

FAQs on (National Doctoral Fellowship (NDF))

Q.1	What are the eligibility criteria?
Ans.	The candidate must have secured cumulative grade point average of 7.5 on the scale of 10 or equivalent at both B.E/B.Tech/B.Pharm and M.E/M.Tech/M.Pharm. In addition to above the candidate should have qualified GATE/GPAT during the last 5 years. For SC/ST/PH candidates CGPA requirement will be 7.0 on the scale of 10 or equivalent or general candidate must have secured 75% marks or above & 70% marks for candidates of reserved categories. The candidate should be less than 30 years of age as on 31st July of year of application however age relaxation of 5 years would be applicable to candidates belonging to SC/ST, women and physically challenged category.
Q.2	What is the duration of the Fellowship?
Ans.	The Fellowship shall be available for a period of 3 Years. No extension will be granted. However, in exceptional cases the period is extendable by 6 months based on the recommendation of Institute and approval of National Nodal Centre. Further extension of 6 months may be given on the recommendations with the approval of AICTE.
Q.3	Is there any reservation policy?
Ans.	Reservation for fellowship shall be as per Central Reservation Policy i.e. 15% to SC candidates, 7.5% to ST candidates and 27% to OBC candidates (NCL only), and will be observed at National level.
Q.4	What is the amount of fellowship?
Ans.	The Fellowship will be Rs. 31,000 pm for the first two years followed by Rs. 35,000 pm for the third year. HRA will be provided at the rate of 8%, 16% and 24% as per the GoI norms as applicable in the city/location where the Research Fellow is pursuing their research. These rates are applicable from 01.01.2019 .
Q.5	Is any contingency grant admissible?
Ans.	Contingency grant will be admissible to the Scholars at the rate of Rs.15, 000/- per annum to meet the miscellaneous expenditures.
Q.6	What is the selection procedure?
Ans.	Applications are invited by the National Nodal Center, NDF. The applications received will be short listed as per the eligibility criteria. Candidates will go through the selection procedure as decided by National Nodal Center, NDF in consultation with AICTE New Delhi.
Q.7	Is the student who has qualified 5 years integrated dual degree B.Tech/M.Tech program are eligible for admission as Ph.D. scholar under the scheme of NDF.
Ans.	Student who has done five years integrated B.Tech/M.Tech dual Degree is not eligible for Ph.D. admission under NDF scheme.
Q.8	Whether work experience is counted in terms of eligibility for applying for Ph.D. Admissions under NDF scheme?
Ans.	Work experience is not a criterion for selection under NDF scheme
Q.9	If a candidate gets selected in more than one Institute or in more than one department, does the candidate have the choice to choose the department after the interview?
Ans.	No such choice is provided to the candidate after the interview.
Q.10	Can I change my order of preference after the Interview?
Ans.	No change in the order of preference is allowed after the interview.

Q.11	How many times in a year will admissions to Ph.D. Programs under NDF take place?
Ans.	Ph.D. program under NDF is only once in a year. Admission process starts from the month of May-June and final selection takes place in the month of July-August.
Q.12	Is any TA/DA admissible for attending the interview?
Ans.	There is no provision for TA/DA for attending the interview.
Q.13	Do I need to send the Hard Copy to National Nodal Center, NDF and copies to respective Institute Department?
Ans.	There is no requirement of sending any hard copy of the application form. However, candidate is required to submit relevant supporting documents ON-LINE while filling up the application form.
Q.14	Is there any application fee to be paid while applying on-line?
Ans.	Yes. Application fee to be paid on-line is Rs. 500/- in respect of General/OBC category students and Rs. 250/- in respect of reserved category (SC/ST/PH) students. Payment of fees through payment gateway will be enabled in the portal on or before the month of May of the relevant year.
Q.15	Whether I can take admission in IITs and NITs under the scheme of NDF?
Ans.	Selected candidates will be offered admission only in identified Research Centers of AICTE.
Q.16	Is it necessary to attend interview at all the institutes as well as the departments from which I receive interview call letter?
Ans.	There is no provision that one must attend interview at all the institute opted. However, it is advised that candidate may attend all such calls to achieve wider scope of selection.
Q.17	Whom to contact in case of any difficulties in accessing the portal for submitting online application?
Ans.	Applicant can send an email at: coord.rs@psgtech.ac.in and for technical issues in the portal students/Institutions can make call on - 011-29581333 (from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm) on all working days for all queries.
Q.18	What is the total Intake of the scheme?
Ans.	The total number of candidates selected under this scheme per year would be limited to 300 per year. Number of candidates per Institute would be about 10 per Institute, subject to the availability of seats in the research Centre and demand of a research Centre by candidates.
Q.19	Is there any Teaching Assistance (Work Load)?
	Teaching assistantship of not more than 8 hours/week may be given to scholars undergoing full time Ph.D. program under AICTE-NDF scheme and can include assistance in lab classes, tutorial support etc.
Q.20	What action will be taken in case of leaving the course before completion?
Ans.	The awardee shall furnish an undertaking that in case of his/her vacating the seat within the duration for which he has been offered fellowship, he/she shall be liable to refund the entire amount fellowship received by him/her till the date of his/her leaving the scheme.
Q.21	What type of Bank account should be maintained?
Ans.	Savings Bank account with any nationalized bank in the name of beneficiary only should be registered for transaction of fellowship. Joint/Minor Account/Jan Dhan Ac/No frill Account/Account having any limit of transactions/credit is not permissible.

Q.22	Can the Bank account be closed or shifted during the course?
Ans.	Registered bank account should not be either closed or shifted during the tenure of the course.
Q.23	How to ensure timely receipt of scholarship?
Ans.	Ensure that your Institution/College forwards your monthly attendance by 15 th of every month.
Q.24	Is it mandatory to have Aadhar seeded accounts to receive the scholarship.
Ans.	Registered bank account should be Aadhar seeded since the payment of PG Scholarship is released by Public Financial Management System (PFMS) on AADHAR Bridge Payment System (ABPS) mode.
Q.25	How to avoid failed transactions?
Ans.	Students receiving PG scholarship through DBT should verify all accounts in their name in various Bank linked with Aadhar number, particularly the latest bank account, in order to trace credit of the scholarship amount. They must also keep their bank accounts in operation, to avoid chances of failed transactions.
Q.26	What is to be done in case of failed transaction?
Ans.	In case of failed transactions, student may contact bankers to find out the reasons and after doing the needful, AICTE be informed.
Q.27	When to send e-mail or make call to AICTE?
Ans.	For any information/ queries regarding eligibility or other issues refer the approved guidelines/FAQ's before sending e-mail or making call.