

GUIDELINES FOR

AICTE DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP (ADF)

2023-24



अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद् All India Council for Technical Education

AICTE DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP (ADF)

1. OBJECTIVE

The objectives of the ADF Scheme are:

- (a) To seed, grow and facilitate research for transforming the quality and quantity of research in AICTE-approved institutions/ affiliated Universities.
- (b) To nurture a strong culture of research and knowledge creation which is essential for outstanding education and development.
- (c) To fund and hence promote collaborative and outstanding peer-reviewed research between technical institutions and industries leading to start-ups.
- (d) To catalyze quality academic research for developing a robust ecosystem of research in AICTE-approved institutions.

2. PROPOSED THRUST AREAS FOR RESEARCH

Some of the broad areas (but not limited) identified for the research are as follows: -

(a) Engineering and Technology

- Green Technologies
- Big Data, Machine Learning & Data Sciences
- Blockchain
- Artificial Intelligence
- Energy Production and Storage

- Electronics & Photonics
- Nuclear Engineering and Allied Technologies
- Robotics and Mechatronics
- Augmented Reality (AR)/ Virtual Reality (VR)
- Energy Efficiency, Renewable and sustainable Energy
- Green Hydrogen
- Electric and Hybrid Mobility
- Smart Cities, Housing and Transportation
- Internet of Things (IoT)
- 3D Printing
- Quantum Computing
- Smart Technologies for Agriculture and Food Industry
- Water purification, conservation and management
- Public Policy
- Social & Organizational Psychology & Behaviour
- Cyber Security
- Waste management
- Defence Technology
- Rural and Urban infrastructure
- Climate Change & sustainable solution

(b) Management

- Technology Management
- Business Analytics
- Six Sigma in Quality Management
- Engineering Management

- Innovation Management
- Supply Chain Resilience
- Heritage Management
- Project Management
- Operations Management
- Organizational Behavior
- Strategic Planning
- Management Information System
- Social Enterprise Management
- Talent Management
- Risk Management

(c) Design

- Digital Game Design
- Graphic Design
- Information Design
- Interaction Design
- Ceramic, Glass Design
- Apparel Design
- Product Design
- Textile Design
- Transportation, Automobile Design
- Universal Design
- Design thinking

3. DEFINITION

- **AICTE** - All India Council for Technical Education
- **ADF** – AICTE Doctoral Fellowship
- **GoI** – Government of India
- **JRF** – Junior Research Fellow
- **SRF** – Senior Research Fellow
- **“Course”** means one of the branches of learning in a Programme such as Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, etc.
- **“Level”** means Under Graduate Degree and Post Graduate Degree Programmes
- **“Programme”** means the field of Technical Education, i.e., Engineering and Technology/ Management/ Design as prescribed by the AICTE.
- **“GATE”** means The Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering
- **“GMAT”** means The Graduate Management Admission Test
- **“CEED”** means Common Entrance Exam for Design

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD OF FELLOWSHIP

The criteria for the award of fellowship are as follows:

- (a) The candidate must be admitted to Ph. D. in any of “Engineering and Technology/ Management/ Design” programme approved by the AICTE at Post Graduate Level.
- (b) The candidate must have successfully completed the Under Graduate or Post Graduate Degree (or Five Year Integrated/ Dual Degree leading to Postgraduate Degree) in “Engineering and Technology/ Management/ Design” or the conditions prescribed by the admitted university.

- (c) The candidate should have qualified GATE/ GMAT/CEED during the last 5 years in Engineering and Technology/ Management/ Design respectively. Validity of GATE/ GMAT/ Design score at the time of admission is not mandatory.
- (d) The candidate should be below 30 years of age at the time of submission of application form for admission in university/ institute. For admission age relaxation of 5 years would be applicable to candidates belonging to SC/ ST/ Women/ Physically challenged and 3 years for OBC category. In case, a candidate falls in more than one category, the maximum age relaxation would be of 5 years only.
- (e) The candidate should not have availed benefit of AICTE Doctoral Fellowship (ADF) before, in any institution.

5. EMOLUMENTS AND ALLOWANCES

The ADF students will be called “JRF” for the first two years from the start of ADF and “SRF” for the third and/ or fourth year, in case ADF is extended.

- (a) **Emoluments:** The amount of fellowship will be **Rs. 37,000/- pm** for JRF followed **by Rs. 42,000/- pm** for SRF. The ADF students shall also be governed by the following conditions in addition to the emoluments:
 - (i) **Dearness Allowance (DA):** ADF students will not be entitled to DA.
 - (ii) **House Rent Allowance (HRA):** All ADF students may be provided hostel accommodation wherever available. ADF students residing in hostels shall not be entitled to HRA. Wherever hostel accommodation is not possible, HRA is allowed

as per Central Government norms applicable in the city where the admitting institution located. The percentage for calculating HRA will be based on the amount of Fellowship.

(iii) **Leave and other Entitlements:**

- The ADF students are eligible for leave for a maximum period of 30 days in a year, in addition to public holidays. They are not entitled to any other vacation. The period spent for attending Conferences, Short-term Training Programmes, Workshops/ Seminars and any other outstation research work with the prior permission of his/ her supervisor will be treated as “on Duty”; this however, should not exceed 30 days in a year.
- The ADF students are also eligible for maternity/ paternity leave as per GOI norms.

Note:

- *All kinds of leave and “On Duty” period should be approved at the level of the institute on the recommendation of his/ her supervisor and proper record shall be maintained.*
- *Here “Year” starts with the date of start of ADF.*

(b) **Contingency Grant:** ADF students shall be entitled for a Contingency Grant limited to Rs. 15,000/- per year to meet the miscellaneous expenditures related to research work. The student is not bound to follow purchase rules of the Institute/ AICTE for procurements under contingency grant. The bills will not be sent to the AICTE.

6. PROGRESSION OF THE FELLOWSHIP

The duration of the Fellowship shall be of 3 Years (36 months) and will have periodic reviews for continuation/ upgradation.

(a) ADMISSION

The candidate shall be allowed to apply for ADF throughout the year after completion of admission process in the academic year. The process of uploading the detailed information of the admitted students must be completed on the AICTE portal within two months of date of admission. The date of start of ADF shall be the date of start of course work subject to uploading on the AICTE portal in time.

(b) ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

The institute will annually assess the performance/ progress of research work of the student as per applicable rules/ regulation/ ordinance. The Annual Progress Report with assessment must be uploaded on the AICTE portal within one month of the completion of a year from the date of start of ADF. The progress of student will be evaluated as “Satisfactory / Not satisfactory”. If the progress is assessed semester-wise (or 6-monthly) in any institute, then it must be satisfactory for both to continue. In case the progress in one semester is Satisfactory and in the other Unsatisfactory, the institute must assess the progress afresh. The report either satisfactory or unsatisfactory as the case may be, must be uploaded within one month of renewal/ extension.

(c) JRF TO SRF UPGRADATION

JRF may be upgraded to SRF after completion of two years from the date of start of ADF. The student will submit his/ her application on the AICTE

portal duly forwarded and recommended by the concerned institute along with all requisite documents within one month from the date of completion of 2 years from the date of start of ADF. The upgradation from JRF to SRF shall be subject to fulfilling the following mandatory conditions, within 2 years from the date of start of ADF:

- (i) The student has successfully completed the Course-work.
- (ii) The research plan/ proposal of student has been approved by the competent authority/ committee/ Student Research Committee (SRC)/ Departmental Research Committee (DRC) of the institute as per its applicable Ordinance.

Note:

- I. *The upgradation, if granted on fulfillment of requirements of above (i) & (ii); will be effective from the date of completion of two years from the date of start of ADF.*
- II. *In case the above (i) & (ii) conditions are not satisfied the fellowship to JRF shall be discontinued. The fellowship shall be resumed within 36 months after fulfillment of the requirements (of above (i) & (ii)) and no arrears will be paid.*

(d) EXTENSION OF FELLOWSHIP

Normally, no extension for ADF is granted. In exceptional cases, the duration is extendable up to 12 months or till the date of submission of thesis, whichever is earlier. The student desirous of extension has to submit his/ her application through the AICTE portal, forwarded and recommended by the concerned institute. The application should have all requisite documents and must be submitted within one month from the date of completion of 3 years. At the time of extension being sought:

- i. The student must have successfully completed the course work as per University/ Institution guidelines.

ii. The research plan/ proposal of the student should have been approved by the competent authority/ committee/ Student Research Committee (SRC)/ Departmental Research Committee (DRC)/ Supervisor and HOD/ Principal/ Dean of the University/ Institute as per its applicable Ordinance.

iii. The student must have:

- At least 01 research paper accepted/ published in SCI/ SCIE/ SCOPUS Journal

or

- At least two (02) research papers accepted/ published in ESCI/ UGC Care Listed Journals.

or

- Filed/ published/ granted at least one patent for his/ her invention by “The Patent Office of Government of India”.

(e) SRF students may apply for the extension of the duration of ADF i.e. beyond 3 years. The students will be continued as SRF during the extended period of one year. However, the fellowship shall be paid only if extension is granted as mentioned at point 6 (d) above.

(f) In case the student is not attending the research work during the extended period (4th Year), then fellowship shall be terminated.

(g) The student who fails to secure the extension for fellowship beyond 36 months, may continue his/ her Ph.D programme without fellowship under ADF Scheme as per terms & conditions of the University.

7. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY/INSTITUTE

- (a) The university/ institute will assign one faculty as Nodal Officer for the ADF Scheme who will interface between the university and AICTE on various operational aspects of the Scheme.
- (b) The university will admit students in their Ph. D. programme as per their procedure following minimum eligibility criteria prescribed by AICTE.
- (c) The university/institute will update joining report of the student on the online portal of AICTE along with bank account seeded with Aadhaar card number.
- (d) The university/institute shall mark the monthly attendance of the admitted student through online portal for the disbursement of the fellowship directly in the student's account through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.
- (e) The university/institute shall verify all information submitted/ uploaded by the student regularly such as Annual Progress Report, application for upgradation from JRF to SRF, application for extension beyond three years etc. before it is uploaded on the portal.
- (f) The university/institute will follow the reservation policy of the Government of India issued from time to time. At present the reservation policy is as under:
- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------|
| SC | : | 15% |
| ST | : | 7.5% |
| OBC | : | 27% |
| General {including EWS (Max. 10%)} | : | 50.5% |
- (g) University/ Institute shall indicate any discontinuation/ cancellation

of student from ADF, if any, immediately on the designated AICTE portal. The fellowship is liable to discontinuation or cancellation in case of:

(i) Discontinuation:

- (a) Non-completion of course-work and non-submission of approved research plan proposal as per university/ institute norms within 24 months.

Note: In the cases where the fellowship has been discontinued as per clause (a), the fellowship may be resumed within 36 months after the successful completion of the course-work and approval of research plan/ proposal by the University/Institute.

- (b) If the Annual Progress Report is “Not satisfactory”, the fellowship shall be discontinued for the succeeding year. The fellowship may be resumed within 36 months if the student succeeds to obtain “Satisfactory” Annual Progress Report.

(ii) Cancellation: The fellowship will be cancelled due to any of the reason given below:

- a) Cancellation of admission by the university/ institute.
- b) Misconduct by the student.
- c) False information/ documents submitted by the student or indulged in any fraudulent activity.
- d) Student found “Not-Eligible” for fellowship at any later stage.
- (h) The university/ institute will have assigned Teaching Assistantship to ADF students of 6 to 8 hours per week, by the Supervisor(s)/ Head of the Department based on the recommendation of his/ her supervisor(s) during the entire tenure of fellowship with effect from the date of start of ADF. The Assistantship may include assistance in tutorial and lab classes;

establishment, operation and maintenance of laboratories; invigilation during examinations; evaluation of answer sheets; etc. No independent teaching load can be assigned to the student, as a substitute for any regular teacher.

8. OTHER TERMS AND CONDITION

- (a) The student shall not be allowed for transfer of fellowship from the institution where admitted for Ph.D. during the entire tenure of the fellowship.
- (b) The student 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 salary, fellowship or any type of financial assistance during the tenure of fellowship through any other source. In case student receives any financial assistance from any other organization during the tenure of fellowship, with due permission of the university/ institute, he/ she 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 i.e. 3 or 4 years, as the case may be.
- (c) The nature of the candidature (full-time AICTE sponsored Doctoral Fellow) will not be changed during the program.
- (d) In case student joins any employment during the tenure of fellowship, he/ she has to inform to the AICTE through the university/ institute mentioning the date of joining the employment. In such cases, ADF shall be terminated

with effect from the date of joining. However, the student may be allowed to continue his/ her Ph. D. as Full-Time/ Part-Time student as per the university/ institute rules/ regulations. The student will not be considered for resumption of the ADF at any stage under such circumstances even he/ she leaves the employment and joins back in the institute.

- (e) The student shall give a declaration that if the results of research are such that they can be exploited commercially by taking a patent or otherwise, then the commercial exploitation and patent rights would be with the Institute, student and the supervisor(s).
- (f) AICTE online portal will have mechanism for releasing ADF emoluments and allowances (HRA/ contingency etc.) directly in the Aadhaar seeded bank account of the beneficiary through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- (g) The Ph.D. rules/ regulations of the concerned university/ institute where the student is registered will be applicable under this Scheme.
- (h) In case student avails break during the tenure of the fellowship on medical ground with due permission of the institute, the fellowship will be discontinued from the date of start of break and shall be resumed on rejoining the program for the remaining period of fellowship.
- (i) In case student is granted any kind of leave (maternity/paternity etc.) during the tenure of fellowship and goes beyond the entitled tenure of 3 years (4 years in cases where extension is granted), the fellowship shall expire on the last day of completion of entitled tenure of 3 or 4 years and shall not be extended under any circumstance.
- (j) The period of fellowship shall not be extended beyond 4 years from the date of start of ADF, under any circumstance including cancellation/

discontinuation of fellowship.

- (k) The fellowship may be terminated at any time during the tenure and the decision of the AICTE shall be final and binding.
- (l) The maximum no of seats is restricted to 20 per university/ Institute subject to satisfying the eligibility criteria at point no (4)
- (m) If the admission under ADF scheme is less than 50% of the allotted seats for two consecutive academic years, then the registration of that university will be terminated under the ADF scheme.
- (n) If the admission under ADF scheme is up to 90% of the allotted seats in the previous academic year, then the number of allotted seats may be increased as per the request letter of the concerned university.