

Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme for Electronics & IT- Phase II

1. Background

MEITY has approved implementation of Phase-II of Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme for Electronics & IT with the objective of enhancing the number of PhDs in the Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) and IT/IT Enabled Services (ITES).

Phase-I of the Scheme, was implemented in 25 states and 4 Union Territories. It has been decided to continue the scheme for Phase-II to help increasing the number of PhDs in the country to enable India to compete globally in the coming decades, to develop an ecosystem of research, development and IP creation in these knowledge intensive sectors.

2. Salient Features of Phase-II

- 2.1** The scheme aims at generating a total of 1000 Full-time PhD Candidates (@200 Candidates per year) and 150 Part-time PhDs (@30 Candidates per year) in emerging research areas of ESDM and IT/ITES sectors over a period of 5 years.
- 2.2** The scheme will also identify and support 50 Young Faculty Research Fellowships (@10 awards/year) to recognize and encourage young faculty involved in research and technology development in the areas of ESDM and IT/ITES.
- 2.3** The scheme would support 225 Post-Doctoral Fellowships for candidates @ 25 seats per year for a period of support of one year to encourage specialized research in emerging research areas under ESDM and IT/ITES sectors. The support has been provisioned for a total of 9 years.
- 2.4** The scheme will have a provision for one time support to 250 Full time PhD fellows for 6 months to facilitate visits to labs abroad, to broaden their research perspective and be in-sync with the state of art research being carried out throughout the globe.

3. Institutions Eligible for Support

- 3.1** All Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Indian Institute of Science (IISc), all Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs), Central Universities, Deemed Universities under Central Government, Colleges, and Institutions of national importance will be eligible for support under the scheme.
- 3.2** A University created under Provincial Act, State Act, State Universities, Private Universities, Private Deemed Universities, "Colleges that are allowed to offer PhD", and other academic, R&D institutions with the following eligibility criteria:
 - The Institute should have existing post graduate stream in Electronics/IT and have produced PhDs in these areas for the last 3 years. The PhD student(s) under this scheme to be admitted as per UGC admission norms and
 - The Institute should be recognized by AICTE & NBA (National Board of Accreditation) accredited with respect to Electronics/IT Programmes or The Institute should be accredited by NAAC (National Assessment and Accreditation Council of UGC).
- 3.3** The minimum requirement for eligibility under the scheme will be as per the norms specified by UGC. This will comply to "UGC's Minimum Standards & Procedures for award of M. Phil/Ph.D. Degree, Regulation, 2009" (ref. The Gazette of India July 11, 2009 Part III Sec 4) as amended time to time.

4. Full-time PhD candidates (1000 candidates @200candidates/year):

4.1 Financial Support for Full-time PhD candidates:

- 4.1.1 Fellowship:** Rs. 38,750 per month in 1st& 2nd year and @Rs. 43,750 per month in 3rd,4th and 5th years of PhD. (support till PhD completion or 5 years whichever is earlier).
- 4.1.2 Reimbursement of Rent (RoR):** This component is linked with the fellowship of PhD Candidate. The rate of RoR is 24%, 16% & 8% (of fellowship) for X, Y & Z class cities/towns respectively. The classification of the cities is as per the notification issued by the Ministry of Finance for the reimbursement of HRA.
- 4.1.3 Institutional Overheads:** An amount of Rs. 25,000/Year/Full-time PhD candidate for support duration of PhD candidate to be given to the institution. The institutional overheads will be released after completion of required tenure by the respective candidate on pro-rata basis.
- 4.1.4 Research Contingency Grant Support:** An amount of Rs. 1,20,000/Year/Full-time PhD candidate for support duration of PhD candidate as per following guidelines:
- Out of Rs. 1.20 Lakh/ year, upto Rs. 30,000/- may be availed by the institute for respective PhD Candidate's miscellaneous expenses relevant to research work- e.g. Books / Documents, Equipment / Software, Consumables / Chemical / Electronic components, Prints of research papers, reports etc., Registration fee for attending Symposia/ Seminars / Conferences in India / abroad where the candidate is presenting an accepted paper, Similar items etc.
 - Proposal for Rs. 90,000/- or more upto Rs. 1.20 Lakh (the remaining amount after miscellaneous exp.) for lab equipment (excluding civil construction/expansion of the building) should be submitted to PhD Cell, DIC. It should be signed & stamped by the supervisor, nodal & head of the institute.
 - The amount of Rs. 1.20 Lakh under Research Contingency Grant support would be available to the institute only after completion of tenure of one year for a particular candidate and like-wise on pro-rata basis.
 - The proposal should clearly specify the utility & role of each of the proposed equipment in research of respective PhD candidate(s). The proposal would cover the item wise cost alongwith total budget and minimum amount required to place purchase order and amount required at the time of delivery of equipment to the institute.
 - The eligibility/unspent balance of a particular year for each Full-time PhD candidate may be carried forward to the next year, till the candidate is supported under the scheme (5 years/PhD completion etc.).
- 4.1.5 Support for attending International Conference:** The support would be available from 3rd year of PhD with following guidelines:
- The support would cover the travel and other expenses of PhD candidates for attending International conferences, where his/her research paper has been accepted for the presentation by him/her
 - Paper presentation should be oral (not poster) in an International conference falling in approved list under Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme (subject to revision/review by Academic Committee periodically). The approved list would be uploaded on PhD Scheme portal in due course.
 - A paper of expository nature (e.g. a review paper) will not be considered
 - Grant will not be used to attend winter or summer schools.
 - The application with invitation letter of the conference to be submitted to the PhD-Cell through the institution.

- f) The grant will be provided to the institution (not to the applicant) for checks & balances and submission of UC

4.1.6 Visit to Labs abroad: The support would be available from 3rd year of PhD to the selected Full Time PhD candidates with following guidelines:

- a) DIC may enter into agreement with suggested labs.
- b) The concerned institution(s) will have to facilitate the execution of this agreement between DIC & the lab(s) and will also follow the administrative guidelines to be issued by DIC.
- c) The PhD candidate should possess a valid offer letter from such labs abroad (having agreement with the scheme implementing agency).
- d) The candidate may avail this support after 3 year (36 months). The candidate should complete the joint work/training at least 3 months before the completion of PhD/support period of 5 years.
- e) The application with invitation letter to be submitted to the PhD-Cell through the institution.
- f) The grant will be provided to the institution (not to the applicant) for checks & balances and submission of UC

4.2 Terms and Conditions for support of Full Time PhD Candidates

4.2.1 The support will be for additional PhD candidates taken up by an institution. No support would be provided for current levels of enrolment in the PhD programme at the institutions. Transfer from other scholarship schemes would not be permitted.

4.2.2 Only the candidates enrolled/registered for PhD during the period of the scheme would be eligible to apply for the financial support. This scheme will be applicable for new PhD Scholars after notification of the scheme.

4.2.3 The candidate would be eligible for Fellowship for the period during which the candidate is in good standing, and fulfills the requirements of the PhD successfully. The maximum period for which the support would be available for any Full-time candidate would be five years or till the completion of PhD whichever is earlier.

4.2.4 The participating Institution will ensure that a candidate receiving fellowship under this scheme is not receiving any financial support for PhD from any other scheme of Government of India/States etc. at the same time, The candidates who have availed support for their PhD from any other scheme of Government of India/States etc. will be automatically be disqualified for support under this scheme.

4.2.5 The PhD seats allotted for a particular year should be utilized in the same academic year only. The unfilled seats would be automatically pulled back to the general pool of the scheme.

4.2.6 The institutions, in the event of any drop-out, need to report it to PhD Cell/DIC immediately. The institutions cannot enroll a substitute candidate on their own. Only the cases which are found extraordinary would be considered for a substitute candidate's enrollment. For this consideration, the institution would require to submit adequate justification beyond the administrative checks and formalities. Any substitute enrolled by the institution without prior permission and due approval of PhD Cell, DIC would not be considered for support under the scheme.

4.2.7 Once the institution has recommended the candidate for award of fellowship and the same has been approved under the scheme by the competent authority the fellowship amount and eligible "Reimbursement of Rent" amount will be transferred directly to the bank accounts of the PhD candidate through DBT. The institution will submit annual performance report for each candidate enrolled under the scheme. In case of non- performance of any candidate, the institution shall intimate PhD Cell, DIC regarding the same. In case no such intimation is received, PhD Cell, DIC will continue to transfer the fellowship directly to the bank accounts of PhD candidates.

4.2.8 The items of expenditure eligible to be released to the institution like Institutional Overheads, Research Contingency Grant shall be released directly to the institution.

4.2.9 The amount to be released under "Support for attending International Conference" and "Visit to labs abroad" will be released as per the requirement on a case to case basis.

4.2.10 The institution will be responsible for furnishing utilization certificates of the funds released to them based on the scheme parameters, and as per conditions of the sanctioned grant-in- aid.

5. Part-time PhD candidates (150 candidates): Fellowship @Rs. 3 Lakh on PhD Completion

5.1 Part-time PhD seats is provisioned for professionals working at a reputed place/organization

5.2 The selected candidates should not be availing any PhD Fellowship/scholarship from any other scheme of Central or State Government.

5.3 The seats would be allotted to the institutions based on the assessment of the proposals of the institute, research strength, and the working places of the prospective applicants.

5.4 Past performance of the institutions in implementation of the scheme will also be considered while allocating the seats (wherein PhD Cell, DIC would provide the recommendation)

5.5 Part-time candidates who do not avail of any PhD Fellowship/scholarship/stipend from any Central or State Government shall be provided a one-time incentive of Rs. 3 Lakh on successful completion of the PhD degree.

5.6 Further guidelines if any will be provided subsequently.

6. Young Faculty Research Fellowship (50 awards @10 awards/year):

6.1 Research Fellowship @ Rs. 20,000/Month, in addition to regular income/salary of the awardee.

6.2 Research Contingency Grant of Rs. 5 Lakh/Year

6.3 The proposals would be invited from the institutions eligible for support under the scheme.

6.4 Each institution in the proposal may nominate one faculty for the award for each round of call of applications.

6.5 The applicant must be an Indian citizen and possess a PhD degree in a relevant area.

6.6 Age of the applicant –max. 40 Years as on last date of nomination submission.

6.7 The applicant must have a regular position in the Institute and should be engaged in research.

6.8 The applicant should preferably be involved in providing guidance to some PhD students under the Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme/ or any other GoI Scheme.

6.9 The proposal should define clear objectives, outcomes and deliverables against the award of fellowship.

6.10 The applicant can not avail any other fellowship along with this award.

- 6.11** Initially the award will be for 2 year and extendible upto 5 years based on periodic performance review.
- 6.12** The eligibility of YFRF awardees for Contingency/Research grant @ Rs. 5 Lakhs per year would be calculated on quarterly basis, based on the period spent under the award on pro rata basis, after commencement of their YFRF awards (i.e. Rs. 1.25 Lakhs for each quarter). The amount would be released by PhD Cell, DIC to the respective institutions of the awardees on receipt of proposals in specified format. Subsequent releases would be based on submission of Utilization Certificate and Statement of Accounts of previous release.
- 6.13** Equipment, manpower and other similar expenses of relevance to support the research work of the Young Faculty Research Fellow (YFRF)' could be met from the Research/ Contingency Grant of Rs. 5 Lakhs/year.
- 6.14** The research contingency grant of Rs. 5 Lakhs/year may also be utilized by the YFRF awardee towards attending the International Conference by the researchers working under his/her guidance for presenting a paper in which the researcher (working with the YFRF awardee) is a co-author with him/her (the YFRF awardee) and the YFRF awardee him/her self is not attending same event. The above clarification is to facilitate the use of the Grant rather than to limit the wisdom/freedom of the Young Faculty Research Fellow w.r.t. the use of the grant for furtherance of the research work.
- 6.15** The unspent balance in a particular year under "Research Contingency grant/support" for each YFRF may be carried forward to the next year, till the time the YFRF is supported under the scheme at the Institute.

7. Post-Doctoral Fellowship (225 candidates' @25candidates/year):

7.1 Research Fellowship @ Rs. 1.08 Lakh/Month

- 7.2** Contingency- Rs. 1 Lakh for 1 year (on re-imbursement and pro-rata basis depending on the period spent under the award). The claim would be submitted by the awardee through respective institution to PhD Cell in prescribed format.
- 7.3** The proposals would be invited from the institutions eligible for support under the scheme.
- 7.4** Each institution in the proposal may nominate one applicant for the award for each round of call for applications.
- 7.5** Age of the applicant –max. 50 Years as on last date of nomination submission.
- 7.6** Mentor/Guide of applicant nominee must hold a PhD degree in relevant area and regular academic/research position in a recognized institution in India.
- 7.7** The proposal should define clear objectives, outcomes and deliverables against PDF award.
- 7.8** Post-Doctoral Fellowship will be provided to eligible candidates for a period of one year @25 candidates/year.
- 7.9** Post-Doctoral Fellowship is meant for those who have a proven track record as evident from their research publications and recognitions. If the Post-Doctoral fellow is availing any other fellowship, he/she will have to opt for only one of the fellowships.

8. Miscellaneous

- 8.1** Collaborations with internationally reputed academics and R&D Institutions will be encouraged.
- 8.2** IPR generated under the Scheme will be governed by existing rules and regulations of MeitY.
- 8.3** All institutions who will participate would be subjected to Audit of their accounts/records in respect of the scheme as per government norms.
- 8.4** Assets created under the scheme using the research grant to the participating Institutions would be used by Institutions for the research and development activities in these institutions after the end of the scheme.
- 8.5** MeitY may make additions/deletions/modifications in these guidelines at its own discretion.
- 8.6** Awarding support, its continuation, discontinuation etc. for component(s) of the scheme would be as per the sole discretion of MeitY and would be final and binding to all the applicants seeking support/beneficiaries.