Broad guidelines for Recruitment of Students to the IIA Ph.D. programme under approved Projects of the Institute

1. The Scheme:

1.1 The Project Category Ph.D. Scheme is instituted to promote recruitment of students for the approved projects of the Institute. The General Category Ph.D. student recruitment procedures of the Institute shall be suitably modified to select additional students for these projects, whereas students from all the Ph.D. schemes shall be eligible to work in the projects following existing norms. However, the students selected under the Project Category may not transfer to the General Category. The recruitment norms of project scheme shall be similar to other schemes but envisage identifying talent particularly suited for each project. The Board of Graduate Studies (BGS) shall oversee this scheme in a manner similar to other existing Ph.D. schemes of the Institute. A subcommittee with the BGS Chair, Secretary, and a duly appointed coordinator shall oversee the implementation of the scheme.

2. Eligibility:

2.1 Projects that have provision to independently pay fellowship amount as approved by the Director shall be eligible to recruit Ph.D. students under this scheme. The fellowship amount shall be the same as for the General Category and shall be available for the full period as in the General Category.

3. Recruitment:

3.1 Information shall be provided to the BGS on the opportunities available under different approved projects, and details of the approved thesis topics under these projects, by the Director from time to time. The consolidated list shall be submitted to the Director for approval of each recruitment process in a manner similar to recruitment under other streams.

3.2 The online application form shall be the same as for the General Category, which shall henceforth include the names of the approved projects for which recruitments are considered, and appropriate website links for further details of the projects. The applicant shall have the option to apply for the General Category, Project Category, or both in in order of preference.
3.3 The selection of students shall follow the normal procedures instituted for the Ph.D. programme, which currently include qualification through any of the national level tests (IIAST, GATE, JEST, UGC-CSIR(JRF)), followed by a personal interview. The norms of minimum qualifying score shall be the same for all the schemes.

3.4 The interview committee for the selection of students shall be the same as for the general category, with the exception that the Principal Investigator (PI) of the project or nominee(s) approved by the Director, shall be included as additional member(s) in the committee.

3.5 The PI of the project will mentor and act as a guide for the student recruited under a project until a guide is approved.

4. Course Work:

4.1 The students recruited under the Project Category shall undergo the graduate course alongwith the General Category students and shall be governed by a common set of rules and regulations. In place of the course work project of second semester, the guide may offer a project-specific course or project. In case the project requires training on another topic of high relevance to the project in place of an existing topic, the change may be proposed, reviewed, and approved before the recruitment process is initiated. All the courses shall be graded similar to the course work under graduate studies.

5. Registration:

5.1 The student shall work with the project guide upon successful completion of the course work. The guide shall be recognized member of the project team.

5.2 The student shall register with the Pondicherry University just as the General Category students.

5.3 A staff member is permitted to guide a maximum of two students and in addition co-guide a maximum of another two students under the Project Category at any given time. This shall be in addition to the maximum limit for the general category. These limits may be reviewed from time to time.