



Integrated MSc & PhD in Clinical Research

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

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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 & PhD (in clinical research) 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 internship and project work (dissertation). The student needs to complete 11 compulsory core courses (modules), 4 elective courses (modules) in 18 months and submit the project report along with the internship completion certificate to be awarded the MSc degree.

PhD in Clinical Research

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). The main language of instruction would be English.

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 (https://phfi.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Faqs_and_program_details_2022-24.pdf).

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.

SELECTION PROCESS

All candidates should submit the application form for the Integrated MSc & PhD program in the prescribed format, which can be downloaded from PHFI website: https://phfi.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Integrated_MSc_CR_Application-Form_31-May-2022.pdf or apply online. The application consists of registration form, proof of academic credentials, work experience, contact details of 2 referees (academic and/ or professional) and a statement of purpose. 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 executed by a specially constituted screening committee represented by PHFI and AcSIR.

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

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.

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

TEACHING AND TRAINING METHODOLOGY

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.

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 of national and international acclaim. Guides will be identified from both the organizations for mentoring during project work and internship.

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 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 framework will be provided to the students before the beginning of the course.

PROGRAM FEES

The fee structure for MSc (Clinical Research) program for the candidates admitted in the year 2022-24 will be as follows:

For Indian and South Asian Nationals

Tuition Fee:

The annual tuition fee for the students admitted in academic year 2022-24 is INR 2.00 Lakhs per student per academic year (The total tuition fee for the two year program is Rs. 4,00,000/- 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 2022-24 is USD 5,600 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.

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 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 Clinical Research, it also offers on-campus programs, PG Diploma in Public Health Management and Master of Public Health. The institute also offers a range of eLearning courses including ePost Graduate Programs in Public Health Nutrition; Epidemiology; Reproductive and Child Health Programs; and Health Economics, Healthcare Financing & Policy, as well as Certificate courses in Sexually Transmissible Infections & HIV/AIDS; Monitoring & Evaluation of Health Programs; GIS Application in Public Health; Research Ethics; Clinical Research Methods; Public Health Development for ICDS Officials; 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 called the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research Act 2011 (AcSIR Act 2011). Ministry of Education (formerly, Ministry of Human Resource Development) of the Union Government has allocated U-0713 as the ID of AcSIR as an INI <https://www.education.gov.in/en/institutions-national-importance> The AcSIR Act 2011 received the assent of the President of India on February 06, 2012 and its enactment was Gazette Notified in the Gazette of India on April 03, 2012. The Central Government notified CSIR-HRDC, Ghaziabad as the Headquarters of AcSIR on July 19, 2018.

The academic functionality of AcSIR is based on a 'Hub and Spoke' model wherein the AcSIR Headquarter constitutes its 'hub' of centralized shouldering of the responsibilities of academics-cum-administration in the perspectives of policy decisions, academic programme development and promotion, course curriculum development, academic alliances/collaborations, admissions, certification, academic monitoring and internal quality control, compliances etc., whilst CSIR National Laboratories/Institutes represent the 'spokes' to serve as the mainstay of teaching, mentoring, and doctoral research work through world class research infrastructure of CSIR and under the top-tier mentorship of CSIR scientists appointed as AcSIR faculty members. With rapidly growing standing of AcSIR in the arena of academics/higher education (particularly Ph.D. program), recently, many non-CSIR

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national research institutions/organization of repute have also affiliated with AcSIR as its Associate Academic Centres. Geographically, AcSIR offers the opportunity of pursuing Masters and Ph.D. program in Science and Engineering at more than 25 locations across the length and breadth of the nation. AcSIR is rapidly establishing academic linkages with reputed international universities/institutions of education to promote student mobility and exchange in a structured manner for a perennial path. AcSIR- RMIT University (Australia) Joint Ph.D. Program (Cotutelle) is the first successful collaboration of a large scale student mobility for cross-institutions guidance and peer to peer learning.

The objectives of AcSIR, as stipulated in the AcSIR Act 2011, are:

- To disseminate advanced knowledge in science and technology, by providing teaching and research facilities in emerging and futuristic areas of inter-disciplinary and multi-disciplinary areas;
- Adopt measures for innovations in teaching and learning process;
- Create an ambience for learning and scholarship in advanced science and technology instead of exclusively focusing on marks or grades;
- To educate and train manpower in scientific and technological fields;
- To establish linkages with industries in India and outside India for the promotion of science and technology.
- To educate and train manpower in scientific and technological fields;
- 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;
- To organize and undertake extramural studies, training and extension services;

This mandate and mission of AcSIR is being achieved progressively through interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary approaches covering the faculties and areas of Biological Science, Chemical Science,

Engineering Science, Mathematical & Information Science, Physical Science. As on June 30, 2021, 727 Masters and 2648 PhD students have already graduated from AcSIR. Currently, with about 5500 Ph.D Students on its rolls in Science & Engineering, AcSIR is the largest institution of higher education in India and one of the largest in the world in this respect.

AcSIR has attained 2nd rank in 2021 from its 41st rank in the year 2015 with respect to SCImago ranking of higher education institutes in India. SCImago Ranks (2021) of AcSIR among higher education institutes in Asia and the World are 130th and 364th, respectively.

As per Nature Index Rankings (one of the key metrics of quality of publications), AcSIR occupies the 10th rank among Universities in India, 140th rank among Universities in Asia, and 351st rank among Universities worldwide for the period April 01, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

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 enhances 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 PROGRAM IN COLLABORATION WITH AcSIR

1. Integrated MSc & PhD in Health Informatics at Indian Institute of Public Health-Hyderabad

Integrated MSc & PhD in Health Informatics 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 technologies 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.

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.

Log on to 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

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

Senior Program Officer | Academic Programs

Public Health Foundation of India

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