



Graduate studies in Physical Sciences at the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences

The International Centre for Theoretical Sciences (ICTS), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Bengaluru is inviting applications from highly motivated candidates interested in pursuing doctoral research in physical sciences. ICTS is a unique institution with a three-pronged mandate: To conduct world-class research in theoretical sciences, to provide a platform to organize various visitor-driven programs for the benefit of the wider scientific community, and to spread scientific temper and the spirit of enquiry through public outreach activities.

Our graduate students will have the opportunity to work with world-class research groups in astrophysics and relativity, fluid dynamics and turbulence, physical biology, statistical physics, condensed matter physics, string theory and quantum gravity as well as several areas of mathematical sciences. The vibrant academic community at ICTS consists of a large number of visitors, program participants and associates apart from in-house faculty, postdoctoral scholars and students.

The ICTS graduate program aims to offer well-rounded training in theoretical and mathematical sciences. Our graduate students will benefit from the large number of ICTS programs that bring in leading experts to the campus, and will have access to state-of-the-art facilities. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in the ICTS outreach activities.

ICTS is committed to building an environment that is inclusive, non-discriminatory and welcoming of diverse individuals. We especially encourage the participation of women and other under-represented groups.

ELIGIBILITY

For the PhD Program: MSc/ MS or equivalent degree in Physics of duration not less than 5 years after Std XII. Students holding a 4-year UG degree with $\geq 75\%$ aggregate are eligible to apply directly to the PhD program (instead of the I-PhD program). However, they will not receive a Master's degree together with the PhD. They may choose to apply to the I-PhD program if they wish to obtain a Master's degree together with the PhD.

For the Integrated PhD Program: ME/ M Tech/ BSc/ BS/ BE/ B Tech or equivalent degree in Physics of duration not less than 3 years. Any other degree in Science / Engineering or equivalent, of duration not less than 3 years in total. (Students already having/ completing Master's degree by July 2026 are not eligible for I-PhD)

HOW TO APPLY

The first level of selection to the ICTS graduate program is performed using valid scores/ranks from the following national exams:

- TIFR GS Exam 2026
https://www.tifr.res.in/academics/gs_advertisement.php
- JEST Physics 2025 and 2026
(<https://www.jest.org.in/joint-entrance-screening-test>)
- GATE Physics / Mechanical Engineering / Chemical Engineering / Electrical Engineering / Engineering Sciences (with a score valid in May 2026)
- CSIR-UGC NET: Physical Sciences - JRF eligible (with a rank valid in May 2026)

The cutoff scores/ranks for each exam will be announced on the program web page. Eligible candidates can apply by completing the online application form. Performance in the national exam, along with the additional information requested in the online application form (such as academic records, statement of purpose, reference letters, etc.) will be used to shortlist candidates for further selection process. The final selection will be based on face-to-face interviews. Eligible candidates from the TIFR GS exam will be directly contacted. For other streams, applications will nominally begin in Jan 2026. For updated information please visit the web page.

