



Original article  
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REVIEW ARTICLE

Deciphering the COVID-19 cytokine storm: Systematic review and meta-analysis

# Integrated MSc (Clinical Research) & PhD

A two-year Master's program in Clinical Research,  
with the option of pursuing a PhD, if eligible, as an Integrated MSc (Clinical Research) & PhD

# Integrated MSc (Clinical Research) & PhD



## BACKGROUND

Any research that impacts the care and well-being of human population comes under the domain of clinical research. Clinical research in a broader sense involves epidemiologic studies, clinical trials, translational research, patient-oriented research, behavioral science, and health service research. High quality data and reliable results are key to generate evidence for decision making and to provide impetus for improving patient care. To produce such data, a systematic and multidisciplinary approach is required involving a range of disciplines like basic sciences, biotechnology, pharmacology, clinical medicine, statistics, public health and behavioral sciences.

## DEGREE AWARDING AND REGISTERING BODY

Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) in collaboration with Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) brings you this unique opportunity to further your career in the area of clinical research through the Integrated MSc & PhD program. The MSc (Clinical Research) & PhD programme is jointly conducted by PHFI and AcSIR and the degrees will be awarded by Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR). For more information visit <https://acsir.res.in/>

## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

### Masters in Clinical Research

The MSc program in Clinical Research is an intensive 2 year, full time program focusing on the scientific, ethical, and operational issues related to clinical research. Four semesters will be completed in 24 months. First three semesters include class room based, face to face teaching, tutorials and practical. The final semester includes 6 months of project work (with dissertation). The student needs to complete 11 compulsory core courses (modules), 4 elective courses (modules) in 18 months and submit the project report to be awarded the MSc degree. Students are encouraged for taking up internships during summer/winter breaks between semesters, or after completion of the project work, only after due formal permission from their respective supervisors. Adequate institutional support will be provided to students for smooth completion of internship.

### PhD Program

The students who complete the Master's program with a GPA of 8 and above will be eligible for the PhD program. A formal application needs to be submitted which will be screened & enrolment will be finalized by the PhD screening committee. This full time and project based PhD program is for a minimum of 3 years. The research topic for PhD will be developed under the guidance of mentors from PHFI and AcSIR. The students are free to choose any topic of their interest ranging from basic sciences to community based studies. The student can be allocated to any of the CSIR Labs participating in the collaborative program on mutual consent.

## PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION AND LANGUAGE

This on-campus, full-time program is offered from the Indian Institute of Public Health-Delhi (IIPH-D), Public Health Foundation of India ([www.phfi.org](http://www.phfi.org)). The main language of instruction would be English. The course utilizes a variety of teaching / learning techniques, which includes lectures, group discussions, student presentations, hands on practice in statistical softwares, basic sciences laboratory, workshops and field visits. During the project work and internship, the students will get an opportunity to engage in research related activities that could be based in a community, hospital or a laboratory.

## PROGRAM CONTENTS

The multi-disciplinary curriculum will be covered under the core & elective courses (modules). The core modules include: Basic Epidemiology, Basic Biostatistics, Clinical Trials-Design and Analysis, Conduct and Operational Issues in Clinical Trials, Bioethics and Regulatory Affairs, Systematic Reviews, Proposal Development and Medical Writing, Data Management, Drug Development, Pharmacovigilance and Project Management. Under elective courses, we offer various areas that will fall under Research Methods, Statistics and Laboratory Sciences.

Following are the core competencies acquired by the candidates at the end of the Master's program:

- Reviewing existing evidence in literature
- Developing a grant application in bio-medical research
- Managing ethics and regulatory approvals of protocols
- Managing a research project
- Managing research data
- Planning and executing statistical analysis
- Communicating research results to a scientific community

## TARGET AUDIENCE AND ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

This program is relevant to those wishing to gain an in-depth understanding in research methods & also keen to specialize in specific areas in clinical research.

### Minimum Academic Qualifications

- Applicants with graduate qualifications in: medical and allied fields like dentistry, AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy), pharmacy, physiotherapy, nursing, and veterinary science.
- Applicants with graduate qualifications in: biological and life sciences (microbiology, biochemistry, biotechnology, botany, zoology), basic sciences (chemistry), occupational therapy and biostatistics.
- All applicants should have basic computing skills and proficiency in English language.

## SELECTION PROCESS

All candidates should submit the application form for the program Integrated MSc (Clinical Research) & PhD in the prescribed format. The candidate can apply online or also download the application form from PHFI website (<http://www.phfi.org/our-activities/academic-programmes/courses-and-admissions>). The application consists of registration form, proof of academic credentials, work experience, contact details of two referees (academic and/ or professional) and a Statement of Purpose (SOP). The applicants will be short-listed based on their academic qualifications, relevant experience and Statement of Purpose.

This will be followed by an interview. The selection of candidates will be conducted by a specially constituted screening committee represented by members from PHFI and AcSIR.

The final selection of the candidate for the MSc program is based on qualifications, relevant experience, statement of purpose and interview. The weightage for each component are as follows:



# Integrated MSc (Clinical Research) & PhD



Qualifications	-	25%
Relevant experience	-	5%
Statement of purpose	-	10%
Interview	-	60%
Total	-	100%

Reservation of seats in admissions will be as per Government of India policy as applicable from time to time.

Decisions taken by the selection committee will be final. The selection in the MSc program does not guarantee entry in PhD program. Selection for PhD will be made strictly on the basis of merit and performance in the MSc program.

## FACULTY

A team of experienced and multidisciplinary faculty from PHFI and AcSIR would be engaged in teaching. The students will also be exposed to lectures delivered by invited faculty and a pool of adjunct faculty with PHFI of national and international acclaim. Guides will be identified from both the organizations for mentoring the project work (with dissertation).

## CREDIT AND EVALUATION SYSTEM

The program will follow a credit and grading system consistent with AcSIR norms. Credits are awarded for successful completion of each course (module) and thesis. A total of 64 credits need to be earned for awarding the MSc degree. Student evaluation for each course (module) would be through a concurrent evaluation during course work (that includes test/assignments, attendance and classroom participation) and marks scored in the end of semester unseen written examination. The weighted average of both will contribute to the course (module) GPA. A detailed evaluation frame work will be provided to the students before the beginning of the program.

## PROGRAM FEES

The fee structure for MSc (Clinical Research) program for the candidates admitted in the year 2023-25 will be as follows:

### For Indian and South Asian Nationals

#### Tuition Fee:

The annual tuition fee for the students admitted in academic year 2023-25 is INR 2.40 Lakhs per student per academic year (The total tuition fee for the two year program is Rs. 4,80,000/- which includes Rs. 10,000/- admission fees and Rs. 10,000/- examination fees)

### For International Candidates

#### Tuition Fee:

The annual tuition fee for the students admitted in academic year 2023-25 is USD 7,200 per student per academic year.

#### Scholarship:

Limited number of scholarships for MSc may be awarded for deserving and meritorious candidates, subject to availability of funds, after starting of the program.

## PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The project work and internship during the MSc program would provide the candidate with an opportunity to interact with potential researchers. The setting may be a hospital, research organization or a CSIR laboratory. The placement cell at IIPH-Delhi will also strive to arrange for campus interviews with companies in clinical research pursuits. However, no formal guarantee will be provided to any candidate regarding future job selection after completion of the program.

## ABOUT PUBLIC HEALTH FOUNDATION OF INDIA (PHFI)

PHFI is a public-private initiative that collaboratively evolved through consultations with multiple constituencies, including Indian and international academia, state and central governments, multi- and bi-lateral agencies, and civil society groups. PHFI aims to address the limited institutional capacity in India for training, research, and policy development in the area of public health through establishment of Indian Institutes of Public Health across the country.

Indian Institute of Public Health - Delhi is one of the five academic institutions under PHFI. The institute is actively involved in conducting academic programs- both on-campus and eLearning. Apart from Integrated MSc (Clinical Research) & PhD, it also offers other on-campus programs like Post Graduate Diploma in Public Health Management, Master of Public Health and PhD Program. The institute also offers a range of eLearning courses including, ePost Graduate Programs in Public Health Nutrition; Epidemiology; Management of Reproductive and Child Health Programs; Health Economics, Healthcare Financing & Policy and eCourses in Monitoring & Evaluation of Health Programs; Research Ethics; Clinical Research Methods; Maternal, Infant, Young Child and Adolescent Nutrition (MIYCAN).

## ABOUT ACADEMY OF SCIENTIFIC AND INNOVATIVE RESEARCH (AcSIR)

The Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) is an Institution of National Importance (INI) established by an Act of Parliament, the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research Act, 2011, which was notified in the Gazette of India on April 03, 2012. The Ministry of Education, Govt. of India has listed AcSIR as an INI (<https://www.education.gov.in/en/institutions-national-importance>).

The academic functionality of AcSIR is based on a 'Hub and Spoke' model, wherein the AcSIR Headquarter constitutes its 'hub' shouldering of the responsibilities of academics-cum-administration in the perspectives of policy decisions, academic programme development, course curriculum development, academic alliances/collaborations, admissions, certification, academic monitoring and internal quality control etc, whilst its affiliated Institutes represent the 'spokes' to serve as the mainstay of teaching, mentoring, and doctoral research, through world class research infrastructure of CSIR and under the top-tier mentorship of CSIR scientists appointed as AcSIR faculty members. Geographically, AcSIR offers the opportunity of pursuing Masters and doctoral programs in Science and Engineering at ~30 locations across the length and breadth of the country.

# Integrated MSc (Clinical Research) & PhD



AcSIR has several academic collaborations with reputed International Universities to promote student mobility and exchange. Currently, for joint Ph.D. programs (Cotutelle), AcSIR has agreements with 3 International Universities— Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology University, Australia; University of Western Australia, Australia; Deakin University, Australia and 2 National Institutions namely National Institute of Ayurveda, Jodhpur and Institute of Teaching and Research in Ayurveda, Jamnagar.

The main objectives of AcSIR are:

- To disseminate advanced knowledge in science and technology, by providing teaching and research facilities in such branches of learning as it may deem fit, particularly in emerging areas and such areas as may emerge in future;
- To conduct courses in, and integrated into its courses, inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary areas covering natural sciences, life sciences, mathematical and computational sciences, medical sciences, engineering relating to these areas and interfaces thereof;
- To take appropriate measures for innovations in teaching and learning processes;
- To establish linkages with industries in India and outside India for the promotion of science and technology;
- To collaborate, in appropriate areas in the field of science and technology, with reputed universities and institutions in India or outside India;
- To promote research in science and technology having an impact on social, economic, cultural, intellectual and academic welfare of the people.

This mandate of AcSIR is being achieved progressively through interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary approaches covering the faculties

and areas of Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Mathematical & Information Sciences and Physical Sciences. As on January 31, 2023, 807 Masters and 3509 PhD students have already graduated from AcSIR. Currently, with about 6000 Ph.D Students on its rolls in Science & Engineering, AcSIR is the largest institution of higher education in India and has awarded 476 Ph.D. degrees in the year 2021 in STEM.

The NIRF Ranking by the Ministry of Education ranked AcSIR at 18<sup>th</sup> position in 'Research' category in 2022. As per Nature Index Rankings, AcSIR occupies the 12<sup>th</sup> rank among Universities in India and 2<sup>nd</sup> rank in SCImago ranking (2022) among educational institutes in India.

## UNIQUENESS OF THE PROGRAM

This clinical research program is a blend of principles of basic and advanced research and its application in health sector. It supports AcSIR's mission and vision of affordable health care by advancing knowledge and technology. It also fulfils PHFI's mandate of improving research by imparting training to health professionals. This program delivered by PHFI in partnership with AcSIR aims to contribute in innovative ways to promote health and improve healthcare management in India. During the academic tenure, apart from the program activities and academic support from the faculty, the students will be exposed to certain workshops relevant to the specific course (modules) and due importance will be given to impart skills that enhance their placement opportunities. Successful completion of the MSc program may serve as excellent foundation to go on to take higher degrees like PhD (within and outside India).

### OTHER PROGRAMS IN COLLABORATION WITH AcSIR

#### 1. PhD Program at Indian Institute of Public Health-Delhi

The doctoral degree program in various areas of public health will enable PhD scholars to be future thought leaders in public health. The aim of this doctoral program is to generate knowledge and evidence in public health using scientific & innovative research and develop expertise in specific areas under public health to provide advanced knowledge, mastery of skills in leadership, management, communication, and innovative thinking.

#### 2. Master of Public Health (MPH) at Indian Institute of Public Health-Delhi

Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) in collaboration with Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) brings you this unique opportunity to further your career in the area of public health through the Master of Public Health program. The MPH program is an intensive two-year full time program focusing on enhancing skills and abilities of students in research, management, problem solving, and critical thinking in the area of public health.

#### 3. Integrated MSc (Health Informatics) & PhD at Indian Institute of Public Health-Hyderabad

Integrated MSc (Health Informatics) & PhD is a full time 2-year program (with an option of pursuing PhD) being offered jointly by Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) from the academic year 2013-14 at the Indian Institute of Public Health-Hyderabad. This multi-disciplinary program focuses on applications of informatics and technology in public health. It aims to bring the best in health care and technology based on research and innovations on one platform for students across India and South Asia.

Log on to [www.phfi.org](http://www.phfi.org) for more information about these programs

For more information about the program and to download the program brochure and application form visit: [www.phfi.org](http://www.phfi.org)

Please send your filled application form to the address given below:

**Manager - Academic Programs**

**Indian Institute of Public Health- Delhi,**

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