



IIT Madras & AARDO Scholarships



Master of Science by Research (MS) Programme



A General Guide to Admissions
for January 2023





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GENERAL INFORMATION

About AARDO

African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), is a rural centric inter-governmental autonomous organization that subscribes to the spirit of South-South and Tri angular cooperation. AARDO is a manifestation of solidarity among the peoples of Africa and Asia with the noble mandate of cooperation for sustainable agriculture and rural development for nearly 60 years. AARDO complements and reinforces governments' strong commitment towards sustainable and inclusive growth. As an inter-governmental institution, AARDO is equally a policy advocacy organization with a total strength of 33 members of which 18 are from Africa and 15 from Asia. Moreover, it serves as a platform for members to pool their experiences, best practices, appropriate technologies, information, and other rural cultures/traditions so that successful practices are transferred for improved livelihoods among its members. For more information about AARDO please visit www.aardo.org

About IIT Madras

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT Madras) was established in 1959 by the Government of India and is an 'Institute of National Importance.' The activities of the Institute in various fields of science and technology are carried out in 16 academic departments as well as several advanced interdisciplinary research centres. IIT Madras fosters an active entrepreneurial culture with strong curricular support and through the IIT Madras Incubation Cell.

The institute has been ranked No.1 in the 'Overall' Category for the third consecutive year in the India rankings 2021 released by National Institutional Ranking Framework, Ministry of Education, Government of India. IIT Madras has also been ranked No.1 in the 'Engineering Institutions' category in the same rankings for six consecutive years – 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. The institute has been conferred with the distinction of Institute of Eminence by the Government of India. The Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) launched by the Innovation Cell of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, has ranked IIT Madras the 'Top innovative Institution' in the country. The QS World University Rankings, 2020 places IIT Madras in the top 50 institutes from Asia and in the top 100 institutes globally in Engineering and Technology.



Academics & Research at IIT Madras

IIT Madras is internationally renowned for the quality and diversity of its academic and research activities in various fields of science, technology, humanities, social sciences, and management. These are nurtured through various programmes run by its departments and through sponsored programmes funded by national organizations and the industry. The Institute offers undergraduate and post-graduate programmes in a variety of specialisations which are structured to develop the highest quality of scientific and engineering talent pool and cater to the needs of industry and R&D organizations.

The institute equips its faculty and students with the best possible facilities to take on the most challenging research problems. IIT Madras has advanced research centres in various disciplines of engineering and pure sciences, with nearly 100+ excellent laboratories organized in a unique pattern of functioning. It also has 37 "Centres of excellence" and India's first university-based research park -"IITM Research Park", to provide state-of-the-art research facilities to students. IIT Madras also encourages research in inter disciplinary areas which has resulted in cutting-edge research, providing solutions in areas of high priority.

The Institute files more than 100 patents each year, and its faculty members and students publish around 1500 research papers annually which result in publications in highly acclaimed International and National Journals. The academic atmosphere at the institute is a rare blend of modern-day technical know-how and the traditional methodology on imparting knowledge. Analytical, creative, and rigorous thinking is the hallmark of an IIT Madras education. Students are evaluated on a continuous basis throughout the semester by the faculty and research work is evaluated based on the thesis reviewed by peer examiners, both from within the country and abroad. The medium of instruction is English.

The Student Experience on Campus

IIT Madras is a residential institute with a self-contained campus. There are 591 faculty members, nearly 10,000 students and 677 administrative & supporting staff working together to contribute to its preeminent status. Almost 18% of the student population comprises women. In the academic year 2019-20, the institute welcomed 181 international students from several countries.

The sylvan estate spans 250 hectares of wooded land located right in the heart of the bustling metropolis that is Chennai. It is a verdant retreat which is home to many varieties of flora and fauna and a beautiful lake. The institute is situated on Sardar Patel Road and flanked by the suburbs of Adyar, Taramani and Velacheri. It is located mid-way between the Chennai Airport and the Central Railway station and is well connected by buses and local trains. There are hostels, messes, banks, a hospital, a school, shopping centres, an Olympic-standard swimming pool, a stadium, gymnasium, food joints and cafés on campus. There are several places of worship located in and around campus for Hindus, Muslims, Christians, and other faiths. The campus is safe and in addition, there is 24-hour security as well as internal transport services. Campus life for students is never dull with different student clubs and activities, campus festivals and access to the best sporting facilities.

The International Focus at IIT Madras

With a faculty of international repute, a brilliant student community and a global alumni network, IIT Madras seeks to attract the best students from diverse backgrounds and offer them an excellent educational experience. The institute currently has collaborations with over 280 foreign universities, 19 Joint Doctoral Degree Programmes, 7 Joint Supervision Programmes and 2 Joint Masters Programmes with internationally renowned partner universities. The environment on the campus has a distinct multi-cultural flavour as a result of these initiatives. The Office of Global Engagement at the institute ensures that international students have all the support they need to have a comfortable and enjoyable experience.

Life in Chennai

Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu, is sometimes referred to as the "Gateway to South India," and is located on the south–eastern coast of India.

Easily accessible from and to all parts of India and across the globe, Chennai is the biggest industrial and commercial centre in south India. As many IIT Madras students come from outside the city and indeed across the world, IITians are part of a close-knit community, and it is easy to make friends quickly. The city is host to the third largest expatriate population in India after Mumbai and Delhi.

Topping tourism charts as the third most visited city in the country and the 43rd in the world, Chennai has also been named the best city in India by India Today in 2014, the "hottest" city (worth visiting, and worth living in for the long term) by the BBC and is considered one of the "Top 10 Food Cities" by the National Geographic. One can find a unique blend of culture from ancient temple architecture to modern high-rises, from traditional to fast-food, and from classical music and dance to the growing nightlife in the city. Chennai also has some of the most unique attractions in India which are a must for every visitor to experience. With rich heritage hotspots, pristine beaches, and wildlife sanctuaries you will be spoilt for choice.



ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Programme : The Master of Science by Research (MS)

Duration : 2 years (with the possibility of a 6-month extension)

Medium of instruction & communication : English
(Eg. Classes, Reports, Thesis, Seminar Presentation etc.)

ACADEMIC CALENDAR AT IIT MADRAS

	January - May Semester	July - November Semester
Term	Mid-January to Mid-May	3rd week of July to 1st week of December
Classes	Mid-January to Mid-May	Last week of July to last week of November
Orientation	2nd week of January	NA
Exams	1st and 2nd week of May	3rd and 4th week of November

*This timeline is indicative. Dates may vary.

Students are requested to view the latest calendar at: <https://www.iitm.ac.in/academics/academic-calendar>

ELIGIBILITY

Minimum qualifications

Bachelor's degree in Engineering/ Technology from a recognized Institute or University for a minimum of four years duration

OR

MSc. Degree in appropriate Sciences or a relevant discipline from a recognized Institute or University for a minimum 3 + 2 years duration

Please note:

- Foreign nationals with an eligible degree from Indian Universities will be treated on par with Indian nationals for admission
- Foreign students are expected to have a working knowledge of English
- If the medium of instruction for their qualifying degree was not English, applicants must produce proof of proficiency in English - IELTS with a minimum score of 6.5 (overall) or a TOEFL score of 80 (overall). Test results should be dated no earlier than 15 September 2019
- Foreign nationals will register as full-time scholars
- All the applicants should have a minimum CGPA of 7.0/10.0 or its equivalent/ first class
- The Selection Committees may set higher evaluation criteria than the minimum eligibility criteria listed
- The selection, admission, and award of the MS degree shall be governed by the ordinances of the senate of IIT Madras



PROGRAMME REQUIREMENTS

Requirements	Expected time frame
Course work	Within two semesters
Seminar/ research proposal seminar	Before 2 years
Synopsis	Within 2 years*
Thesis submission	Within one month after acceptance of Synopsis
MS viva voce examination, if recommended by the reviewer(s)	

*Can be extended in certain cases subject to approval

A General Test Committee constituted to assess the scholar's progress will prescribe the required courses

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Master of Science by Research (MS) Programme

Go through the projects. Choose up to three projects matching your areas of interest

September to October 2022

Submit the online application form and the required documents

September to October 2022

Shortlisted candidates will be called for a written test and interview or interview (all virtual)

November 2022

Communication of the Scholarship Decision to selected candidates

Early December 2022

Issuance of documents for Visa Processing

Early December 2022

Orientation and Start of Academic Session

Mid-January 2023



DOCUMENTS REQUIRED WITH THE ONLINE APPLICATION

1. Educational Qualifications – Degree Certificates and Mark sheets
2. Proof of Nationality - Passport
3. Curriculum Vitae
4. Statement of Purpose (800-1000 words)
5. Two Letters of Reference
6. If employed, a Relieving Certificate from your employer
7. Proof of Language Proficiency
8. Photo (Passport size)

Please note:

- Incomplete applications or those submitted after the deadline will not be accepted
- Documents submitted in a foreign language should be accompanied by a full English language translation. The translation should be certified by the translator and bear their certification credentials
- If you have a long-term health condition, disability, specific learning difficulty or mental health condition we encourage you to disclose this in your application with any relevant information
- In your Statement of Purpose please focus on
 - why you wish to study in this programme at IIT Madras
 - why this/ these area(s) of research interest(s) you and why you are suited for it. We advise you to go through the projects on the website and align this with your selection
 - further reading you have done in these areas
 - your ability to think critically and analytically
 - your long-term plans and how this programme will help you achieve your goals



SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

Students selected to the IIT Madras and AARDO Scholarship will be offered the following



*For 2 years from the start of the programme subject to terms and conditions
Please refer to the Research Admission Brochure for details of the stipend paid to domestic students currently.

LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

AARDO Website:	www.aardo.org
IIT Madras Research programmes and fee details:	https://research.iitm.ac.in/
IIT Madras Research Admission Brochure:	https://research.iitm.ac.in/brochure/2021/AdmissionBrochure.pdf
IIT Madras MS ordinances:	https://www.iitm.ac.in/academics/academic-services/ordinances
IIT Madras Website:	https://www.iitm.ac.in/
Office of Global Engagement, IIT Madras website:	https://ge.iitm.ac.in/

CONTACTS

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