

Goa State Research Foundation

GSRF/Schemes/DRF/10/2023 GSRF Doctoral Research Fellowship Scheme

FULL Scheme AS IS of date *inclusive of original notification and amendments published as per the approval of the Governing Council*

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The Goa State Research Foundation (GSRF) is pleased to frame the “GSRF Doctoral Research Fellowship Scheme” to provide Research Fellowships to the students of the State of Goa pursuing a full-time Doctoral (PhD) programme to carry out their research work in the chosen discipline.

I. *Short title & commencement.*— (a) This scheme shall be called ‘GSRF Doctoral Research Fellowship Scheme’.

(b) This scheme shall come into force from the date of its notification in the Official Gazette.

II. *Introduction to the scheme.*— Over the past decade, the research portfolio in the State of Goa has steadily grown. However, to achieve global recognition for Goa and to become a hub for high-quality research, there is an immediate need for research capacity building and to grow our global research competitiveness by enhancing research quality and encouraging innovation. This ‘GSRF Doctoral Research Fellowship Scheme’ envisages promoting research in all disciplines and providing financial assistance to full-time doctoral students from Goa in Goa University, its affiliated or autonomous colleges and Research Centres, as laid down in this notification, to undertake research activities leading to their PhD degrees.

III. *Objectives and scope.*— This scheme aims to promote excellence in research and innovation in Higher Education by supporting young researchers in various disciplines. The following are the key objectives:

- (i) To identify motivated young researchers doing research at PhD level in frontier areas of all disciplines.
- (ii) To provide financial support to them through fellowship and contingency grants and engage them in research.

The scope of this scheme is to provide financial assistance to young researchers who do not have any Fellowship or scholarship. Assistance will be in the form of fellowship and contingency grant, initially for two years to carry out their Doctoral (PhD) work and extend the same for the third year based on proven performance.

IV. *Operation of the scheme.*— This scheme shall be implemented and operated by the Goa State Research Foundation (GSRF).

V. *Pattern of assistance.*— (a) The number of new fellowships shall not exceed 20 per year (second and third year fellowships shall not be considered as new).

(b) A candidate who joined a full-time PhD and selected under this scheme shall be paid Rs. 27,000/- (Rupees twenty-seven thousand only) monthly. The fellowship is tenable for 2 years, which is extendable for the 3rd year based on the performance of the doctoral fellow.

VI. *Eligibility.*— Meritorious candidates from Goa pursuing a full-time PhD program will be supported. To be eligible, the candidate must have the following:

- (a) Must have 15 years of domicile with a valid certificate of residence from Goa,
- (b) Must be a full-time PhD student registered with any recognised higher education institute in India.
- (c) Has completed one year after provisional / initial registration on the date of their application but should not have completed two years on the date of application.
- (d) Those candidates who do not fall under category (c) above can also apply, provided that they:
 - (i) have not completed three years from the initial (provisional) date of registration on the date of application, and
 - (ii) have at least one published article from their PhD work as a lead or corresponding author in UGC-CARE Group II journal.
- (e) The maximum support period will be only two years for those candidates falling under category (d). They are not eligible for an extension in the third year.
- (f) The upper age limit for the fellowship is 35 years, calculated as of the last date of application submission. Age relaxation of 5 (five) years will be given to candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC/PWD & Women candidates.
- (g) The selected fellows under this scheme are not eligible to receive any other fellowship/salary from any Government or Non-Governmental sources during the tenure of the fellowship.
- (h) The host institution should provide necessary administrative and infrastructural support.
- (i) The fellowship is purely a temporary assignment.
- (j) If the candidate submits his/her thesis during the fellowship period, the day of submission of the thesis will be considered the last day of the fellowship.

VII. *Procedure for applying for the scheme.*— Candidates must submit their application online in the prescribed proforma, along with required certificates/documents in response to the call/advertisement issued by the GSRF from time to time.

VIII. *Procedure for selection of research fellows.*— (a) Applications received from applicants will be scrutinised for eligibility by the officials of GSRF or the committee appointed for the purpose.

(b) Selection of beneficiaries will be based on various parameters including institutional ranking/grading; aided institutions from Goa not having their own fellowships, will be given priority.

(c) The applications may be categorized into broader disciplines for ranking purposes.

(d) The Governing Council of GSRF will make the final decision based on the recommendations made by the Committee constituted for the purpose.

(e) The Governing Council will decide the number of fellowships based on the availability of funds under the scheme.

IX. *Procedure for Release of Fellowship/Grants.*— After sanctioning the fellowship, the research scholar shall send the acceptance letter and the joining report endorsed by the Guide and Head of the Department or Dean or Head of the Institute in original and other required documents to the GSRF.

The fellowship will be released every three months as follows: (i) directly to the account of the institution, or (ii) to the account of the beneficiary/research scholar, subject to the submission of the following documents in original:

- (a) Satisfactory Quarterly Performance reports certified by the Guide/Supervisor and Head of the Department or Dean.
- (b) Pre-receipt in the prescribed format.

The timely release of instalments is contingent upon submitting the documents as above, and availability of funds. In case the fellowship is disbursed to the institution (see 'i' above), the research scholar will need to submit through the institution a consolidated Utilization Certificate at the end of the tenure (the same will also be required of those research scholars who are granted extension of the fellowship in the third year).

The candidates eligible for the extension (third year) shall submit a request in the prescribed format endorsed by the Guide/Supervisor and Head of the Department or Dean or Head of the Institute in original.

X. *General terms & conditions.*— (a) Fellowship is not transferable to any other person.

(b) The fellows are encouraged to publish research papers based on the research work done during the fellowship in journals of high repute. The fellows should acknowledge the support from the GSRF.

(c) The fellows shall also inform GSRF about any publications resulting from the fellowship award, even if the articles are published after the fellowship tenure. A soft copy of the published paper should be sent to the GSRF.

(d) The GSRF reserves the right to terminate the Fellowship at any stage if it is convinced that desired progress is not being made.

(e) No extension in tenure is permissible under any circumstances.

(f) Fellows discontinuing the fellowship without justifiable reasons shall return the fellowship amount in full. Decision on the justification given by the beneficiary for discontinuing will be taken by the Governing Council whose decision with regards to refund, will be final and binding.

XI. *Relaxation of conditions.*— The Governing Council of GSRF is empowered to relax any or all clauses or conditions of the scheme in genuine cases.

XII. *Interpretation.*— If any question arises regarding the interpretation of any clause, word or expression of the scheme, the decision about the interpretation shall be with the GSRF, which shall be final and binding on all concerned.

XIII. *Amendment.*— The Governing Council of GSRF reserves the right to amend the terms and conditions of the scheme as and when required for better and more effective implementation.

XIV. *Redressal of Grievances and Disputes.*— Grievances, if any, arising out of the implementation of this scheme will be heard and decided by the Chairperson (GSRF), and the decision in this regard shall be final and binding on all concerned.

Savio P. Falleiro, Managing Director, Goa State Research Foundation.
Alto-Porvorim, dated 02/05/2025