

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

Press Release

UGC scheme for D S Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowships

UGC launches a new scheme for D S Kothari Post-Doctoral Fellowships (PDF) from the academic session 2007-08 to commemorate the birth centenary of Prof D S Kothari, an eminent educationist and scientist and former Chairman of UGC. UGC's initiative to launch a prestigious PDF scheme, named after an illustrious scientist, is one of the important and timely step which fills a widely felt void in availability of high quality research personnel in the country. An MOU was signed in this context between UGC and Pune University, today, which has been identified as the nodal university for launching the scheme.

The selection process under the scheme would be open all the year round and not restricted by any specified deadlines as thesis submission and award of Ph.D degree are open ended processes. There would be a rolling advertisement on the UGC website; other institutions and UGC affiliates would be encouraged to replicate it on theirs. Applications would be submitted electronically on forms that can be downloaded from the web and the entire process would be carried out on-line.

A standing (core) peer group would evaluate the applications. Since this is a promotional scheme to inculcate post-doctoral research culture, emphasis during the review process/selection would be on an appropriate mix of the candidate's accomplishment at Ph. D level and the professional standing of mentor and institution where the post-doctoral research is to be carried out.

There could be up to 500 such awards every year, making it to about 1000 at its peak.

Candidates who have either received a Ph. D degree or submitted their Ph. D thesis are eligible to apply. When selected, those holding the Ph. D degree will be directly awarded the named PDF. Those who have submitted their Ph. D thesis may be awarded a 'bridging fellowship' (with marginally reduced stipend) until they are formally awarded the Ph. D degree.

The fellowship will be awarded on a yearly basis with renewal/termination clause on the basis of PDF mentor/peer group appraisal. However, the maximum duration of the PDF award would be 3 yrs. Candidates should give an undertaking while availing the award, along with the endorsement of the research mentor, that they would stay in place for a minimum of six months.

The stipend for these awards would be Rs.18,000-22,000 per month with annual increase of Rs.1000 per month. The 'bridging fellowship' stipend would be Rs.16,000 per month.

The PDF award would carry a contingency grant of Rs.50,000 per annum.

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