**NIAS – Exeter PhD Studentship – Introductory Information for Students**

This document provides a brief introduction to the Exeter – NIAS PhD programme for new students. It is not a comprehensive guide to being a PhD student at the University of Exeter - PhD students in the College of Humanities can find a full array of information related to their studies on the [College Website](http://humanities.exeter.ac.uk/freshersweek/pgr/). Instead, this guide provides some particular information and guidance to help you get the most out of working with the National Institute of Advanced Studies in Bangalore.

**About NIAS**

The National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) is located within the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) campus, and can be reached both through the Indian Institute of science as well as Mathikere road, near the Ramaiah college entrance. It is a small and vibrant campus, and has four schools including the Humanities, Natural Sciences and Engineering, Social Sciences and Conflict and Security Studies programs. Founded in 1997, its current Director is Prof. Baldev Raj, who believes in the ‘broad and informed multidisciplinary perspectives’ of NIAS.

**Induction for NIAS students**

When a new student begins on the Exeter – NIAS PhD programme, a member of staff from NIAS will contact the student to give them a brief induction to the opportunities available through working with NIAS. This induction will explain what resources PhD students have access to at NIAS, help you understand what you can expect from your NIAS supervisor, and answer any questions you might have about the nature of this agreement.

**Access to Resources at NIAS**

The following section provides information on some of the key facilities you’ll have access to at NIAS. The administrative staff at NIAS are extremely helpful, welcoming and efficient. Students are encouraged to contact them is you have any questions about the information below.

* **Library Resources**

The library at NIAS is headed by the Library and Information Officer, Mrs. Hamsa Kalyani (hamsa.kalyani@gmail.com) who is always patient with all enquiries and queries, ably assisted by Mrs. Vijayalakshmi. The library is open 9.30 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. The catalogue and collection of resources of the NIAS Library can be accessed at (http://nias.res.in/library/catalogue). There are work stations within the library to carry out reference work and other such activities in solitude. The Library subscribes to a large number of electronic journals and archives. Remote access to these electronic resources will be provided upon application to Mrs. Hamsa, through email; she will process the query and respond based on a case by case basis.

* **Dining Facilities**

The campus is well maintained and provides ample space for good conversations and peaceful contemplation. It has a dining hall, wherein lunch is available upon reasonable payment; those wishing to eat in the dining hall are required to inform a member of dining hall staff by 11am each morning.

* **Wi-Fi Access**

The campus has good Wi-Fi facilities. Enquiries about access to Wi-Fi are to be made to Mr Srinivas Aithal, Head - Administration and Finance (admin@nias.iisc.ernet.in ).

* **Accommodation**

There are limited hostel facilities for students at Rs.500 per day, and the availability of these can be enquired from Mr. Aithal (admin@nias.iisc.ernet.in ). All the rooms are double occupancy. If possible, rooms can be booked for a single person, however shortage of space may be accommodated by renting the room on a shared basis.

There are also guest house facilities available at NIAS, which costs Rs.2000 per day, located within the campus. Accommodation options outside of the campus includes renting houses or looking for hostel or hotels, depending on the duration of stay and personal preferences. Online resources include <http://www.magicbricks.com>, [www.commonfloor.com](http://www.commonfloor.com), [www.airbnb.co.in](http://www.airbnb.co.in), and other such websites are worth exploring in advance, especially if renting of house is considered. NIAS can offer some guidance and advice, however it does not accept any financial responsibilities. Students hoping to stay off campus are encouraged to begin by consulting their NIAS supervisor for appropriate places to rent.

* **Research Community and Department Events**

NIAS is not organized as per a general University structure; it does not have departments such as Drama or Archaeology. Instead it is divided into four schools within which the following programs exits:

Complex Systems

Consciousness Studies

Conflict Resolution

Energy and Environment Research

Education Programme

Ecology, Behavior and Conservation

Heritage Science and Society

International Strategic and Security Studies

Urban and Mobility Studies

RBI Programme on Interdisciplinary Approaches to Economic Issues

Further details on each of these programs can be accessed from the [NIAS website](http://www.nias.res.in/). The advantage of this is that NIAS offers expertise on various subjects and themes within the institute, for example ‘conflicts in Northeast India’ or ‘education and exclusion.’ NIAS has a great combination of enthusiasm, expertise and understanding amongst its research of various subjects from Archaeology to Ecology.

NIAS runs a funded PhD program, the current Academic Head for which is Dr T S Gopi Rethinaraj. Every Wednesday morning talks are held at NIAS, and these have been used by both the researchers within and outside NIAS as platforms to further explore their research ideas and to talk about current research projects. Exeter-NIAS students are very welcome to attend.

**Visiting NIAS**

The environment at NIAS is one of approachability and vibrancy; it is very conducive to meeting different people from various disciplinary backgrounds. The faculty at NIAS reflect this attitude, and there exists a good sense of community on campus. In planning any visit, students are encouraged to inform both their supervisor and Mr Aithal of their plans, so they may provide appropriate advice to students and will help them settle into NIAS’ culture.

Any successful PhD candidates, who do not have an Indian passport, will have to obtain a research VISA in order to carry out research in India. They can apply to Mr Aithal by email for the necessary supporting documents from NIAS. On arrival in India, they will have to approach Mr. Aithal for details regarding the procedure for FRRO and the required documents (<http://boi.gov.in/content/general-instructions-registration-foreigners>).

**Making the Most of your NIAS supervisor**

The NIAS supervisor with whom the successful PhD candidate will be working with in close proximity is someone who can advice and guide them in their research. The successful PhD candidates are encouraged to interact and communicate with the NIAS faculty in order to enrich their own experience while at NIAS or away.