-Campuses, ICAR-IARI
4. In-charge, AKMU for publishing on IARI website
5. P.A. to Dean & Jt. Director (Edn.)/P.P.S. to Sr. Registrar