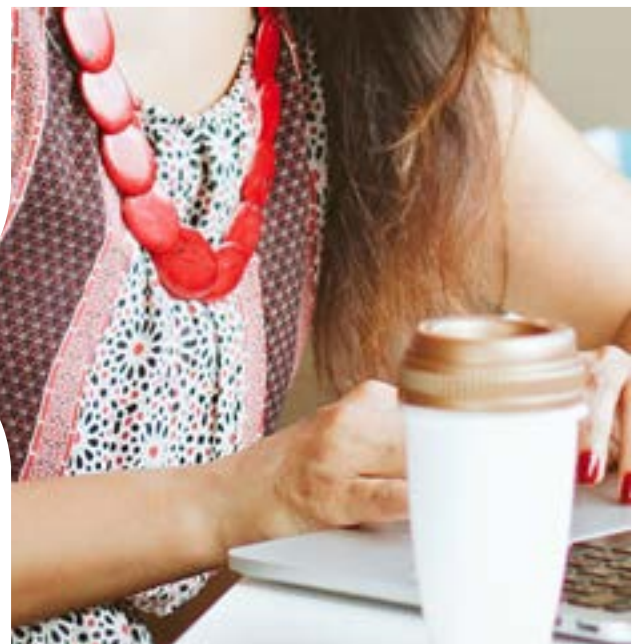


Joint PHD Program

Supervisor handbook



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Important dates*

Round 1, 2019

20 Feb	Call for projects opens
20 Mar	Call for projects closes
25 Mar	Academy Management Committee (AMC) approves projects for advertisement
25 Mar	Applications open
14 Apr	Applications close
25 Apr–7 May	Supervisors shortlist applications
9 May	Academy Joint Admissions Sub-committee (AJAS) shortlists applicants for interview
30 May–1 June	Interviews
3 June	Academy Program Advisory Committee (APAC) reviews shortlisted students
14 June	Offers sent to students
21 June	Deadline to accept offers
1 July	Cohort commences

Round 2, 2019

5 July	Call for projects opens
9 Aug	Call for projects closes
28 Aug	Academy Management Committee (AMC) approves projects for advertisement
9 Sept	Applications open
4 Oct	Applications close
25 Oct–8 Nov	Supervisors shortlist applications
15 Nov	Academy Joint Admissions Sub-committee (AJAS) shortlists applicants for interview
28–30 Nov	Interviews
2–3 Dec	Academy Program Advisory Committee (APAC) reviews shortlisted students
13 Dec	Offers sent to students
20 Dec	Deadline to accept offers
28 Dec	Cohort commences

*Dates are subject to change, and are available [here](#)

UQ-IITD Academy of Research

UQ and IITD share a vision for success to contribute to the world through research excellence. To create research impact and build a long term, sustainable and mutually beneficial partnership, UQ and IITD partnered to establish the joint UQ-IITD Academy of Research (UQIDAR) in 2018.

Overview

This flagship research partnership is a joint venture with the key focus on a transnational joint PhD program. UQIDAR aims to attract the best global talent including elite students, academics, researchers and scientists to work on goal-directed, cross-disciplinary grand challenges that are of interest to Australia, India and the global community and that also align with UQ and IITD research strengths. The expectation is that, over time, prominent research institutes in and around New Delhi would be invited to join UQIDAR as Associate Partners in order to expand the research into a broad-based, multi-disciplinary collaboration spanning Medicine, Biology, Biotechnology, Agriculture, STEM, Humanities, and Economics disciplines.

The collaboration will also enable the establishment of a mobility or fellowship scheme to enable academics and postdoctoral fellows to spend time at each institute, expanding and deepening research collaborations and offering career development opportunities for early career researchers.

The Academy will yield significant benefits to both UQ and IITD including:

- Enhanced research links, enriching the research endeavour of both institutions and enabling interdisciplinary research that tackles global issues at grander scale;
- Opportunities to access international research and industry funding;
- Increase industry engagement to support international internships and placements for students at both institutions;
- Increase the number of PhD graduates and contribution to national research outputs;
- Increase enrolments from the best and brightest students through attractive program offerings and expanded mobility opportunities;
- Provide opportunities for UQ and IITD to attract elite students from countries such as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal into the program; and
- Heightened profile for both institutions nationally as well as globally.

Joint PhD program

UQIDAR will enable students to enrol in a joint PhD with supervision from both institutions. Upon successful completion of the program, students will be jointly awarded a PhD degree from both UQ and IITD. The UQIDAR will allow for scale and sustainability. Current modelling aims for a steady state of approximately 300 PhD candidates by the tenth year of operation. Furthermore, by the end of the tenth year, it is expected that the Academy will have graduated more than 360 candidates. These alumni will be across a broad range of disciplines and will, we expect, be well-placed in industry R&D labs and in academic institutions.

Student value proposition

Students of UQIDAR will:

- Gain a global joint qualification from two institutions (UQ and IITD) in four years;
- Receive a generous scholarship, including a living stipend and UQ tuition fee scholarship for four years, and a travel grant;
- Benefit from global expertise via dual supervision between UQ and IITD as well as possible industry input;
- Have the opportunity to spend some of PhD at UQ and at IITD; and
- On completion, have access to broad industry networks.

Industry linkages

The UQIDAR collaboration will also involve strong industry linkages whereby from year two, industry will partner to support PhD students and projects. At a steady state, it is expected that one third of the joint PhD students will be supported by industry funding and through direct industry engagement determined by their research projects. Industry engagement is expected to be mainly from (but not limited to) Australian and Indian industry.

Student types

There are two pathways to consider:

i-students

Applicants who have completed their qualifying degree in India will be considered for admission as i-students. International applicants (with citizenship other than India and Australia) may apply for admission as i-students, according to specified criteria. i-students will spend a minimum of one year in Australia at UQ and the remainder in India (based at IITD or an industry partner).

a-students

Applicants who have completed their qualifying degree in Australia will be considered for admission as a-students. a-student projects will only be available for applicants with Australian domestic eligibility. a-students will spend 3 years at UQ and one year in India at IITD.

It is anticipated that the majority of students (i-students) will be recruited into the joint-PhD program in Delhi, but there will be a small cohort of Australia-anchored scholars (a-students). Students will typically spend their second year at their “away” institution.

Student eligibility

To meet UQIDARs admissions requirements for a PhD, applicants must meet minimum entry requirements:

- **Minimum qualifications for i-students**
- **Minimum qualifications for a-students**
- **English language proficiency requirements**

Candidature

It is expected that candidature will be up to a maximum of four years in all disciplines. Students will be enrolled simultaneously at UQ and IITD for the duration of the program and will be considered a student at both institutions, supported by a supervisory team comprised of researchers from UQ and IITD. Students may be required to carry out some coursework, as approved by their supervisory team and the Academy. All students will participate in the program as full-time on campus students.

Milestone requirements, to be met at annual intervals, will be used to ensure the candidate’s progress in the PhD program, and will be conducted by the institution where the student is located, with an approved panel. All candidature management workflows will occur through the UQ Student Portal, which will be available for these joint PhD students, UQ supervisors and IITD supervisors of these candidates.

At the end of the first year, all students are expected to have completed all their coursework requirements and have a project proposal (including a literature review, a gap in existing research identified, a problem statement and an initial project plan) that they are able to defend.

Project creation

Under the Academy, research projects and collaboration terms are decided and approved prior to students applying. The focus on the project ensures:

- Faculty collaboration and expertise assured before student
- Student attachment to project
- Student selection (best fit for project)
- Multidisciplinary approaches where possible
- Outcomes orientation
- Focus on problems that need to be solved opposed to problems that can be solved.

In addition, projects will align with one or more of the interdisciplinary themes of the UQIDAR partnership: healthy aging, feeding the world, resilient environments, technology for tomorrow, and transforming societies.

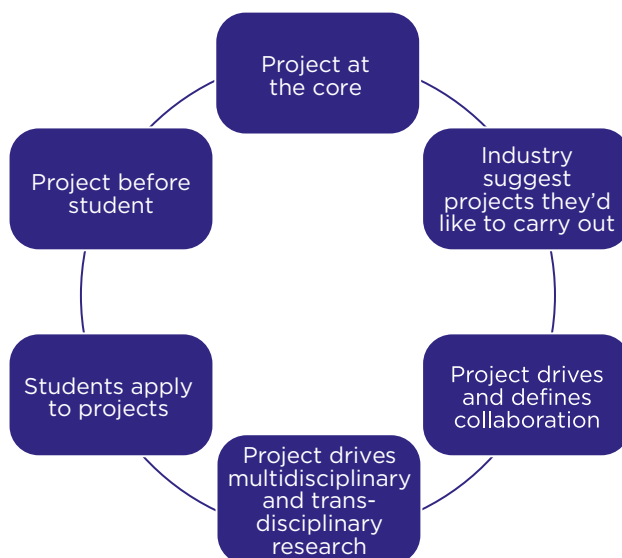
Composition of research team

Under the Academy, each project will require joint principal advisors, with a minimum of one principal advisor from each institution. Where appropriate, a third supervisor can be nominated from industry. Additional associate advisors from IITD and UQ can form a part of the supervision team

Intellectual property

The IP model for UQIDAR is outlined in the collaboration agreement and stipulates that all IP generated in joint collaboration projects between UQ and IITD will be vested in the respective institutions and that a UQIDAR Joint IP Protocol will be developed in due course. Students are not a party to the collaboration agreement between the two institutions. Students will, therefore, need to assign their IP to either IITD or UQ entity through an IP Deed of assignment. The JV entity then has the ability to transact more easily with industry via a tripartite contract with industry and with student IP available.

Figure 1 Projects as a vehicle for wider engagement



Scholarships and funding obligations

UQIDAR is a centrally funded program both at UQ and IITD, however advisory teams are expected to contribute to costs as outlined below.

Scholarships for i-students

Eligible UQIDAR i-students will receive a scholarship, which comprises a full tuition fee scholarship at UQ and living allowance whilst in Australia, a travel grant and a single policy for overseas student health cover (15 months) during this time. i-students will be eligible for monthly stipend while in India. When considering your ability to participate in the program, please consider the following funding obligations of supervision teams, students and the Academy:

- Project running costs will be borne by supervisory teams in each institution.
- The Academy will offer a scholarship to cover the costs associated with UQ tuition fees, annual stipend for the year in Australia (\$27,596*AUD), relocation grant (\$5,200*AUD) and Overseas Student Health Cover (single cover).
- The student will be responsible for the cost of IITD tuition fees for years in India (Rs 31,950*) and the UQ Student Services and Amenities fee (\$300AUD*) for their year in Australia.
- i-students are to be supported in years 1 (Rs 31000 per month) and years 3,4 (Rs 35000 pm) through one of the following mechanisms:
 1. Project funds of the IITD-supervisor
 2. Self-supported through an external fellowship (CSIR/UGC etc).
 3. IITD funds for year 1 and IITD-supervisor projects fund in years 3 and 4.
 4. The Academy will provide a top-up of Rs 10,000 to all i-students.
- Scholarships are awarded for a maximum of 4 years.

Scholarships for a-students

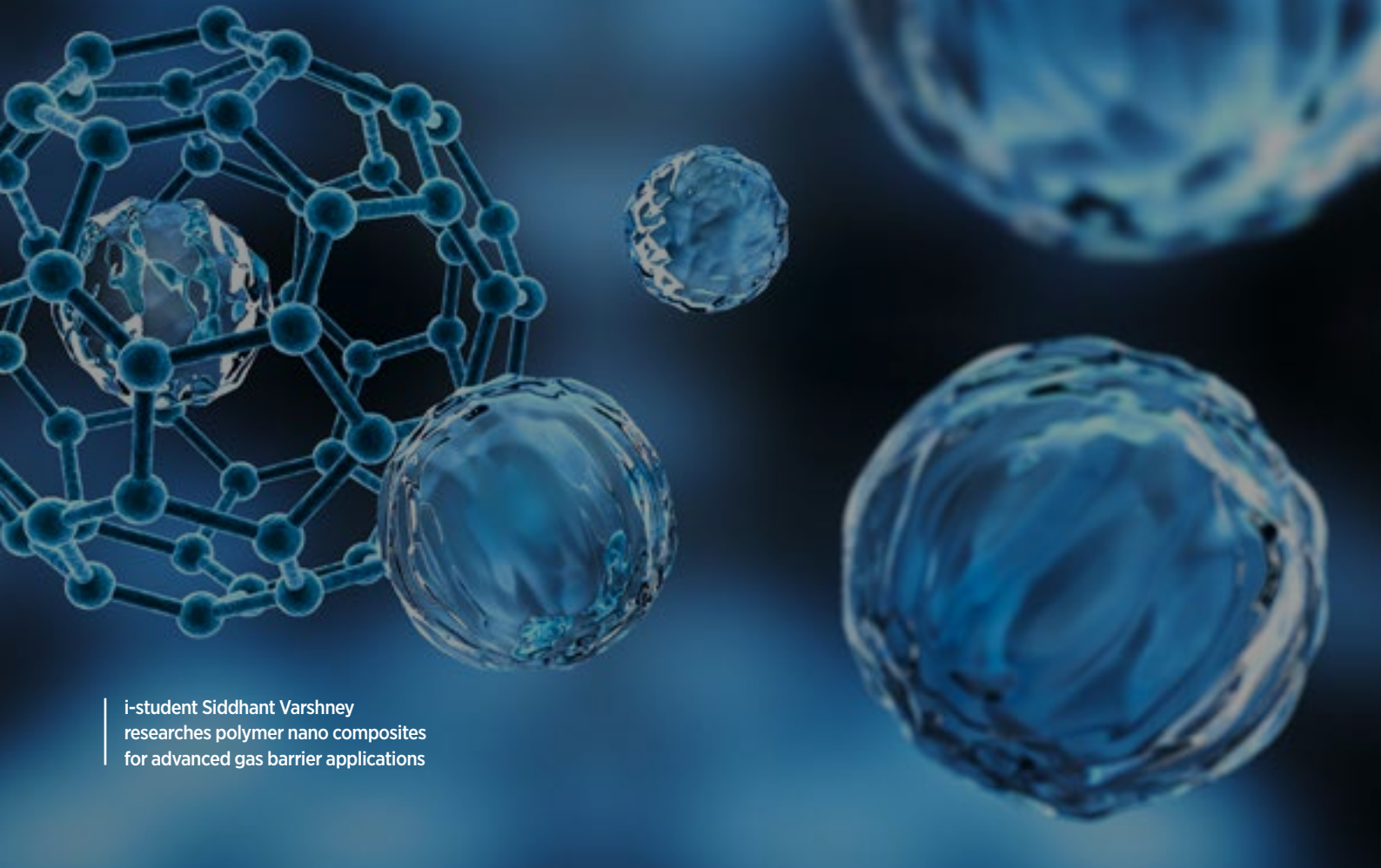
Eligible UQIDAR a-students will receive a scholarship, which comprises a living allowance and tuition fee scholarship for the duration of the program (whilst in Australia and India), and a travel grant. When considering your ability to participate in the program, please consider the following funding obligations of supervision teams, students and the Academy:

- Project running costs will be borne by supervisory teams in each institution.
- The Academy will cover the costs associated with UQ tuition fees, annual stipend (\$27,596*AUD), and travel grant (\$2,500*AUD) and UQ travel insurance for 12 months.
- The student will be responsible for the cost of IITD tuition fees for their year in India (Rs 31,950*) and the UQ Student Services and Amenities fee (\$300AUD*) for years in Australia.
- Scholarships are awarded for a maximum of 4 years.

*Please note: figures given are approximate, are indexed annually, and based on 2019 figures.



i-student Sudeep Banad researches the impact of changing flood characteristics on river morphology



i-student Siddhant Varshney
researches polymer nano composites
for advanced gas barrier applications

Propose a project

UQIDAR calls for research projects in February and July each year. Your Head of Department, Head of School, or Institute Director will receive this request and distribute it to staff in your area.

1 Check your eligibility

UQ staff are eligible to supervise PhD candidates through UQIDAR providing they meet UQ's policy **4.60.01 Eligibility and Role of Higher Degree by Research Advisors**.

2 Identify collaborators

Please visit the **IITD website** and **UQ Researchers** to identify potential collaborators that would be best suited for the proposed project. We encourage that you touch base with any potential collaborators as faculty members at both UQ and IITD have been made aware of the joint PhD program. If you are unable to find a suitable collaborator, please **contact us** and we will be able to assist with connecting you with your potential match either UQ or IITD and we would be happy to facilitate initial discussions with potential collaborators. After that, please hold Skype/Zoom meetings with your potential IITD collaborator(s) to discuss possible project ideas.

3 Submit UQIDAR proposal template

Please submit collaboration project proposals using the **UQIDAR project proposal template**. This proposal will flag your interest in participation in the joint-PhD program and will also be used to attract students.

There are no restrictions on the number of proposals or the number of students per project, however if a project is large enough to admit 2-3 students, we recommend it is to split it into 2-3 projects that are distinct as this may result in a better pool of applicants to choose from. To attract high achieving students, projects will need to be goal-directed and address cross-disciplinary grand challenges of interest to Australia, India and the global community. Please note we are unable to accept late proposals.

4 Academy Management Committee approve projects

The UQIDAR will contact your UQ Executive Dean/ Institute Director (or delegate) to seek endorsement of your project. Projects will then be collated and submitted to the Academy Management Committee (AMC) who review projects and accepts them on the basis of the supervisory team, capacity to supervise, the likely impact of the project, funding arrangements of projects and how well the project has been articulated.

5 Students submit applications

Approved project proposals are advertised on the **UQIDAR website**.

Prospective students submit applications for their top two preferences via **UQ's online application portal**. When applications go live, please check the website to ensure your project proposal is displaying correctly and promote your project via your networks.

6 Shortlisting and interviews by supervisors

Applications will be collated by UQIDAR and sent to supervisors for shortlisting.

Step 1: Download and share application data

UQIDAR will send you a list of students who have applied to your project. Please note, to access application documents you will need a UQ Login and password. As such, we would ask that the UQ advisor download and share the application documents with their college at IITD. To ensure data security, supporting documents should be shared using Microsoft OneDrive or similar, and deleted after the application process.

Step 2: Shortlist applicants

Review applications to 1) ensure they meet minimum entry requirements as listed on the UQIDAR website, 2) shortlist according to your projects requirements, Please consider applications from applicants who have nominated your project as a first and second preference project.

Step 3: Interview applicants

Supervisors must interview shortlisted applicants prior to nominating them to the Academy Joint Applications Sub-committee (AJAS)

You will be provided with an interview matrix to rate interviewees. If an applicant scores below a three they should not be shortlisted.

Step 4: Complete form to nominate your top two shortlisted applicants

Please complete this nomination form to nominate your top two students to the Academy Joint Applications Sub-committee.

7 Shortlisting and interviews by Academy

The Academy Joint Admissions Sub-committee (AJAS), comprised of senior UQ and IITD staff, will shortlist applicants for interview. This ranking will be arrived at on the basis of transcripts, SOPs, scores in competitive exams, the student's research plan and their skype/zoom interview with the supervisors.

Shortlisted applicants (both i-students and a-students) will undergo a written test and a joint interview with the AJAS. For i-students, this will be conducted in person at IITD. Video-conferencing technology will be used for international i-student applicants and a-students.

The AJAS then recommends a shortlist of students to the Academy Program Advisory Committee (APAC). The APAC approve applicants to be made an offer.

8 Admission

Commencement in the PhD program is fixed to two specific periods:

- December/January intake: 28 December at IITD and 1 January at UQ (Research Quarter 1); or
- July intake: 18 July at IITD and 1 July at UQ (Research Quarter 3).

Information for current supervisors

Expectations

Supervisors will be expected to meet regularly with students via Skype/zoom meetings and have joint meetings with their UQ-IITD counterpart.

Prior to “year away”

Ensure the project plan provides for the second year at the ‘away’ institution. This must be kept updated with Academy staff and paperwork must be commenced at least six months prior to the travel date, including applications for a visa. Students will then also receive pre-arrival information and a welcome and induction will be arranged, including supervisors.







Events

To ensure strong collaboration between institutions, UQ and IITD delegations will visit the partner institution every year. IITD will visit UQ in March each year, with a view to meet with current and potential collaborators, deliver presentations on their individual research areas as well as research priorities for their department and tour UQ facilities. A UQ-IITD research symposium will be held when the UQ delegation visits IITD in September each year. The event will provide an opportunity to identify research synergies, develop project proposals for the joint PhD program, and meet with prospective and current students. UQ and IITD warmly welcome Strategic Industry, Associate and Affiliate partners to present and engage in the joint research symposium. If you are interested in participating, contact us.

Feedback

UQIDAR will distribute a survey to supervisors each academic year to seek feedback and facilitate continuous improvement. You are also encouraged to provide feedback during the year by contacting us.

Helpful links

-  [UQIDAR website](#)
-  [Project Proposal Template](#)
-  [Student online application form](#)
-  [Register for email updates](#)
-  [UQ Graduate School - procedures for current advisors \(UQ login required\)](#)
-  [Nomination form \(shortlisted applicant\)](#)

i-student Vallari Chourasia researches how to convert the fibrous residue from sugarcane farming into aromatics and high-value platform chemicals

Contact us

uqidar.org

uqidar@uq.edu.au

Indian Institute of Technology Delhi

Professor Naveen Garg
Professor in Charge of the Academy
naveen@cse.iitd.ac.in

The University of Queensland

Professor Mohan Krishnamoorthy
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Partnerships)
m.krishnamoorthy@uq.edu.au

Professor Alastair McEwan
Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research Training)

Dr Jessica Gallagher
Director
Global Engagement and Entrepreneurship
j.gallagher@uq.edu.au

Belinda Bern
Director
UQ Graduate School
b.bern@uq.edu.au

Georgia Mitchell
Strategic Project Officer
uqidar@uq.edu.au
+61 7 3443 1699