

Goa State Research Foundation

GSRF/Schemes/Major RG/13/2023 GSRF Major Research Grant 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 Major Research Grant Scheme” to provide financial assistance to the faculty members of Goa University and its affiliated/autonomous educational/research institutes/centres who wish to undertake a Research Project.

I. Short title and commencement. — (i) The scheme shall be called the “GSRF Major Research Grant Scheme”.

(ii) The scheme shall come into force from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette and remain in force until it is amended.

II. Introduction to the scheme. — National Education Policy 2020 recognises the importance of Research and knowledge creation in sustaining a vibrant economy. The significance of high-quality, interdisciplinary research across fields is felt much more than ever. Hence, the “GSRF Major Research Grant Scheme” has been designed to provide financial assistance to the faculty members of Goa University and its affiliated/autonomous colleges and Goa Government-funded educational/research institutes/centres on a competitive basis to pursue research work along with their regular academic engagement. The scheme will promote research in all the basic, applied and interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary areas by providing financial assistance on a competitive basis.

III. Objectives and scope of the scheme. — This scheme aims to promote excellence in research and innovation in Higher Education Institutes by supporting researchers in various disciplines by providing funding. Research that considers local needs and works in collaboration with industries and Government Departments, whose benefits will ultimately reach society, will be promoted. The key objective of the scheme is:

(i) To create a research ambience in the State of Goa through Goa University and its affiliated/autonomous colleges and Goa Government-funded educational/research institutes/centres by promoting research in basic, applied, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary areas.

Research and Development activities are considered essential components of the higher education system because they create new knowledge and insights and impart excitement and dynamism to the education process. The scope of the scheme includes creating and improving the general research capabilities of the faculty members of the various Higher Educational Institutes (Goa University and its affiliated/autonomous colleges and Goa Government-funded educational/research institutes/centres).

IV. Operation of the scheme.— The Goa State Research Foundation (GSRF) shall implement and operate this scheme.

V. Eligibility.— Financial assistance for Major Research Projects under this scheme can be availed by the full-time regular faculty of Goa University and its affiliated/autonomous educational/research institutes/centres.

(i) The Principal Investigator (P.I.) should be a full-time regular employee with a PhD degree or M.D./M.S./M.D.S./M.V.Sc. in the fields of Medicine, Dental or Veterinary, and an interest in high- quality research.

(ii) There can be Co-Investigator(s) (CI) from the same Institute or any other reputed Institutes / Industries / Government Departments within the country. However, the total number of

Investigators (PI and CI) shall not exceed three and the role of each investigator has to be clearly defined.

(iii) A faculty member can avail of only one project under this or any other scheme of GSRF at any given time.

VI. *Pattern of assistance.*— In a given financial year, the number of new projects sanctioned under this scheme shall not exceed 15.

A. The quantum of assistance for a major research project under this scheme will be as under:

(a) The maximum permissible grant in the disciplines including those interdisciplinary in nature outside STEM areas (e.g. Humanities, Social Sciences, Arts, Languages, Commerce, Law, Management, etc.) will be Rs. 15.00 lakhs only, in which non-recurring, if any, shall not exceed Rs. 2.00 lakhs.

(b) The maximum permissible grant in the disciplines including those interdisciplinary in nature in STEM areas (e.g. Sciences, Engineering, Technology) will be Rs. 25.00 lakhs only, in which non-recurring, if any, shall not exceed Rs. 5.00 lakhs.

B. The following are the Heads under which the budget will be recognised:

1. Non-Recurring Grants (Equipment)

The equipment grants may be utilised to procure the essential equipment needed for the proposed research work. Purchase of equipment such as Computer, Laptop, Printer, etc. is NOT permitted. However, Computer/Workstation (not Laptop) as an equipment on which the whole or major part of the project work is based will be permitted based on proper justification. Works requiring High-End Computing facilities can project budget for computer time under the Head Recurring, Sub-head Hiring Services.

The Equipment acquired by the P.I. under this scheme must be deposited at the institution after the completion of the project. These items will be institutional property.

2. Recurring Grants

(1) *Project Staff*: This is basically for appointing temporary staff such as Project Assistants. The fellowship will be Rs. 20,000/- per month (rupees twenty thousand only) or as per the guidelines issued from time to time by the GSRF. The procedure for appointing the Project Assistant will be the same as per the guidelines of the institution of the PI.

(2) *Hiring Services*: This is meant for specialised technical services available on a payment basis, such as sample analysis, for which the University/College/institution has no infrastructure.

(3) *Contingency*: The admissible contingency grant may be utilised on spares for apparatus, photostat copies and microfilms, typing, stationery, postage, telephone calls, internet, fax, computation, printing and other project-related items. Expenditure towards the audit fee may also be claimed under the contingency head.

(4) *Chemicals and Consumables*: To meet expenditure on chemicals, glassware and other consumable items.

(5) *Travel and/or Field Work*: The amount allocated under the head travel/field work will be utilised for data collection and other information, including documents and visits to libraries within the general scope and sphere of the ongoing project. This can also be used for attending conferences, seminars, workshops, training courses, etc.; however, it should be directly related to the project work and, at most, one event in a year. No foreign travel will be allowed under this scheme. The mode of travel will be as per the eligibility and institutional norms, but not above norms fixed by the Government of Goa.

(6) *Special Needs*: Assistance may be provided for any other special requirement concerning the project which is not covered under any other 'Head' of assistance under the scheme.

(7) *Overhead charges*: Institutional overhead charges are NOT PERMITTED under this scheme.

Grants will be released to the Head of Institution.

C. Re-appropriation: The Principal Investigator may re-appropriate a maximum of 20 per cent of the non-recurring grant to a recurring grant and vice-versa allocated with the permission of GSRF by providing proper justification.

VII. *Tenure and implementation.*— The project's tenure sanctioned under GSRF Major Research Grant Scheme will be three years (3 years) from the project's sanction date.

VIII. *Procedure for applying for the scheme.*— The Applicants are required to apply online as per the format in response to the call by GSRF. Pre-registration of PI, is a must for applying online.

IX. *Procedure for approval.* — The applications received, complete in all aspects, will be peer-reviewed by the subject experts. Based on the review, recommendations will be made by the committee constituted for the purpose. The Governing Council of GSRF will take the final decision based on the recommendations made by the committee and the availability of funds under the scheme.

X. *Procedure for release of grants.* — The first instalment of the grant shall comprise 100% of the Non-Recurring grant and 100% of the Recurring grant approved by the GSRF for the first year. The grant will be released to the Head of the Institution.

The Annual Progress Report, statement of expenditure and utilisation certificate for the 1st instalment of the grant shall be submitted in original by the end of the first year. GSRF reserves the right to seek a presentation by the PI before a Committee constituted to review the progress of the work done, before the release of the next instalment. On the recommendation of the Committee, and/or on submission of the necessary documents, the second-year grant will be released as the second instalment. Following a similar procedure, the third-year instalment will be released.

XI. *Completion of the project.* — The following documents shall be submitted within three months from the end of the project:

- (1) Copy of the Final Technical Report of the project along with the soft copy.
- (2) A consolidated item-wise detailed statement of expenditure incurred during the entire project period in the prescribed proforma duly signed and sealed by the PI and the Head of the Institution.
- (3) A consolidated Audited Utilization Certificate for the amount utilised towards the project duly signed and sealed by the Chartered Accountant, Head of the Institution and the P.I. in the prescribed proforma.
- (4) The unutilised grant, if any, shall be refunded immediately through a demand draft in favour of GSRF.
- (5) The committee constituted for the purpose should review the completion report.

XII. *General.*— (a) After the finalisation of the selection of the Major Research projects, PIs of selected proposals will be intimated about the selection. The PIs should send their acceptance certificate duly forwarded by the Head of the Institution immediately to the GSRF along with pre-receipt, undertaking, etc.

(b) The project is not transferable.

(c) In case the P.I. is transferred from his/her original place of work to another Institution within Goa, a No Objection Certificate should be furnished for the transfer of the project from the host Institution. The new host institution shall provide a certificate stating that the Institution will provide necessary facilities to the awardee for the smooth functioning of the project. The assets acquired can be transferred to the new institution in case of ongoing projects.

(d) The GSRF encourages publishing results of the project supported by the GSRF. However, the investigator should acknowledge the support received from the GSRF in these publications.

(e) Generally, no extension in tenure is permissible.

XIII. *Refund / Recovery.*— PIs discontinuing the study/project without justifiable reasons shall return the amount received from GSRF in full. Decision on the justification given by the PI for discontinuing will be taken by the Governing Council, whose decision regarding refund will be final and binding.

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

XV. *Interpretation.*— If any questions arise 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.

XVI. *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