

AARDO-IIT KGP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

GENERAL ADMISSION GUIDELINES OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE (MS) BY RESEARCH PROGRAMME



**AFRICAN-ASIAN
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
ORGANIZATION (AARDO)**



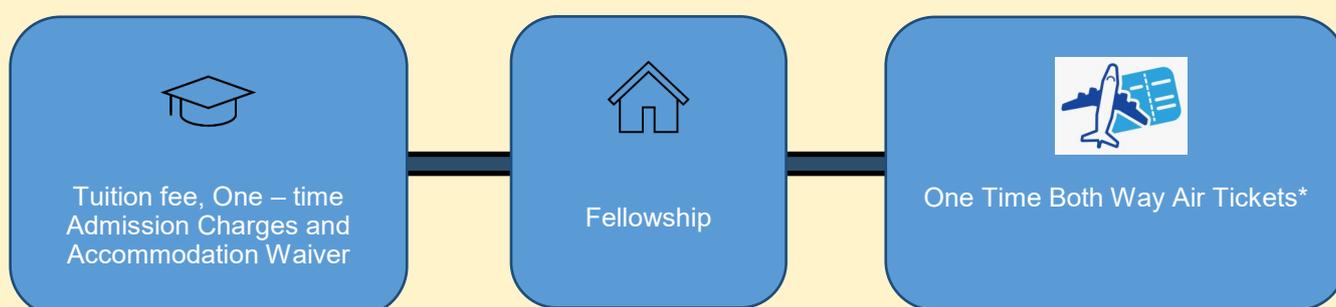
**INDIAN INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY
KHARAGPUR (IITKGP)**

AARDO AND IITKGP SCHOLARSHIPS

THE MASTER OF SCIENCE BY RESEARCH (MS)

The African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) and the Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IITKGP) are pleased to invite applications through the IITKGP and AARDO “scholarships to the Master of Science by Research (MS) Programme” offered by IITKGP. This programme is offered by the Department of Agricultural and Food Engineering along with the Center for Rural Development and Innovation Sustainable Technology. This course will exclusively be focused on the On- and Off-Farm related technologies that will not only reduce the drudgery of rural communities in the Global South, but also help them in attaining self-sustainability.

Scholarship Benefits



***only for five candidates based on the merit list to be provided by the selection committee of IIT- Kharagpur and on status of membership contribution of participant’s country.**

Scholarship Eligibility

- Citizens of an AARDO member country.
- Only applicants living/working in AARDO countries are eligible
- Applicants should be enrolled in the programme full time
- All applications will be screened and evaluated by a selection committee

Academic Calendar at IIT Kharagpur*

	Autumn Semester
Term	3 rd week of July to 4 th week of December (1 st and 3 rd Sem) 1 st week of January to 2 nd week of July (2 nd and 4 th Sem)
Reporting to the IIT Kharagpur Campus	16 July 2026
Classes	Classes will commence from 17 July 2026
Orientation	3 rd week of July 2026
Exams	4 th week of November and 4 th week of April (as per the academic calendar)

***This timeline is indicative. Dates may vary.**

Eligibility

Minimum qualifications:

Bachelor's degree in Engineering/Technology/Architecture from a recognized Institute or University for a minimum of four years duration with at least 60% marks or a CGPA 6.5 (in 10 point scale).

or

MSc. Degree in appropriate Sciences or a relevant discipline from a recognized Institute or University for a minimum 3 + 2 years duration with at least 60% marks or a CGPA 6.5 (in 10 point scale) in Science subjects or 55% marks or CGPA 6.0 (in the 10 point scale) in the case of Humanities/Social Science subjects.

Normally the maximum age of the candidate shall be below 35 years on 1st January of the year in which the admission is applied for. However, the age limit can be relaxed to 45 years for candidates who have extensive experience in the field.

Please note:

- Foreign nationals with an eligible degree from Indian Universities will be treated on par with Indian nationals for admission.
- Foreign nationals with foreign degrees must meet the minimum educational requirements equivalent to an Indian Master's degree in the relevant disciplines.
- 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 can only register as full-time scholars.
- All the applicants should have a good academic record.
- 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 IITKGP.

PROGRAMME REQUIREMENT

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)	

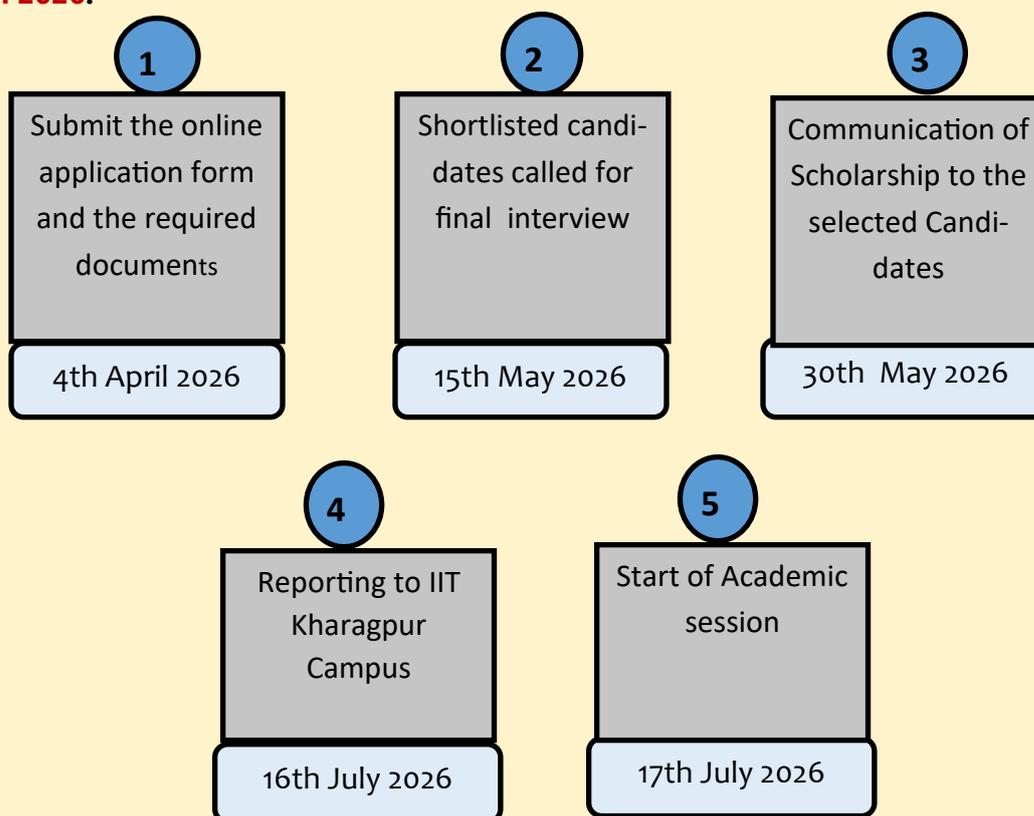
***Can be extended in certain cases subject to approval**

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

The thesis will go for external review to maintain the quality of the thesis, which may take upto 6 months of time after the Synopsis Seminar. However, the final seminar (or MS Viva-Voice) can be given online with the recommendation of the General Test Committee and the student can go back to their home country after submission of their Thesis and Synopsis Seminar.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Applications are invited to the July Admissions 2026 through the IITKGP and AARDO Scholarships. All candidates seeking admission to the program must submit their initial application in a prescribed form along with attested copies of relevant testimonials in the AARDO website <https://aardo.org/IITK.php> by **4th April 2026**.



Selected candidates shall be enrolled for the program only after they have been found medically fit by the SMO of the B.C. Roy Technology Hospital.

Scanned 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 No Objection Certificate from your employer at the time of apply and relieving certificate at the time of joining, if selected.
7. Proof of Language Proficiency
8. Photo (Passport size)
9. Recommendation from the Nodal Ministry of the respective Country

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.

SCHOLARSHIP DETAILS

Students selected to the IITKGP and AARDO Scholarship will be offered the following

1. International Student Tuition Fee, One-time admission charges and hostel charges waiver.
3. Monthly Living Allowance equivalent to the MS (by research) stipend given to domestic students*
4. Both way air tickets, sponsored by AARDO, for joining in and on successful completion of the programme (only for five candidates based on the merit list to be provided by the selection committee of IIT- Kharagpur and on status of membership contribution of participant's country).

***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 currentl

LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- IITKGP Website: <http://www.iitkgp.ac.in/>
- Office of International Relations, IITKGP website: <https://international.iitkgp.ac.in/>
- Department of Agricultural and Food Engineering: <https://www.iitkgp.ac.in/departement/AG>
- Centre for Rural Development and Innovative Sustainable Technology: <https://www.iitkgp.ac.in/departement/RD>
- MS Rules: Regulations Relating to MS. Programme ([click here](#))

CONTACTS:

AARDO

Dr. Sanjeeb K Behera

Head, IEC Division

E-mail : sanjeebbehera@aarado.org

Ph. No. +91-11-26877783/26115936

Mobile/Whatsapp : +91-9810664507

Mr. Kamal Dhameja

Head, Administration and CB&DP Divisions

E-mail : kamaldhameja@aarado.org

Ph. No. +91-11-26877783/26115936

Mobile/Whatsapp : +91-8076448341

IITKGP

Mr. Arup Roy

Office of International Relations

Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, West

Bengal – 721302, India

Email: ir-office@adm.iitkgp.ac.in

Ph. No.- +91-3222-281064

ABOUT AARDO

The **AFRICAN-ASIAN RURAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION** is a rural centric inter-governmental autonomous organization located at 2, State Guest Houses Complex, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110 021, India .

African Asian Rural Development Organization is mandated to develop understanding among members for better appreciation of each other's problems and to collectively explore opportunities for coordination of efforts for the welfare and eradication of thirst, hunger, illiteracy, disease and poverty amongst rural people in the African-Asian region. The Organization comprises thirty six (36) members, which include thirty two (32) member countries namely, Burkina Faso, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tunisia and Zambia from Africa; and Bangladesh, Republic of China (Taiwan), India, Iraq, Jordan, Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Malaysia, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Sri Lanka, Syria and Yemen from Asia; besides, four (04) Associate Members namely, Economic and Social Development Centre (ESDC) from Palestine, EKITI Chamber of Commerce Industry, and Mines (EKITICIM) from Nigeria, Korea Rural Community Corporation (KRC) from Republic of Korea and the Agricultural Bank of Sudan (ABS) from Sudan.

AARDO is promoting South-South Triangular cooperation in the domain of agricultural and rural development. As such, AARDO is championing and advocating more science to rural societies for inclusive transformation of rural areas in Africa and Asia.

About the Department of Agricultural and Food Engineering & Centre for Rural Development and Innovative Sustainable Technology

The Agricultural and Food Engineering (AgFE) Department was established in 1952, as the Agricultural Engineering Department on the recommendation of the Dhar Committee appointed by the Board of Governors, IIT Kharagpur in 1950. Subsequently, on the up-gradation of its academic programme, the department was renamed as the Agricultural and Food Engineering Department in 1994. It has been regularly working on creating technology-based solutions for sustainable development.

Among the 23 IITs, IIT Kharagpur has the sole distinction of having an Agricultural and Food Engineering Department and Center for Rural Development, Innovation and Sustainable Technologies (CRDIST). CRDIST was established in 1975 with the aim of becoming an outreach center of IIT Kharagpur to address challenges confronted by rural communities and to improve their quality of life. The center has made significant achievements in Intensive Crop Farming, Forestry, Horticulture, NTFP-based crafts, Women and Child Welfare programmes etc. Ever since its establishment, the AgFE department has pioneered Agricultural Engineering education and research in the country. Keeping pace with the technological and agricultural developments, the department has continuously upgraded its academic programs. Today it offers a 4-year B. Tech. (Hons) course in Agricultural and Food Engineering, six Joint M.Tech. - Ph.D. programmes in

different specializations of agricultural engineering and sciences, and 5-year integrated M. Tech. programmes in all four engineering specializations. Also, the department offers M.S. (by research) and Ph. D. programmes in all areas of specialization.

AgFE is the largest department of IIT Kharagpur. Over the last seven decades, the department has grown its expertise and competence and produced pioneer research, development and education in the field of agricultural engineering in India. The Department has several state-of-the-art laboratories, field research facilities and an adopted village for transferring the developed technologies. The Department is adequately experienced in creation and dissemination of appropriate rural technologies through its recent flagship initiatives. Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG) and Design and Innovation Centre (DIC) are such platforms that have successfully translated research ideas into meaningful prototypes that address agricultural and rural issues.

The AgFE Department and CRDIST have been developing technologies and facilities that are directly or indirectly helping the local rural community. These technologies are demonstrated and transferred among the interested rural community.

Aiming in establishing a linkage among academia, agricultural industries and its alumni, the department is bringing out a quarterly newsletter, Ankur, which is expected to provide a platform for highlighting the research and development activities of this department. Agricultural Engineering Society (AES) of this department looks after the social and extracurricular activities of its students. The department continues to attract a large number of sponsored and consultancy projects from a number of government agencies, international foundations and industries that deal with Integrated Rainwater Management, Soil Tillage, Ergonomic Database for Agricultural Equipment, Solar Energy Operated Agri-machinery, Integrating Remote Sensing Data with Distributed Hydrological Models, Climate Change Adaptations, Tea Production and Processing, Digital Soil Mapping, Model Pilot Plant for Producing Industrial Enzymes etc. The department has filed several patent applications based on its developmental work.

International research collaborations have been established with UC Davis, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, Louisiana State University, Potsdam University, Leibniz University, TU Dresden, TU Stuttgart, TU Braunschweig and Yamaguchi University in recent years. In this century, the department aims at meeting the challenges of production and processing of food by strengthening its teaching and research programmes with the additional inputs of automation, information technology, agricultural biotechnology and environmental technology. Undoubtedly, the Agricultural and Food Engineering Department has played the most significant role in contributing to the human resources development in the agricultural and food engineering sector in India.

Center for Rural Development and Innovative Sustainable Technology was established in 1975 with the aim of becoming an outreach center of IIT Kharagpur to address challenges confronted by rural communities and to improve their quality of life. The center has made significant achievements in Intensive Crop Farming, Forestry, Horticulture, NTFP-based crafts, Women and Child Welfare programmes etc. The Centre has 06 eminent faculty members, who

are highly committed towards holistic rural development. The infrastructure includes Chemical & Bio-chemical Laboratory, Repair & Fabrication Shop, Experimental Farm & Medicinal Plant Nursery, Field Station & Crafts Training Centres at Kharikamathani and Khariduaara Mushroom Shed & Apiary Unit. The sponsored projects undertaken by the centre include Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, Participatory Forest Management Project, Tribal Development Project, Integrated Rural Energy Planning, Agro-Climatic Regional Planning, Lignocellulosics based liquid and gaseous biofuels (bioethanol, biobutanol, biomethane, biodiesel) and by-product utilization leading to zero-wastes process/product development.

ACADEMICS & RESEARCH AT IITKGP

IITKGP is internationally renowned for the quality and diversity of its academic and research activities in various fields of science, technology, humanities, social sciences, management, law, agricultural and food engineering, rural technology, Indian knowledge system and academy of folk and arts. These are nurtured through various programmes run by each department and through sponsored programmes funded by national organizations and the industry. The Institute offers undergraduate and post-graduate programmes in a variety of specializations 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.

At IIT KGP, academics is designed to give wings to the students' aspirations - more than teach, we help them to learn and innovate.

A wide variety of disciplines (19 Departments, 13 Schools and 9 Centres of Excellence) are offered which are also amalgamated, thus making available a plethora of multidisciplinary courses.

Students are encouraged to explore the options which suit them the best, irrespective of the discipline to which they have been admitted. This improves their industry worthiness and knowledge base and helps them emerge as well-rounded graduates, equipped for any career either in academics or the corporate world. Opportunities for research, fellowships, internships and networking are boundless.

IIT Kharagpur is widely acclaimed for the quality and breadth of its research enterprise, and particularly for its openness to multidisciplinary research. Several highly rated initiatives represent a long IIT Kharagpur tradition of cross-disciplinary research and collaboration.

The institute equips its faculty and students with the best possible facilities to take on the most challenging research problems. IITKGP has advanced research schools and centres in various disciplines of engineering and pure sciences, with numerous state of art laboratories that organizes various national and international programmes. IIT Kharagpur has "IITKGP Research Park", to provide technological inputs to the industries that benefits the student's community. IITKGP also encourages inter/intra disciplinary programmes which has resulted in cutting-edge research, providing solutions in the areas of advance and need-based technological development. The Institute files more than 100 patents each year, and its faculty members and students publish numerous research papers annually in highly acclaimed International and National Journals.

LIFE AT IIT KHARAGPUR

Kharagpur is an industrial city in Paschim Medinipur district of West Bengal, India. It is the most populated, multicultural and cosmopolitan city of the district. Kharagpur is about 120 km west of Kolkata and is well connected by Road and Rail transport. It has one of the largest railway workshops in India, and the third longest railway platform in the world (1072.5 m).

Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur (IIT Kharagpur) is a public technical and research university established by the Government of India in Kharagpur, West Bengal, India in 1951. The institute is the first IITs to be established and recognized as an Institute of National Importance. In 2019, IIT Kharagpur was awarded the status of Institute of Eminence by the Government of India. IIT Kharagpur has 19 academic departments, eight multidisciplinary centres/schools, 13 school of excellence and more than 25 research and development units. The institute's tag line is "Dedicated to the service of the Nation".

IIT Kharagpur is a fully residential campus with an area 8.7 square-kilometre (2,100 acre) and about 22,000 residents. It is a self-sufficient mini township that caters to your day to day need while offering a peaceful living in an idyllic setting. You will love the sylvan community, the clean air, the nature parks and the water bodies around you, something beyond imagination in the large cities of India. In keeping with our ethos of self-sufficiency and nation building, we manage all services ourselves - starting with water supply, public health and waste management, managing traffic and our own security, to operating markets, guest houses and our own hospital. In a few years, we plan to produce our entire electricity through solar power. You will love the greenery, the clean air, the nature parks and the water bodies around you, something beyond imagination in the large cities of India, but an ambience that might remind you of the lush campus you would be leaving behind.

IIT Khargpur offers a vibrant campus life. IIT Kharagpur has a lush green campus with the initiatives of all round management and development of the campus in an eco-friendly manner. People love the greenery and the atmosphere here. It is safe and secure campus. Students will find the beautiful and peaceful campus, a great place to live.

Student Activity Centre: Technology Students' Gymkhana, is the hub of numerous extra-curricular and co-curricular activities ranging from sports to socio-cultural. It hosts a wide variety of societies to promote the various hobbies and interests of the students. The societies include the Dramatics Societies namely, Technology Dramatics Society- Pravah (Hindi), Encore (English), Prasthanam (Telugu), Druheen (Bengali), Technology Robotix Society, Technology Filmmaking and Photography Society, Business Club, Debating Society, the Music Societies namely, Eastern Technology Music Society and Western Technology Music Society, Communique(soft skills), the Quiz Club, Spectra(fine arts), Technology Adventure Society, Technology Dance Society, and Technology Literary Society.

Extra-curricular: IITKGP knows the importance of sports and cultural activities in shaping the students into complete human beings. Notwithstanding the rigorous academic schedule, students indulge in a variety of extracurricular activities such as music, dramatics, debate, dance, case studies, business plans, product design, data analytics and almost every sport you can name from

soccer to water-polo. Furthermore, to prove their mettle in whatever they do, students participate and win in the most challenging national and international level competitions apart from their Inter-Hall championships. All these activities are organised and led by the students themselves which provides them with an excellent platform to hone their managerial and leadership skills.

Sports and Games: IIT Kharagpur wishes that students perform the best in every field and hence provides its students with world-class facilities for sports and games as well. The campus has two stadiums namely Jnan Ghosh and Tata Sports Complex for various games like Hockey, Football, Cricket, and Athletics. The campus also has a fully modernized Aquatic Center for sports like Swimming and Water Polo. Technology Students' Gymkhana also hosts, an Indoor Squash Court, Indoor Badminton Courts, Pool Tables, Tennis Courts, and a fully modernized Gymnasium, facilities for Weightlifting, Basketball Courts, Volleyball Court, and Table Tennis.

Library: The Central Library at IITKGP is considered one of the finest and largest in the world. Its 8000 sq.m provides reading space for 2000 people, holds 300000 books and 25000 subscribed journals. It also has access to all major databases and repositories including 3.8 million theses and dissertations. IITKGP has taken library services to the next level, not just by making books available on the campus through the digital library, but by extending digital library service to external readers through the national mission project National Digital Library.

Spring Fest: Spring Fest is the annual Social and Cultural fest of IIT Kharagpur and among the largest student fests in India. It celebrates the true spirit of youth, a celebration with a responsibility, growing bigger and better with every passing year. It is a perfect blend of fun and frolic, of excitement and ecstasy, of devotion and dedication.

Kshitij: It is an Aisa's largest annual techno-management fest, which encompasses varied fields of science, technology, and management, inviting students from all around the globe to put their ingenuity and aptitude to test at an unparalleled level of competition.

Illumination: Also known as Illu, is a festival unique to IIT Kharagpur. It is inspired by the day of Diwali (the festival of lights) and is held on Diwali itself. It is held as a competition in student halls. All halls build vertical panels of bamboo (called Chatais) on which thousands of lamps (diyas) are mounted. On the same day, the Rangoli Competition is organized as an inter-hall event. Rangolis of exquisite detail and shading are constructed using colored powders, crushed bangles, and pebbles.

Accommodation: Spread over a sprawling 2100 acres, IIT KGP is well known for its extensive residential facilities. There are 21 Halls of Residences (16 for boys, 5 for girls) around campus. Each has its own dining room, canteen, common room, gym, courts and fields, library etc. Halls of Residence are 'the' most important part of IITKGP student life. It is the Halls where the life-long bonding begins with the Hall-mates and the Wing-mates. It transcends socio-economic background, course of study, batch, interests and hobbies and delivers the KGPIans in whom IITKGP lives forever. Inter Hall Competitions are conducted round the year and they

help build the technical, athletic, and artistic skills of the residents. These competitions form a part of the rich legacy of Hall culture.

Additionally, the International Guest House has furnished accommodation facilities, which are available at a nominal payment. Rents for the rooms at the International Guest House vary depending upon single or double occupancy, semi-furnished or fully-furnished rooms.

Hangouts: There are places in IITKGP that imprint a KGPian with memories of rendezvous, bonding over food, chats, knowledge sharing, activities. Of these Gymkhana tops the list, where students spend considerable time. The eateries in and around the campus also contribute. The futures planned over a cup of coffee at Cafe Coffee Day, the promises of friendship while sharing a sandwich at Subway, the chilling out at Baskin Robbins, the fun frolic at the market place over taste of Indian food, the long-walks in the greeneries of the campus, IITKGP is the place where you always have somewhere to be and someone to be with.

Health and Wellness: The campus hospital provides primary Health Care comprising of curative, preventive and health promotion services to its faculty, employees, and students using modern and cost-effective techniques and technologies, and through a dedicated and humane approach. It refers patients to top hospitals in the nearest city for specialized healthcare services and medical treatment. For IIT Kharagpur students, there is a medical insurance scheme. For the referral of the students, there is an arrangement with several hospitals in Kolkata. Students' Counselling Centre assist students who may be experiencing emotional or psychological conditions that pose a hindrance to their regular activities on campus. The campus has its own swimming pool, park, sports complex, gym, exclusively available for the campus community.

Eateries: Numerous on-campus eateries serve the demands of residents. Some eateries are open overnight, while some serve hot food from early morning itself to best cater to the people's convenience. Each Hall of Residence has its own Canteen apart from the mess. 'Eat-KGP' a virtual collaboration of all the in-campus eateries provides room delivery of food through online orders. The KGP campus also boasts of retail eatery chains such as Cafe Coffee Day, Baskin Robbins and Subway. One can always visit multiple restaurants outside the campus (approx. 5 kms). IIT KGP has its own Food Monitoring Committee that ensures proper quality food is being served hygienically at fair prices at all campus eateries.

How to reach IIT Kharagpur

Arrival by Air : The nearest airport to Kharagpur is the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata. It is widely connected to almost all the major destinations of the country. From Kolkata Airport you can take a taxi from the Airport taxi stand to Kharagpur. The travel time is approximately 2 1/2 hrs. It costs roughly Rs. 3000/- to Rs. 5000/- (depending on the taxi type).

Arrival by train : Kharagpur train station is well connected to the local as well as long-distance trains from major cities like Kolkata, Mumbai, Bhubaneswar, etc. IIT KGP is about 15 min drive away from the Kharagpur railway station.