

AICTE National Doctoral Fellowship Scheme (NDF)

1		Objective
		The objective of this scheme are:
	(a)	To promote research culture in AICTE approved Institutions.
	(b)	Admitting full time meritorious Research scholars by providing Research fellowship who wants to seek admission to Ph.D. in AICTE approved Technical Institutes/University Departments for carrying out research in thrust areas as listed in Annexure-I .
	(c)	To nurture talents for technical research.
	(d)	To promote collaborative research between Institute and Industries leading to start-ups.
2		Eligibility
	(a)	The fellowship/contingency will be granted to Research scholars admitted in Research Institute of AICTE. National Nodal Centre will augment the process for selecting candidates as per the eligibility criteria for grant of National Doctoral Fellowship. Duties/functions and responsibilities of the Nodal Centre as attached at Annexure-II .
	(b)	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/ Physically Challenged 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 respectively .
	(c)	The candidate should be less than 30 years of age as on 31 st 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.
3		Duration of the scheme
	(a)	The duration of the scheme shall be for a period of 3 Years. Normally, no further extension will be granted. In exceptional cases viz due to natural calamities or reasons beyond control etc. the duration is extendable by 6 months as a special case on the recommendation of Institute and approval of National Nodal Centre. Further extension of 6 months may be given on a rare circumstance on the recommendations with the approval of AICTE.
4		Intake of the scheme
	(a)	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. If the seats allotted to the institution remain vacant, these seats will be allotted to the other institutions by the Nodal Centre on the approval of AICTE.
5		Reservation Policy
	(a)	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.

6		Disbursement of the Funds
	(a)	The rate of Fellowship will be Rs. 31,000/- month for the first two years followed by Rs. 35,000/- month for the third year. HRA will be provided at the revised 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 . Contingency grant will be admissible at the rate of Rs. 15,000 per annum
7		Processing Methodology
	(a)	Candidates will be identified by the National Nodal Centre of AICTE as per the functions and duties of National Nodal Centre.
8		Limit of funding
	(a)	The selected Nodal Centre may be released an amount of Rs.11.00 lakhs annually for meeting the expenditure on Honorarium/Salary to DEO/Clerks and for meeting expenses of National Nodal Centre Coordinator's Office.
9		Terms and Conditions
	(a)	The awardee shall submit an annual report on the progress, each year through the Research Supervisor, Head of the Department and Head of the Institute.
	(b)	The final progress report should be submitted by the awardee through the Head of the Department / Institution to the AICTE.
	(c)	The awardee shall not be allowed for transfer of award from the Institution where the awardee is presently working for Ph.D. during the entire tenure of the award.
	(d)	The awardee shall devote full time to research during the tenure of fellowship and will not be permitted to take any part time/full time assignment. He/She will not accept any other salary or fellowship, if offered during the tenure of fellowship through any other source. The nature of the candidature (Full time AICTE sponsored National Doctoral Fellow) will not be changed during the program.
	(e)	The awardee shall give a declaration that if the results of research are such that can be exploited commercially by taking a patent or otherwise commercial exploitation and patent rights should be with the Institute, candidate and supervisor. However, the rules of respective Research Institute, if any, in this regards will be applicable.
	(f)	AICTE online portal will have PG Scholarship portal like mechanism for the purpose of releasing fellowship/HRA etc amount directly in the bank account of the beneficiary through DBT.
	(g)	The service conditions mentioned in the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education (Technical Section-I) instruction notified vide F. Number 17-2/2014-TS.I dated 18.02.2015 shall be applicable to awardees.
	(h)	If the progress of the candidate is not satisfactory as reported by the supervisor/Head of the Department /Head of the Research Institute, the fellowship of the candidature will be terminated with immediate effect. This will not be revoked under any circumstances.
	(i)	The PhD rules/regulations of the Research Institute and affiliating university will be applicable to all admitted candidates under this scheme.
	(j)	Following are the leave entitlement (i) 30 days Leave in a year in addition to public holidays. They are not entitled to any other vacations. (ii) Candidates are eligible for maternity leave as per GoI norms issued from time to time at full rates of fellowship etc. once during the tenure of their award. However, maximum duration of fellowship will not be extended under any circumstances.

10		Teaching Assistance (Work Load)
	(a)	“Teaching assistantship of not more than 8 hours/week may be given to scholars undergoing full time Ph.D. program under AICTE-NDF scheme which can include assistance in lab classes, tutorial support etc.”
11		Leaving the course before completion
	(a)	The awardee shall furnish an undertake that in case of leaving his 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. For those scholars who left the course midway on or after 1st October 2020, the fellowship shall be stopped.
12	(a)	Transformation of NDF scheme to ADF scheme.
		The National Doctoral Fellowship scheme (NDF) has been transformed as AICTE Doctoral Fellowship (ADF) by involving selected Technical Universities/ other Universities in selection, registration etc. of the scholars from the academic year 2020-21. The existing scholars under the NDF scheme will continue to receive the fellowship till completion of present programme.
13	(a)	In case any student/scholar avails the break during the fellowship period on medical ground with due permission of the university/institute, the fellowship will be discontinued from the month of such break and shall be resumed on rejoining the program for the remaining period of fellowship.
	(b)	In case any student/scholar receives any financial assistance from any other organization during the tenure of course, with due permission of the University/Institute, the scholar will not be entitled for the fellowship for the duration in which he/ she is availing such financial assistance and it shall be resumed on discontinuance of such external financial assistance. Further the period for which the scholar has received external financial assistance shall be deducted from the maximum duration of the fellowship.

Thrust Areas (Indicative)

- Nuclear Engineering and Allied Technologies
- Robotics and Mechatronics
- Energy Efficiency, Renewable and sustainable Energy
- Electric and Hybrid Mobility
- Smart Cities, Housing and Transportation
- IoT, I2oT, and Embedded Systems
- Nano Science and Technology
- Big Data, Machine Learning and AI
- Drug modelling and development
- Biomedical and Rehabilitation.
- Smart Technologies for Agriculture and Food Industry
- Water purification, conservation and management.

**Functions and duties of National Nodal Centre for the Scheme of National
Doctoral Fellowship (NDF)**

Pre-Selection

1. Will decide the selection procedure i.e. by holding written test, Interview and by keeping GATE/GPAT qualification weight-age etc.
2. Will decide the allocations of seats keeping in view of the reservation policy rules.

Post-Section

1. Allotment of candidates to different Research Centres.
2. Submission of proposal to AICTE for release of consolidated funds in keeping view the amount of fellowship + allowances, if any and the funds required for handling the scheme (This should be on outcome based).
3. Release of online payment of fellowship on monthly basis on receipt of monthly attendance of the Scholars from the concerned Research Centres through portal.

On Completion of Ph. D. by the Scholar

1. To advise the Research Centre to keep Research data/Thesis submitted by the Scholars in the library of the Centre.
2. To up-load the soft copy of Research data/Thesis on the portal of the AICTE.
3. To submit the completion report & other documents as per the terms & conditions of grant released for the purpose by AICTE, New Delhi.