

CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME OF
**'NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP FOR PERSONS
WITH DISABILITIES'**

FOR PURSUING M.PHIL AND/OR PH.D.

(Effective from 1st April 2012)

*(Revised as per decision of SFC in its meeting held
on 7th January, 2014 and subsequently Fellowship amount revised w.e.f. 1st
December, 2014. Name of the scheme changed w.e.f. 23rd February, 2016)*



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**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT
DEPARTMENT OF EMPOWERMENT OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

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I. Background

The Central Sector scheme of National Fellowship for Persons with Disabilities has been launched with the objective of providing financial assistance to the students with disabilities for pursuing higher education leading to degrees such as M. Phil. and Ph.D. in India. The scheme was effective from 1st April 2012. The scheme caters to the requirements of the students with disabilities for pursuing research degree in universities, research institutions and scientific institutions. This will not only enable them to be eligible for employment to the posts of Lecturers lying vacant in various colleges and universities but will equip them to effectively take advantage of the growing opportunities at the national and international level in the context of the new economic order.

II. Scope of the scheme

The scheme caters total number of 200 Fellowship (Junior Research Fellows, JRF) per year to students with disabilities. The scheme covers all universities/institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and is implemented by the UGC itself on the pattern of the scheme of UGC Fellowship being awarded to research students pursuing M.Phil. and Ph.D. These fellowships will be available to students with disabilities who are covered under the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995. Thus, a person with disability who wishes to avail the benefit under the Act has to obtain a disability certificate from the medical authority notified for the purpose.

III. Implementing agencies

UGC and Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities shall be the nodal agencies for implementing the scheme. Whereas UGC shall be responsible for selection of beneficiaries under the scheme, and Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities shall be responsible for disbursement of funds to the beneficiaries identified by the UGC.

IV. Eligibility

- (i) Any student with disabilities who has been admitted to M.Phil./Ph.D. degree in a University or academic institution by completing the required formalities for admission at that University or academic institution is eligible for the award of Fellowship subject to provision of the scheme.
- (ii) After two years, if the progress in the research work of the awardee is found satisfactory, his/her tenure will be extended for a further period of three years as Senior Research Fellowship (SRF). The research work will be assessed by a three member committee set up by the University. The committee will consist of the Supervisor, Head of the Department and one outside expert in the subject. JRF may be terminated in case the progress of the candidate is not found satisfactory by the committee. The SRF shall be sanctioned on year to year basis on the recommendation of the Supervisor of the candidate duly accepted/rejected by the Head of the Department and finally approved by the Vice Chancellor. The total period of award of JRF and SRF shall not exceed a period of five years. The fellowship is paid from date of registration of the students in M.Phil./Ph.D. course but not earlier than 1st April, 2012 i.e. date of effect of the scheme.
- (iii) The students with disabilities once considered eligible for the fellowship shall not be entitled to any other benefits from Central or State Government or any other body like UGC offering similar benefit to avoid duplication and increased coverage. Only those doing regular and full time M.Phil./Ph.D. course of a University/Research Institution shall be eligible for the fellowship. Employees of any University/College/Educational Institution/Central/State/U'T Government shall be excluded from availing Fellowship, even if they are on Study Leave or EOL to pursue the M.Phil./Ph.D. course

V. Number of Fellowships

- (i) The total number of fellowships to be awarded to the students with disabilities under the scheme is 200 every year. In case of non-availability of adequate number of students with disabilities candidate, the number of fellowship not availed during a year will be carried forward to the next academic session.
- (ii) However during 2012-13 and 2013-14, the balance number of unutilized JRF may be extended to deserving students for award of SRF scholarship, this will be subject to assessment by UGC as per their guidelines for award of SRF scholarships, within the budget provision of the scheme. In such cases UGC will consult the DEPwD which will take appropriate action.

- (iii) In case, the number of candidates exceeds the number of available awards, the UGC will select the candidates based on the percentage of marks obtained by the candidates in their Post Graduation examination.

VI. Duration of Fellowship

Name of the Course	Maximum duration	Admissibility of JRF and SRF	
		JRF	SRF
M.Phil	2 years	2 years	NIL
Ph.D	5 years	2 years	Remaining 3 years
M.Phil + Ph.D	5 years	2 years	Remaining 3 years

VII. Rate of Fellowship

- (i) The rates of fellowship for JRF and SRF will be at par with the UGC Fellowships. Presently these rates are as follows:

1	Fellowship	Rs.25,000/- p.m. for initial two years (Junior Research Fellowship (JRF), Rs.28,000/- p.m. for remaining tenure (Senior Research Fellowship (SRF)).
2	Contingency for Humanities and Social Science (including Arts/Fine Arts)	@ Rs. 10,000/- p.a. for initial two years @ Rs. 20,500/- p.a. for remaining tenure
3	Contingency for Science, Engineering & Technology	@ Rs. 12,000/- p.a. for initial two years @ Rs. 25,000/- p.a. for remaining tenure
4	Departmental assistance (All subjects)	@ Rs. 3,000/- p.a. per student to the host institute for providing infrastructure
5	Escort/Reader assistance (All subjects)	@ Rs. 2,000/- p.m. in cases of candidates with physical and visual disabilities

- (ii) The House Rent Allowance (HRA) will be on the UGC pattern and will be payable to those students who are not provided with hostel accommodation. In case hostel accommodation offered by the university/institution is refused, the student will forfeit his claim of HRA. The other facilities such as medical facilities, leave including maternity leave will be governed as per the guidelines of the UGC in case of their fellowship programme.

VIII. Eligibility for Senior Research Fellowship

In order to qualify for the award of Senior Research Fellowship, the UGC norms would be applicable.

IX. Procedure for grant of scholarship under NFPwD

The University Grants Commission (UGC) and Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities shall be the nodal agency for implementing this scheme. The scheme takes effect from 01.04.2012.

A. Role of UGC:-

- i) UGC shall notify the scheme through suitable advertisement in the press and invite online applications for award of National Fellowship for Persons with Disabilities(NFPwD).
- ii) There shall be no restriction as regards to the minimum marks in the Post Graduation examination.
- iii) It would be sufficient for a student with disabilities candidate to have passed the Post Graduation Examination for being eligible for this scheme (NFPwD).
- iv) There shall be no restriction to the effect that a student with disability should have cleared NET/SLET examination for being eligible for receiving the NFPwD.
- v) UGC will give one month's time to the candidate for applying for the NFPwD.
- vi) UGC will select the candidates for award of NFPwD.
- vii) The distribution of fellowships amongst different States/UTs would primarily be in the proportion of students with disabilities population in the respective States/UTs.
- viii) In case the numbers of fellowships so allocated to a State/UT are not fully utilized, due to non-availability of eligible candidates, the UGC will allocate the slots amongst the other States/UTs where the number of eligible candidates is much more than the slots allocated to that State/UT. A committee consisting of the representatives of UGC and Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will take this decision.
- ix) UGC will evolve a mechanism for identification of the beneficiaries linking with UID/Aadhar number.
- x) UGC will also issue a booklet containing all the details about the scheme, for the benefit of prospective candidates.
- xi) UGC will evolve its own mechanism for verifying the genuineness of the students with disabilities availing of the NFPwD on fake certificate.

- xii) UGC will ensure that student with disabilities already benefiting under other fellowship programme are not covered under NFPwD.
- xiii) The decision of the UGC in regard to awarding the NFPwD shall be final and no appeal would lie against any decision by UGC in regard thereof.
- xiv) UGC will intimate list of beneficiaries for JRF and SRF along with their UID/Aadhar Number, amount of scholarship, year of fellowship, etc. to Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities for disbursement of scholarship for the fellowship programme.
- xv) UGC shall also evaluate the performance of research work by the students with disabilities for the purpose of awarding SRF.

B. Role of Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities :-

- i) Department of Disability Affair shall be responsible for disbursement of the fellowship amount to the beneficiaries identified by UGC.
- ii) On receipt of the list of beneficiaries for JRF and SRF under NFPwD from UGC, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities shall ensure on-line/electronic transfer of fellowship amount to the identified students with disabilities.

X. Evaluation and Monitoring

The expenditure on administration/evaluation/monitoring of the fellowship programme up to 5% of the budget allocation shall be met out of the funds provided for this scheme. Award of SRF should be done after appropriate evaluation of performance in carrying out the research work by the candidate in the Junior Research Fellowship phase.
