



C D S

Centre for Development Studies

Thiruvananthapuram

PhD in Economics

Admission – 2025

Prospectus

Centre for Development Studies (CDS) invites applications for admission to its PhD programme in Economics. Candidates having post-graduation or equivalent degree in any discipline and also cleared UGC NET for PhD admission 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 research of Kerala University. *Admission to the programme and its conduct will be according to the prevailing rules and regulations of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and PhD Ordinance of JNU.*

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 and 125 scholars have been awarded PhD so far. The Programme has a strong orientation towards development 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, applicants are advised to go through the research profile of the current faculty members and PhD supervision vacancies available with each faculty member provided at CDS website www.cds.edu.**

Broadly, the research interest and expertise of the current faculty members include Macroeconomic issues of Indian economy, Industrial Development, International Trade, Innovation and Technological Progress, Gender and Development, Migration and Development, Poverty, Vulnerability and Social Security, Labour and Employment, Agriculture and Plantations. JNU PhD Ordinance also allows for PhD Programme in part-time mode, provided that all the relevant provisions in the Ordinance are complied with.

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. PhD Programme shall be for a minimum duration of three years and a maximum duration of 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.

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)($\geq 40\%$) 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 19th 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.

In addition to the above eligibility requirements, the candidates should also possess any of the following:

1. Must have qualified for UGC JRF and the offer of the JRF is valid at the time of applying.

OR

2. Declared eligible for PhD admission based on the score of UGC NET Examination of June 2024 onwards.

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) (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 UGC-JRF and non-JRF holders. Note that candidates having fellowships other than UGC-JRF (like NFSC, NFST and NFOBC) will be considered under the category of non-JRF and the corresponding admission procedure will be applicable.

JRF category candidates having valid NET score, if they prefer, can seek admission through non-JRF route. For this the candidates have to mention this in the relevant field in the application portal and these candidates will be considered for admission under non-JRF route as explained below.

Admission of JRF holders

In the case of candidates qualified for JRF through UGC NET examination, the admission will be based solely on personal interview. The interview will be held in online mode and its date will be announced later.

Admission of non-JRF holders

Admission of non-JRF holders and JRF holders who preferred non-JRF route will be done on the basis of the UGC-NET score and a personal interview. Final selection will be based on combined scores of the UGC-NET and interview; the scores will be combined by giving 70 percent weight to UGC-NET score and 30 percent to interview score.

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 proposed area of research 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 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 PhD 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 ($\geq 40\%$) categories).
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

Students who have already cleared doctoral research fellowship schemes like JRF can avail them for their PhD research in CDS. PhD students in CDS can also apply for the ICSSR doctoral fellowship. ICSSR doctoral fellowships are awarded on the basis of an all India competition in terms of quality of the research proposal submitted by the candidate to the ICSSR. **It is important to note that admission to the PhD programme in CDS does not guarantee fellowship. Therefore, candidates not having cleared any fellowship scheme must have a plan for financing their doctoral research.**

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: | Rs.120/- per semester |
| 2 JNU Registration & Enrolment fee: | Rs.10115/- (one time fee) |
| 3 Miscellaneous Charges: | Rs.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 is Rs. **500**, which includes electricity and water charges. However, in the case of scholars having fellowship with HRA, the monthly hostel rent is equal to the eligible HRA. 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 stay 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. Application fee is **Rs.500/-** (non-refundable) , which is to be paid online. There is no application fee for candidates belonging to SC, ST and eligible PWD ($\geq 40\%$) categories. It is the responsibility of the candidates to ensure that all the relevant details are correctly entered. Applications that are found to be incomplete or contain incorrect information at any stage of the admission process 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

Date of Online Registration	August 07, 2025 to August 25, 2025
Online interview for shortlisted candidates	September 17 -20, 2025 (tentative)
Commencement of programme	October 15, 2025

Candidates are advised to keep checking CDS website for latest updates on 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 mail to admissionphd@cds.edu