



INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED VIROLOGY

(Autonomous institution under Science & Technology Department, Govt. of Kerala)

Bio 360 Life Sciences Park, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala – 695317

GUIDELINES – PhD PROGRAMME (August 2026)

Institute of advanced virology (IAV) is an autonomous institution under the Science and Technology Department, Govt. of Kerala established in 2019. The research priorities and main goals of the institute are to increase the understanding of the virus and virus infection in a multifarious approach and to develop the suitable and effective means towards prevention, diagnosis and treatment against existing and emerging viruses. IAV has the modern facilities and resources to carry out high-end research in the area of basic as well as translational virology.

The Institute has the following departments currently functional to facilitate research:

1. Department of General Virology
2. Department of Clinical Virology
3. Department of Viral Diagnostics
4. Department of Viral Vaccines
5. Department of Virus Applications
6. Department of Antiviral Drug Research
7. Department of Virus Epidemiology, Vector Dynamics & Public Health
8. Department of Virus Genomics, Bioinformatics & Statistics

The PhD program offered by IAV aims to provide fundamental as well as advanced research facilities on various aspects of virology, including virus-host interactions, viral immunology, virus vaccines, antivirals, epidemiology and viral outbreak studies. The Institute is currently affiliated with Regional Centre for Biotechnology (RCB), Faridabad and Cochin University of Science & Technology (CUSAT). An Institutional Academic Committee will coordinate the PhD programme.

Admission to the PhD program

Admission to PhD programme at IAV will be twice in an academic year and will be only on fulltime basis. The duration of the PhD program will be for a maximum period of five years.

Eligibility Criteria

- i. Qualification: MSc or equivalent Degree in Life Sciences OR MVSc/MBBS or equivalent Degree from a recognized university.
- ii. Qualifying Marks: 60% aggregate score or equivalent grade in the qualifying degree examination (5% relaxation for candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC-NCL/Differently abled categories. Grace marks, if any, will not be considered for determining the minimum qualifying marks)
- iii. Qualified in any of the following examinations and hold a valid fellowship (valid for a period of five years) at the time of interview:
 - Joint CSIR-UGC test for Junior Research Fellowship (CSIR/UGC JRF)
 - Innovation in Science and Pursuit for Inspired Research (DST-INSPIRE)
 - DBT Junior Research Fellowship (DBT-JRF)
 - ICMR Junior Research Fellowship (ICMR-JRF)
 - Any other competitive fellowship offered by Government Agencies.

Admission procedure

Online application with basic details and all relevant supporting documents must be submitted before the last date. The application fee is Rs.500/-.

Shortlisted candidates will be called to appear for an interview. Candidates can give their preference of the departments while applying. However final selection and allotment of department will be as per the vacancy and performance in the interview.

Course Registration

The selected candidate has the choice to register for PhD either at RCB Faridabad or CUSAT as per the guidelines of the respective universities. The registration once done will not be allowed to change.

Fellowship

- (i) The students admitted for PhD programme at IAV have to avail the fellowship for which they are qualified as per the rules of the funding agency.
- (ii) Those candidates who have provisional approval for fellowships will be allowed to register with the affiliated university only after receipt of confirmed sanction order from the funding agency
- (iii) IAV will not be providing any fellowship to the students under any circumstances.

Institutional fee

Academic Administration Fees - Rs.5000/- per semester

Caution Deposit (refundable) - Rs.5000/- (once at the time of admission)

University Fee

As per the guidelines of the affiliating institution opted by the scholar (RCB or CUSAT). This will be in addition to the institutional fees the candidate has to pay.

Research supervisor

The research scholar will be assigned a main supervisor and all research work will be performed under the guidance of the main supervisor. In some cases, upon request by the main supervisor, a co-supervisor from within the institute or from outside the institute may also be allowed with the approval of the Institutional Academic Committee. If the supervisor moves to another university/institute, the student can either be transferred to a new supervisor in the institute or the student can follow the supervisor to the new Institute/University with the approval of the Institutional Academic Committee. There will be a doctoral Committee for every student, the supervisor has to constitute a doctoral committee as per the guidelines of the university the student opts to register. The doctoral committee will be responsible for monitoring the research progress, assessment and approval of pre-synopsis report. The supervisor will be responsible for coordinating the periodic meeting of the doctoral committee and for submitting the periodic reports to the Institutional Academic Committee.

Course work

All research scholars admitted to the PhD program are required to take mandatory course work. The scholars will have to complete the course work as per affiliated university guidelines. The coursework comprises the following courses:

Course I: Cellular and molecular biology

Course II: Core subject- Molecular Virology

Course III: Research methodology

Course IV: Research and publication ethics

Course V: Literature review and research proposal defence

The research scholars should prepare a research proposal related to their work for Course V. A title, objectives and methodology for the proposed research should be provided in the report, and the scholars should give a presentation before the doctoral committee. The committee will assess the research proposal to test their capability for research in the discipline.

Monitoring research progress

After successful completion of the coursework and commencement of the research work, all research scholars are required to give a research progress seminar every six months which will be assessed by the doctoral committee. It will be the primary responsibility of the PhD supervisor to fix the doctoral committee seminars in consultation with the members of the committee and to submit the report to the Institutional Academic Committee. The research scholars should also submit a research progress report in the period concerned and research plans for the next six months. If the research progress is not satisfactory, the student will be informed of the next review to ensure that the scholar has achieved satisfactory research progress.

Pre-synopsis presentation and thesis submission

After completion of thesis work, a presynopsis seminar will be held for finalising the title of the thesis and submission of the thesis. The presynopsis seminar will be conducted 6 months before the thesis submission. The seminar will be attended by doctoral committee members, scientists, research scholars and students.

Minimum requirements for thesis submission

The Scholars are enforced to follow the guidelines of the affiliated Universities apart from IAV specific guidelines. A minimum of 75 % attendance is compulsory during the course tenure. The students should have published at least one first-author research paper from their thesis work before the synopsis submission. They should also have presented their research findings in at least two national or international conferences.

Panel of experts for the evaluation of PhD thesis, plagiarism check, thesis defense or Viva Voce by the candidate will be in accordance with the rules and regulations of affiliated Universities of IAV with which the students are registered.

Accommodation

Limited shared off-campus accommodation is available for female scholars.

Sd/-
Director