

The IITM Jointly Funded Bilateral Mobility Program

An exclusive program to promote research with IITM's strategic partners

Executive Summary:

Indian Institute of Technology Madras currently has 19 Joint Doctoral Programs (JDPs) and 2 Joint Masters Programs (JMPs) with reputed international universities and is aggressively seeking to partner with highly ranked institutions to formulate joint programs. Under these joint programs, students from involved institutions are allowed to spend upwards of a semester to a year at partner institutions depending on the program and the terms of the agreement.

This program primarily aims to increase and improve international student presence on the IIT Madras campus for conducting research under the JDP and JMP programs by providing students with the required additional funding required to make this an attractive proposition. It is envisioned that through such programs we would be able to attract the brightest students globally to experience our research facilities. In so doing we are consciously working towards creating future ambassadors who will shape and change the world for the better and lead to increasing benefits for our institution and the global community. Faculty mobility would also be built into the program with a view to increasing research collaborations and ultimately lead to an enhanced research impact.

The success of the program will lead to an improved international perception of the institution and the research programs we offer.

The need for this program:

It is well known that the presence of international students on the university/institution campus plays an important role in the National Education Policy 2021 and is an imperative for us as an Institute of Eminence.

While IIT Madras has many outbound students taking benefit of such programs the inbound numbers from partner institutions are practically nil. Detailed analyses and discussions with partner institutions points at the large difference in the fellowship amount due to currency conversion being a major consideration for an inbound student. For example, the Australian students who wish to come here cannot support their necessities back home merely based on the fellowship they get at IIT Madras as per our norms. The financial repercussions discourage students from coming here under JDP/JMPs for research. A jointly funded program would address this disparity and encourage foreign students to choose IIT Madras for its world class research and brilliant faculty without worrying about meeting their financial obligations back home.

The program is designed to also encourage research collaborations and the mobility of IITM faculty with partner institutions. A lack of funding was quoted as an obstacle for faculty seeking to deepen ties and initiate collaborations with reputed universities. The funding can also be used for the travel of faculty members to partner institutions and a maximum stay of up to one month. Further, some flexibility in the funds may be provided at the discretion of the Dean, GE.

Program Objectives:

- Provide a platform for long-term inbound international students under JDP/JMP and joint programs with highly reputed institutes
- Offer an opportunity to initiate joint guidance for Masters/Ph.D. programs
- Present an opportunity to explore bilateral regional grants

Primary operative procedure:

The program will be administered by two champions (one from each institution) and they will call for proposals. Typically, 4-5 proposals will be funded. Extensions to the program will be mutually agreed upon based on the success of the program (as mainly measured by mobility in both directions).

The original fellowship amount received by foreign students, which is at par with our students, is to be topped up by 50% of the equivalent fellowship they receive at their home institute. This additional amount will be paid to the student in INR.

Joint funding:

IIT Madras would provide a funding of USD 50,000/- for between two to three years and partner institutions would pledge to mirror the funding. It is to be parked at the respective institutions to be used exclusively for the JDP/JMP/ Joint Program and includes the mobility of students and faculty who are part of the program.

Students traveling from India:

As is the current practice, IIT Madras would pay for the flight tickets and the partner institution would take care of the student by providing a fellowship at par with their students.

Students traveling from partner institutes:

The partner institution would pay for the flight tickets for the student and IIT Madras would take care of the student by providing 50% of the fellowship she/he is receiving at the home institution in addition to the regular fellowship provided to our student.

Selection procedure:

Application requirement:

All faculty members are eligible to apply for a grant through this program. The process will involve applications in **two key stages**.

1) Proposing a Mobility Program

IITM faculty who have strong collaborations with prestigious institutions and wish to initiate this funding with them may submit a proposal. The proposal will be submitted jointly by 1 faculty champion from each institute (IITM & the collaborating institute)

The partnering institutes may fall under the following **3 categories**:

- i) An institute with an existing Joint program with IIT Madras. A complete list of [JDP](#) and [JMP](#) partners is available.
- ii) The proposed partner institution is ready to sign a JDP/JMP/Cotutelle agreement with IITM
- iii) The proposed partner institution is a highly ranked institute (Eg: top 25 in the QS rankings)

The proposal should include the following:

- Background on the faculty champions from the Partner Institute and IITM.
- Resumes should not exceed 2 pages each.
- Rationale for applying for the funding, benefits to both institutions and its future impact (max 2 pages)
- Are JDP and/or cotutelle agreements being considered (if already not existing)

A proposal in the prescribed format may kindly be uploaded on the link given on the GE website.

Selection process:

All proposals will be reviewed by a faculty committee setup by Dean GE and the results intimated to the proposing faculty.

The GE Office will then work with the faculty champions to initiate meetings with the collaborating institution to put in place an agreement for the program and its administration.

The proposals that have been accepted will be posted on the GE website for faculty to apply for the mobility (Step 2)

Proposals may be submitted throughout the year.

2) Applying for an Existing Mobility Program

Champion faculty will share the call for proposals with GE Office and they will be posted on the GE website with a link to apply.

Please check the call for proposal for the specific partner and the joint mobility agreement on the GE website before applying.

Proposals should generally include:

- Abstract not exceeding 250 words which clearly outlines the overarching goals of the project.
- Research statement (max 2 pages).
- Background on synergies/impact on Partner-IITM collaborations (max 2 pages).
- Background on the project leaders from the Partner Institute and IITM.
- Resumes should not exceed 2 pages each.
- Budget with estimated spends under the different heads (max 1 page)**
- A list of other Partner and IITM participants, their departmental affiliations, and areas of expertise (max 1 page).
- JDP/JMP/Cotutelle agreement under consideration if not already present
- The number of students or the number of students and their details with the student's suitability for the project. These details are to be provided for the identified student from either IIT Madras or the partner institute (optional - max 3 pages)

**These are broad guidelines. Please refer to the individual calls for details. You are also requested to refer to the [JDP](#) and [JMP](#) agreements with the partner institutes.*

*** Heads may include visa, airfare etc. Consumables may be included but not exceed 10% of the budget*

A proposal in the prescribed format may kindly be uploaded on the link given on the GE website.

Selection process:

All proposals will be reviewed and evaluated by a faculty committee setup by Dean GE and will include the champion faculty*.

**If the champion faculty are submitting a mobility proposal, they will not be a part of evaluation committee.*

Proposals are to be submitted within the timelines indicated in the call for proposal.

If you require any clarifications/ information, please contact:

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