

ICFAI Foundation
for Higher Education
(Deemed-to-be University under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956)
Category I Autonomous Institution • Accredited by NAAC with 'A++' Grade

ICFAI School of
Social Sciences

Ph.D

Development Studies
and
Public Policy

(For Working Professionals and Administrators)



ICFAI[®]
GROUP

• 11 Universities • 9 B-Schools • 9 Law Schools • 7 Tech Schools • 3 Decades in Flexible Learning

Message from the **VICE CHANCELLOR**



Greetings !

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education (IFHE) a Deemed-to-be University established under section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956. It has evolved a comprehensive student-centric learning approach consisting of several stages, designed to add significant value to the learner's understanding in an integrated manner, covering relevant knowledge, practical skills and positive attitudes.

IFHE is a premier educational institution which is accredited by NAAC with "A++" grade. It is dedicated to the cause of teaching and research of global standards. IFHE offers programs in Management, Social Sciences, Science & Technology, Engineering, Architecture, and Law at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral levels.

The University has a student strength of about 9,000 and a faculty strength of over 350. The PhD program in Development Studies and Public Policy offered by the ICFAI School of Social Sciences is a practical, value-laden, intellectually stimulating, customizable doctoral program for experienced practitioners that has been specially conceptualized and designed.

Wish you all the best

Prof. L S Ganesh



ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education (IFHE)

The ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education, Hyderabad is a deemed-to-be-university established under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956. Prof. C. Rangarajan, the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and former Chairman, the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, is the Chancellor of the University. IFHE's student-centric learning approach provides relevant knowledge, imparts practical skills and inculcates a positive attitude among the students. IFHE is an esteemed member of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU). IFHE has implemented world-class processes for governance, academic excellence, industry-academia interface and student centricity. Some of the best minds in the country are closely associated with the running and oversight of IFHE.

The University focuses on offering students the best and updated curriculum and train them for rewarding careers. It also promotes the culture of research that advances knowledge in the field of management, social sciences, technology, law and architecture.

Accreditations and Rankings

- IFHE has been awarded the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) rating of A++ and it is Category I Autonomous Institution.

- IBS Hyderabad is one of the consistently top-ranked business schools in India which has been accredited by AACSB. It is ranked 40th by NIRF in 2023.

ICFAI School of Social Sciences

ICFAI School of Social Sciences (ISOSS), Hyderabad is a constituent of the ICFAI Foundation of Higher Education (IFHE). The School of Social Sciences offers 3-year/4-year BA (Honours and Honours with Research), MA, and PhD programs in Economics and 3-year /4-year BSc Psychology (Honours and Honours with Research). The institute has well-qualified and accomplished faculty members with academic and industry experience. Faculty members conduct applied research funded by national and international agencies and Management Development Programs for industry and government officials. The faculty members disseminate the research output in reputed national and international journals, books, and popular media.



*Dr C Rangarajan, Chancellor,
ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education*

Doctoral Program in Development Studies and Public Policy

The ICFAI School of Social Sciences (ISoSS) offers a PhD program in Development Studies and Public Policy for working professionals and administrators. The degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) shall be awarded by IFHE University in accordance with UGC's Ph.D. Regulations, 2022

The institute will admit practitioners and senior officers who are inspired sufficiently to discover and share fresh knowledge concerning the broad interdisciplinary fields of Development Studies and Public Policy including their intersections with Business, Industry, Civil Society, Science, Engineering, Technology, Justice, and Law, Natural Resources, and Sustainability Studies. Consequently, the policy professionals and practitioners who are admitted into the program after a rigorous interview will be guided to formulate evidence-based research and robust development policies and take informed decisions for the greater good.

The program's primary objective is to develop the working professional's capabilities in using basic and advanced empirical and analytical methods – both quantitative and qualitative – to critically analyze and resolve real-world policy and development issues in a holistic and satisfactory manner. The program will be rigorous and will adopt an exciting interdisciplinary approach that integrates relevant content, learning methods and inquiry systems, and research practices. The pedagogy will focus significantly on case studies from the field using real-world data on public policy, development studies, and allied areas.

Who Can Apply

This program will greatly benefit

- Officers of India's Civil Services (Centre and State)
- Officials of Private and Public Sector industrial and business organizations, and Professional Bodies
- Professionals in national and international NGOs
- Any other professional working predominantly in the development and public policy domain
- Practicing professionals aspiring to become 'Professors of Practice' or senior academic administrators in the academic institutions

Indicative Research Themes

- Agriculture- Structural and sectoral Issues
- Banking, Finance and Insurance
- Business, Technology and Law
- Circular Economy and Sustainability Studies
- Climate Change
- Centre-state relations, Centre and State Finance
- Decentralization, Local Governance and Development
- Digital Transformation and Society
- ESG, SDGs and Sustainability
- Entrepreneurship development
- Employment, MSMEs
- Energy and Environment
- Financial Inclusion
- Food, Water and Nutritional Security
- Human Capital, Education, and Social Policy Analysis
- International Trade, Services, and Foreign remittances
- Institutions and Governance
- Microfinance and Self-Help Groups
- Natural Resource Management and Livelihood Issues
- Rural Development
- Regional development dynamics
- Sectoral Transformation and related issues
- Taxation and Governance
- Urban Planning and Governance
- Welfare Analysis of Government Policies

- Women Empowerment
- Women's labor force participation

Eligibility

A recognized postgraduate degree in any discipline from a UGC approved university in India or abroad with 55% and above marks, and minimum work experience of 5 years as a practicing professional.

Duration

The Ph.D. program shall be for a minimum duration of three years, including coursework, and a maximum duration of six years from the date of admission to the Ph.D. program. However, on a case-by-case basis, the research scholars of the program will be granted an extension subject to satisfactory progress in their thesis work, as recommended by the PhD Supervisor and approved by the Vice-Chancellor. Extensions will be governed by the decision of the competent authority and ratification by the Academic Council.

Research Facilities

- Well-qualified and accomplished faculty members with academic and industry experience.
- Abundant access to physical and online research resources – Library, national and international journals, databases, research reports, software packages for research support, Faculty Seminars, and lectures/webinars by eminent academicians and leaders from industry and government.
- Access to IBS Case Research Centre (World's No 2 in Case Research) and other centers such as the Center for Women Development, Center for Digital Transformation, Center for Banking and Finance, Center for Environment Law and Forest Laws, and other centers coordinated by constituent units of the University.
- Active relationships with research institutions, Professional Associations and bodies, and accomplished researchers.



Program Structure

The fundamental characteristics of the program will be similar to the University's full-time PhD program. The coursework will be spread over two phases, each lasting about a semester. To facilitate completion of the prescribed courses, classes will be conducted on Second Saturdays, Sundays and selected holidays/non-working

hours, with ample flexibility given to scholars to attend some classes through the online mode. The research scholar is expected to visit the campus for all the necessary interactions and learning experiences based on mutual convenience. The immersion sessions will be conducted.

The program has six major milestones that will mark the completion of the respective phases, namely, (1) coursework completion (two phases), (2) Summer Research Project, (3) passing the comprehensive qualifying examination, (4) submission and approval of a thesis proposal, (5) submission of the thesis for evaluation by anonymous reviewers, and finally (6) defending the thesis in an open viva voce. The processes leading to the six milestones are the same as the University's full-time campus-based PhD program.

Coursework and Immersion Program

- The coursework (8 courses including Doctoral Seminar Papers) is spread across two Phases (semesters).
- First-year coursework on Second Saturdays, Sundays, and selected holidays/non-working hours at IFHE Hyderabad.
- From the second year onwards, one-week immersion sessions per semester will be offered at IFHE Hyderabad.
- On a case-by-case basis, to accommodate professional commitments, research scholars may be permitted to use the online/hybrid modes of learning.
- The research scholar is also expected to visit the campus to benefit from the necessary interactions and learning experiences based on mutual convenience of the concerned people, including faculty members, and other full-time/part-time research scholars.

Sequence of the Program

Year	Particulars
1	Coursework in two Phases (2 Research Methodology courses and 6 Doctoral Seminar Papers)
	Summer Research Project (soon after Coursework).
	Comprehensive Qualifying Examinations and Viva Voce.
2	Formation of Doctoral Advisory Committee, Immersion sessions and Progress Seminars.
3	Submission of Thesis Proposal, Immersion sessions, and Progress Seminars.
4	Thesis Data Seminar, Submission of PhD Thesis and Thesis Defense.

The primary objective of the coursework is to lay the intellectual foundations for rigorous research by equipping the scholars with all the relevant knowledge on enquiry systems, research philosophy, approaches and methods, and the latest developments, including anticipated ones, in the broad interdisciplinary fields of Development Studies and Public Policy. During the first period of two phases, the research scholars are required to complete a prescribed set of 4 courses of 4 credits each, including Doctoral Seminar Papers. In the second phase of the coursework, they are required to complete another set of 4 Doctoral Seminar courses of 4 credits each. In this phase, they can choose courses of their specialization from the list of courses offered by the School of Social Sciences, Business School, Law School, ICFAI Tech, and School of Architecture. *The scholars will also be able to design their own course syllabus with the guidance of faculty members nominated by the Vice-Chancellor in consultation with senior faculty members of the institute. Such research scholar-designed courses are a unique feature of this customizable doctoral research program.*

Research scholars with adequate prior knowledge and preparation in any of the listed courses (8 courses) can provide compelling evidence of the same via a specifically conducted written and/or oral examination and claim a waiver of the relevant course(s).

Course work

Phase I (Semester 1)			Phase II (Semester 2)		
#		Credits	#		Credits
1	Quantitative Research Methods	4	1	Paradigms of Development	4
2	Qualitative Research Methods	4	2	Centre-State Relations	4
3	India's Development Debate	4	3	International Trade and India's Development	4
4	Public Policy	4	4	Environment and Development	4
Total Credits		16	Total Credits		16

Note: Each course consists of 33 classroom sessions of 75 minutes duration.

Summer Research Project

Each research scholar is required to take up a Summer Research Project individually at the end of the two phases of coursework. The research project will be in the scholar's area of interest and will be undertaken under the guidance of a faculty mentor.

Comprehensive Qualifying Examination

Research scholars who successfully complete the coursework and get a 'satisfactory grade' in the Summer Research Project are eligible to take the PhD qualifying examination and comprehensive viva voce.

The Doctoral Advisory Committee

Upon successful completion of the PhD qualifying exam, a Doctoral Advisory Committee (DAC) with four faculty members will be constituted to guide the research scholar through the entire process of commencing, working on, and completing the doctoral thesis.

Progress Seminars

The research scholar is expected to give at least one progress seminar every semester until he/she submits the thesis.

Thesis Proposal

The thesis proposal, if approved by the DAC, will be forwarded to the PhD Proposal Screening Committee for review before the scholar presents and successfully defends it. Thereafter, the scholar is supported to work on, complete, and submit the doctoral thesis for critical evaluation by anonymous and accomplished external evaluators.

Data Seminar

After successfully defending the thesis proposal and before submitting the thesis, the scholars are required to give a 'Thesis Data Seminar', which will focus exclusively on sampling design and data collection and relevant data analysis methods, including computational and experimental procedures as may be applicable.

Thesis Submission and Thesis Defense

The scholar is expected to complete the PhD thesis and submit it for evaluation at the end of the fourth year after first registration into the program. He/She should defend the thesis in an open viva voce that will include the PhD thesis supervisor, DAC members, external thesis evaluators, senior professors, faculty members, and research scholars from the respective School and from other Schools/departments, or even other institutions.

Pedagogy and Assessment

The coursework sessions will involve a judicious mix of teaching-learning-evaluation methods, including lectures by the class teachers and invited experts, critical discussions of articles and Cases, presentation of papers by the scholars, and other selected methods. Evaluation will be continuous and will include written assignments, term papers, case study presentations, and end-term examinations. Participants (individually or jointly) will



develop Cases with guidance from the globally top-ranked IBS Case Research Centre.

In each course, senior academicians, senior civil servants, and senior public policy experts will be invited to deliver lectures and share their knowledge with the research scholars.

Selection Process

Selection will be based on the applicant's past academic performance, professional experience, and performance in a personal interview, including promising research proposal(s), if any.

Admission to this PhD program is highly competitive. Only a limited number of candidates are admitted every year.

Admission Calendar

Application Deadline	Oct. 30, 2024.
Selection Process (Personal Interview)	Nov. 16 & 17 2024
Results Declaration	Nov. 23, 2024
Payment of Admission Fee	Dec. 21, 2024
Registration and Commencement of the Program	Jan. 11, 2025

How to Apply:

Applicants can apply online by paying the application fee ₹1,000 and filling up the Application Form available at: <https://www.ifheindia.org/ICFAI-School-of-Social-Sciences/phd-development-studies-and-public-policy.html>

Applicants applying online should upload their passport-size color photograph while filling out the Online Application.

Fee Structure

Particulars	Fee (amount in ₹)
Admission Fee	40,000
Semester I Fee	60,000
Semester II Fee	60,000
Semester III Fee	60,000
Semester IV Fee	60,000
Semester V Fee	60,000
Semester VI Fee	60,000
Semester VII Fee	60,000
Semester VIII Fee	60,000
TOTAL	5,20,000

Caution Deposit: A refundable caution deposit of ₹10,000 to be paid along with the 1st installment of the program fee. The caution deposit will be refunded without interest, after adjusting for dues if any, on completion of the program.

Messages from Esteemed Personalities



Prof. Bhanoji Rao, Ph.D

Formerly with the National University of Singapore, World Bank (Washington and Jakarta) and LKY School of Public Policy, Singapore

"The Ph.D. (Development Studies and Public Policy) offered by IFHE is well structured with a balanced combination of coursework on research methods and presentation of doctoral seminar papers. The key feature of the program is providing analytical and research skills to practicing professionals to augment their development policy analysis capabilities and significantly take forward their career advancement prospects."

Prof. S Mahendra Dev, Ph.D

Former Director & Vice Chancellor, Indira Gandhi Institute of Development Research (IGIDR) Mumbai & Editor, Economic and Political Weekly (EPW), Former Chairman, Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India, Former Member and Acting Chairman, National Statistical Commission, Government of India, Distinguished Professor, ICAI School of Social Sciences.

"India is now aspiring to become a developed nation by 2047. There are many challenges and opportunities as India strives to achieve high growth, inclusiveness and sustainability in the next two decades. Effective public policy plays an important role in achieving these aspirational goals. This doctoral program is special in many ways. It can actively interact with several stakeholders like industry, policymakers, academics, and civil society in the fields of public policy and development. The working professionals and administrators have been looking forward to such a doctoral program which can enhance their capabilities immensely. I am sure the selected candidates will benefit and enjoy this program"



Prof. Gurumurthy Kalyanaram, Ph.D

Regional Vice-Chair and Educational Counselor at MIT & Distinguished Adjunct Professor, IFHE Hyderabad

"This PhD program integrates theory and applications organically. The scholar will be introduced to new models and thinking. Out of this knowledge is certain to emerge imaginative policy design constructs and implementation insights. These insights will amplify the scholar's contributions in the practice world and make them more impactful."

Shri Jugal Kishore Mohapatra, IAS (Retired)

Alumnus of Delhi School of Economics, Boston University (USA), Former Rural Development Secretary (GoI), Chief Secretary and Chief Development Commissioner, Odisha, Chairman of NABARD Financial Services Ltd. (NABFINS), currently Non-Executive Chairman of Shriram Finance Ltd.

"PhD Program for working professionals and administrators is beneficial for building analytical and research skills. It helps practicing professionals to understand the theoretical underpinnings of societal issues in terms of identifying the problem, formulating appropriate policy, and assessing the significant role played by the government in addressing various socio-economic challenges. Scholars pursuing this PhD program will develop the ability to understand, analyse, and interpret the theoretical foundations of development and public policy which would enable them to make data-driven decisions based on scientific research methodology"



Sri Harikrishna Suryadevara, Vice Chairman,

Tirupati Urban Development Authority (TUDA), Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh

"This well-structured, interdisciplinary PhD program is designed for practicing professionals. It facilitates development and public policy experts, as well as administrators, to make informed decisions. The rigorous training in research methods and development policy topics will greatly benefit professionals, helping them excel in their current roles and advance their careers."

Dr Sreekanth Venkataraman, Ph.D, MBA, CEM

Lead Resource Efficiency Manager, Salas O'Brien, Washington, D C

"This Program for practicing professionals and administrators is rigorous and is designed to help the doctoral candidates achieve intellectual rigor that will help them refine their approach towards solving practical challenges in developmental and public policy spheres in the real world. The course component of the program will help the scholars attain critical thinking ability, which is an essential prerequisite for being a successful researcher/thought leader in the global arena"





ICFAI School of Social Sciences

Campus

The ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education

Donthanapalli, Shankarpalli Road, Hyderabad- 501 203, Telangana State.

Scan QR Code for more details



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