

FDI

Ministry of
Commerce & Industry,
Government of India



Information Brochure

2026

PhD Programme

Footwear Design & Development Institute
An Institution of National Importance

Design

Footwear Design & Production
Fashion Design
Leather Lifestyle & Product Design

Management

Retail & Fashion Merchandise

Admission Overview

Footwear Design & Development Institute (FDDI), an Institution of National Importance under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, invites applications for its Ph.D. Programme. The doctoral programme is designed to promote advanced research, innovation, and knowledge creation across the specialized domains of design, technology, fashion, retail, and management. With 12 state-of-the-art campuses and experienced faculty, FDDI offers an enriching research ecosystem aligned with industry needs and global standards.

Why Pursue a Ph.D. at FDDI?

- Access to advanced labs: CAD/CAM, biomechanics, leather, textiles, materials, retail simulation, and innovation centres.
- Interdisciplinary research across design, technology, materials, sustainability, and management.
- Strong industry linkages for collaborative, applied, and impactful research.
- Opportunities to publish, patent, and contribute to national and global knowledge ecosystems.
- Access to CoE labs at 7 centers in India.

Programme Offered

1. Full Time (Minimum 3 years)
2. Part Time (Minimum 3 years)

Schools Offering Ph.D. Programme

FDDI offers doctoral research opportunities through the following four schools:

1. School of Footwear Design & Production (SFDP)

Focus on footwear design, technology, biomechanics, materials, ergonomics, manufacturing systems, sustainability, and performance innovation.

2. School of Leather Goods & Accessories Design (SLGAD)

Craft-based leather and non-leather accessories, lifestyle products, and bag design; manufacturing processes for leather bags and garments; circular design and sustainable product development; craft studies and design interventions.

3. School of Fashion Design (SFD)

Covers areas such as functional clothing, textile design, textile innovation, digital fashion, sustainability, craft documentation, fashion systems, and emerging technologies in design.

4. School of Retail & Fashion Merchandise (SRFM)

Offers research pathways in Retail Business Management, Human Resource Management, Consumer Behaviour, Supply Chain & Logistics Management, Merchandising, Visual Communication, Marketing & Branding, E-commerce, Digital marketing, Luxury Retailing, Rural Retailing and related fields

Campus Offering PhD Programme

Noida, Hyderabad, Chennai, Kolkata, Rohtak, Chandigarh(Banur), Patna, Chhindwara, Jodhpur, Fursatganj, Guna, Ankleshwar

Eligibility

- Master's degree in Design/Management/Technology or related fields with 55% marks or equivalent CGPA OR
- Master's degree in any discipline + 10 years of relevant professional domain/teaching experience, OR
- 4-year Bachelor's degree in relevant area with 75% marks or equivalent CGPA. Relaxation of 5% for SC/ST/OBC (Non-creamy layer)/PwD candidates.

Admission Process

1. **Application Submission:** Application form along with Research Proposal to be submitted online on ERP link.
2. **Application Fee:** Rs. 1,000 / No application fee for eligible FDDI faculty & Govt officials coming under Ministry of Commerce
3. **Selection Process :**

Research Proposal

Research proposal should be submitted along with application form. The proposal should provide information about area of research, the candidate intends to carry out research and the likely outcome. The proposal may be linked to any earlier work / study that the candidate has worked on.

Research Proposal should include problem statement, research gap, primary objective and proposed methodology.(Indicative word limit: 3000 Words)

b) Written Entrance Test

Candidates will be shortlisted based on completion of eligibility criteria and their research proposal. These candidates will be called for the written test.

Following categories will be exempted from written test:

Candidates will be shortlisted based on completion of eligibility criteria and their research proposal. These candidates will be called for the written test.

Following categories will be exempted from written test:

- i) Candidates who have cleared and hold a valid score of with UGC-NET, JRF, CSIR (JRF), ICAR, ICMR
- ii) FDDI Faculty with more than 2 years of experience

Written test will be conducted in selected FDDI campuses. The details are as follows:

Duration: 2 Hours

Max Marks: 50

Subject Area	Type of question	Number of Questions	Marks
Research Aptitude	MCQ	10 (1 mark each)	10
Communication Skills	MCQ	10 (1 Mark each)	10
Logical Reasoning	MCQ	10 (1 Mark each)	10
Research Inclination	Descriptive	2 (10 Marks each)	20

The names of qualifying candidates will be displayed on FDDI website.

4. Interview

Candidates who have qualified the written exam and also those who are exempted from exam will be called for presentation of research proposal and interview.

All presentations and interviews will take place in Noida Campus either virtual/ offline mode. FDDI will not reimburse any travel and accommodation cost for appearing in interview. All expenses for appearing in exam/ interview should be borne by the candidate.

5. Final Selection & Registration

All candidates who qualify the interview will be registered after payment of fee

All part time candidates, external as well as FDDI employees are required to submit "No objection Certificate" from their respective employers. (Format given in annexure I). FDDI employees will require administrative clearance from their campus ED/ reporting authority (in case of HO) for issuance of NoC.

6. Allocation of Campus to PhD Scholar

The full time candidate will be based at the campus of assigned guide. Part time candidates can be based anywhere. However, the part time candidates will be required to meet their guides regularly and attend the classes, seminars, workshops , examination as required, at their own expense.

Programme Duration (For Full and Part Time)

- Minimum: 3 years (including coursework)
- Maximum: 6 years (extendable up to 8 years; 10 years for women and PwD scholars)

Programme Structure

The Ph.D. programme includes:

- **Coursework:** Research Methodology, Research & Publication Ethics, and two domain-specific electives recommended by the supervisor (interdisciplinary options allowed).
- **Comprehensive Examination:** Evaluation of research competence through oral exam, synopsis presentation, and proposal defence.
- **Research Work:** Guided research under supervisor(s), periodic progress reviews, seminars, conferences, and publications.
- **Thesis Submission & Viva-Voce:** External evaluation followed by an open defence.

Fee Structure (Special inaugural fee)

- Application Fee: ₹1,000/-

Semester-wise Fees

- Tuition Fee: ₹30,000/- per semester
- Library Fee (Non-Refundable): ₹5,000/-
- Medclaim (Non-Refundable): ₹800/- (For Full Time Students)
- Examination Fee: ₹2,000/-

One-Time Fees

- Registration Fee (Non-Refundable): ₹10,000/-
- Security Deposit (Refundable): ₹10,000/-
- Student Development Fee : 8500/-

FDDI Assistance

- 25% tuition fee waiver for FDDI faculty and Government officials under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (subject to Governing Council approval).
- Library, Security Deposit and Student Development Fee will be waived for eligible FDDI Faculty (subject to Governing Council approval).

Important Dates

- Last Date of Application: 31 Jan 2026
- Date of Written Exam: 19 April 2026
- Date of Interview: 24 May 2026

PAN INDIA 12 CAMPUSES :

Noida | Fursatganj (Raebareli) | Rohtak | Chandigarh (Banur) |
Jodhpur | Ankleshwar (Surat) | Hyderabad | Patna | Kolkata |
Chhindwara | Chennai | Guna

Contact Us For More Information : +91 9871756879