



# Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani

Pilani | Dubai | Goa | Hyderabad | Mumbai (An Institution of Eminence)

Kirtimaan Syal, FIC,  
Academic Research Collaborations Unit, Institute-wide

## Guidelines for Academic Collaboration of BITS Pilani and IISER Tirupati

Please review the following guidelines carefully to ensure and facilitate the smooth progression of the PhD student's doctoral studies and adherence to institutional requirements.

### 1. Program Structure and Degree Award

Please note that this is a Collaborative Ph.D. program and not a Joint Ph.D. program. While the research work is conducted under the supervision of faculty members from both BITS Pilani and IISER Tirupati, the Ph.D. degree will be awarded by only one institution, upon successful completion of all academic and research requirements in accordance with the Institute's regulations. The degree will not be jointly awarded by both institutions.

### 2. Academic Guidelines and PhD Coursework

All AGSRD guidelines, including the coursework requirements, qualifying exam, proposal submission, progress review, and thesis submission, will also apply to collaborative students registered at BITS Pilani. The award of the PhD degree shall be subject to the successful completion of all academic and research requirements and the approval of the competent authorities of BITS Pilani in accordance with the applicable regulations. If the student is funded by BITS Pilani, the degree-awarding institute will be BITS Pilani.

Students enrolled in the collaborative PhD program and registered at BITS Pilani shall follow the same coursework requirements and academic regulations applicable to all PhD scholars of BITS Pilani. There are no separate coursework provisions or exemptions for students under this program unless specifically approved by the competent academic authorities.

### 3. Fellowship and Contingency Support

The fellowship for students under this program will be as follows:

- Institute Fellowship: **₹37,000 per month**
- House Rent Allowance (HRA): **30% of the fellowship amount.**
- Annual Research Contingency Grant: **₹20,000 per year**

Students are advised to comply with all institutional regulations governing fellowship disbursement and utilization of contingency funds. **Students may use contingency to cover their travel to the collaborating institute.**

### 4. Publications, Patents, and Intellectual Property

Where project results are jointly conceived or generated by researchers from both institutions, such results shall normally be published jointly. Authorship shall be determined in accordance with accepted academic standards and disciplinary norms.



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## 5. Teaching Assistantship (TA) and Stay at IISER Tirupati

If registered at BITS Pilani, the regular Teaching Assistantship (TA) requirements applicable to all PhD scholars will continue to apply. Students are strongly advised to plan their research work at IISER Tirupati in **one or two extended visits** rather than through multiple short-term visits. Students admitted under this collaborative program are expected to spend **between 6 and 24 months** at IISER Tirupati, with a **maximum permissible stay of four semesters**.

### General Advice

Students are encouraged to:

- Discuss travel and research plans well in advance with both supervisors.
- Maintain regular communication with supervisors at BITS Pilani and IISER Tirupati.
- Plan semester-long visits whenever possible to maximize research productivity and administrative efficiency.
- Obtain all required approvals before travel and ensure compliance with fellowship, registration, TA, and residency requirements.

We look forward to your successful research journey and productive collaboration between BITS Pilani and IISER Tirupati.

**Kirtimaan Syal, FIC, ARC**



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