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# **NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOR SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS**

**2018-19**



## UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

### NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOR SCHEDULED CASTE STUDENTS

#### 1. INTRODUCTION:

National Fellowship scheme for providing fellowship to Scheduled Caste students was introduced during the financial year 2005-06 to provide opportunities to them for pursuing higher education leading to MPhil/ Ph.D degrees in Science, Humanities, Social Sciences and Engineering & Technology streams.

The scheme is open to candidates who belong to Scheduled Caste and who have appeared and qualified the CBSE/NTA-UGC NET-JRF/CSIR-NET-JRF during 2018 (June 2018 and December 2018 and onwards). The candidates should be pursuing regular and full time M.Phil and Ph.D. degrees in Sciences, Humanities, Social Sciences and Engineering & Technology.

#### 2. NUMBER OF FELLOWSHIPS

This scheme provides for 2000 fellowships (1500 Junior Research Fellow for Humanities/Social Sciences stream and 500 Junior Research Fellow for Science and Engineering & Technology stream).

#### 3. OBJECTIVE:

The objective of the scheme is to provide five year fellowships in the form of financial assistance to students from SC categories, as notified by the Central Government to pursue higher studies such as M.Phil. or Ph.D. in Indian Universities/Institutions/Colleges which are recognized by the University Grants Commission.

#### 4. TARGET GROUP

The candidates belonging to one of the SC categories who have passed the post graduation examination in concerned subject and who have qualified CBSE/NTA-NET-JRF and/or CSIR-NET/JRF in 2018 and are pursuing full time research.

The scheme covers all Universities/ Institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and is implemented by the UGC on the pattern of the scheme of UGC fellowships being awarded to research students pursuing MPhil/ Ph.D. These slots will be over and above the number of SC students selected under the normal reservation policy of the Government for UGC fellowships.

#### 5. TENURE OF FELLOWSHIP

- (i) Tenure of fellowship is five years. It commences from the date of declaration of the award of this fellowship or from the date of admission in MPhil/ Ph.D or from the date of joining the MPhil/ Ph.D, whichever is later.

- (ii) The awardee is required to get admission and registration for regular and full time MPhil/ Ph.D in University/ Institution/ College recognized by UGC at the first available opportunity but no later than one year from the award of this fellowship.

#### 6. ELIGIBILITY:

A candidate has to fulfill the following conditions to be eligible for award of this fellowship:-

- i. The candidate should belong to SC and should have qualified the CBSE/NTA-UGC-NET-JRF or CSIR NET-JRF in the year of selection.
- ii. Only such candidates who have already completed their Post graduation course or equivalent Master's examination at the time of applying for CBSE/NTA-UGC-NET-JRF and CSIR-NET-JRF will be considered for this award.
- v. Students selected under this scheme shall not be entitled to other benefits under UGC scheme or any other benefits from Central or State government or bodies similar to UGC offering similar benefit.
- vi. Up-gradation of Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) to Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) shall be done as per UGC rules applicable in the case of UGC-NET-JRF candidates.
- vii. Fellowship payable to the student shall not exceed 60 months in any case. Payment of the fellowship shall be regulated as per UGC-NET-JRF scheme and no extension of any kind will be entertained.
- vii. Employees of any University / College/ Educational institution/ Central/ State/ UT Government shall be excluded from availing the fellowship, even if they are on study leave or Extra Ordinary Leave(EOL) to pursue the MPhil/ Ph.D course.
- viii. Transgender candidates are eligible under the scheme.

#### 7. DURATION OF FELLOWSHIP AND PAYMENT OF FELLOWSHIP:

Name of the Course	Maximum duration	Admissibility of JRF and SRF	
		JRF	SRF
M.Phil.	2 years or submission of dissertation whichever is earlier	2 years	Nil
M.Phil./ Ph.D.	5 years from commencement of Fellowship till submission of Ph.D. thesis, whichever is earlier	2 years	Remaining 3 years
Ph.D.	5 years or till submission of Ph.D.thesis, whichever is earlier	2 years	Remaining 3 years



## 8. AMOUNT OF FELLOWSHIP:

The rate of fellowship for JRF and SRF will be at par with the UGC Fellowship as amended from time to time. Presently these rates are as follows:-

### Fellowship (w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2014)

Fellowship in Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences	@Rs. 25,000/-p.m. initial two year @Rs.28,000/-p.m. for remaining tenure	JRF/ SRF
Contingency	@Rs.10,000/-p.a. for initial two year (JRF) @Rs.20,500/-p.a. for remaining tenure (SRF)	Humanities & Social Sciences
Contingency	@Rs.12,000/-p.a. initial two year (JRF) @Rs.25,000/-p.a. for remaining tenure (SRF)	Science, Engg. & Technology
Escorts/Reader assistance	@Rs.2,000/- p.m. in case of physically handicapped & blind candidates.	All Subjects
HRA	As per Govt. of India norms.	All Subjects

## 9. HOUSE RENT ALLOWANCE:

- Suitable single-seated hostel accommodation may be provided to the candidates in the institutions. In such cases, the fellow is eligible to draw only hostel fees excluding mess, electricity, water charges, etc. A certificate to this effect is to be furnished through the Registrar/Director/Principal. HRA is not permissible for those candidates who are staying in Hostel accommodation.
- In case of non-availability of hostel accommodation, the fellow may be provided with single accommodation by the host institution. In such cases, the rent paid by the fellow on actual basis may be reimbursed subject to the ceiling of HRA as per Govt. of India norms.
- If the fellow makes her own arrangements of accommodation, he/she may be entitled to draw HRA as per categorization of cities by the Govt. of India.

## 10. MEDICAL:

No separate /fixed medical assistance is provided. However, the fellow may avail of the medical facilities available in the University/Institution/College.

#### 11. LEAVE:

- (i) Leave for maximum period of 30 days in a year in addition to public holiday may be taken by the candidate. However, they are not entitled to any other vacation, such as summer, winter and pooja vacations.
- (ii) Candidates are eligible for maternity/ paternity leave at full rates of the fellowship as per Govt. of India rules once during the tenure of the award.
- (iii) **Academic Leave:** The Fellow may be allowed academic leave (without fellowship and other emoluments) for a period not exceeding one year during the tenure of award for academic/ teaching assignment /foreign visit in connection with research work.

The expenditure on travel cannot be claimed from UGC. The period of leave without fellowship will be counted towards the tenure.

If the awardee wishes to apply for any other fellowship/paid assignment/examination conducted by a public body during the tenure of the fellowship, he/ she is not required to obtain NOC from UGC. In case of selection, the candidate would be required to tender resignation from the National Fellowship for SCs.

**Note: All kind of leave shall be approved by the University/Institute/College.**

#### 12. AADHAR SEEDING:

Payment of fellowship and any other admissible allowance should be made to beneficiaries through their bank accounts on DBT mode. The Ministry of Social Justice vide notification number 428 dated February 16, 2017 has notified Aadhaar as identity document under Section 7 of Aadhaar Act, 2016 for all scholarship/ fellowship schemes.

#### 13. SELECTION PROCEDURE:

The selection for the award of fellowship to students will be made on the basis of merit of each UGC-NET-JRF or CSIR-NET-JRF examination and will be made twice a year.

#### 14. PROCEDURE FOR RELEASE OF GRANT BY UGC

- (i) The fellowship amount shall be disbursed to the awardee on Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) basis. The process of updating monthly information with respect to the awardees by the host institution and payments thereof is being implemented on a state of art dedicated web portal <https://scholarship.canarabank.in/AdminLogin.aspx>.
- (ii) Bank account number of the beneficiaries will be validated through PFMS for creating on beneficiary ID.
- (iii) Video tutorial and guidelines for operating the web portal is available on UGC website and may be referred for use.

- (iv) Genuineness of the Schedules Caste certificate furnished by the awardee shall be verified by the concerned University/ institution before the details are updated on the web portal.
- (v) The concerned University/ Institution may also ensure that the awardee is not availing any other fellowship / project from any other organization at the time of selection and fulfills all the other conditions as laid down in the guidelines.
- (vi) The fellow will undertake full-time research work under the approved guide in a subject selected by him and approved by the university/selection committee.
- (vi) In case any candidate is found to have obtained fellowship through fraudulent means or provided incorrect information, the fellowship may be cancelled under intimation to the UGC.

**15. RESIGNATION AND TRANSFER:**

- (i) If the Fellow resigns or relinquishes the fellowship before the end of the tenure, information may be submitted by the concerned University/ institution on the designated web portal itself and stop payment link may be used at the time of monthly confirmation.
- (ii) Transfer of Research place will be allowed only once during the entire tenure. Transfer can be made by the concerned University/ institution itself on the designated web portal through the concerned link available therein.

**16. CANCELLATION OF AWARD:**

The fellowship is liable to cancellation, in case of:

- i. Misconduct.
  - ii. Unsatisfactory progress of research work.
  - iii. Candidate is later found ineligible.
  - iv. Candidate is already availing scholarship/fellowship from any other sources.
  - v. Candidate if found employed during the M.Phil/Ph.D research.
  - vi. Any false information furnished by the applicant or any fraudulent activity by the Scholar/Fellow/Research Awardee.
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