

# India Higher Education Research Conference (IHERC) 2025

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New Delhi, 21-22 November, 2025

IHERN will organise its flagship research conference, Indian Higher Education Research Conference (IHERC) on 21-22 November, 2025 in New Delhi, India. The conference will serve as a platform for presenting high-quality research of relevance to Indian higher education, and also for discussing practice and policy issues relating to Indian higher education. The conference will enable and promote researching the scholarly field of higher education, and linking the same with the practice and policy of higher education in India. IHERC 2025 will be at the intersection of various scholarly fields, including but not limited to higher education studies, the empirical context of higher education in India, and the practice and policy of higher education in India. The conference expects to have participation from the global scholarly community, with interests in Indian higher education.

**Venue:** IHERC 2025 will be held in New Delhi, India. The venue will be announced later.

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## Themes of the Conference

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The conference will be organized around contemporary topics of relevance to higher education in India, including but not limited to the below:

- Employability, student experience, and student success
- Equity and inclusion
- Expansion, Access, and Participation
- Internationalisation
- Privatization and marketisation
- Research excellence and global competitiveness
- Sustainability

- Teaching quality and learning outcomes
- Technology integration or online higher education
- Policy in Higher Education
- Other topics of relevance to higher education in India

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## Important Dates

<b>7 April, 2025</b>	Deadline for proposals for special sessions
<b>14 April, 2025</b>	Abstract submission opens
<b>16 July, 2025</b>	Deadline for abstract submission
<b>21 August, 2025</b>	Acceptance decision
<b>1 September, 2025</b>	Registration to open
<b>22 October, 2025</b>	Deadline for full draft paper submission

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## Abstract Submission

Abstracts to the IHERC can be submitted in two categories. Authors will be required to submit a 1,000 word (extended) abstract, mapped to one of the themes of the conference. Upon acceptance, authors will be required to submit full papers, not exceeding 7,000 words, prior to the conference.

### **Category A: Academic Research Papers**

Papers in this category will be based on rigorous research with a contribution to knowledge and potential for publication in peer-reviewed journals. Papers can be focused on higher education as a field of study or from other disciplines that examine higher education. Abstracts must be placed with respect to the current state of the field and the contribution must be clearly described. Abstracts need to highlight the academic contributions, an explanation of the methodological approach and findings. Papers need not be based on Indian higher education, but need to demonstrate connections with the same in the abstract and the

presentation. This category of submissions is suited for academics, doctoral and postdoctoral researchers, researchers working on think-tanks, and research staff working on higher education.

### **Category B: Research to Practice Papers**

Papers in this category will be based on strong empirical evidence about Indian higher education. These papers need not be immediately aimed at peer-reviewed journal publications, but need to demonstrate contribution to the collective understanding of Indian higher education policy and practice. Papers in this category will need to be empirically sound with clear evidence or pathways for influencing practice and policy. These will contribute to the conversation between researchers and practitioners on Indian higher education, and provide insights from practice around various aspects of Indian higher education. This category of submissions are suited for researchers, higher education practitioners from universities, policy makers, consultants, and research professionals and practitioners in think tanks.

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## Call for Special Sessions at the IHERC

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IHERC invites centre/institutes of higher education in various universities to submit proposals to host a “special session” around a thematic area of their preference.

A special session will include:

- (1) An invited speaker session by a recognized researcher in the field of higher education (Optional)
- (2) Three paper presentation in any of the two categories

Each special session will be for 90 min.

Once the special session proposals are accepted, submitting authors to the conference will have an option to submit their papers to the special session. Special session organisers will need to Chair the sessions and review the papers submitted for their session.

Use this link <https://forms.gle/6BVNjvwqfigduUEg9> to submit proposals for special session.

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## Conference Fees and Registration

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IHERC 2025 will be free for IHERN members.

Please use this link <https://iiitd.ac.in/IHERN/applications/register.php> to become a member of IHERN. Those not presenting any paper will also need to register to attend the conference.

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## Contact

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All queries for the conference can be sent to [ihern@iiitd.ac.in](mailto:ihern@iiitd.ac.in)