



Cooperation for Sustainable Development

# IIT MADRAS & AARDO SCHOLARSHIPS



**Information Brochure for  
Master of Science by  
Research (MS) Programme**

**2025-26**

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# GENERAL INFORMATION

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## 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 Triangular 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 to sustainable and inclusive growth. As an inter-governmental institution, AARDO is equally a policy advocacy organization with a total strength of 34 members, of which 19 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](http://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 18 academic departments as well as several advanced interdisciplinary research centers. IIT Madras fosters an active entrepreneurial culture with strong curricular support through the IIT Madras Incubation Cell. Establishing a record that has not been witnessed in Indian Education History, IIT Madras retained its No. 1 ranking in the 'Overall' category for the Sixth Consecutive Year and in 'Engineering' Category for the Ninth Consecutive Year, right from the first edition of the Rankings in 2016. In the 'Research Institutions' category, IIT Madras retained the last year's position of Rank #2. IIT Madras also retained the #2 rank in 'Innovations' category (previously known as Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements), same as the preceding year. IIT Madras has the unique distinction of being the first IIT to establish a full-fledged foreign campus. The IITM Zanzibar has been growing by leaps and bounds, attracting students from all over Africa, India, Middle East and other countries as well.

# 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 programs run by its departments and through sponsored programs funded by national organizations and the industry. The Institute offers undergraduate and postgraduate programs in a variety of specialisations, which are structured to develop the highest quality 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 centers 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 interdisciplinary 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 multicultural flavour as a result of these initiatives. The Office of Global Engagement at the institute ensures international students have all the support they need for 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 southeastern coast of India. Easily accessible from and to all parts of India and across the globe, Chennai is the biggest industrial and commercial center 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

**Program:** 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 the last week of November
Orientation	2nd week of January	NA
Exams	1st and 2nd week of May	3rd and 4th week of November





## ELIGIBILITY

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

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

### 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

Requirements	Expected time frame
Coursework	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 two projects matching your areas of interest	<b>October 2024</b>
Submit the online application form and the required documents	<b>October 2024</b>
Shortlisted candidates will be called for a written test and interview or interview (all virtual)	<b>November 2024</b>
Communication of the Scholarship Decision to selected candidates	<b>December 2024</b>
Issuance of documents for Visa Processing	<b>December 2024</b>
Orientation and Start of Academic Session	<b>Mid January 2025</b>

## 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)

### 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 do you wish to study in this program 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
    - why do you wish to study in this program 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



**Return Airfare**



**International Student Tuition Fee Waiver**



**Monthly Living Allowance**

Equivalent to the MS (by research) stipend given to domestic students\*

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

## CONTACT US :



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## LINKS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

AARDO Website: [www.aardo.org](http://www.aardo.org)

IIT Madras Research programs 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/>

Application Form. Please [Click](#)

