



ORGANISATION
AFRICAIN-ASIATIQUE POUR LE
DEVELOPPEMENT RURAL

AFRICAN-ASIAN
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ORGANIZATION

المنظمة
الأفريقية الآسيوية
للتنمية الريفية

Cooperation for Sustainable Development

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY GENERAL

مكتب
الأمين العام

No. IEC/IITM/Scholarship/2026

25 September 2026

H.E. the Minister of Agriculture, Hydraulic Resources and Fisheries
Government of the Republic of Tunisia
Tunis, TUNISIA

Subject: AARDO IIT Madras - Scholarship intake January 2027 in Chennai, India:

- i). Master of Science (MS) by Research and
- ii) Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Honourable Minister/Excellency/Sir/Madam,

I have the distinct honour to inform you that, following the renewal of AARDO's MoU with the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM), Chennai, the African-Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO), is expanding its scholarship opportunities for member countries. In addition to the **two-year full-time Master's Degree Programme, four-year Ph.D. programme** has now been newly added, under our renewed agreement, to pursue higher studies at IIT Madras, Chennai, India.

The scholarship program has successfully rolled out five annual batches since January 2022, welcoming a total of twenty-nine students to date. Of these, thirteen have completed their studies, and sixteen are presently enrolled in their Master of Science (MS) programs at IIT Madras. Furthermore, the overwhelmingly positive feedback received from the participants stands as a testament to the program's continued success and impact.

The Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IITM), established as an autonomous institute of national importance in 1959 by the Government of India, is reputed internationally for excellence in technical education, basic applied research, and innovation. It is ranked as the No.1 engineering university in India, with well-equipped laboratories, advanced research facilities, sophisticated services, and computing & networking capabilities, located in about 225 hectares of natural flora and fauna. IIT Madras conducts various academic programs of B. Tech., Dual Degree (B. Tech. and M. Tech.), Integrated M.A, M. Tech., M.B.A, M.Sc., M.S. and Ph.D. in various disciplines.

I wish to inform that the sixth cohort of the AARDO-IIT Madras scholarship program will commence in January 2027. It will now include both Master's and Ph.D. opportunities. Honourable Minister/Excellency, the Master of Science (MS) by Research is a two-year, four-semester research-intensive program which emphasizes the use of logical, analytical, experimental and intuitive thinking skills in the pursuit of research. It is a program targeting young officers/students inclined towards research careers, R &D, design and conceptualization.

Furthermore, candidates may now also apply for the newly introduced four-year Ph.D. programme, which is presently offered across four specialized disciplines: Civil Engineering, Metallurgical and Materials Engineering, Chemical Engineering, and the School of Interdisciplinary Studies at IIT Madras.

You may wish to note that, keeping in view the need for highly qualified specialists, the selection process could be rigid, stringent, and rigorous involving various steps, including a written test/interview for final selection.

It is hoped that this opportunity will be found useful and Excellency's esteemed Government may nominate qualified officers/university students to apply for these scholarship programmes. This interesting offer could be disseminated to the student community.

(An autonomous inter-governmental organization established in 1982)

2, State Guest Houses Complex, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi 110 021, INDIA
Phones: (91-11) 26877783 | E-mail : aardohq@aardo.org | Website : <http://www.aardo.org>

Nominees must satisfy the following:

Essential Qualifications:

a) Eligibility for the M.S.by Research Programme:

Applicants are required to hold a 4-year bachelor's degree in engineering or technology, or a recognized 4-year B.Sc. or B.S. degree, or a Master's degree in an appropriate Engineering, Technology, or Science discipline.

b) Eligibility for the Ph.D. Programme:

Applicants must possess a strong academic record and hold a master's degree or a master's degree by Research in Engineering, Technology, or Science, or a 5-year Dual Degree in Engineering, or a 5-year B.S. + M.S. Dual Degree.

c) Eligibility criteria for both programmes:

- Applicant should have a minimum CGPA of 8.0/10.0 or its equivalent/first class;
- Proven proficiency in spoken and written English;
- Must be in good health both physically and mentally to undergo scholarship programme.

This scholarship has expenditure inclusions and exclusions as highlighted in the following table:

S. No	Inclusions (Covered jointly by AARDO & IITM)	Exclusions (to be covered by Candidate's nominating Country/Institution)
1	One-time admission fee	Pre-Scholarship expenses: Passport, Visa Fee, Vaccination, Airport Taxes etc.
2	International student tuition fee	Travel, Health Insurance Premium and Medical Expenses
3	Monthly living allowance equivalent to the stipend given to domestic students.	Telephone Calls, Laundry
4	Return Air Ticket by economy class (from Capital City)*	Extra Baggage Allowances (Above that provided by the Airline)
5	-	Post-Scholarship expenses: any other expense after the event

* Air fare will be provided for only regular membership contribution-paying countries

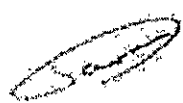
The esteemed Government may wish to provide some allowances to their candidate, especially to meet the expenses which are excluded under this scholarship programme. It is strongly recommended for Participants to carry valid travel health insurance cover.

The application process for the IITM AARDO Admission will be conducted online through the website <https://admissions.ge.iitm.ac.in/> of the Institute and the deadline for application submission is set for 31 October 2026. Enclosed herewith, you will find the comprehensive e-brochure outlining the scholarship details and a list of available projects from which participants are required to select three of their preference in the online application form. Nomination received after the closing date or received incomplete in any respect or without a copy of a valid passport is likely not to be considered.

Keeping in view the availability of slots and response from member countries, preference would be given to the candidates from countries that regularly pay their AARDO membership contributions.

Kindly accept, Hon Minister/Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,


Dr. Manoj Nardeosingh
Secretary General

Encl: As Above