

Department of Earth Sciences, IIT Bombay

Information for IPDF Applicants and their Supervisors

The Department welcomes applications for Institute Post-Doctoral Fellowships (IPDF) from qualified candidates with a PhD degree in the solid Earth Sciences-allied disciplines. The following information is meant as a useful guide to IPDF applicants and their prospective Supervisors.

Eligibility criteria

IPDF applicants should have already acquired their PhD degree, as shown by a degree certificate (or provisional degree certificate) from the granting institution. Those who have submitted the PhD thesis for examination, but are yet to present the viva voce, should apply after fulfilling the above requirement. Applicants with a PhD degree older than three years before the date of application are not eligible.

As a criterion for scientific merit, applicants must have published a minimum of two research papers in primary, peer-reviewed, SCI-indexed journals, including at least one as lead author. Conference abstracts do not qualify.

PhD graduates from this Department and Institute cannot apply, but they become eligible to apply after working in other institutions for a minimum of two years. International candidates are encouraged to apply.

Candidates should be preferably below 32 years of age. (Age relaxation for SC/ST/OBC-NCL/PwD as per Government of India norms).

Duration and benefits

The tenure of Institute Post-Doctoral Fellowship (IPDF) would be generally for one year and extendable for two more years, subject to satisfactory review at the end of the 1st year and 2nd year as evaluated by an expert committee.

The IPDF currently comes with a consolidated salary of Rs. 80,000/- per month with House Rent Allowance (HRA) as per the Government of India norms (currently 30% of the consolidated salary). The Institute does not provide accommodation on campus. A non-lapsable contingency grant of INR 1,00,000/- per annum is also provided.

IPDFs are entitled to 30 days of Earned Leave (EL) per year, OPD medical treatment, and Casual Leave (CL) as per rules of the Institute.

Before applying

Applicants are advised to view the webpage of the Department (www.geos.iitb.ac.in) to learn about existing facilities and the faculty members and their fields of teaching and research. Every applicant should identify a faculty member in the Department to act as the IPDF Supervisor/Mentor, and prepare a research proposal in consultation and agreement with this faculty member. The research proposal, typically a few pages long, should describe the background work, objectives, methodology, etc., along with research plans for the 1st year and the 2nd year listed separately. The proposal should be scientifically sound, and workable and realistic in terms of the time and facilities available. Any research component requiring visits to, and stays at, other institutions should be small.

How to apply

Applications can be made by email to the Head of Department (head.geos@iitb.ac.in) throughout the year, and will be passed on to and processed by the Convener (Departmental Research and PDF Committee) as they are received. The application form may be

downloaded from the following link :

<https://www.iitb.ac.in/sites/www.iitb.ac.in/files/Application%20Form%20-%20for%20IPDF.doc>

The IPDF email application must include the following documents, all as PDF files :

Sr. No.	Name of Document	Rename the document as
(1)	Cover Letter (please mention name of your supervisor/mentor in the letter)	Lastname_coverletter
(2)	Application Form	Lastname_applicationform
(3)	CV	Lastname_cv
(4)	Research Proposal	Lastname_researchproposal
(5)	Publications	Lastname_publications (single merged PDF file, or separate files lastname_publ1, lastname_publ2...)
(6)	Recommendation Letters	Lastname_recommendationletters (single merged PDF file, or separate files lastname_reco1, lastname_reco2...)
(7)	Ph.D Certificate	Lastname_phdcertificate
(8)	Category Certificate (In case of SC/ST/OBC-NCL/ PwD candidates)	Lastname_categorycertificate
(9)	Other documents (you with to attach)	Lastname_otherdoc

Incomplete applications will not be processed. Please mention "Rolling advertisement" against the advertisement number in the application form.

The review process

An IPDF application is first evaluated by an expert committee consisting of three/four faculty members from within the Department or Institute. The Convener (Departmental Research and PDF Committee) selects the three experts based on the research field, in consultation with the Supervisor.

In view of the various commitments of faculty members (teaching, research, administration, conducting examinations, geological-geophysical field work, etc.) and their availability, a submitted application can take from two weeks to a few weeks to receive initial screening. Applicants and Supervisors are requested to be patient during this process.

In case of an IPDF candidate applying to work with the Convener, the HoD directly handles the review process, or assigns it to a suitably qualified faculty member from the Department.

Reviewed research proposals requiring revision are sent back to the applicant by the Convener, copy to the Supervisor, along with any specific comments of the expert committee. Research proposals unanimously approved by the expert committee (including revised or re-revised proposals) go to the next stage, which is an online seminar by the candidate. The Convener invites the Supervisor to arrange this seminar at a time mutually convenient to all parties concerned. The seminar should include an introduction to the PhD work (~5 minutes) followed by presentation of the proposed IPDF research work (typically 15-20 minutes), followed by questions and answers with the expert committee members. The Supervisor, the Convener and the HoD also attend the online seminar. A typical duration for the whole seminar is 60-75 minutes.

Candidates who pass the online seminar stage as evaluated by the expert committee are approved for the IPDF. The Convener prepares a signed official report to the effect, which is signed and forwarded by the HoD to the Dean (Faculty Affairs), IIT Bombay. The candidate is selected on the basis of recommendation of the Standing Committee, Chaired by the Director, IIT

Bombay. The candidate receives a formal letter of appointment in due course.

The scientific merit of the applicant (as reflected in the quality of existing research publications and performance in the seminar, for example) and the scientific value of the research proposal, as evaluated by the expert committee, are the sole basis of selection for the IPDF programme. No correspondence will be entertained from applicants who did not meet these criteria.

After selection: expectations from an IPDF

It is expected that an IPDF will carry out most of the research work within the Department and Institute, and the research will not include components that require extensive visits and stays outside IIT Bombay. In case of research proposals involving significant geological-geophysical field work, there is no cap on the number of days spent in the field within reason, provided the other academic activities and duties of the IPDF and the Supervisor (such as teaching theory and lab classes, administrative duties, etc.) are not affected.

Besides their research work, IPDFs may be asked by their Supervisors and the HoD to help with teaching activities including lab courses, and to assist PhD, MTech and MSc students in their research/dissertation projects, besides administrative duties. IPDFs will find such experience of high value in their job searches and future careers.

Publications resulting from the IPDF research should acknowledge IIT Bombay and the Department of Earth Sciences for the support through the IPDF programme.

Research costs

IPDF applicants and their Supervisors should note that the Department or Institute do not cover the costs of the IPDF research (such as costs of field work, sample analyses within or outside the Institute, external laboratory training, etc.) They should kindly not approach the HoD with requests to meet such expenses from Departmental funds. It is expected that such proposal-specific expenses will be met by the IPDFs and their Supervisors by applying to external funding agencies, or from the Supervisors' ongoing research projects, external collaborators' funds, etc.

Total number of IPDFs

There is currently no cap on the total number of IPDFs working in the Department within reason. However, noting the time involvement for any IPDF Supervisor, and the resources available within the Department and the Institute, it is decided that a faculty member of the Department may act as Supervisor to a maximum of two IPDFs at any given point in time. This limit places no bar on the number of PDFs with external funding that the same Supervisor may mentor (e.g., NPDFs).

The above information covers most aspects of the IPDF programme in the Department of Earth Sciences. **The applications with all the details needs to be send to head.geos@iitb.ac.in.**

Updated 09th June 2026

Head,
Department of Earth Sciences,
IIT Bombay
Email ID : head.geos@iitb.ac.in