

INDIAN COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

Guidelines for Award of Major & Minor Research Projects 2025-26

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. The ICSSR promotes, supports and coordinates research in the various domains of

Social and Human sciences to cultivate a dynamic ecosystem of advanced research in the country. In line with this, Major & Minor Research Projects are awarded to Indian Social and Human Science researchers, with the aim of contributing to national development by offering evidence-based solutions to present and future challenges in diverse fields.

1.2. The Major and Minor Research Projects for the Financial Year 2025–26 shall be

awarded in the following areas, with a focus on advancing the vision of *Viksit*

Bharat@2047 in the domain of Social and Human Sciences.

S. No	Broad Domains	Priority Areas
1	Economic Development and Public Finance	Agriculture and Rural Innovation
		Entrepreneurship and Start-Ups
		Transition Finance and Carbon Markets
		Blue Economy
		Natural Resources and Regional Development
		Sustainable Development and Green Transitions
		FinTech for Development
		Cooperatives and Rural Transformation
		Technology Adoption
		MSMEs and Cluster Development
		GST and Tax Reforms
		Labour, Work, and Industrial Relations
		Circular Economy and Sustainable Supply Chain
		Informal and Gig Economy
		Fiscal Policy and Public Finances
		Intergovernmental Transfers and Incentives
		Cooperative vs. Competitive Federalism
		State-Level Fiscal Reforms
		Bank Regulations
		Macro Economics and Financial System

		State Municipal Trade Policy
		Stock Market
		International Investment
		SEBI (Market Integrity and Regulatory Efficacy of Securities and Exchange Board (SEBI) Interventions)
		Enforcement of Contract
		Financial Viability of Credit Cooperatives
		Economic Inflation and Monetary Policy
		Legal Process for Trade and Economics
		Law and Economics
		Pensions and Income Security
		Ease of Living, Process Reform and Efficiency of Government, Institutional Reforms
		Foreign Portfolio Investors (Drivers and Macroeconomic Volatility)
		Sustainable Tourism
2	Finance, Accounting, and Commerce	Trade and Commerce Dynamics
		Digital Financial Systems
		Financial Literacy: Inclusion and Household Change
		Digital Assets, Crypto Currency and Governance
		E-Commerce and Digital Market Place
		Insolvency and Bankruptcy
		The Evolving Regulatory Landscape for Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)
		Process Reforms and Ease of Doing Business
3	Management and Organisational Studies	Financial Management
		Human Resource Management
		Organisational Behaviour
		CSR, ESG, and Business Ethics
		Operations and Management
		Sustainability Reporting
		Human Capital, Innovation, and Productivity
		Corporate Governance
		Technology and Management
4	Rural Studies	Inclusive Growth
		Rural Economy and Sustainable Livelihoods
		Social Change in Rural Societies
		Rural-Urban Migration and Remittance
		Cultural Landscapes and Identity in Rural India
		Digital Governance in Rural Bharat
		Environmental Resilience and Adaptation Strategies

		Health, Education, and Infrastructure
5	Political Science	E-Governance and State Capacity
		Human Rights and Legislation
		Electoral Systems and Democratic Practices
		Participatory Politics and Social Media
		Politics and Technology
		Indian Political Thought
		Rural-Urban Governance
		Constitutionalism
		Climate Politics and Global Governance
		Women and Politics
6	Governance and Public Administration	Governance and Reforms
		Public Service Delivery
		Digital Governance and Data Platforms
		Decentralization and Local Administration
		Ethical Governance
		Crisis Management and Public Administration
7	Public Policy and Programme Evaluation	Design, Targeting, and Portability of Government Schemes
		Monitoring and Evaluation of Government Schemes
		Policy Experimentation and Evidence Use
		Social Protection
		Digital Public Services
		Public Policy and Welfare
		Grievance Management
8	International Relations and Geopolitics	Indo-Pacific and Southeast Asian Strategy and Maritime Affairs
		Cultural Diplomacy and Soft Power
		Global South Diplomacy and South-South Cooperation
		Multilateralism and Global Institutions
		Energy Security
		Geopolitical Transitions
9	National Security and Strategic Studies	Internal Security
		Borders and Irregular Migration
		Information/Cyber Warfare and Hybrid Threats
		Maritime Security
		Defence and National Security
		Defence Manufacturing and Infrastructure
		Non-Traditional Security Threats and Terrorism
10	Legal Studies	Access to Justice and Para-Legal Systems
		Legal History of India

		Judicial Reforms and Court Management
		Law, Technology, And Digital Rights (Including AI)
		Legal Pluralism
		Elder Abuse and Protection
		Criminal Justice System and Reform
		Decolonising Legal Studies
11	Sociology, Social Work, and Community Practice	Vulnerabilities and empowerment
		Food, Nutrition, Culture, and Society
		Urbanisation and Informal Settlements
		Informal Work and Domestic Labour
		Ageing and Care
		Education and Technology
		Land Records Digitisation and Governance
		Tenancy Rights and Sharecropping
		Rental Housing Affordability
		Property Rights, Credit, and Welfare
		Migrant Integration and Housing Markets
		Technology and Media
12	Social Anthropology	Linguistic and Cultural Anthropology
		Ethnography and Field Methods
		Development Anthropology
		Religion, Ritual, and Social Cohesion
		Infrastructure, Urban Change, and Livelihoods
		Kinship and Changing Institutions
		Prehistoric Cultures
		Cultural Survival
		Bio-Cultural Studies of Health and Disease
13	Gender Studies	Gender, Work, and Informal Sectors
		Gender and Environment
		Women, STEM and Digital Transformation
		Gender and Education
		Gender and Health
		Intersectionality, Access, and Inclusion
14	Divyangjan Studies	Intersectional Disability Studies
		Policy and Legal Frameworks
		Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology
		Financial Inclusion and Livelihoods
		Digital Accessibility
		Mobility and Transport
		Culture and Media Representation
		Inclusive Infrastructure
		Stigma and Discrimination

15	Janjatiya Studies	Indigenous knowledge Systems
		Culture and Society
		Language Preservation and Documentation
		Digital Inclusion and Youth Aspirations
		Comparative Development
		Tribal Education and National Education Policy Inclusion
		Welfare Program/schemes (PM-JANMAN, EMRS, FRA-2006, SCA to TSS/TSP, PMAAGY, ITDP, TRIFED, PESA-1996, MSP for MFP, PMJVM, AMSY and NSTFDC)
		Intra-tribal and Inter-community Dynamics
16	Diaspora Studies	Diaspora Contributions to Development
		Multiculturalism, Migration, and Integration
		Economic Engagement and Entrepreneurship
		Identity, Literature, and Memory
17	Social Psychology	Mental Health and Culturally Responsive Care
		Indian Psychology and Social Contexts
		Digital Life and Well-being
		Workplace Well-being
		Community Relations and Inter-group Dynamics
		Social Influence and Behaviour Change
18	Public Health and Health Systems	One Health
		AYUSH and Community Medicine
		Indigenous Healing Practices
		Preventive and Social Medicine
		Community Medicine
		Food Cultures and Nutrition
		Child Nutrition and Growth
		Sports, Fitness, and Prevention
		Digital Health and Telemedicine
		Rural/urban Primary Care and Quality
		AI in Public Health
		Ethnomedicines and Integrative Systems
		Ageing, Long-Term Care, and Social Insurance
		Long-Term Care Systems and Financing
		Mental Health and Suicidality
		Health Infrastructure
		Rural Ageing and Community-based Models
		Mental Health in Post-pandemic Societies
19	Education and Skilling	Digital Learning and EdTech
		Implementation and Governance of the National Education Programme

		Values and Ethics in Education
		AI in Education
		Skilling Youth
		HEI Reforms
		Skill Education in HEIs
		Internationalisation and Mobility
		Academic Governance and Leadership
		Early Learning
		Digital Skilling and Employment
		Teacher Education and Capacity Building
		Indian knowledge System Integration
20	Human Geography and Spatial Planning	Demographic Transitions
		Migration, Displacement, and Spatial Mobility
		Human Capital, Livelihoods, and Regional Development
		Rural-Urban Transformations
		Disaster Risk and Vulnerability
		Urban Resilience, Smart Cities, and Sustainable Futures
		Public Transit, BRT, and Metro Systems
		Road Safety Reforms and Enforcement
		Air Quality and Health
		Gendered Mobility and Labour Force Participation
		Logistics and Last-Mile Connectivity
		Work, Social Mobility, and Transport
		Community Adjustment and Social Resilience
21	Environmental Studies	Human-Environment Interactions
		Impacts, Mitigation, and Adaptation of Climate Change
		SDGs in the Indian Context
		Renewable and Clean energy
		Social Influence on Biodiversity, Wildlife, Soil, and Water
		Environmental Policy and Governance
		Community-Based Climate Adaptation
		Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Indigenous Practices
		Water Service Quality, Continuity, and Equity
		Faecal-Sludge Management and Sanitation
		Peri-Urban Groundwater and Contamination
		Time Poverty, Gender, and WASH Access
		Urban Utilities Access and Regulation
		Social Awareness and Uptake
		History and Heritage

22	Modern Social History	Conservation and Heritage Management
		Memory, Identity, and Public History
		Archaeology, Architecture, and Monuments
		Maritime and Coastal Histories
		Decolonisation, Nationalism, and Historiography
		Digital History and Archival Innovation
		History of Education and Knowledge Systems
		Print Cultures
		Partition Studies
23	Cultural Studies	Digital Humanities
		Life, Literature, and Thought in India
		Literature and Globalisation
		Folk, Oral Forms, and Practices
		Medical Humanities
		Language, Literature, and Popular Culture
		Media and Language Shifts
		Intellectual Traditions and Social Thought
		Cultural Heritage and Traditions
24	Indian Languages, Linguistics, and Translation Studies	Knowledge Traditions in Indian Languages
		Vernacular Knowledge and Applications
		Technology-Language Interface
		Comparative Grammar and Linguistics
		Multilingual Pedagogy and Translation Tools
25	Sociolinguistics and Multilingualism	Language, Culture, and Society
		Social Concepts and Theories in Indian Languages
		Science Across Indian Languages
		Multilingualism in Education and Work
		Language, Media, and Technology
26	Sanskrit Studies	Grammatical Traditions and Poetics
		Manuscriptology and Textual Criticism
		Literary and Aesthetic Traditions
		Sanskrit and Indian Knowledge Systems
		Sanskrit in Contemporary Discourse
		Dharmashastra and Commentarial Traditions
		Computational Sanskrit and Digital Archiving
		Cross-Cultural Aesthetics and Linguistic Interface
27	Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS)	Indian Epistemologies
		Indigenous Innovation, Technology, and Development
		Textual and Oral Traditions
		Pedagogies From Indian Intellectual Texts
		Indian Approaches to Ecology and Sustainability
		Mind and Consciousness

		Aesthetic and Performative Traditions
		IKS-Public Policy Interface
		IKS and Law
		Digital Humanities and IKS
		Art and Architecture
		Curriculum Integration
28	Socio-Philosophical Studies	Indian Philosophical Systems
		Comparative Ethics
		AI Ethics and Emerging Technologies
		Philosophy of Mind and Consciousness
		Decolonising Philosophy in India
		Philosophy of Ecology and Sustainability
		Intercultural Ideas and Comparative Philosophy
29	Media and Communication Studies	Mass Media and Sociocultural Change in India
		On Demand Platforms and Services (OTT) in Popular Culture and Identity
		Regional Languages, Media, and Journalism
		Digital News, Platforms, and Misinformation
30	Library and Information Science	E-Resources and IT Applications
		Metadata Harvesting and Digital Repositories
		Scholarly Communication and Publishing Studies
		AI In Library and Information Services
		Knowledge Curation and Digital Preservation
		Open Access, Open Data, Open Science
		One Nation, One Subscription (ONOS): National Knowledge Access and Research Equity Initiative
		Research Designs and Methods in the Social Sciences and Humanities
		Data Quality, Linkages, and Disclosure
		Ethics, Consent, and Data Governance
		Reproducibility and Replication
		Methods, Interoperability, and Safeguards for India's Digital Public Infrastructure
31	Social Inclusion Studies	Social Justice and Intersectional Perspectives
		Constitutional Legislation and Acts for Social Inclusion
		Social Inclusion in Education, Employment, and Digital Spaces
		Political Representation and Inclusion
		Affirmative Action and Social Policy Outcomes
		Inclusion Through Technology and Digital Citizenship
		Comparative Studies of Inclusion and Empowerment

		Government Schemes and Policies for the Upliftment of Marginalized Groups
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Research Proposals that span across disciplinary boundaries also fall within the areas of the Council's interest.

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Researchers who are permanently employed or retired as faculty from UGC Recognized Indian Universities/Deemed to be Universities/ Affiliated Colleges/Institutions under (2)F or 12(B), ICSSR Research Institutes, ICSSR Recognised Institutes and Institutes of National Importance as defined by the Ministry of Education (MoE) are eligible to apply. Applicants from these institutions should have substantial research experience demonstrable through publications of books / research papers / reports. The Project Director and Co-Project Director must also hold a Ph.D. Degree.

2.2 In exceptional cases, independent researchers with Ph.D. degree who are not affiliated permanently with any institution mentioned in Clause 2.1 but have produced at least two sole-author books published by reputed publishers and/or 05 articles in peer-reviewed journals can also be considered as Co-Project Directors. Such scholars will be required to collaborate with a faculty from institutions given in 2.1 above.

2.3 Further, those researchers with PhD degrees who are in contractual appointment in academic/research institutions mentioned in Clause 2.1 and have produced at least two sole-author books published by reputed publishers and/or 05 articles in peer-reviewed journals may also apply as Co-Project Directors. In the event of their contract expiry, they may continue as Co-Project Directors until the completion of the project.

2.4 Senior and retired government and defence officers (having not less than 05 years of regular service) possessing a Ph. D. degree in any social science discipline and having produced at least two sole-author books published by reputed publishers and/or 05 articles in peer-reviewed journals can also apply as Co-Project Directors, in collaboration with a faculty from institutions given in 2.1 above.

3. HOW TO APPLY

3.1 The applications shall be invited through an advertisement on ICSSR website and shall be promoted through social media platforms of ICSSR.

3.2 The applicants are required to submit an online application along with the research proposal, annexures, and other required documents in the prescribed format, duly forwarded by the competent authorities of the affiliating institution. If desired by ICSSR, hard copies of the same must be submitted within the prescribed date.

3.3 Research proposals and final reports should either be in English or Hindi. Arial/ Mangal Unicode (Devanagari) font should be used to fill Application form in Hindi.

3.4 Researchers can apply for only one project at a time; applying for multiple projects may result in the cancellation of the application. For any ongoing or completed project with the ICSSR, the cooling-off period for applying to another project will be one year for the Project Director. The date of cooling period will be calculated from the date of submission of the final report. However, this will not be applicable for minor projects/short-term empirical research projects of duration equal to or less than 12 months. For ICSSR Research Institutes, the cooling period will not be applicable.

4. DURATION AND BUDGET

Project	Duration	Budget
Minor Project	12 months	Up to ₹15.00 lakh
Major Project	24 months	Up to ₹30.00 lakh

5. PROCEDURE FOR AWARDS

5.1 The procedure for the award of the projects will be in multiple phases before the declaration of final results. All applications submitted to the ICSSR will be screened and evaluated by the expert committee following a blind review process. Shortlisted applicants shall be invited for interaction/presentation at ICSSR (in person or online).

5.2 The expert committee(s) shall make recommendation(s) for award of studies and also suggest the budget for the proposed studies after interaction with the shortlisted applicants.

5.3 The merit list of selected candidates of Projects will be published on the ICSSR website.

5.4 Only the selected candidates and their affiliating universities shall be informed individually through a provisional award letter clearly specifying the formalities and documents required for joining the Project.

6. BUDGET AND HEADS OF EXPENDITURE

6.1 The amount will be disbursed in instalments, depending on the funds, phases and duration of the study, as indicated in the Award Letter. ICSSR reserves the right, based

on Expert opinion, to convert a proposal of a Major Research Project into a Minor Research Project or vice versa.

6.2 The detailed budget estimates along with the proportionate Heads of Expenditure for these proposals are to be prepared by the Institute / Project Director / group of scholars. Those Project Director(s) who would like to work without Research Personnel, especially under Minor Research Project would make the proportionate Heads of Expenditure for the proposed Budget.

6.3 Allocation of Heads of Expenditure

- A. The remuneration for the Research Staff must be according to the ICSSR guidelines.
- B. The proportionate allocation of expenditure for the budget heads such as Fieldwork (Travel / Logistics / Boarding, Survey Preparation or Consultancy etc.); Equipment and Study material (Computer, Printer, Source Material, Books, Journals, Software, Data Sets etc.), Workshop/Seminar/Publication and Contingency charges etc. shall be as per the ICSSR guidelines given below;

Detailed budget breakup for the proposed allocation		
S. No.	Heads of Expenditure	Value (Rs.)
1.	Research Staff: Full time/part time/ Hired services	Not exceeding 45% of the total budget
2.	Field work	Not exceeding 35%
3.	Research Equipment and study material (Computer, Printer etc.)	Not exceeding 10%
4.	Contingency	Not exceeding 5%
5.	Publication/ Workshop/ Seminar *This will be decided by the ICSSR depending upon the requirements of the project.	Approx. 5%
	Grand Total	100%

*The project investigator may with the permission of the institution re-appropriate expenditure from one sub-head to another subject to a maximum of 10% of the

particular budget heads. If the study necessitates re-appropriation beyond 10% it may be done only after the approval of the ICSSR.

- C. Affiliating Institutional Overhead Charges @ 10% over and above on the awarded grant of the project, subject to a maximum limit of Rs.2, 00,000/- for Major and Minor Projects will be released by the ICSSR after successful completion of the project.

6.4 Project Staff shall be engaged/appointed as per the rules by the affiliating institution of the Project Director on a full/ part-time basis during the research work. The duration may be decided by the project director. The consolidated monthly remuneration/emoluments of the project staff must be according to the following guidelines:

Project staff	Monthly Remuneration/ Emoluments	Qualifications
Research Associate	Rs. 47, 000/-	Post graduate in social science discipline (55% minimum) with NET /M.Phil. / Ph.D. and 2 years research experience as a Research Assistant in any Project.
Research Assistant	Rs. 37, 000/-	Post graduate in social science discipline (55% minimum) with NET /M.Phil. / Ph.D.
Field Investigator	Rs. 20, 000/-	Post graduate in social science discipline with minimum 55% marks.

6.5 Selection of Research Staff should be done through an advertisement published on respective institute's website and a selection committee, duly approved by the Competent Authority of the institution, consisting of (1) Project Director; (2) One external subject Expert (from outside the institute where the project is located); (3) Dean of the faculty in case of University /Principal in case of college and (4) Head of the Department of the Project Director.

6.6 For all field work related expenses of Project Director, Co-Project Director(s) and project personnel, rules of affiliating institutes/universities shall be applied.

6.7 All equipment and books purchased out of the project fund shall be the property of the affiliating institution, and a detailed stock report duly signed by the Head of the Institute / Registrar / Principal has to be submitted to the ICSSR. However, ICSSR may ask for books and/ or equipment if it so requires.

7. JOINING AND RELEASE OF GRANTS

7.1 The Project Director has to join the project as per the date of commencement notified by the ICSSR by submitting the requisite documents such as an ‘undertaking’ on an Rs.100 stamp paper duly verified by a notary, declaration in prescribed format on a Rs.100 stamp paper duly verified by a notary, Grant-in-Aid bill towards the first instalment on or before the given deadline and **Registration Mandate Form of PFMS Account of those affiliating / administering institutions, which have not linked their accounts to PFMS for ICSSR grant. The joining period can be extended only in exceptional circumstances up to a maximum of three months by the ICSSR. Failure to join the project within this stipulated period will result in the cancellation of the award.**

7.2 The total awarded grant for the **Major & Minor Research Project** will be released to the affiliating institution in instalments as indicated in the Award Letter.

7.3 The Overhead Charges to the affiliating institution will be released after the acceptance of Final Report along with the receipt of the final audited Statement of Accounts and Utilisation Certificate in prescribed formats, which shall be verified by the ICSSR.

7.4 The Project Director will ensure that the expenditure incurred by him/her conforms to the approved budget heads and relevant rules. The Audited Statement of accounts with Utilisation Certificate in form 12A of GFR is mandatory for the entire approved amount for the project.

8. MONITORING OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

8.1 Research undertaken by a Project Director will be monitored through the submission of periodic progress reports in the prescribed format. The project may be discontinued/terminated if research progress is found unsatisfactory or if any ICSSR rules are violated. In such cases, the entire amount must be refunded with a 10% penal interest.

8.2 The scholar/awardee must acknowledge the support of ICSSR in all their publications resulting from the project output such as Research Papers, Journal Articles, and Articles in edited Books etc., and they must submit a copy of the same to the ICSSR during the

course of or after completion of the project. In case of absence of acknowledgement by the scholars, they will be blacklisted and they will not be able to apply for any schemes of ICSSR in the future. Papers published in Conference/Seminar proceedings will not be considered as they are not peer reviewed. However, proceedings published by Scopus indexed / UGC care listed journals can be considered.

8.3 All project related queries will be addressed to the Project Director/ Affiliating Institution for their timely reply.

8.4 The ICSSR may, at any time, ask for verification of accounts and other relevant documents related to the Project.

8.5 The ICSSR reserves the right to change the affiliating institute if it is found that the affiliating institute is not co-operating with the scholar and it is not facilitating timely completion of the study.

8.6 Final report submitted by the Project Director is mandatorily evaluated by an Expert appointed by the ICSSR before considering the release of the final instalment.

8.7 The Project Director shall be personally responsible for the timely completion of the Project. The project proposal/final report cannot be submitted for the award of any University degree/diploma or funding by any institution by any member of the project staff, including the Project Director. However, ICSSR will have no objection if any member of the project staff utilizes the project data for research purpose, provided there are due acknowledgements to ICSSR.

8.8 If the researchers do not submit the requisite documents and the final report in time or the project is not completed in the stipulated period, the scholars will be blacklisted and the legal recourse will be initiated for recovery of released grant.

8.9 As per the directions of the Ministry of Education (MoE), the amount of grant sanctioned is to be utilized within the stipulated duration of the project. Any amount of the grant remaining unspent shall be refunded to the ICSSR immediately on expiry of the duration of the project. If the Project Director fails to utilize the grant for the purpose for which the same has been sanctioned/or fails to submit the audited statement of expenditure within the stipulated period, the he/she will be required to refund the amount of the grant with interest thereon @ 10% per annum.

9. COMPLETION OF THE STUDY

9.1. On completion of the study, the Project Director should submit:

- a) A soft copy of the Final Report must be submitted in both PDF and Word formats, with a minimum of 150 pages for Minor Projects and 250 pages for Major Projects;
- b) A Softcopy of the abstract in 500 words in both PDF and word formats;
- c) A Softcopy of the Executive Summary of the final report in 5000 words along with softcopy in both PDF and word formats;
- d) Similarity index sheet (Plagiarism check) for the final report.

9.2.If the expert suggests any changes in the reports at the time of evaluation, the Project Director shall incorporate the changes within stipulated time and should submit the following:

- a) Soft copy of modified final report in both PDF and word formats along with two hard copies;
- b) Two hard copies of executive summary;
- c) Softcopies of (if any) Data Sets, along with well-defined definition of data and other important information for documentation.

9.3.ICSSR gets every report checked for plagiarism and the similarity report is also generated. As a policy, ICSSR does not accept reports having similarity beyond 10 per cent on similarity index. Scholars are required to get their final report checked from their affiliating institutions for similarity index and attach a certified report of the same at the time of submission.

9.4.The final report submitted by the scholar will be considered as satisfactory only after final recommendation of acceptance by the expert appointed by the ICSSR.

10. **OBLIGATIONS OF THE AFFILIATING INSTITUTION**

10.1. The affiliating institution is required to give an undertaking in the prescribed format contained in the Application Form to administer and manage the ICSSR grant.

10.2. It is also required to provide the requisite research infrastructure to the scholar and maintain proper accounts.

10.3. **The affiliating institution shall open / maintain a dedicated bank account for ICSSR grant (Scheme Code-0877) that is duly registered at EAT Module of PFMS portal for release of the grant without any delay. This account should be retained for all projects awarded by ICSSR.**

10.4. The affiliating institution will be under obligation to ensure submission of the final report and an Audited Statement of Accounts and Utilization Certificate, (in the prescribed Proforma GFR 12-A) duly certified by the competent authority of the institution including the refund of any unspent balance.

10.5. The affiliating institution shall make suitable arrangements for preservation of data such as filled-in schedules, tabulation sheets, manuscripts, reports, etc. relating to the study. The ICSSR reserves the right to demand raw data, or such parts of the study as it deems fit.

10.6. In case a Project Director leaves / discontinues the project before completion of the tenure, the affiliating institution shall inform ICSSR immediately and refund the entire amount with a penal interest @ 10% per annum. The unutilised funds pending with the institutions for all projects must be returned to the ICSSR immediately. In case the universities/ institutions do not abide by the rules of the ICSSR, they shall be blacklisted for applying in schemes of ICSSR in the future.

10.7. In case a Project Director dies before the completion of the project, the affiliating institution shall immediately inform ICSSR by submitting a copy of the death certificate and settle the accounts immediately by expediting refund of any unspent balance.

11. OTHER CONDITIONS

11.1 The duration of the project includes the time for Final Report writing. In exceptional circumstances, if the ICSSR is satisfied with the progress of the work, including quality publications, an extension may be granted (up to three months for Minor Projects & up to six months for Major Projects) without any additional grant. In case, the extension is needed beyond the above-mentioned period, the matter will be put up to the competent authority of ICSSR for a decision. If the extension is required, the Project Director needs to request at least three months prior to the end of stipulated tenure for no-cost extension with a copy of the progress report and reasons for the delay with documentary evidence. Retrospective extension will not be permitted.

11.2 The contingency grant may be utilized for stationery, computer typing related costs, specialised assistance such as data analysis and consultation for field trip etc., related to the research work.

11.3 Defaulters of any previous fellowship/project/programme/grant of the ICSSR will not be eligible for consideration. No scholar will be allowed to take up a research project along with any ICSSR fellowship.

11.4 Foreign trip is not permissible within the awarded budget of a project. However, the Project Director may undertake data collection outside India in exceptional cases and if warranted by the needs of the proposal. For this he/she is required to apply separately for consideration under the Data Collection Scheme of the ICSSR International Collaboration Division. However, ICSSR will not be bound to support such data collection from abroad and the decision of the ICSSR will be final. In either case, the completion of study should not be consequent upon such data collection support.

11.5 Any request for additional grant in excess of the sanctioned budget will not be considered.

11.6 The procurement of equipment/assets for the research project is allowed only if it was originally proposed, does not surpass the permissible amount, and adheres to the regulations of the affiliating institution.

11.7 The project director cannot make any changes in the research design at any stage.

11.8 Regarding Transfer of a Project/Appointment of substitute Project Director:

- a) On the request from a university/institute, the ICSSR may permit the appointment of a Substitute Project Director in exceptional circumstances.
- b) The ICSSR may also appoint a Substitute Project Director if it is convinced that the original awardee of the Project will not be in a position to carry out the study successfully.
- c) The ICSSR may transfer the place of the Project from one affiliating institution to another subject to submission of the following:
 - Satisfactory progress report (s);
 - No objection certificate from both previous and the new university/institute;
 - Audited statement of account and utilization certificate along with unspent balance, if any.
 - However, no transfer of project / Project director should be requested in the last six months of the study.
- d) Overhead charges will be apportioned proportionally among the institutes as per the grant released or as may be finally decided by the ICSSR.

e) In case of superannuation of Project Director and if the rules of the institution so require, the transfer of the project to a serving faculty member may be done with prior approval of the ICSSR. The credit of Project shall belong to the original Project Director.

11.9 Consideration under other call(s) would require a fresh proposal.

11.10 The Council reserves the right to reject any application without assigning any reason. It will not be responsible for any postal delays/loss.

11.11 Incomplete applications in any respect will not be considered.

11.12 The final authority related to the interpretation of these guidelines or any other issue is vested with the ICSSR.

11.13 No queries will be entertained by the ICSSR until the final declaration of results against a call. Any lobbying for award will lead to disqualification.

11.14 The ICSSR retains all rights to publish any project funded by it, contingent upon the recommendation by expert(s) appointed by ICSSR for publication. Copyright for the final report and outcomes of the project shall be held by ICSSR. Any publication or dissemination of research findings shall solely be at the discretion of ICSSR.
