

# Samvaad Overseas

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A Monthly News Letter

For private circulation only

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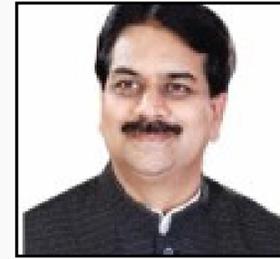
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### Samvaad Overseas Editorial

It is with great pleasure that the Dean International Relations Office and the Students International Relations Cell at PCCOE present to you volume 2, issue 12 of "Samvaad- Overseas", under the esteemed guidance of our honourable Director, Dr. Govind N. Kulkarni.

In "Samvaad-Overseas" our aim is to highlight PCCOE's global engagement endeavours, partnerships with universities or organisations worldwide, collaborative initiatives, academic exchanges, and research engagements that enhance cross-border knowledge sharing.

This newsletter showcases academic and research exchange opportunities, highlights international conferences, guest visits, and celebrates faculty and student achievements on the global stage. It also covers key events that enhance our institute's global presence and foster international collaboration. We hope Samvaad-Overseas is both informative and inspiring as we strengthen global ties. Thank you for your continued support and encouragement.

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## Academic Milestone: Ph.D Achievement

### A Journey of Perseverance, Purpose, and Possibility: My Ph.D. Story

Pursuing a Ph.D. is often described as an academic milestone, but for me, it has been far more than that—it has been a journey of self-discovery, resilience, and unwavering belief in the power of research to create meaningful impact. I am deeply grateful and humbled to share that I have successfully defended my Ph.D. at Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP), Malaysia, a globally reputed institution ranked among the QS World University Rankings top 250, under the Joint Ph.D. Supervision Agreement between UTP and Pimpri Chinchwad College of Engineering (PCCOE).

This journey began with a simple yet powerful curiosity—a desire to explore, question, and contribute to the evolving domain of computer engineering. What followed was a rigorous academic path that demanded not only intellectual commitment but also emotional strength, adaptability, and patience. Balancing research responsibilities, teaching commitments at PCCOE, and collaborative work across international academic systems was both challenging and enriching.



## Academic Milestone: Ph.D Achievement

The joint Ph.D. program offered a unique opportunity to experience the best of two academic cultures. At UTP, I was exposed to a vibrant research ecosystem, advanced infrastructure, and a global perspective that broadened my understanding of interdisciplinary research. At PCCOE, I found constant encouragement, institutional support, and a strong academic foundation that kept me grounded. This dual mentorship model strengthened my research outlook and reinforced the importance of collaboration in today's academic world.



Like every research journey, mine was marked by moments of doubt, failed experiments, revisions, and long hours of contemplation. Yet, each obstacle became a lesson, and each setback refined my approach. The process taught me that research is not about instant results but about persistence, critical thinking, and the courage to start again—with more clarity and confidence.

I owe my deepest gratitude to my supervisors at UTP and PCCOE for their invaluable guidance, patience, and belief in my work. Their mentorship shaped not only my research but also my academic identity. I am equally thankful to the management of PCCOE for enabling this international collaboration and fostering an environment where faculty members are encouraged to pursue excellence.

This Ph.D. journey has reaffirmed my commitment to teaching and research. As an Assistant Professor in the Computer Engineering Department at PCCOE, I now return to the classroom with renewed enthusiasm—to inspire students, integrate research with teaching, and encourage young minds to dream beyond boundaries. I strongly believe that research-driven education is the key to innovation and societal progress.

In conclusion, this achievement is not mine alone—it belongs to every mentor who guided me, every colleague who supported me, every student who motivated me, and every institution that believed in my potential. My Ph.D. journey stands as a reminder that with the right support system, global collaboration, and perseverance, even the most demanding academic dreams can be realized.

I look forward to the road ahead—with gratitude in my heart and curiosity as my compass.

## **JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Research in Japan (Standard)**

The JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship (Standard) provides outstanding early-career researchers with the opportunity to conduct long-term collaborative research at leading Japanese universities and research institutions. Researchers work under the guidance of a Japanese host researcher while engaging with world-class facilities and research environments.

### **Who Can Apply:**

Researchers who have obtained a PhD on or after 2 April 2020, or equivalent research experience, and who are based outside Japan.

### **Duration:**

12 – 24 months of full-time research in Japan.

### **Support Includes:**

- Round-trip airfare (economy class)
- Monthly maintenance allowance (~¥362,000)
- Settling-in allowance (~¥200,000)
- Research support allowance through the host institution
- Overseas travel and accident/health insurance
- The fellowship fully supports the researcher's stay and collaborative project.

### **Application Deadlines (FY 2026):**

- 1st Recruitment: 29 August 2025
- 2nd Recruitment: 28 April 2026
- Applications must be submitted by the host researcher at the Japanese institution through the designated JSPS process.

This fellowship is ideal for early-career researchers aiming to deepen their research experience, strengthen international collaborations, and build a global academic profile.

## **JSPS Postdoctoral Fellowship for Research in Japan (Short-Term)**

For researchers at earlier stages including PhD candidates and recently graduated postdocs, the JSPS Postdoctoral Short-Term Fellowship enables shorter collaborative research stays with leading research groups in Japan.

**Duration: 1–12 months of research, with continuous residence in Japan.**

### **Support Includes:**

- Round-trip airfare (economy class)
- Monthly maintenance allowance
- Overseas travel and health insurance
- Research support contributions through the host institute
- This fellowship is especially useful for researchers seeking exposure to Japan's research ecosystem without committing to a multi-year stay.

### **Application Notes:**

Applications are submitted by Japanese host researchers to JSPS Headquarters through the electronic application system. Starting dates must fall within specified fiscal windows (e.g., August–March).

The JSPS BRIDGE Fellowship enables past JSPS fellows to revisit Japan to create, sustain, and strengthen existing research collaborations with Japanese colleagues.

### **Who Can Apply:**

Researchers who have previously completed a JSPS fellowship and are active in research at a university or research institute, and who are regular members of a JSPS alumni association.

**Duration: 14–30 days.**

### **Support Includes:**

- Round-trip airfare
- Daily maintenance allowance (~¥13,000)
- Research support allowance (up to ¥100,000)
- Overseas travel insurance

### **Application Timeline:**

- Call opens: 26 November 2025
- Deadline: 12 January 2026
- Fellowship period: 1 July 2026 – 31 March 2027

The BRIDGE fellowship is tailored for researchers who have already built networks through JSPS programmes and wish to deepen and expand them through short collaborative stays.

## JSPS Invitational Fellowships for Research in Japan

### Invitational Fellowship (Long-Term)

- Duration: 2–10 months
- Who Can Apply: Researchers with strong publication records and significant academic achievements across all fields.
- Support Includes:
  - Round-trip airfare
  - Monthly maintenance allowance (~¥387,600)
  - Research support allowance (~¥150,000)
  - Overseas travel insurance
  - Applications are submitted by the Japanese host researcher to JSPS Headquarters

### Application Deadline:

- 29 August 2025 (by 5 p.m. JST)
- Fellowship Window:
  - Between 1 April 2026 and 31 March 2027

### Invitational Fellowship (Short-Term)

- Duration: 14–60 days
- Who Can Apply: Established researchers invited by Japanese institutions for short research visits, exchanges, workshops, or lectures.
- Support Includes:
  - Round-trip airfare
  - Daily maintenance allowance (~¥18,000)
  - Research support allowance (up to ¥150,000)
  - Overseas travel insurance
  - Applications are submitted by Japanese host institutions to JSPS Headquarters.

### Application Deadlines:

- 1st Call: 29 August 2025
- 2nd Call: 28 April 2026
- Start dates must fall within the designated fiscal period for Japan visits.

Short-term invitational fellowships are excellent for scholars seeking focused research exchanges, academic talks, and collaboration planning with Japanese partners.



## **KWI International Postdoctoral Fellowship, Germany**

The KWI International Postdoctoral Fellowship, offered by KWI International GmbH, Germany, is a highly regarded opportunity for early-career researchers in the humanities, cultural studies, and social sciences who seek to strengthen their academic work through international research exposure. The fellowship is designed to promote innovative, interdisciplinary scholarship while fostering meaningful engagement within a vibrant global research community.

The programme provides a fully funded six-month research residency at the Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut (KWI) in Germany, scheduled from 1 October 2026 to 31 March 2027. During this period, fellows are encouraged to pursue independent research projects, participate in seminars and academic discussions, and collaborate with scholars from diverse disciplinary and cultural backgrounds.

To support scholars throughout the residency, the fellowship offers a monthly allowance of €3,000 (pre-tax), intended to cover living expenses in Germany. This financial support enables fellows to focus entirely on their research goals while benefiting from Germany's well-established and internationally respected research ecosystem.

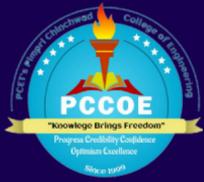
The fellowship is open to applicants who have completed their PhD in 2020 or later, making it particularly suitable for early-career researchers looking to expand their academic networks and gain global visibility. Researchers from a wide range of disciplines within the humanities, cultural studies, and social sciences are encouraged to apply.

More than a funding opportunity, the KWI International Postdoctoral Fellowship provides a platform for intellectual growth, interdisciplinary exchange, and long-term academic collaboration. By engaging with leading scholars and an internationally diverse research community, fellows can significantly enhance the reach, relevance, and impact of their research.

**Application Deadline: 28 February 2026**

**Further Information and Application Details:**

<https://www.kulturwissenschaften.de/en/kwi-international-fellowship-programmes/>



## Summer Research Opportunities at Kyoto University, Japan 2026

Kyoto University, one of Japan's most prestigious and research-intensive institutions, invites applications for its Summer Research Program 2026, offering an excellent opportunity for Undergraduate (UG) and Postgraduate (PG) students from India who aspire to pursue a PhD at Kyoto University. The programme is designed to provide early exposure to world-class research, international academic culture, and close mentorship under leading faculty members.

The summer research opportunity allows selected students to engage in hands-on research projects aligned with their academic background and long-term doctoral goals. Participants will work closely with Kyoto University professors, gain access to advanced laboratories, libraries, and research facilities, and experience Japan's globally respected academic environment.

The programme is open to students currently enrolled in Indian universities at the undergraduate or postgraduate level, with a strong academic record and a clear interest in research. Applicants should demonstrate motivation to pursue full-time research during the programme and express a strong intention to apply for a PhD at Kyoto University in the future.

The internship will be conducted from 19 May to 10 July 2026, providing participants with an intensive research experience over nearly two months. To support students during their stay, accommodation will be provided by Kyoto University, ensuring a comfortable and focused research environment.

This summer research programme offers several advantages, including direct mentorship at a globally ranked university, early exposure to PhD-level research, enhancement of academic profiles for future doctoral applications, international research experience in Japan, and valuable opportunities for cultural exchange and global networking.

Interested students are encouraged to review the detailed eligibility criteria, research areas, and application procedure through the official programme page.

**Application Deadline: 27 January 2026**

**More Information and Application Details:**

<https://www.kugd.k.kyoto-u.ac.jp/en/ku-star-program/>

## **NUS Young Fellowship Programme 2026**

The NUS Young Fellowship Programme 2026 is a prestigious international initiative by the National University of Singapore designed to introduce high-achieving undergraduate students to graduate-level research. With a strong focus on artificial intelligence and advanced research, the programme offers early exposure to NUS's world-class academic and research environment.

### **Programme Structure**

- **On-site programme:**
  - 22–26 June 2026 (Singapore)
  - Lectures, workshops, and lab visits at NUS
  - Complimentary on-campus accommodation
- **Online component:**
  - 26 June – 24 July 2026
  - Tutorials, mentorship, and project work
- **Final Presentation:**
  - 24 July 2026 (online)

### **Benefits**

- Exposure to graduate research environment at NUS
- Mentorship from NUS faculty and researchers
- Global networking with high-achieving peers
- SGD 500 travel allowance upon successful completion

### **Eligibility**

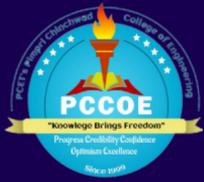
- Senior undergraduates (Year 3 or above)
- Strong academic background
- Achievements in research, leadership, innovation, or community engagement
- Open to students from all disciplines and nationalities

### **Application Requirements**

- CV (maximum 2 pages)
- Personal statement / reflective essay (up to 1,000 words)
- Passport-size photograph

**Official Programme Page & Application Updates:**

<https://nusgs.nus.edu.sg/education/nus-young-fellowship-programme/>



## **Taiwan ICDF International Higher Education Scholarship 2026**

The Taiwan ICDF International Higher Education Scholarship 2026 offers a valuable opportunity for outstanding international students to pursue Master's and Doctoral degrees at leading universities in Taiwan through a fully funded scholarship. Administered by the Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund (TaiwanICDF), the program aims to nurture future global leaders who will contribute to the socio-economic development of their home countries.

Aligned with TaiwanICDF's mission of capacity building and sustainable development, the scholarship is implemented in collaboration with Taiwanese universities under the Taiwan International Cooperation Alliance (TICA) framework. Since 1998, this partnership has strengthened academic cooperation, promoted internationalization in Taiwan's higher education system, and encouraged cross-cultural exchange on campuses.

The scholarship supports postgraduate studies in key development-oriented fields, including Business and Management, STEM disciplines, Information and Communication Technology, Agriculture and Sustainable Development, Public Health, Environmental Studies, and Social and Development Studies. These areas are selected to equip scholars with practical knowledge and skills to address real-world challenges.

Selected scholars receive comprehensive financial support, covering full tuition fees, a monthly living stipend, accommodation or housing support, round-trip airfare, health insurance, and allowances for textbooks and academic materials.

Applications for the 2026 intake will be open from 1 December 2025 to 15 March 2026. Applicants are encouraged to prepare early by reviewing eligibility criteria, selecting suitable universities and programs, and organizing required documents.

Renowned for its high-quality education, advanced research infrastructure, safe living environment, and innovation-driven economy, Taiwan offers scholars an enriching academic and cultural experience. The Taiwan ICDF International Higher Education Scholarship is not just a funding opportunity but an investment in future leaders committed to global development and international cooperation.

Further details are available at:

<https://www.icdf.org.tw/wSite/ct?xItem=12505&ctNode=31562&mp=2>

## **Snowdon Master's Scholarship 2026**

The Snowdon Master's Scholarship 2026 is one of the United Kingdom's most prestigious postgraduate funding opportunities, created to support exceptional disabled students who demonstrate strong academic potential alongside leadership qualities and a commitment to making a positive social impact. The scholarship is designed to empower individuals who are ready to transform their lived experiences into tools for challenging barriers, influencing change, and contributing meaningfully to a more inclusive society across professional, academic, and public domains.

The scholarship provides financial support of up to £30,000, enabling scholars to pursue their Master's degree without financial constraints. This includes up to £15,000 paid directly to the host university to cover tuition fees and up to £15,000 provided to the scholar in termly instalments to support living and study-related expenses throughout the duration of the programme. Such comprehensive support ensures that scholars can dedicate their energy fully to academic excellence and leadership development.

**Application Deadline and Further Details:**

<https://www.snowdontrust.org/financial-awards/scholarships/>

## **MBZUAI Undergraduate Research Internship Program (UGRIP) 2026**

The Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI) has announced its Undergraduate Research Internship Program (UGRIP) 2026, a prestigious, fully funded four-week research internship for undergraduate students interested in artificial intelligence. The program will be held from 31 May to 26 June 2026 at MBZUAI's state-of-the-art campus in Abu Dhabi, UAE, with applications opening on 1 January 2026.

Launched in 2023, UGRIP is MBZUAI's flagship undergraduate research initiative, offering hands-on experience in cutting-edge AI research under the guidance of globally renowned faculty. The program is highly competitive, with an acceptance rate of about 4%, and has previously attracted students from premier institutions such as the IITs, Georgia Tech, and the University of Maryland, reflecting its global reputation and academic excellence.

### **Program Highlights**

- Fully funded four-week on-campus research residency
- Generous stipend
- Accommodation, visa support, and round-trip airfare
- Health insurance coverage
- Access to advanced AI labs and research facilities
- Global networking and cultural exchange opportunities

UGRIP is an excellent opportunity for undergraduate students aiming to pursue AI research, higher education, or innovation-driven careers, offering both academic growth and international exposure in a premier AI-focused institution.

Application Opens: 1 January 2026

More Information: <https://mbzuai.ac.ae/ugrip/>

## Conclusion of Volume 2 – Samvaad Overseas Newsletter

With this issue, we mark the conclusion of Volume 2 of the Samvaad Overseas Newsletter. Throughout this volume, the newsletter has comprehensively covered key International Relations (IR) initiatives of PCCOE, including global academic partnerships, MoUs, international internships, research collaborations, faculty exchange programs, student mobility, and participation in global competitions and conferences. Each issue reflected PCCOE's growing engagement with international institutions and its commitment to global academic excellence.

Most importantly, Volume 2 highlighted the tangible benefits received by students, showcasing numerous international opportunities made available at PCCOE—ranging from overseas internships, research programs, summer schools, and scholarships to global certifications and collaborative projects. These initiatives have empowered students with global exposure, cross-cultural competence, and career-enhancing experiences. As we close this volume, we sincerely thank our contributors, readers, and editorial team, and look forward to Volume 3 with renewed enthusiasm, stronger global ties, and many more success stories from our international journey.

**Team Samvaad Overseas**

## New Associate Editors for the Upcoming Volume

The Editorial Board is pleased to welcome the new Associate Editors for the upcoming volume 3 of Samvaad Overseas newsletter. We look forward to their valuable contributions and editorial support.



Dr Anjali Shrivastav



Ms Madhuri Kethari

### Credits

#### Content Development:

Dean IR Office &

Students International Relations Cell

#### Design and Editing

Devesh Patil, Pranil Sakpal

#### **Office of Dean International Relations**

5413, Third Floor Building 5, Pimpri  
Chinchwad College of Engineering, Pune -  
411044