



Guidelines

Submission of Application Forms for ICSSR
Doctoral Fellowships 2026-27

Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)
Ministry of Education (MoE)

JNU Institutional Area, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi - 110067 (INDIA)

1 Introduction

1.1 The ICSSR supports and encourages Ph.D. scholars to pursue their doctoral research in social and human sciences. The award of Doctoral fellowship takes into consideration innovative research proposals having potential of path breaking addition to existing body of knowledge. The priority of the ICSSR is to address changing societal dynamics and social challenges through effective evidence-based research to fulfil India's aspirations to become a global power.

1.2 Doctoral Fellowships shall be awarded to Indian research scholars, who are registered for Ph.D. in UGC recognized Universities / Deemed-to-be-Universities and colleges having approved Ph.D. programme duly recognized by UGC under 2(f)/12(b), Institutes of National Importance as defined by MoE / UGC and ICSSR Research Institutes. The Doctoral Fellowships for the Financial Year 2026-27 shall be awarded in the following broad domains 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/Green/Purple/Orange 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 | | |

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| | | 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 |

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| | | Operations and Management |
| | | Sustainability Reporting |
| | | Human Capital, Innovation, and Productivity |
| | | Corporate Governance |
| | | Technology and Management |
| | | Inclusive Growth |
| 4 | Rural Studies | 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 | | Design, Targeting, and Portability of Government Schemes |

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| | Public Policy and Programme Evaluation | 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 |

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| | | 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 |

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| | | 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 |

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| | | 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 |

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| | | 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 |

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| | | 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 |

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| | | 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 |

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| | | 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 |
| 32 | Decolonization (of) | Theories |
| | | Disciplines (such as Economics, Sociology, Political Studies, Psychology, History, Anthropology, Cultural Studies, etc.) |
| | | Field of Studies |
| | | Methodologies |
| | | Epistemology |

The research proposals which may not be reflected in the priority areas shall also be considered if, in the opinion of the Experts Committee, its focus is on an important issue covered under social sciences and adjudged as outstanding, and recommended by the Committee for award. Preference, however, will be given to PhD Students pursuing research in the priority areas of the ICSSR.

2 Eligibility

A) Full-Term Doctoral Fellowship

2.1 Doctoral Fellow should be a full-time bonafide Ph.D. student at the affiliating university/ institution throughout the duration of fellowship tenure.

2.2 The candidate must have a confirmed Ph.D. registration at any of the institutions mentioned in para 1.2 in line with the UGC norms in force. The Ph.D. topic must have been confirmed by the DRC/authorised statutory body of the institution on or before the last date of call for applications. Application submitted by those scholars whose research proposals and topics have not been approved by the statutory bodies of their respective institutions will be

summarily rejected.

2.3 The candidate must not be more than 40 years of age on the last date of application. There shall be an age relaxation of 5 years for SC/ST/OBC-(NCL) candidates & Persons with benchmark Disability (PwD).

2.4 The candidate must have secured a minimum of 55% marks in Post-Graduation or equivalent grades in any social science discipline. Five per cent (5%) relaxation of marks will be given to SC/ST/ OBC-(NCL) candidates & Persons with benchmark Disability (PwD). The submission of scanned copy of mark sheet of Post-Graduation along with CGPA to Percentage formula certified by the affiliating University is mandatory for submission of online application. In case, the candidates do not upload the documents, their candidature will be summarily rejected.

2.5 UGC NET will be mandatory for applying for ICSSR Doctoral Fellowship Schemes. However, a maximum of 10 per cent of the fellowships may be awarded to candidates who are not NET qualified but their proposals are found outstanding in the evaluation of the ICSSR's panel of subject experts.

2.6 Candidates who have already availed UGC Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) / Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) / Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF) / ICSSR / ICAR / CSIR/ ICPR / ICMR / ICHR / Jawaharlal Nehru Memorial Foundation Fund Fellowship (JNMF) or any such major doctoral fellowship are not eligible to apply. Candidates drawing UGC Non-NET Fellowship are eligible to apply.

B) Short-Term Fellowship

2.7 All the conditions of the Full-Term Doctoral Fellowship (2.1 to 2.6) shall apply. In addition, the candidate should have completed at least three years of research work for Ph.D degree at any of the institutions mentioned in para1.1.

C) Contingency Grant

2.8 Under this scheme, a one-time grant is awarded to Ph.D scholars registered at any of the institutions mentioned in para1.1, who are at an advanced stage of their research work. The candidates meeting all conditions of the Full-Term Doctoral Fellowship (2.1 to 2.6) are eligible to apply for Contingency Grant for the purposes of field trip, stationery and computer consumable related expenses.

3. How to Apply

A) Full-Term Doctoral Fellowship

3.1 Applicants must submit an online application in prescribed format and upload scanned copies of the annexures on ICSSR website.

3.2 Self-attested copies of educational qualification (including UGC NET) and proof of date of birth (Birth Certificate/Secondary School Certificate /Higher Secondary School Certificate) must be uploaded with the application form. The topic mentioned in the research proposal must have been confirmed by the DRC/authorised statutory body of the institution on or before the last date of call for applications and a certificate to this effect must be uploaded during submission of online application.

3.3 The Research Proposal should be either in English or Hindi. Arial/Mangal Unicode font will be used in Devanagari script to fill application form in Hindi.

3.4 The scanned copy of forwarding letters by the supervisor and affiliating institution should be uploaded in the online application form. The 2(f)/12(b) certificate of the institution should also be duly uploaded.

3.5 The caste certificate in case of candidates applying under OBC (NCL) and EWS categories should be valid for the Financial Year 2026-27. If the certificates are not valid for the FY 2026-27, such applications will be considered in Unreserved Category.

3.6 In case of candidates applying for PwD category, scanned copy of Certificate of Disability should be uploaded in the online application form.

3.7 Applicants seeking Doctoral Fellowship through ICSSR Research Institutes must submit an online application in prescribed format along with the annexures as mentioned in para 3.1 to 3.5 on ICSSR website only. The applications must be forwarded by the respective ICSSR Research Institutes.

B) Short-Term Doctoral Fellowship

3.8 The application procedure for the scheme shall be the same as per the conditions mentioned in Clauses 3.1 to 3.5.

C) Contingency Grant

3.9 The application procedure for the scheme shall be the same as per the conditions mentioned in Clauses 3.1 to 3.5.

4. Procedure for Award of Fellowships

4.1. The fellowships shall be awarded on the basis of evaluation of applications by the panel of subject experts. Based on the evaluation reports of the Expert Committee(s), merit lists shall be prepared for

award of fellowships.

4.2. The reservation policy of the Government of India for SC, ST, OBC (NCL), EWS and Persons with Benchmark Disability (PwD) will be duly followed in the award of fellowships.

4.3. In case ICSSR feels the need, it may invite any short-listed applicant for presentation before an Expert Committee of ICSSR.

4.4 The merit list of selected candidates of Doctoral Fellowships will be placed on the ICSSR website.

4.5 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 fellowship.

5. Duration and Value:

A) Full-Term Doctoral Fellowship

5.1 The value of Full-Term Doctoral Fellowship is Rs 20,000 per month plus Rs 20,000 contingency grant per annum. The total duration of the Full-term Doctoral Fellowship shall be two years. The first award letter will be initially for a period of one year effective from the date of issue of award letter.

5.2 The value and duration of fellowship will be in line with the directives of the Ministry of Education issued from time to time.

B) Short-Term Doctoral Fellowship

5.3 The duration of the Short-Term Doctoral Fellowship is strictly for six months or till the date of Ph.D. submission at the university/ institution, whichever is earlier.

5.4 The maximum value of fellowship will be equivalent to six month fellowship amount of the Full-Term Doctoral Fellowship grant plus contingency grant payable for six months.

C) Contingency Grant

5.5 The value of fellowship is a consolidated grant of Rs 62500/.

6. Joining and Release of Fellowship

A) Full-Term Doctoral Fellowship

6.1 The scholar must join the fellowship within the time stipulated by the ICSSR in the provisional award letter.

6.2 The sanction of the fellowship will be issued initially for a period of one year, effective from the date of issue of award letter. The renewal of the Fellowship for the subsequent years shall be subject to the receipt of satisfactory Annual Progress Report and Statement of Expenditure for the entire fellowship grant released for first year.

6.3 The first instalment will be released after receiving the documents prescribed in the Award letter along with the Grant-in-aid-Bill (GIB) and Registration Mandate Form of PFMS Account of affiliating / administering institutions.

6.4 The second instalment of 1st year will be released only after completion of six months and on receipt of a detailed Six-Monthly Progress Report in the prescribed format duly forwarded by Supervisor clearly indicating the research work done during the period along with the research plan for the next six months. In addition, the Statement of Expenditure incurred against the released first instalment are so to be sent to the ICSSR duly forwarded by the competent authority along with the Grant-in-aid bill for the amount of second instalment.

6.5 (i) The instalments of second year will be released only after the approval of extension of fellowship for the second year by the Council subject to the receipt of satisfactory Annual Progress Report and Statement of Expenditure for the entire fellowship grant released for first year and receipt of the Grant-in-Aid Bill (GIB).

6.5 (ii) The final year fellowship grant will be released in three instalments.

6.5 (iii) The final instalment will be released subject to receipt of appropriate documents such as the Thesis Submission Certificate issued by the Controller of Examination/Competent Authority of the University, soft copy of the PhD thesis, a summary in 3000 to 4000 words along with the audited Statement of Accounts and Utilization Certificate for the admissible grant (in GFR 12A Form).

6.6 The Statement of Accounts and Utilization certificate should be signed by the Finance Officer / Registrar / Principal / Director in case the accounts of the institution are audited by the CAG/AG. Otherwise, they need to be signed both by the competent authority of the affiliating institution along with the chartered accountant.

6.7 The requisite documents at every stage should be submitted within the prescribed time frame.

B) Short-Term Doctoral Fellowship

6.8 The Short-Term Fellowship will be released in two instalments. The first instalment amounting to 70% of the total grant will be released on receipt of the documents prescribed in the Award letter along with the grant-in-aid bill (GIB) and Registration Mandate Form of PFMS account of concerned affiliating / administering institution. The second and final instalment of the admissible grant shall be released after receiving a Thesis Submission Certificate issued by the Controller of Examination/Competent Authority of the University, soft copy of PhD thesis, a summary in 3000 to 4000 words along with the audited Statement of Accounts with Utilization Certificate (in GFR-12A Form) for the admissible amount duly signed by the competent authority of the affiliating institution.

6.9 The Statement of Accounts and Utilization Certificate will be signed by the Finance Officer /

Registrar / Director in case the accounts of the Institution are audited by the CAG/AG. Otherwise, they need to be signed by the competent authority of the affiliating institution along with a chartered accountant.

C) Contingency Grant

6.10 The Contingency Grant will be released in two instalments. The first instalment amounting to Rs 40,000/- will be released on receipt of the documents prescribed in the Award letter along with the grant-in-aid bill (GIB) and Registration Mandate Form of PFMS Account of concerned affiliating / administering institution. The second and final instalment of the admissible grant shall be released after receiving a Thesis Submission Certificate issued by the Controller of Examination/Competent Authority of the University, a summary in 3000 to 4000 words along with the audited Statement of Accounts with Utilization Certificate (in GFR-12A Form) for the admissible amount duly signed by the competent authority of the affiliating institution.

6.11 The Statement of Accounts and Utilization Certificate will be signed by the Finance Officer / Registrar / Director in case the accounts of the Institution are audited by the CAG/AG. Otherwise, they need to be signed by the competent authority of the affiliating institution along with a chartered accountant.

7. Monitoring of Fellowships

7.1 Regular monitoring of Fellowship is done on the basis of Six Monthly and Annual Progress Reports in the prescribed format submitted by the scholar and duly forwarded by the supervisor.

7.2 The fellowship may be discontinued / terminated at any stage if research progress is found to be unsatisfactory or any ICSSR rules are violated or the research topic is changed without the permission of ICSSR.

7.3 The ICSSR may ask for annual presentation / mid-term appraisal of the research work.

7.4 In cases of delayed Progress Reports, the scholar will be required to give the justification of the delay on which the final decision shall be taken by ICSSR. The scholar may be asked to furnish an Undertaking specifying the date of Ph.D. submission to ICSSR.

7.5 During the course of the Phd, the scholars are required to publish at least two research papers in peer-reviewed journals on the theme of the research undertaken and submit a copy of the same to the ICSSR.

7.6 The scholars must acknowledge the ICSSR while getting their research papers published. The ICSSR must also be compulsorily acknowledged in the PhD thesis.

8. Completion of the Fellowship

A) Full-Term Doctoral Fellowship

8.1 If a fellow leaves the fellowship before the completion of fellowship duration, he/she has to inform ICSSR in advance.

8.1.1 No scholar will be allowed to leave the fellowship under clause 8.1 before completion of three months of fellowship period. If the scholar leaves it within three months, he/she will have to refund the already disbursed fellowship amount in full to the ICSSR.

8.1.2 The scholar shall be permitted to retain the grant released from date of Joining till the date of leaving / discontinuing the ICSSR fellowship subject to submission of the following:

- (i) An updated Progress Report for the said period duly forwarded by the Supervisor.
- (ii) An Undertaking to submit a Thesis Submission Certificate and soft copy of PhD thesis within a month of submission of thesis in affiliating/ administering institution on a Non-Judicial stamp paper of Rs. 100/- (in prescribed format).
- (iii) Statement of Accounts and Utilization Certificate (in GFR-12 A form) for the admissible amount.
- (iv) Refund of the unspent balance, if any. The payment may be made by sending a cheque/ DD in favour of ICSSR, New Delhi or through PFMS /RTGS.

8.1.3 The scholars leaving the fellowship before completion of their fellowship tenure without informing ICSSR shall be required to refund the entire amount of fellowship released with penalty/penal interest.

8.2 The fellows are required to submit a PhD Thesis Submission Certificate issued by the Controller of Examinations/Competent Authority and soft copy of the thesis preferably within a month of submission of the PhD Thesis to the affiliating/ administering institution for award of the Ph D Degree, failing which the fellow has to refund the amount of fellowship to the ICSSR.

8.3 If, as a special case, a scholar remains on leave due to maternity / medical / extra ordinary circumstances (not exceeding six months) with due approval by the ICSSR, the tenure of fellowship shall be deferred by that period but the total amount of fellowship sanctioned shall not exceed the fellowship duration mentioned in the award letter.

8.4 Again, as a special case, a scholar can avail a foreign fellowship and re-join ICSSR Fellowship on return with due approval by the ICSSR, the tenure of fellowship may be deferred by that period but the total amount of fellowship sanctioned shall not exceed the fellowship duration mentioned in the award letter.

8.5 There will be no extension if the scholar deregisters from PhD and re-registers to submit the thesis after a gap. The date of deregistration will be the date of termination of fellowship.

8.6 After the thesis is submitted to the concerned university, the scholar must submit the following to ICSSR at the earliest preferably within a month to settle the accounts

(i) A PhD Thesis Submission Certificate issued by the Controller of Examinations/Competent Authority immediately after submission of the Ph D Thesis to the University for award of the Ph D Degree along with a copy of summary (in 3000 to 4000 words) and research papers published. A softcopy of the Thesis has to be sent along with the above.

(ii) The audited Statement of Account and Utilization Certificate (in GFR-12A Form) for the admissible grant as per clause 6.5 and 6.9.

8.7 As a policy, ICSSR does not accept contents beyond 10 percent on Similarity Index. Scholars are required to get their final report checked from their affiliating institutions for Similarity Index and attach the plagiarism report at the time of submission of soft copy of thesis to the ICSSR.

B) Short-Term Doctoral Fellowship

8.8 Same as mentioned under the Full-Term Doctoral Fellowship including the conditions mentioned in the Clauses 8.1 to 8.7.

C) Contingency Grant

8.9 Same as mentioned under the Full-Term Doctoral Fellowship including the conditions mentioned in the Clauses 8.2, 8.6 and 8.7.

9. Expectation from the Affiliating Institution

9.1 The affiliating institution is required to provide the requisite research infrastructure to the scholar and maintain proper accounts.

9.2 The affiliating institution is required to give a Forwarding letter in the prescribed format contained in the Application Form to administer and manage the ICSSR fellowship grant.

9.3 The affiliating institution shall open / maintain a dedicated bank account for ICSSR grant (Scheme Code 0877) that is duly registered at PFMS portal for release of the Doctoral Fellowship Grant without any delay.

9.4 The affiliating institution is expected to immediately release the sanctioned fellowship grant released by ICSSR to the scholar.

9.5 The affiliating institution is expected to ensure a Thesis Submission Certificate and audited Statement of Accounts and Utilization Certificate with respect to admissible grant, (in the prescribed GFR- 12A) duly certified by the Competent authority including the refund of any unspent balance within one year.

9.6 In case a scholar leaves / discontinues his fellowship before completion of fellowship tenure, the affiliating institution shall inform ICSSR within 15 days and settle the accounts including the refund of any unspent balance within three months.

10. Other Conditions

10.1 The ICSSR will follow the ceiling imposed by the UGC on number of doctoral supervisions

under a particular category of guide (Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor).

10.2 The Doctoral Fellows must stay and work full time at the affiliating university / institute. However, they may go on field work with approval of their supervisor. For the rest of the research period, they must continue to work at the concerned university / institute and follow their rules.

10.3 The Fellow shall not accept or hold any appointment (paid or otherwise) or receive any emoluments, salary, stipend etc., from any other source during the tenure of the award of fellowship. However, a fellow may undertake teaching assignments of not more than six hours a week.

10.4 The tenure of Full-Term Doctoral Fellowship is strictly for duration decided by the Ministry of Education, Govt. of India. Any deferment will be granted under exceptional circumstances without any additional financial implications to the ICSSR. The total duration of fellowship will remain unchanged, i.e. 2 years under all circumstances.

10.5 The contingency grant may be utilized for books, stationery, computer consumable costs and field work expenses related to the research work.

10.6 The ICSSR reserves the first right to publish the Ph.D thesis funded by it, provided the work is recommended for publication by the ICSSR expert(s).

10.7 Defaulters of any previous ICSSR fellowship / project / grant will not be eligible for consideration until the applicant obtains the clearance from the concerned administrative division.

10.8 A fellow is not entitled for same type of fellowship more than once.

10.9 While accepting Doctoral fellowships from the ICSSR, a fellow should not accept job or any other fellowship from any other university / institute. However, ICSSR shall encourage and support the ICSSR fellowship awardees getting prestigious foreign fellowships. Therefore, they shall be permitted to re-join their fellowships after their return from abroad as special cases, provided they had sought prior approvals.

10.10 During the tenure of fellowship, the fellow will be governed by the rules of the affiliating/ administering institution in all matters including drawls of TA, attendance, holidays/leave and contingency grant, etc.

10.11 The selected fellows are expected to do full-time research in India. They can, however, undertake data collection outside India, if warranted by the needs of the proposal. For this, they are required to apply separately for consideration under the Data Collection Scheme of the International Collaboration Division of ICSSR. 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.

10.12 The scholar should not have been subjected to any disciplinary / legal action /

proceedings/ financial penalties in his/her research career.

10.13 Application submitted against a Call will not be considered for the subsequent Calls on its own.

10.14 ICSSR reserves the right to reject any application without assigning any reason.

10.15 Incomplete applications shall not be considered for fellowship.

10.16 No queries regarding the awards will be entertained by the ICSSR secretariat until the final declaration of results, which will be placed on ICSSR website.

10.17 The final authority for the interpretation of the guidelines or any such issue is vested with the ICSSR.
