

KSCSTE - Research Fellowship Guidelines

1. Introduction

This scheme is for encouraging enthusiastic and passionate post-graduate science/engineering students by supporting financially in their Ph.D. studies. There are seven science streams which the students can opt for fellowship. They are Mathematical Sciences, Life Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Physical Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Environmental Sciences and Earth-Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences.

2. Who can apply?

- Candidates who have qualified their post-graduate degree shall have three consecutive chances to apply for the Fellowship programme. Thus, a candidate who has passed the examination current year can apply in this year, next year, and year after next.
- Minimum marks in the post graduate examination:
General (UR) / General-Economically Weaker Sections and OBC candidates - 70% marks or equivalent CGPA.
SC/ST, Persons with Disability (PwD) - 65% marks or equivalent CGPA
- Candidates who have their qualifying degree (PG) from any of the Universities in Kerala are only eligible.
- Upper age limit: Maximum 35 years (Should not exceed 35 years as on the 1st of the month of advertisement published in the website) for all applicants.

3. Time slot to apply?

Generally, the applications are invited during September - October every year.

4. How to apply?

- Only online registration is allowed. No hard copies of application form will be accepted.
- There is a registration fee of Rs. 500/- (SC/ST and persons with disability candidates are exempted)

5. Apply in prescribed format

Attach all relevant documents (PG Marklist, PG-Degree certificate, certificate to prove age, caste certificate for SC/ST candidates, and medical certificate in prescribed format for persons with disability) while applying online.

6. Social Relevance and tangible output

The KSCSTE fellows are trained in basic science and thus helps in the development of human resources of the state. The publications and patents that are published by the KSCSTE Fellows increase the knowledge treasure.

7. Maximum grant amount

Each selected student is eligible for a fellowship of Rs. 22,000/ pm (JRF)- for the first two years and Rs. 25,000/- (SRF) for the 3rd year. They are also eligible for the annual contingency of Rs. 20,000/- and 10% of Fellowship as HRA pm.

8. Procedure of operation of the scheme

- Candidates who have registered for the fellowship have to appear for an examination which is conducted online at three centers across Kerala. Examination is generally second week of December every year.

- There are two papers for the entrance examination; Paper A is general which evaluates the candidate's general knowledge and research aptitude. Paper B is the subject paper. Syllabus for paper B is similar to that of CSIR examination and this will be available in the KSCSTE website.

Pattern of Examination	Part A (General Aptitude)	Part B (Subject)
Total Questions	20	100
Max no. of questions to attempt	20	50

- There is no negative mark.
- The total marks will be calculated as follows:
Out of 90 in the total marks, 70 marks is from the online examination and 20 marks from the Post-graduation degree marks.
- The cut-off marks for selection to the fellowship is based on the number of fellowship available for each stream. For reservation candidates (SC/ST, persons with disability), there will be 5% reduction in cut-off marks from that of the general (UR) / General-EWS and OBC candidates.
- Maximum number of fellowships in each subjects is given below:

Subject	No. of Fellowships
Life Sciences	28
Chemical Sciences	16
Mathematical Sciences	10
Physical Sciences	16
Earth, Atmospheric, Ocean and Planetary Sciences	10
Environmental Sciences	10
Engineering Sciences	10
Total	100

- The number of fellowships may vary based on the availability of fund.
- The selected candidates will be intimated by e-mail and post. A fellowship offer letter will be sent to the candidate.
- Candidates are allowed for online examination provisionally. Any mismatch found in their submitted documents and or if the applicant is found violated from the KSCSTE Research Fellowship guidelines, fellowship will be cancelled and the candidate will be debarred in future examination.

9. Issuing Sanction Order

Date of Start of the Project

If the date of Ph.D. registration is before the date of fellowship offer letter, the date of fellowship acceptance letter from the candidate will be taken as the start date of fellowship. Otherwise, date shown in the joining report forwarded by the head of the institution will be taken as the date of start of fellowship.

Submission of Progress Reports

Every year, a progress report of the work done by the fellow shall be sent to the Council (soft copy by e-mail) within 3 months of period of project year completion.

Periodic submission of SE & UC

- After the release of the grant, the candidate should ensure with the University / Institution that the audited statement of expenditure and utilization certificate are sent. Third year fellowship will be released upon receipt of a publication in a scopus indexed journal (with due acknowledgment to KSCSTE) along with SE /UC and

progress report.

- SE and UC of the first two years should be sent within 3 months of completion of project period each year and after third year it is within 6 months.

Other necessary conditions

- The fellowship is for pursuing Ph.D. ; and the candidate should register in any of the Universities in Kerala for availing the fellowship.
- The fellowship awardees should join and pursue their Ph.D. studies in any of the Universities/research center in Kerala as soon as the fellowship offer letter is received.
- Once the offer letter from the Council is received, the fellow should submit an acceptance letter within the time mentioned in the offer letter, else the fellowship will be cancelled.
- The fellowship offer shall be valid for one year from the date of issuing of the offer letter.
- As soon as the offer letter is received, the fellow should start initiating the registration process with the University in Kerala.
- Once the registration order from the University is received, a copy of the same along with the Terms and Conditions, a letter from the supervising teacher showing that the fellow is not availing any other fellowship and joining report (mentioning effective date of joining at the Research Centre) should be sent to the Council for initiating the release of the fellowship.
- If the fellow would like to terminate the KSCSTE fellowship, the same should be intimated to the Council through the Head of the Institution forwarded by the supervising teacher, immediately. The fellow should take steps to ensure the submission of SE and UC and refund of unspent amount etc by the Institute for issuing NOC.

Conditions if the progress is not satisfactory:

The release of the third-year fellowship is subjected to a publication of the fellow in a scopus indexed journal (with due acknowledgement to the Council).

10. Release of further instalment of grant

Release of fund is on yearly basis, after submission of relevant documents such as SE & UC, annual progress report and publications (for third year fund).

11. Project Completion Report

The fellows should submit a soft copy of the thesis and a copy of the Ph.D. Degree

12. Closure of the fellowship Programme

Once the research work is finished, the fellow should submit the following documents:

- a) Final year progress report (soft copy)
- b) Audited SE/UC (hard copy) should be submitted within 6 months (original)
- c) Unspent grant if any
- d) Publications (soft copy)
- e) Thesis (soft copy) after award of Ph.D. degree
- f) Copy of Ph.D. degree (soft copy)

When all documents are received, the Council will issue a No-Objection Certificate / Completion Certificate and file will be closed.

13. Re-appropriation of Funds and Extension details

No re-appropriation fellowship is permitted. Maximum one year extension may be given on considering the progress of the research work of the fellow, on case to case, by the recommendation of an expert committee, subjected to the availability of funds.

14. Guidelines for publication of Research output

Fellows wish to publish technical/ scientific papers based on the research work done should acknowledge the assistance received from the KSCSTE, indicating the scheme.

15. General Conditions

The above guidelines provide general information only. KSCSTE reserves the right to review these guidelines and modify them, as and when required. In addition to these, the implementing agency has to follow its own rules and regulations, wherever necessary. Any form of canvassing shall be a disqualification. The fellows alone are responsible for any adverse impacts resulted to society out of their research and KSCSTE is free from any legal disputes due to that.

Contact

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