



National Institute of Advanced Studies

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NIAS DOCTORAL ADMISSION: 2026-27

The National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) was conceived and established in 1988 by the vision and initiative of the late Mr. J.R.D. Tata, primarily to nurture a broad base of scholars, managers, and leaders to address complex and important challenges faced by society through interdisciplinary approaches, as well as to conduct advanced multidisciplinary research in areas of the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and engineering, as well as in conflict and security studies. The Institute promotes trans-disciplinary research and builds synergy within and across disciplines with meaningful interactions. NIAS has been recognised as an "Institute of Exceptional Repute" by the NITI Aayog.

NIAS is looking for exceptionally motivated students, interested in pursuing interdisciplinary research. Unencumbered by the constraints of traditional disciplinary doctoral research, NIAS doctoral students have a unique opportunity to broaden their intellectual horizons, even beyond the limits of the domains listed below. NIAS not only values such cross-pollination of ideas but encourages its students to develop interdisciplinary approaches.

The Institute is a recognised centre of Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE); Indian Maritime University (IMU), Chennai; and M S Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences, (MSRUAS) for conducting PhD research by scholars, leading to the award of doctoral degrees.

NIAS invites applications in the following broad areas. Any topic related to these broad areas will be considered.

- Education Psychology; Educational Neuroscience; Neuromusicology; Intersections of Yoga and Cognition
- Archaeoastronomy, megalithic studies, temple architecture of India
- Environment and development; Blue economy; Poverty and Inequality; Inclusive growth; Quantitative research methods in social sciences
- Brain-Inspired Machine Learning; Cybersecurity of Machine Learning Models
- Wetland biodiversity and ecosystem services; Sedimentary ancient DNA; Paleoecology and paleofire
- Landscape Archaeology, Geoarchaeology, Historical Geography, Satellite Remote Sensing and GIS Analysis for Cultural Heritage Conservation and Management
- Primate Ecology, Behaviour and Cognition; Human-Wildlife interactions; Human Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence; Animal Agency and Wildlife Conservation; Illegal Wildlife Trade
- Conservation of Mahseers; Disaster Risk Communication; Science-Society Relationship; Environmental Psychology; Environmental Education
- Development; Livelihoods; Migration and (Im) mobility; Rural-Urban Transition; Urbanization
- Maritime Security of the Indo-Pacific; International Politics and Security; Defence and Strategy of India
- Sustainable Pathways toward realizing Hydrogen Ecosystem in India;
- Water-Energy-Sanitation Nexus approach toward urban sustainability
- Experimental Archaeology & Ethnoarchaeology; Field Archaeology; Chola Sculptures
- Contemporary Conflicts and Regional Rivalries (East Asia to Latin America): Ethnic Mobilisation, Societal Faultlines, Interstate Disputes, and Regional Conflicts;

- Emerging Technologies and International Relations: Space Security, Cyber & AI Governance, and the Maritime Domain;
- Contemporary Pakistan: Demography, Political Economy, Energy, Climate Risks, and Internal Conflicts;
- India's Neighbourhood: Governance and State Capacity, Societal Fault Lines, Demography, Political Economy, and Internal Conflicts.
- Consciousness Studies; Indian philosophy; Society and AI Future; Health and Wellbeing; Humanistic Leadership
- Civilian Nuclear Energy - Challenges & Opportunities; Viksit Bharat goals and India's Climate Policy; Energy and Climate modelling.

DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

Eligibility

- A postgraduate degree from a UGC-recognised educational institute in any relevant subject with a minimum of 55% marks or its equivalent grade B in the UGC 7-point scale in the aggregate.
- However, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), one of the universities under which NIAS is recognized, prescribes a minimum of 60% marks or equivalent grades at the Master's level as an eligibility criterion for PhD admission.
- There is a relaxation of 5% of marks (or an equivalent relaxation of grade), for those belonging to SC, ST, or differently abled categories.

Disclaimer: Meeting the eligibility criteria alone does not guarantee admission.

Financial Support

A limited number of exceptional candidates may be considered for NIAS Fellowship for up to a maximum of four years on an annually renewable basis. Candidates with DST-INSPIRE/CSIR/UGC/DBT/ fellowships are encouraged to apply.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

Admission to the NIAS Regular Doctoral Programme will be based on a common online written test and two rounds of interviews. Candidates who have successfully passed the CSIR / DST INSPIRE / UGC NET examination, with an assured junior research fellowship, are exempted from the online written examination although they must pass the two rounds of interviews.

HOW TO APPLY

Applications will only be accepted online. All application details are provided at: <https://www.nias.res.in>

The deadline for receiving online applications, with all required documents, as specified in the above website, is **25 April 2026**.

Applicants are advised to visit the NIAS website (<https://www.nias.res.in>) for more information on the institute faculty and their research interests.