INFORMATION BROCHURE

for admission to

Ph.D. (Full Time) Programme
Session 2026

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR FREE AND OPEN SOURCE SOLUTIONS
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala - 695581

Recognised Research Centre of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi

01. INTRODUCTION

ICFOSS (International Centre for Free and Open Source Solutions) is an autonomous institution under the Electronics & IT Department, Government of Kerala, which was set up with the mandate of providing services to the Government, Industry (particularly SMEs), and Civil Society, for the promotion of Free and Open Source Solutions and related domains. Since it started functioning in 2011, ICFOSS has undertaken several activities to achieve the objectives, including Training & Capacity Development, Research, Consultancy; studies and surveys; International and domestic advocacy and networking. ICFOSS also strives to promote Kerala as a destination for FOSS based IT work including Open Source Hardware through creating critical mass of trained human resource and by providing mechanism for market interface. ICFOSS has started on the above concepts and currently focuses on FOSS based support services to Government departments, innovators, young graduates and students. ICFOSS also works with groups that want to work towards incubation, by providing pre-incubation services.

Government of Kerala, set up ICFOSS as a nodal organisation to support and extend free software activities in the state, at the same time linking with communities, developers, groups and institutions abroad. During these years ICFOSS has made a solid platform in the field of FOSS for providing high-end services to the general public, Engineering students, academicians, SME's, Universities etc. ICFOSS has been approved by Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR), Govt. of India as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO).

The Centre has been recognized as a Research Centre of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) for pursuing Research & Development in multidisciplinary areas such as Computational Linguistics, Computer Science, Management and Entrepreneurship.

02. DOCTORAL RESEARCH: PROGRAMS AT ICFOSS

The Ph. D program will lead to the award of Ph. D by JNU, subjected to satisfactory completion of the academic and research requirements of JNU.

The Doctor of Philosophy degree is awarded for research work in various FOSS areas recognized by JNU. The research should demonstrate originality, whether through the uncovering of new facts, a novel perspective on interpreting and implementing existing facts, or the creation of equipment that significantly advances FOSS technology. It must showcase the candidate's ability for critical analysis, sound judgment, and offer an original contribution to the current body of knowledge.

03. AREA OF RESEARCH:

Research opportunities are available in the following areas

1. Computer Science (Artificial Intelligence/ Machine Learning/ Data Science)
2. Computational Linguistics
3. Entrepreneurship and Management

04. ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY :

1. Applicants with Masters degree in Engineering/ Computer Applications/ Computer Science/ Computational Science/ Computational Linguistics/ Linguistics/ Data Science/ Management, with a minimum of 55% marks aggregate or equivalent grade (5.5 CGPA on 10-point scale).

2. A relaxation of 5% of marks or equivalent grade may be allowed to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/PWD (as per the norms of the UGC from time to time).

3. Candidates should have qualified CSIR/UGC- NET and valid for 2026-27 admission.

4. CGPA or percentage of marks in aggregate (in case marks are awarded) of all years/semesters will be considered. If the CGPA is awarded on a scale other than a 10-pointscale, proportionate conversion to a 10-point scale will be considered.

5. Candidates under OBC-NC,SC/ST and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) category are required to submit a copy of valid certificate, issued after 31st March, 2026, while submitting the application issued by a competent authority.

05. APPLICATION FEE:

- **Application Fee (non-refundable): Rs. 1000/- for General/OBC category and Rs. 500/- for SC/ST/ category candidate.** The candidates can deposit the requisite application fee by using net banking or debit/credit card facilities to our bank account. Additional charges will be applicable as per the rule of the concerned bank. **The Fee will not be accepted through any other mode.**

Bank Details:

Bank : State Bank of India,

Branch : Technopark, Tejaswini.

Account No : 67242303296

IFS Code : SBIN0070737

The transaction number may be indicated in the online application.

06. SELECTION PROCESS:

1. Candidate may apply online.
2. Candidates will be shortlisted by ICFOSS.
3. ICFOSS will invite the eligible candidates for the selection process, which may include a written test/ Interview.
4. The selected candidates will be registered for Ph.D. programme in the current semester under JNU as per JNU regulations.
5. Selected candidates will start working as JRF under the assigned faculty member (Ph.D. Thesis supervisor) from the date of admission. However, the course work will be taken in the next semester, if the admission registration is after the last date for course registration in the current semester.

07. IMPORTANT DATES:

Start of online Application Process	12th October, 2026
Last date for submission of online application	26th October ,2026 – 04:00 PM
Last date of receiving Hardcopy at ICFOSS	7th November 2026

Candidates are requested to apply online and a hard copy of the same application should be send to ICFOSS (Address mentioned below) along with cv/certificates copy/ transaction details through registered post. Last date of receiving Hardcopy at ICFOSS will be 7th November 2026.

08. COURSE FEE STRUCTURE

The annual fee for the Ph.D. program is **Rs. 25,000/ + University Fees as per JNU norms.** ICFOSS reserves the right to increase the fees. The students have to pay the fee annually. Dates will be noticed by ICFOSS.

09. CANCELLATION OF ADMISSION

The Institute reserves the right to cancel, at any stage, the admission of a candidate admitted to a programme and is later found that he/she is not entitled, being unqualified or ineligible in accordance with the Regulations in vogue, or suspension/termination of programme. In case of cancellation/withdrawal of admission after registration from programme, fee will not be refunded.

10. MATTERS OF DISPUTE

Disputes, if any, arising out of or relating to any matter whatsoever shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Trivandrum Courts.

1. INSTRUCTIONS FOR ONLINE APPLICATION & OTHERS

A) Documents

Before applying online, candidates are required to keep the following documents ready for uploading:

Sl. No	Particulars	Size
1	Colour photograph (only in JPEG)	Up to 500 KB
2	Signature (only in JPEG)	Up to 500 KB
3	EWS/OBC/SC/ST Category Certificate (PDF) (If applicable)	Upto 5 MB
4	10th Certificate/Marksheet (in single PDF)	Upto 5 MB
5	12th Certificate/Diploma and Marksheet (in single PDF)	Upto 5 MB
6	Bachelor's Degree or Provisional and Consolidated Marksheet/ All marksheets (in single PDF)	Upto 5 MB
7	Master's Degree or Provisional and Consolidated Marksheet/ All marksheets (in single PDF), if applicable	Upto 5 MB
8	JRF score card / Fellowship award letter (in single PDF) (If applicable)	Upto 5 MB

NOTE: If any of the submitted document is password protected, then the application will not be considered for admission.

B) Steps for Registration

Candidates must follow the followings steps while filling online Application Form:

a) Visit https//icfoss.in/phd
b) Register
c) Login
d) Complete the application
e) Submit

Candidates may download their online submitted application form, completed in all respect, for their own record, if required.

The candidates are advised to read each and every instruction given in this Information Brochure very carefully before applying Online.

C) Other Information, Terms & Conditions

1. Selection process is purely based on merit. Stipulated dates for a interview shall be communicated by the ICFOSS to the shortlisted candidates. Simultaneously, the dates shall be uploaded in the ICFOSS website.

2. The prescribed qualifications and experience are the minimum required and the mere fact that a candidate possesses the same will not entitle the candidate for being called for an interview.
3. ICFOSS reserve the right to restrict the number of candidates to be called for interview to a reasonable number, on the basis of qualifications/experience and based on the norms of ICFOSS.
4. Candidates must fill/enter their CGPA or percentage of marks as issued by their institute/college/university. Candidate must not convert their CGPA into percentage and vice-versa.
5. Candidates should complete application in all respect in the admission portal and submit it online only. No correspondence / communication will be entertained for incomplete application.
6. The last date for submission of online application shall not be extended. Accordingly, no request shall be entertained for accepting the application after the last date.
7. Admission will be offered subject to availability of seats and faculty in the specialization.
8. Students shall be governed by ordinance/ regulations of JNU in vogue.
9. Candidates are required to verify the accuracy of their online submissions; ICFOSS bears no responsibility for inaccuracies. Candidates are solely responsible for ensuring the authenticity of the information provided. Once submitted, applications are considered final and cannot be modified. ICFOSS will not be held accountable for technical errors during submission or fee payment. Candidates are strongly encouraged to apply well ahead of the deadline. Accurate and active email addresses must be provided for online communication. All updates, including interview schedules and results, will be exclusively accessible on the Institute's website. Candidates must regularly check for updates.
10. The Institute reserves the right to verify the documents submitted by the candidate at any time during their period of research. In case it is found that the documents submitted by the candidate are not genuine, then his/her admission shall be terminated, and disciplinary / criminal proceedings will be initiated.
11. Merely applying for / being shortlisted / appearing for the interview or subsequent processes do not imply that a candidate will necessarily be offered admission in ICFOSS.
12. Candidates must ensure they meet all specified eligibility criteria. Their admission will be provisionally accepted pending confirmation that they meet the prescribed eligibility requirements and approval from JNU. The issuance of call letters to candidates does not imply eligibility has been determined.

For further information, please contact:

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR FREE AND OPEN SOURCE SOLUTIONS (ICFOSS)
Swatantra, Sports Hub, South Pavillion
Karyavattom, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala 695581
Phone: +91 471-2413012, +91-9400225962
Email: phdadm@icfoss.org **Website:** https://icfoss.in/
Working Hours: Monday to Saturday 10 AM - 6 PM,
Except government holidays and 4th saturday.

Annexure-1

Undertaking by the applicants for submission of the required certificates towards admission to Ph.D. Programme 2024-25 through Rolling Advertisement

I.....S/o/Do.....

R/o(address) .....want to apply to pursue my study in Ph.D. programme at ICFOSS.

I hereby undertake that I will submit the following required documents:

1. .....
2. .....
3. .....

at the time of registration. In case, I fail to submit the required documents within the due date, or found ineligible or information/certificate found incorrect/false at any stage, the Institute reserves the right to cancel my admission offer and registration.

Signature of the Applicant:.....

Name of Applicant:.....

Email:.....

Application No:.....