

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES (DBS)

Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata (IISER Kolkata)

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) Programme — Admission Advertisement, Spring Semester 2027

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for admission to the **Ph.D. Programme of the Department of Biological Sciences (DBS), Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Kolkata (IISER Kolkata)** for the **Spring 2027 semester**.

Details regarding the admission process, eligibility criteria, and application procedure are available on the Institute website. Applicants are strongly encouraged to review the research areas and faculty profiles before submitting their applications.

For information on the research areas of the Department of Biological Sciences, please visit:

- **Faculty profiles and research areas:** <https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/>
- **Department of Biological Sciences:** http://bio.iiserkol.ac.in/?page_id=5624

RESEARCH AREAS AND FACULTY MEMBERS

The research areas open for applications in the **Spring 2027 Ph.D. admission round**, along with the faculty members accepting Ph.D. students in the respective areas, are listed below.

Important Information for Applicants

Only the faculty members listed in this advertisement will be accepting Ph.D. students through this round of admissions. Candidates are therefore advised to carefully review the list of available faculty members and ensure that a potential Ph.D. supervisor in their area of interest is available before submitting their application.

Ph.D. positions are NOT available in the laboratories of Prof. Tapas Kumar Sengupta, Prof. Neelanjana Sengupta and Prof. Bidisha Sinha in this admission round.

Applicants should identify and select a potential supervisor from among the faculty members listed below, whose laboratories are accepting students in this admission round.

1. Interdisciplinary Biology

For students interested in interdisciplinary research spanning **One Health, microplastics in food and the environment, microbial engineering, applied microbiology, extremophiles, enzyme technology, synthetic biology, and antimicrobial resistance**.

Faculty	E-mail	Profile
Prof. Sunil Kumar Khare	skkhare@iiserkol.ac.in	https://bio.iiserkol.ac.in/?page_id=1949

In collaboration with:

Prof. Supratim Datta	supratim@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/supratim/
Prof. Amirul Islam Mallick	amallick@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/amallick/
Prof. Punyasloke Bhadury	pbhadury@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/pbhadury/

2. Biophysics, Biochemistry, and Structural Biology

Faculty members in this category are working in a broad range of research areas, including:

Cellular Biophysics; Structural Biology; Cryo-EM; Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR); Molecular Biophysics; Molecular Biology; Biochemistry and Chemical Biology; Structural Proteomics; Cell Signaling; Structure-Based Drug Design; Drug Development; Drug Delivery; Molecular Medicine; Peptide-Based Therapeutics for Cancer Targeting Oncogenic Signaling Pathways; Peptide based Immunotherapy; Peptide-Based Immuno-Combination Therapy; Targeted Cancer Therapy; Ischemic Diseases; Bleeding Disorders; Cancer Nanomedicine; Regenerative Nanomedicine; Clinical Proteomics of Biological Fluids and Tissues from Patient Samples; and Imaging of Clinically Important Molecules in Human Tissues.

Faculty	E-mail	Profile
Amit Kumar Mandal	amitkm@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/amitkm/
Partha Pratim Datta	partha_datta@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/partha_datta/
Rahul Das	rahul.das@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/rahul-das/
Rituparna Sinha Roy	rituparna@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/rituparna/
Babu Sudhamalla	s.babu@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/old/en/people/faculty/dbs/s-babu/#gsc.tab=0

3. Theoretical Biophysics, Mathematical Biology, and Soft Matter Physics

For students with a background in **Physics or Mathematics** who are interested in **Biological Physics, Non-Equilibrium Phase Transitions, and Stochastic Models in Biology**.

Faculty	E-mail	Profile
Dipjyoti Das	dipjyoti.das@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/dipjyoti-das/

4. Cell Biology and Protein Biochemistry

For students interested in **Actin-Binding Proteins in Cell Migration and Disease, Membrane Trafficking, Channel and Transporter Biology, Metal Homeostasis, and Metal-Associated Diseases**.

Faculty	E-mail	Profile
Sankar Maiti	spm@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/spm/
Subrata Pramanik	subrata.pramanik@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/faculty-details/subrata-pramanik
Arnab Gupta	arnab.gupta@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/old/en/people/faculty/dbs/arnab-gupta/#gsc.tab=0
Sumit Sen Santara	sumit.santara@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/faculty-details/sumit-santara
Rupak Datta	rupakdatta@iiserkol.ac.in	https://bio.iiserkol.ac.in/?page_id=4474

5. Developmental and Human Stem Cell Biology

For students interested in **Metazoan Morphogenesis and Human Mesenchymal Stem cell Biology**

Faculty	E-mail	Profile
Mohit Prasad	mohitprasad@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/mohitprasad/
Malancha Ta	malancha.ta@iiserkol.ac.in	https://sites.google.com/iiserkol.ac.in/stemcelllab/home?pli=1&authuser=0

6. Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology

For students interested in **Plant Physiology, Developmental and Molecular Biology**, including:

- Genetic and epigenetic mechanisms underlying plant responses to climate change.
- Understanding the trade-offs between plant growth and disease resistance using **Arabidopsis** and **rice** as model systems.
- Plant biotechnological approaches for developing **climate-resilient crops**.
- Crop physiology and agronomic traits underlying plant productivity, stress tolerance, and resource-use efficiency.
- Translating fundamental insights in plant biology into agricultural applications for improving crop performance, resilience, and sustainable production.

Faculty	E-mail	Profile
Sreeramaiah N. Gangappa	ngsreeram@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/ngsreeram/#gsc.tab=0
Radhika Venkatesan	rv@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/faculty-details/radhika-venkatesan

7. Disease Biology

For students interested in **Virology; Immunology; Vesicle Biology; Epigenetics and Chromatin Biology; Gene Regulation; Neural Cell Biology; Neuroscience; Lysosome Biology and Lysosome-Associated Diseases; Channelopathies and Diseases of Membrane Transporters; Natural Killer (NK) Cells; Immunotherapy; Cancer Biology; Infectious Diseases; Peptide-Based Therapeutics for Cancer Targeting Oncogenic Signaling Pathways; Peptide based Immunotherapy; Peptide-Based Immuno-Combination Therapy; Targeted Cancer Therapy; Ischemic Diseases; Bleeding Disorders; Molecular Basis of Stress Responses; Drug Development; Drug Delivery; Molecular Medicine; Cancer Nanomedicine; Regenerative Nanomedicine; Clinical Proteomics of Biological Fluids and Tissues from Patient Samples; and Imaging of Clinically Important Molecules in Human Tissues**

Faculty	E-mail	Profile
Amirul Islam Mallick	amallick@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/~amallick/
Amit Kumar Mandal	amitkm@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/amitkm/
Partha Pratim Datta	partha_datta@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/partha_datta/
Rahul Das	rahul.das@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/rahul-das/
Rituparna Sinha Roy	rituparna@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/rituparna/
Rupak Datta	rupakdatta@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/rupakdatta/
Arnab Gupta	arnab.gupta@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/old/en/people/faculty/d

		bs/arnab-gupta/
Babu Sudhamalla	s.babu@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/old/en/people/faculty/dbs/s-babu/#gsc.tab=0
Sumit Sen Santara	sumit.santara@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/faculty-details/sumit-santara

8. Microbiology and Marine Biology

For students interested in **Marine Microbiology; Climate Change and Ocean Acidification; Blue Carbon and Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal (mCDR); Microbial Ecology; Gut Microbiome; Community and Ecosystem Ecology; Restoration Ecology; Biodiversity Conservation; Wildlife Habitat Management; and Bioremediation.**

Faculty	E-mail	Profile
Amirul Islam Mallick	amallick@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/~amallick/
Partha Pratim Datta	partha_datta@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/partha_datta/
Punyasloke Bhadury	pbhadury@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/pbhadury/
Robert John Chandran	robert.john@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/robert-john/

9. Synthetic Biology and Biotherapeutics

For students interested in **synthetic biology-based approaches to the biomanufacturing of enzymes for industrial biotechnology; metabolic engineering of microbes; synthetic biology method development; synthetic biology-based biosensors; and synthetic biology-based therapeutics to combat antimicrobial resistance (AMR).**

Faculty	E-mail	Profile
Supratim Datta	supratim@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/supratim/
Subrata Pramanik	subrata.pramanik@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/faculty-details/subrata-pramanik

Biotherapeutics

For students interested in **biotherapeutics in the areas of Cancer Biology; Peptide-Based Therapeutics for Cancer Targeting Oncogenic Signaling Pathways; Peptide based Immunotherapy; Peptide-Based Immuno-Combination Therapy; Targeted Cancer Therapy; Regenerative Medicine; Diabetic Wound Healing; Bleeding Disorders; and Therapeutic Peptide Engineering.**

Faculty	E-mail	Profile
Rituparna Sinha Roy	rituparna@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/rituparna/

10. Theoretical and Computational Biology

For students interested in **theoretical and computational approaches to biology**, including **Computational Biophysics; Multiscale Molecular Simulations; AI/ML-Based Model Development; Bioinformatics; Computational Cell Biology; and Cryo-EM Image Processing.**

Faculty	E-mail	Profile
Dipjyoti Das	dipjyoti.das@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/dipjyoti-das/
Partha Pratim Datta	partha_datta@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/partha_datta/
Rituparna Sinha Roy	rituparna@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/rituparna/
Subrata Pramanik	subrata.pramanik@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/faculty-details/subrata-pramanik

11. Behavior, Ecology, and Evolution

For students interested in the **broad areas of Animal Behavior; Cognition; Biodiversity and Conservation; Community Ecology; Microbial Ecology; Chemical Ecology; Plant–Insect Interactions; and Marine Microbiology.**

Faculty	E-mail	Profile
Anindita Bhadra	abhadra@iiserkol.ac.in	https://sites.google.com/view/doglabiiserkolkata/
Annagiri Sumana	sumana@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/sumana/
Anuradha Bhat	anuradhabhat@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/anuradhabhat/
Punyasloke Bhadury	pbhadury@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/pbhadury/
Radhika Venkatesan	rv@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/faculty-details/radhika-venkatesan
Robert John Chandran	robert.john@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/robert-john/

12. Neurobiology and Regenerative Medicine

For students interested in understanding the **cellular and genetic mechanisms underlying regeneration, development, degeneration, and aging** across diverse model organisms.

Degeneration is characterized by a decline in tissue and cellular functions and is associated with an increased incidence of age-related conditions, including **neurodegenerative disorders, spinal cord injuries, stroke, cardiovascular diseases, metabolic disorders, musculoskeletal conditions, and immune system dysfunctions.**

While aging is generally considered a natural aspect of human life, certain organisms exhibit remarkable regenerative capacities and traits associated with biological immortality, effectively bypassing aspects of the conventional aging process. Understanding the fundamental cellular and genetic mechanisms governing **regeneration, development, and degeneration** across diverse species remains one of the profound challenges in the natural sciences.

Using unique model organisms, research in this area aims to uncover the **genetic and molecular basis of regeneration, development, aging, and degeneration**, with the long-term goal of translating fundamental discoveries into therapeutic strategies for diseases, including **neurodegenerative and cardiovascular disorders.**

Faculty	E-mail	Profile
Subrata Pramanik	subrata.pramanik@iiserkol.ac.in	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/faculty-details/subrata-pramanik

INSTITUTE-FUNDED PH.D. FELLOWS

Institute-funded Ph.D. positions are available in the following laboratories:

1. Chromatin Biology, Epigenetics and Gene Regulation

Faculty Name	Babu Sudhamalla
E-mail	s.babu@iiserkol.ac.in
Lab Website	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/~s.babu

Study Field: The selected candidate will investigate how cellular stress influences chromatin regulators and reshapes gene expression in disease-relevant cellular states. The project will focus on understanding how chromatin-associated proteins respond to cellular signals, regulate chromatin function, and drive transcriptional reprogramming.

Essential Qualifications: A Master's degree with a minimum of 60% marks in a relevant branch of Life Sciences. A strong foundation in biochemistry and molecular biology. The candidate must have qualified at least one recognized national-level eligibility examination, such as GATE, NET-JRF (Category II), NET-JRF (Category III), or DBT-JRF (Category B), as applicable.

Desirable Qualifications: Research experience in one or more of the following areas will be an advantage: mammalian cell culture, protein biochemistry, proteomics, bioinformatics, or microscopy.

2. Host-Pathogen Interactions

Faculty Name	Amirul Islam Mallick
E-mail	amallick@iiserkol.ac.in
Lab Website	https://hpilab-iiserkol.site.je/index.php?i=1

Study Field: We are seeking a highly motivated candidate for a Ph.D. project focused on host-pathogen interactions. This collaborative project with an international partner aims to develop mRNA-based vaccine strategies against viral infections. The selected candidate will investigate how different lipid compositions influence the function of lipid nanoparticles (LNPs) and other composite nanoparticles for efficient in vivo mRNA delivery. The project has an interdisciplinary scope, integrating cell biology, molecular biology, gut metagenomics, disease biology, and mucosal immunology.

Essential Qualifications: A Master's degree or equivalent in Microbiology, Immunology, Molecular Biology, or a closely related discipline, with a strong academic record and a sound foundation in host-pathogen interactions, infectious diseases, or mucosal biology. The candidate must have qualified at least one recognized national-level eligibility examination, such as GATE, NET-JRF (Category II), NET-JRF (Category III), or DBT-JRF (Category B), as applicable.

Desirable Qualifications: Prior experience in one or more of the following areas will be an advantage: molecular cloning, PCR/qPCR, cell culture, microbiology, gut microbiome analysis, metagenomics, or bioinformatics.

3. Disease Biology

Faculty Name	Rupak Datta
E-mail	rupakdatta@iiserkol.ac.in
Lab Website	https://bio.iiserkol.ac.in/?page_id=4474

Study Field: The research will focus on disease biology using approaches in biochemistry, molecular biology, and cell biology.

Essential Qualifications: A Master's degree with a minimum of 60% marks in a relevant branch of Life Sciences. The candidate must have qualified at least one recognized national-level eligibility examination, such as GATE, NET-JRF (Category II), NET-JRF (Category III), or DBT-JRF (Category B), as applicable.

Desirable Qualifications: A sound understanding of biochemistry, molecular biology, and cell biology is desirable. Research experience in one or more of the following areas will be an advantage: cell culture, protein purification, molecular cloning, or biochemical assays. Strong analytical and problem-solving skills are expected.

4. Microbial Ecology and Ecological Restoration

Faculty Name	Punyasloke Bhadury
E-mail	pbhadury@iiserkol.ac.in
Lab Website	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/old/en/people/faculty/dbs/pbhadury/#gsc.tab=0

Study Field: We are seeking a highly motivated candidate for a Ph.D. project focused on deciphering microbial ecology of carbon cycling of blue carbon ecosystems (e.g. mangroves) and freshwater ecosystems (e.g. wetlands and rivers) that can serve as the basis for ecological restoration. The selected candidate will develop community microbiomes for restoration of degraded ecosystems including the application of innovative sustainable microbiology based approaches inspired from nature. This project with partners from international organizations intends to develop new benchmarks for ecological restoration including for biodiversity credits. The project has an interdisciplinary scope integrating field biology, culture based microbiology, and robust biogeochemical measurements.

Essential Qualifications: A Master's degree or equivalent in Microbiology, Environmental Science, Life Science or a closely related discipline, with a strong academic record and a sound foundation in microbiology. The candidate must have qualified at least one recognized national-level eligibility examination, such as GATE, NET-JRF (Category II), NET-JRF (Category III), or DBT-JRF (Category B), or JGEEBILS, as applicable.

Desirable Qualifications: Prior experience in one or more of the following areas will be an advantage: culture based microbiology, basics of molecular biology techniques or carbon estimations in ecosystems.

5. Structural Basis of Molecular Signaling

Faculty Name	Rahul Das
E-mail	rahul.das@iiserkol.ac.in
Lab Website	https://molecularsignalinglab513922014.wordpress.com/

Study Field: We are seeking a highly motivated candidate for a PhD position focused on studying the regulation of receptor or non-receptor tyrosine kinases in immune cells. This collaborative project aims to develop ligands that will generate predictable signaling at the membrane.

Essential Qualifications: A Master's degree in Biochemistry/chemistry with a minimum of 60% marks. The candidate must have qualified at least one recognized national-level eligibility examination, such as GATE, NET-JRF (Category II), NET-JRF (Category III), or DBT-JRF (Category B), as applicable.

Desirable Qualifications: A strong background in biochemistry/chemistry and molecular biology is essential. Acquaintance with programming and image analysis will be useful in the project.

6. Structural Proteomics and Imaging of Clinically Important Molecules

Faculty Name	Amit Kumar Mandal
E-mail	amitkm@iiserkol.ac.in
Lab Website	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/web/en/people/faculty/dbs/amitkm/

Study Field: We are seeking a highly motivated candidate for a PhD position focused on studying Structural Proteomics, Protein Structure and Function, Molecular Biophysics, and Imaging of Clinically Important Biomolecules.

Essential Qualifications: A Master's degree in Biochemistry/ Physiology/ Chemistry/ Biotechnology/ Molecular Biology/ Medicinal Biochemistry, or a related discipline with a minimum of 60% marks. The candidate must have qualified at least one recognized national-level eligibility examination, such as GATE, NET-JRF (Category II), NET-JRF (Category III), or DBT-JRF (Category B) or an equivalent national-level examination as applicable.

Desirable Qualifications: Hands-on experience in wet-lab research involving protein structure and characterization, along with exposure to analytical techniques such as spectrophotometry, spectrofluorometry, mass spectrometry, and chromatographic methods.

7. Study of collective cell motion and bacterial population dynamics

Faculty Name (PI)	Jayasri Das Sarma
E-mail (PI)	dassarmaj@iiserkol.ac.in
Faculty Name (Co-PI)	Dipjyoti Das
E-mail (Co-PI)	dipjyoti.das@iiserkol.ac.in
Lab websites	https://www.iiserkol.ac.in/~dassarmaj/index.html , https://dipjyotidas85.wixsite.com/tpbg

Study Field: We are seeking a highly motivated candidate to investigate the biomechanics of collective cell motion and bacterial population dynamics under environmental stress. This will be a collaborative project with the laboratories of Prof. Das Sarma (PI) and Dr. Dipjyoti Das (co-PI) at the interface of wet-lab experiments, computational modelling and physics.

Essential Qualifications: A background in biophysics and biochemistry with coursework in mathematics and/or physics up to the Bachelor's level (minimum 65% marks in both BSc and MSc levels). The candidate must have qualified at least one recognized national-level eligibility examination, such as GATE, JEST, NET-JRF (Category II), NET-JRF (Category III), or DBT-JRF (Category B) as applicable.

Desirable Qualifications: Familiarity with programming and image analysis will be an advantage. Prior experience in culture-based microbiology and basic molecular biology techniques is desirable.

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Candidates must hold a **Master's degree** (or equivalent) in any branch of Science, including Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Biological Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Veterinary Sciences, Ecology and Environmental Sciences, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Chemical Engineering, or related disciplines. Candidates holding **B.E., B.Tech., M.Tech., MBBS, MVSc, or MD degrees**, or equivalent qualifications, are also eligible, provided they have obtained a **minimum of 55% marks** or an equivalent grade.

A **5% relaxation in marks, or an equivalent relaxation in grade**, may be allowed for candidates belonging to **SC/ST/OBC (Non-Creamy Layer)/Differently-Abled/Economically Weaker Section (EWS)** and other categories as per applicable Government of India rules.

Candidates whose final results for their Master's degree or equivalent qualification are yet to be declared may also apply. However, if selected, their admission/offer will be **provisional and subject to fulfillment of the above eligibility criteria at the time of admission**.

FELLOWSHIP / ELIGIBILITY EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must possess **at least one** of the following qualifications:

- Qualification in a **National-Level Eligibility Examination that provides a five-year Ph.D. fellowship**, such as **CSIR-JRF (Category I)**, **UGC-JRF (Category I)**, **DBT-JRF-A**, **ICMR-JRF**, **DBT-BINC-JRF**, **Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship**, **National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students**, **National Fellowship for Higher Education of ST Students**, **National Fellowship for OBC Candidates**, **National Fellowship for Persons with Disabilities (NFPwD)**, or an equivalent fellowship.
- **The aforementioned fellowships must remain valid until December 31, 2026.**
- Candidates with a **four-year Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 75% marks** and their own valid fellowship (e.g., CSIR, UGC, or equivalent) are also eligible to apply for the Ph.D. Programme at IISER Kolkata.

INSTITUTE-FUNDED PH.D. POSITIONS

For **Institute-funded Ph.D. positions**, applicants must possess at least one of the following qualifications: **NEET-PG**, **INI-CET**, **CSIR-UGC NET JRF (Category II)**, **CSIR-UGC NET JRF (Category III)**, **DBT-JRF (Category B)**, **JGEEBILS**, **GATE**, **JEST**, or an equivalent qualification.

SHORTLISTING AND INTERVIEW PROCESS

Please note that **fulfillment of the minimum eligibility criteria does not guarantee shortlisting for an interview**. Principal Investigators (PIs) in the Department of Biological Sciences (DBS) may apply additional shortlisting criteria based on the candidate's **academic record, relevant qualifications, research experience, and other relevant achievements**.

Only candidates shortlisted for the interview process will be informed of the further details.

Candidates are advised to regularly check the Ph.D. admission portal for updates: [IISER Kolkata Ph.D. Admission Portal](#)

IMPORTANT POINTS FOR APPLICANTS

1. Selection of Potential Ph.D. Supervisor	Candidates may select only those faculty members as potential Ph.D. supervisors whose names are listed in this advertisement .
2. Personal Contact Information	Candidates are required to provide their own personal mobile number and personal e-mail address while filling out the Ph.D. application form. The mobile number and e-mail address of a parent, guardian, or any other person must not be provided in place of the candidate's own contact details.
3. Ph.D. Helpdesk	Candidates are requested to send their queries to the Ph.D. Helpdesk for DBS at: dbs.phd.application@iiserkol.ac.in . Candidates should send a copy of the correspondence to their potential Ph.D. supervisor .
4. Online Interview Requests	Although the Department prefers in-person Ph.D. interviews , requests for online interviews may be considered on a case-by-case basis , subject to the discretion of the potential supervisor. Such requests should be sent to the potential supervisor , with a copy to the Ph.D. Helpdesk for DBS at dbs.phd.application@iiserkol.ac.in . Candidates appearing for online Ph.D. interviews may request their referees to e-mail their recommendation letters directly to the potential supervisor .
5. Frequently Asked Questions	Candidates are advised to carefully go through the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) available at the Ph.D. Admission FAQs page.
6. Selection of Potential Supervisor	Candidates must select the name of their potential Ph.D. supervisor from among the faculty members listed in this advertisement .

7. Recommendation Letter Format	The recommendation letter format can be downloaded from the Recommendation Letter Format page.
8. Problems with Application Submission	If a candidate encounters any problem while submitting the application, they should contact the Ph.D. Helpdesk for DBS at dbs.phd.application@iiserkol.ac.in , with a copy to the potential supervisor . The subject line of the e-mail should clearly state: "Facing Problem in Submitting the Ph.D. Application Form" .
9. Downloading the Application Form	If a candidate is unable to download the application form, they should first ensure that the application form has been completely filled out and the application fee has been successfully paid . The "Print Application Form" link will become available only after successful completion of these steps.
10. Issues with Payment of Application Fees	In some cases, the application fee may be debited from the applicant's online banking account even though the payment transaction is not successfully completed, which may prevent the candidate from submitting the application. In such cases, candidates should navigate to Fees → Application Fee → Refresh and click on the "Refresh" link. If the payment status is still not updated, candidates are advised to wait for 2–3 days for the amount to be automatically reverted to the original online banking channel. Once the amount has been reverted, candidates may use the "Try Again" option under the Fees tab to make the payment again.
11. Editing the Application	Candidates may edit the potential supervisor's name and the Statement of Purpose (SOP) before the application deadline. The potential supervisor can be changed by selecting the desired name from the "Potential Supervisor" drop-down menu under the "Statement of Purpose" tab. Candidates may also edit the other information available on this page before the application deadline .

DBS SPRING SEMESTER 2027 PH.D. TIMELINE

Milestone	Date
Ph.D. application portal opens	17.09.2026
Application portal closes	11.10.2026 (Sunday)
Publication of interview shortlist	16.10.2026 (Friday)
Selection interview window	27.10.2026 (Tuesday) – 14.11.2026 (Saturday)
Tentative dates for DBS in-person Ph.D. interviews	04.11.2026 (Wednesday) – 05.11.2026 (Thursday)
Online Ph.D. interview window	27.10.2026 (Tuesday) – 31.10.2026 (Saturday)
Online interviews	<i>May be conducted on a case-by-case basis, subject to the discretion of the potential supervisor.</i>
Publication of Ph.D. interview results	19.11.2026 (Thursday)
Pre-registration portal opens	23.11.2026 (Monday)
Registration for Spring Semester 2027	30.12.2026 (Wednesday) <i>Applicable to all newly admitted students.</i>