

# Centre for Development Studies

Thiruvananthapuram

## PhD in Economics

Admission – 2021

### Prospectus

Centre for Development Studies (CDS) invites applications for admission to its PhD programme in Economics. This full-time residential programme will commence on Monday, August 02, 2021. Candidates having post-graduation or equivalent degree in any discipline can apply. The focus of the programme is on applied economics and researchers are exposed to diverse frameworks and methodologies. The degree is awarded by the Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi. CDS is also a recognised centre for the PhD of Kerala University. Admission to the programme and its conduct will be according to the provisions in the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of MPhil/PhD Degrees) Regulations, 2016.

## 1 About CDS

CDS is an autonomous research centre sponsored by the Government of Kerala and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). CDS was set up at Thiruvananthapuram under the intellectual leadership of Prof. K.N. Raj in 1970 with the mission of promoting research, teaching, and training in disciplines relevant to development. The Centre is internationally known for its applied economic research relevant for development. CDS has been running two regular academic programmes, MA Applied Economics and PhD in Economics. It has one of the finest libraries in Economics and development subjects in the country. CDS library has a total collection of over 150000 titles in Economics and allied social sciences. The library also subscribes to over 3500 journals available online to faculty and students on a 24 × 7 basis. The Centre subscribes to all leading econometric and statistical softwares and the student hostels are Wi-Fi enabled.

## 2 About the Programme

The PhD programme in CDS was launched in 1975. As on April 2021, 98 candidates have been awarded PhD and five dissertations are under evaluation and 40 students are currently registered. The Programme has a strong orientation towards development studies with a core focus on economic aspect of development. The PhD research topics chosen

by the students are usually aligned with the research interest and expertise of CDS faculty members. Therefore, the prospective applicants are advised to go through the research profile of the current faculty members available at CDS website [www.cds.edu](http://www.cds.edu). Broadly, the research interest and expertise of the current faculty members include Gender and Development, Industrial Development, Trade and Technology, Migration and Development, Population and Human Development, Poverty, Vulnerability and Social Security, Labour and Employment, Globalisation and Development, Agriculture and Plantations, Education and Development and Macroeconomic issues of Indian economy.

### 3 Duration of the Programme

The Programme involves one year of coursework and a dissertation. The coursework, spread over two semesters, comprises courses on economic theory, research methodology and Indian economy. For dissertation, scholars have the opportunity to choose topics of research from a diverse set of fields, provided that the research topic must have an economic dimension. The maximum duration of the PhD programme shall be six years from the date of admission. However, if progress is found to be satisfactory, the candidate may submit the thesis on completion of three years, including the course work, from the date of admission. Three years is the minimum residency period. For further details, kindly peruse the PhD Manual available on CDS website.

### 4 Eligibility

Candidates having **any one of the followings** are eligible to apply.

- An M.Phil degree from any Indian university recognized by the UGC or from a foreign educational institution.
- Master's degree or a professional degree declared equivalent to Master's degree by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC 7-point scale (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed).
- An equivalent degree from a foreign educational institution accredited by an Assessment and Accreditation Agency, which is approved, recognized or authorized by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country for the purpose of assessing, accrediting or assuring quality and standards of educational institutions.

A relaxation of five percentage points in marks, from 55% to 50%, or an equivalent relaxation of grade, may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC(non-creamy layer)/Person with Disability (PWD) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the UGC from time to time, or for those who had obtained their Master's degree prior to 19<sup>th</sup> September, 1991. The relaxation of 5 percentage points in the case

of the categories mentioned above are allowed only on the qualifying marks without including the grace marks, if any.

Those awaiting results of the qualifying degree may also apply. Such candidates, if selected, will be allowed to join the programme only if their previous institutions certify that they have completed all the requirements for award of degree. The name of such candidate shall stand automatically removed from the rolls of the Centre & University if he/she fails to acquire the relevant degree or the relevant marks/ grades stipulated above in Master's programme, when his/her results are announced.

## 5 Number of seats and reservation

- Not more than twelve candidates will be selected for the programme .
- Statutory reservation for Indian candidates belonging to SC, ST, OBC (NCL), Economically Weaker Section (EWS) & Persons with Disability (PWD) (with more than 40% disability) as per Government of India rules is provided.
- Foreign nationals and officials nominated by the Government of Kerala will be considered separately.

## 6 Admission Process

The admission process is different for JRF and non-JRF holders. Note that candidates, who have been awarded only "Lectureship" in the CSIR/UGC examination, will be considered in the non-JRF holders category.

### 6.1 Admission of JRF holders

In the case of candidates qualified for JRF through CSIR/UGC NET examination, the admission will be based solely on personal interview. The interview will be conducted online.

### 6.2 Admission of non-JRF holders

Selection of candidates belonging to this category will be based an entrance examination and personal interview. Due to Covid pandemic the entrance examination and interview will be conducted online. Final selection will be based on the combined scores of the entrance examination and interview; scores will be combined by giving 70 percent weight to the score in entrance examination and 30 percent to the score in interview.

**Entrance examination:** There will be an entrance examination for the non-JRF applicants. The entrance examination would consists of essay writing and short answer questions. Due to the Covid pandemic, the candidates have to write the examination online and submit the answer-sheet within a pre-fixed time. *The answer sheet will be subjected to detailed plagiarism check for copying and other malpractice.*

**Research proposal and interview:** Candidates have to submit a research proposal written in English along with their application. The research proposal should not be more than 2000 words. While we encourage the candidates to be innovative in approach and presentation, we expect the research proposal to have a critical understanding of the body of knowledge in the subject area and to be specific in terms of study issues and objectives and to demonstrate some understanding of the analytical framework and data. The research proposal should not be a copy of a study presented as part of any other programme.

**Applications without research proposal will be summarily rejected.**

**The interview will be done around first and second week of July 2021 and focuses on the followings.**

- The competence of the candidate to undertake the research proposed in the research proposal.
- The suitability of pursuing the research at the Centre.
- The potential of the proposed research to contribute the relevant literature.

## 7 Confirmation of Admission

A candidate who has been provisionally admitted to the PhD programme, is eligible for confirming his/her admission as Research Scholar if:

1. The candidate has completed the course work with minimum CGPA of 5.0 (4.5 CGPA in case of candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Person with Disability (PWD)categories). (For more details see the PhD manual)
2. The candidate's research proposal has been approved. Candidates admitted to the PhD programme shall have their research proposal approved by the Academic Programmes Committee (APC) of CDS within one year from the date of completion of their coursework. The research proposal approved by the APC shall be presented before the JNU-CDS Committee of Direction for ratification.

The names of those candidates who fails to fulfil the above two conditions will be automatically removed from the rolls of CDS and the university.

## 8 Fellowships

Fellowships from a number of sponsoring bodies are available for PhD scholars in CDS. **However, it is important to note that admission to the programme does not guarantee fellowship.** Those who already cleared fellowships like JRF can avail them for their doctoral research. A few fellowships from ICSSR are available in CDS and allocation of these fellowships will be done through a separate procedure.

## 9 Internship opportunities

A few fellowships for doing three month PhD internship in universities and research institutes in Europe and UK are available for PhD scholars whose admission has been confirmed. The selection to the internship programme is done through a competitive process.

## 10 Fees

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|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Tuition Fee:                     | ₹120 per semester    |
| 2 JNU Registration /Enrolment fee: | ₹7615 (one time fee) |
| 3 Miscellaneous Charges:           | ₹500                 |

Hostel facility will be given based on availability. All rooms have attached bath and are modestly furnished. The per person monthly rent for the hostel room for scholars having ICSSR fellowship is ₹500, which includes electricity and water charges. Eligible monthly HRA claimed from the UGC is to be remitted to CDS by the UGC fellowship holders as monthly rent. All hostel residents are attached to the mess and must pay the monthly mess bill in advance within first five working days of each month. Defaulters are not encouraged to remain staying in the hostel.

## 11 How to apply

**Candidates are required to apply online through the online application portal given in the website [www.cds.edu](http://www.cds.edu).** It is the responsibility of the candidates to ensure that all the relevant details are correctly entered. Application fee is ₹500 and it is non-refundable. There is no application fee for candidates belonging to SC/ST/eligible PWD categories. The veracity of these details will be checked later and the candidates should be able to submit the relevant documents during that time. Applications that are found to be incomplete or contain incorrect information will be rejected without any notice.

## 12 Jurisdiction clause

Any disputes arising in connection with the admission process shall be subjected to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Kerala High Court. Further, this prospectus is subject to modification/addition/deletion as may be deemed necessary by the Centre from time to time.

## 13 Important dates

**Last date to submit application: June 05, 2021**  
**Commencement of programme: August 02, 2021**

Please note that the dates given above are subject to change and candidates are advised to keep checking CDS website for latest updates on important dates and admission related matters. For any queries or additional information please contact Academic Programme Office on Tel: 0471 2774253/4 during office hours (9 AM to 5 PM) or write to us [admissionphd@cds.edu](mailto:admissionphd@cds.edu)