



KHARAGPUR COLLEGE

KHARAGPUR

Estd.: 1949

P.O.: Inda, Kharagpur, Dist.: Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal, Pin - 721 305

Dr. Milan Pramanik – A Journey from Kharagpur College to Global Research in Chemistry

"From a humble classroom in Kharagpur to the advanced laboratories of the UK, Dr. Milan Pramanik's journey is a story of brilliance, perseverance, and unwavering passion for science."

Early Life & Education

Dr. Milan Pramanik began his academic journey in the small town of Kharagpur, West Bengal, where he completed his B.Sc. in Chemistry (Honours) from the prestigious **Kharagpur College**, affiliated with Vidyasagar University, in 2014. Coming from a modest background, his early life was marked by curiosity and an eagerness to learn, even when resources were limited.

During his undergraduate years, he consistently ranked among the top of his class and was awarded the Merit-cum-Means Scholarship by the Government of West Bengal—twice—recognizing his academic excellence and financial need. His determination to excel beyond regional boundaries pushed him toward national-level exams, where he qualified the IIT-JAM in 2014, earning him admission to one of India's premier institutions—IIT Madras.



Academic Climb: From IIT to NISER

At IIT Madras, he specialized in Organic Chemistry and was mentored by Dr. P. Venkatakrishnan. His talent soon stood out, and he received a Merit Scholarship from IITM. Milan's work ethic and passion for chemistry led him to crack both GATE and CSIR-NET multiple times, securing funding for further research. He pursued his Ph.D. at NISER Bhubaneswar, under the guidance of Prof. Prasenjit Mal. His research focused on *novel methods for forming carbon-sulfur (C-S) bonds*, an essential area in drug design, agrochemicals, and materials science. His Ph.D. thesis was not only innovative but also impactful, leading to multiple high-impact publications and the Outstanding Doctoral Student Award (2022) by HBNI.

Global Research Footprint

After completing his Ph.D., Dr. Pramanik was selected for a Postdoctoral Research Associate position at the Cardiff Catalysis Institute, UK—one of Europe's leading centers for catalysis—where he works under Prof. Rebecca Melen and Prof. Thomas Wirth. His work now focuses on cutting-edge topics like:

- *Photoredox catalysis*
- *Frustrated Lewis Pair (FLP) chemistry*
- *Metal-free small molecule activation (e.g., CO₂ to ketenes)*
- *Air/moisture-sensitive organic transformations*

He has also served as a Visiting Research Fellow in **South Korea and India**, collaborating with global leaders in chemical sciences.

Awards & Honors

- *CRS Young Scientist Award 2022*
- *Best Poster Awards at IIT Madras and CRSI-Kolkata*
- *Invited Lectures across India and the UK*
- *Session Chair, Cardiff University (2024)*
- *Most Downloaded Author, Journal of Organic Chemistry, August 2023*
- *Lifetime Member, Chemical Research Societies (India)*

His research has appeared in journals like Angewandte Chemie, Chem, Organic Letters, and Dalton Transactions—with **over 25 publications** and several as first or corresponding author.

Mentorship & Outreach

Beyond research, Dr. Pramanik is deeply committed to teaching and mentorship. At Cardiff, he trains undergraduate students and supervises Ph.D. candidates. He has also mentored MSc students and project assistants during his Ph.D. at NISER. His mentoring is driven by his belief in *knowledge as a tool for social mobility*—a belief rooted in his own journey from a regional college to international academia.

He remains closely connected to his roots and has delivered invited lectures at Kharagpur College, inspiring young students to dream beyond borders and to believe that excellence can emerge from any corner of the country.

Quick Highlights

- From: Kharagpur College (Vidyasagar University), West Bengal
 - Now at: Cardiff University, UK
 - Expertise: Organic synthesis, catalysis, photocatalysis, FLP chemistry
 - Publications: 25+ (including *Angew. Chem.*, *Chem*, *JOC*, *Org. Lett.*)
 - Awards: CRS Young Scientist, HBNI Outstanding PhD Award, etc.
 - Invited Speaker: India, UK, and South Korea
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Academic Achievements of Dr. Milan Pramanik – A Story of Determination and Rising

1. Merit-cum-Means Scholarship for Higher Secondary Education – West Bengal Government
 2. Merit-cum-Means Scholarship for B.Sc. Studies (2010–2014) – West Bengal Government
 3. Qualified IIT-JAM (2014) – Entry into IIT Madras
 4. Merit-cum-Means Scholarship at IIT Madras (2014–2016)
 5. Qualified GATE (2016) – Chemical Sciences
 6. Qualified CSIR-UGC NET – 2016, 2017, 2018 (Three Times)
 7. Awarded Junior & Senior Research Fellowships – DAE, Govt. of India
 8. Highest CGPA in Ph.D. Coursework – NISER (2016)
 9. Best Poster Award – Medicinal Chemistry Conference, IIT Madras (2019)
 10. Best Poster Award – CRSI-NSC Conference, Kolkata (2021)
 11. Outstanding Doctoral Student Award – HBNI (2022)
 12. CRS Young Scientist Award (2022)
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Inspiration to the Next Generation

Dr. Milan Pramanik's academic journey is a shining reminder that:

“Your background doesn't define your future—your passion and persistence do.”

His success proves that **students from non-metro colleges like Kharagpur College** can compete and excel on global platforms. Every scholarship, every exam cleared, every award won—was a step carved out with **hard work, humility, and hunger to learn**.

Dr. Milan Pramanik's life stands as a powerful testament to what determination, hard work, and intellectual passion can achieve, regardless of one's starting point. He is not only a brilliant chemist but also a symbol of aspiration for thousands of students in small-town India who believe that science and scholarship can be a way to change their lives.