

## **Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)**

**(Last updated on Sept 2023)**

Doctoral Fellowships are awarded to selected Indian scholars, who are registered for Ph.D. in UGC recognized universities / deemed universities, institutes of national importance, ICSSR research institutes and colleges having approved Ph.D. programme with requisite infrastructure as defined by MoE / UGC to pursue and complete their doctoral research in any social science discipline.

Website: <https://icssr.org/doctoral-fellowship>

### **Categories of Doctoral Fellowship**

ICSSR is providing Doctoral Fellowships under its three 'Centrally-Administered Doctoral Fellowship Schemes' and 'Institutional Doctoral Fellowship Scheme' in accordance with the prescribed guidelines. In case of Centrally-Administered schemes, the fellowships are awarded and monitored directly by ICSSR and the concerned doctoral fellows are affiliated to a university or college. Under the Institutional Fellowship Scheme, the doctoral fellows are affiliated to and monitored by an ICSSR sponsored / recognized research institute. The scholar can avail anyone of the fellowships under the following categories:

- A. Centrally Administered Full-Term Doctoral Fellowship
- B. Institutional Full-Term Doctoral Fellowship (administered by the ICSSR research institutes)
- C. Centrally Administered Short-Term Doctoral Fellowship
- D. Centrally Administered Contingency Grant

### **Eligibility**

#### **A) Centrally Administered Full-Term Doctoral Fellowship**

1. The candidate must have a confirmed Ph.D. registration (Research Degree Committee (RDC) approved) at any of the institutions mentioned at 1.1. It includes the requirements of clearance of Research Entrance Test (RET); The Ph.D. topic must have been confirmed.
2. The candidate must not be more than 40 years of age on the last date of application. There shall be an age relaxation of 5 years for SC/ST candidates & persons with benchmark disability.
3. The candidate must have secured a minimum 45% marks in Graduation and 55% in Post-Graduation or equivalent grades in any social science disciplines. Five per cent (5%) relaxation of marks will be given to SC/ST candidates & persons with benchmark disability. The submission of marks sheets, particularly of Graduation and Post-Graduation are mandatory otherwise the candidate shall be considered as Not Eligible.
4. NET/SLET will carry weightage in the assessment of research proposal. But NET/SLET qualification is not mandatory for eligibility purposes. However, the submission of the NET / SLET Certificate is mandatory to secure weightage in assessment.
5. Candidates who have already availed UGC Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) / Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) / Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) / ICSSR / ICAR / CSIR / ICPR / ICMR / ICHR / Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Foundation Fund Fellowship (JNMF) or any such major doctoral fellowship are not eligible to apply. Candidates drawing UGC Non-NET Fellowship are eligible.

#### **B) Institutional Full-Term Doctoral Fellowship**

6. All the conditions of the Centrally Administered Doctoral Fellowship (2.1 to 2.5) shall apply to this category also and the fellowship shall be administered through the ICSSR research institutes.

### **C) Centrally Administered Short-Term Fellowship**

7. All the conditions of the Centrally Administered Doctoral Fellowship (2.1 to 2.5) shall apply and, in addition, the candidate should have completed at least two years of research work for Ph.D degree at any of the institutions mentioned at 1.1 above.

### **D) Centrally Administered Contingency Grant**

8. Under this scheme, a one-time grant is awarded to a registered Ph.D scholar at any of the institutions mentioned at 1.1 above, who is at an advanced stage of his/her research work. The candidate meeting all conditions of the Centrally Administered Doctoral Fellowship (2.1 to 2.5) is eligible to apply for Contingency Grant for the purposes of field trip, stationery and computer consumable related expenses.

### **How to Apply**

#### **Centrally Administered Full-Term Doctoral Fellowship**

1. Applications will be invited through open advertisement on ICSSR website and should be received before the deadline mentioned in the advertisement.

2. The candidates shall submit an online application which includes the Research Proposal Format. The proposal must be submitted in the given proforma only.

All scholars are required to keep the hard copies of their application and annexures ready, duly forwarded by the competent authorities of the university/ college/ institute so that they may submit the required hard copies, within 15 days of asking by ICSSR. It is being done for the sake of convenience of the applicants so that they get more time for preparing the hard copies.

In case, the hard copy of application is not received within 15 days of asking by ICSSR, the candidature of the applicant shall be treated as withdrawn / cancelled.

3. The Research Proposal should be either in English or Hindi or Sanskrit (for proposals in Sanskrit Studies) (Use Unicode 8 (UTF-8) to fill the form in Hindi and Sanskrit)

4. One applicant can apply only once under a particular Doctoral Fellowship scheme. However, he / she can apply separately for another scheme.

#### **Research Proposal Format**

In all, the research proposal shall be in about 3,000 words comprising of the following sections:

- i. **Title of the Research Proposal:** The research proposal should have a clear, meaningful and confirmed topic reflecting the scope of the study.
- ii. **Abstract** of the research proposal should be summarized (in about 300 words).
- iii. **Introduction:** The introduction should clearly state the research problem to be investigated in the light of its theoretical and/or empirical context in the relevant area. The proposal should include a statement on the relevance of the study and the anticipated outcomes (in about 300 words).
- iv. **Review of Literature:** (National and International): A Survey should have been undertaken involving at least 20 major research literature related to the theme of study under investigation and their list must be given in this section (in about 400 words).
- v. **Identification of Research Gaps:** The scholar should summarize the current status of research in the area and major findings, including the researcher's own work in the area. Existing empirical findings may also be discussed. The overview should clearly demonstrate the inadequacies/ gaps in the existing findings or approaches and its relevance (in about 200-300 words).
- vi. **Objectives of the Study:** The general aim of the study alongwith the specific objectives to be accomplished should be clearly stated while providing a rationale of the proposed study in the present context (in about 100-150 words).

- vii. **Research Questions or Hypotheses:** Given the conceptual framework and the specification of dimension, the specific questions to be answered through the proposed research should be sharply formulated. In case of an explanatory research design, specification of variables and positing of relationship among them through specific hypotheses must form a part of the research proposal (in about 250-300 words).
- viii. **Research Methodology:** The researcher must describe in detail (a) the scope and coverage of his/her study; and (b) approach and methodology with adequate justification to conduct the research. The details of the methodology may include research design, data to be collected and empirical and analytical methods to be used. The description of the methodology must be clearly linked to the aims of the research and the research questions/hypotheses of the study (in about 300 words).
- ix. **Innovation/Pathbreaking aspect of the research:** Here, the emphasis should be laid to spell out the innovativeness in approach and novel concepts that have been envisaged in the study (in about 150-200 words).
- x. **Proposed Outcomes of the Study:** A brief note on the proposed plan of publications, during the course of research and after its completion, must be provided, in that, the section should enlist the proposed outputs from the study in terms of publications in the form of research papers / articles in journals, particularly Scopus/ UGC's Care-listed journals, books, monographs, etc.) (in about 150 words).
- xi. **New Data to be Generated:** A note on deficiencies/inadequacies found in the existing data and description of the new data to be generated for the proposed research (in about 100 words).
- xii. **Expected Contribution of the Study:** A concise note needs to be given on the significant contributions the research work is expected to make to the theory and methodology on the subject as well as its practical importance to the society and its implications for policy-making (in about 300 words).
- xiii. **Duration of the Study with Quarterly Timelines:** A note on the present stage of doctoral work, expected duration for the completion of the work. Timelines must be set for each successive quarter and its completion (in about 200 words).