



कृषि शिक्षा विभाग  
Agricultural Education Division  
भारतीय कृषि अनुसंधान परिषद्  
INDIAN COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH  
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F. No. EDN/1/32/2007-Exam Cell

Dated: 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2016

To

- (i) All Vice-Chancellors, State Agricultural Universities/AAI-DU/CAUs/ICAR-DUs/CUs having faculty of agriculture
- (ii) All Directors, ICAR Institutes

**Subject: Guidelines for Centralized Admission to Doctoral Degree Programmes in the Universities under ICAR-AU System**

Sir,

Persuant to revision of the ICAR's "Guidelines for ICAR's Fellowships for Post-graduate Studies (PGS) in Agricultural Sciences" as available on the ICAR's website ([www.icar.org.in](http://www.icar.org.in)), the Guidelines for Centralized Admission to Doctoral Degree Programmes in the Universities under ICAR-AU System, as approved by the Competent Authority, ICAR stand revised accordingly for information and necessary action of all concerned with immediate effect.

Yours faithfully,

  
(M .B. Chetti)

**Encl: As above**

**Copy for information to:**

1. All DDGs, ICAR, Addl. Secretary (DARE) and Secretary ICAR, Addl. Secretary and FA (DARE/ICAR), ND (NAEP)
2. All ADGs, ICAR, Director (P), Director (F), ICAR
3. PPS to DG, ICAR

**GUIDELINES FOR CENTRALIZED ADMISSION TO DOCTORAL DEGREE PROGRAMMES IN  
THE UNIVERSITIES UNDER ICAR-AU SYSTEM**

**1. OBJECTIVE**

To conduct All India Competitive Examination for the award of ICAR's Senior Research Fellowship [AICE-SRF(PGS)] on the basis of merit and (ii) concurrent admission to Doctoral degree program on 25% seats (subject to at least one seat for each discipline having Ph.D. degree programme in the University) of accredited Agricultural Universities under the ICAR-AU system except the ICAR Deemed-to-be-Universities (DUs) where 100 % seats will be filled up through their own separate national level entrance examinations (as approved by GB, ICAR in 235<sup>th</sup> Meeting on 01.12.2015).

**2. TIME AND SCHEME OF EXAMINATION**

The examination will be annually conducted preferably in the month of April. General Scheme of the Entrance Examination as delineated in the Information Bulletin of All India Competitive Examination for the award of ICAR's Senior Research Fellowship [AICE-SRF(PGS)] shall be applicable.

**3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

- 3.1** Candidates having completed their Master's degree program securing Overall Grade Point Average (OGPA) of at least 6.50/10.00 scale, 3.25/5.00 scale, 2.60/4.00 scale for General and OBC Categories and 5.50/10.00, 2.75/5.00, 2.20/4.00 scale for SC/ST/Physically Challenged (PC) candidates, respectively from any recognized University in India and abroad would be eligible. In other cases, where grade-points are not awarded and only marks are awarded, the candidate must have secured at least 60% marks for General/OBC Category. For SC/ST/Physically Challenged (PC) candidates, the minimum percentage of marks will be 50%. The equivalence between OGPA and percent marks, where needed, will not be acceptable.
- 3.2** For admission to Ph.D. degree programmes through the entrance examination, only the candidates having passed graduation with four years' degree programme from any recognized University will be eligible. The candidates having passed with Bachelor's degree of 3 years' duration are not eligible with the proviso that such candidates if already enrolled for Masters degree programme (as approved by GB, ICAR in its 235<sup>th</sup> Meeting on 01.12.2015) may seek admission to Ph.D. degree programme in respective ICAR-DU only in accordance with its prescribed eligibility criteria.
- 3.3** The candidates must complete the postgraduate degree in all respects and produce the degree completion certificate from the Registrar to this effect on/before 30<sup>th</sup> June or the date of counseling, whichever is later, failing which they will not be considered for the award of fellowship/admission. Normally, the counseling will be scheduled in the second half of July every year (as approved by GB, ICAR in 232<sup>nd</sup> Meeting on 15.10.2014).
- 3.4** If a candidate wants to seek admission in a specific Sub-subject which is not listed under the Sub-subjects of a Major Subject Group of AICE-SRF(PGS), he/she might avail the option of appearing in the entrance examination conducted by respective ICAR-DU.
- 3.5** The admission and fellowship would be granted only when the candidate seeks admission through counseling conducted by ICAR and pursues Ph.D. degree in an Agricultural University (AU) except an ICAR-DU, where 100 % seats will be filled up through its own separate national level entrance examination. At ICAR-DUs, the candidate may get Institute fellowship in accordance with their prescribed eligibility criteria. Further, for seeking admission (without fellowship) as well as with ICAR-SRF(PGS), it would be mandatory for the candidate to pursue Ph.D. degree in an AU

other than the one from where the candidate has obtained Bachelor's or Master's degree, i.e the candidate should not have obtained more than two degrees (including pursuing of Ph.D.) from the same Institute/AU.

#### **4. AGE**

The upper age limit would be 30 years as on the date of the examination for General category. The upper age limit for candidates belonging to SC/ ST/ Women/PC/OBC (Non-creamy layer as per the Central list of OBC) categories shall be relaxable by 5 years. For in-service candidates of Agricultural Universities (AU), the upper age limit would be 45 years as on the date examination whereas, the academic performance requirement would remain the same as stated above.

#### **5. RESERVATION**

Reservation of various categories such as SC/ST/OBC and PC etc., will be given as per Government of India rules/instructions issued from time to time. The responsibility of verification of the genuineness of SC/ST/OBC and PC certificate will be of the concerned Agricultural University (AU) where the candidate has obtained admission.

#### **6. ADMISSION THROUGH COUNSELING**

- 6.1** The candidates declared/notified as qualified for counseling, based on the merit-rank, shall have to undergo counseling (which could be offline/online). A candidate who has not been declared/notified as qualified for counseling, shall not be considered for admission on ICAR seats in any AU at any stage. A candidate will be eligible for admission in an AU in the subject/discipline in which he/she has qualified Master's degree and which is listed under the eligibility qualifications at Masters' level against a specified Major Subject Group in the Information Bulletin of All India Competitive Examination for the award of ICAR's Senior Research Fellowship [AICE-SRF(PGS)]. The exact title/nomenclature of the degree programme may vary from one university to another and would be known at the time of counseling. The admission would be subject to his/her merit in the Entrance Examination and availability of seats at his/her rank at the time of counseling. ICAR-SRF(PGS) will be awarded based on merit rank in the subject/discipline in which he has qualified Master's degree, and availability of seat in that particular subject/discipline in the desired university.
- 6.2** Against total number of ICAR seats available for a particular subject/discipline in a University, not more than 40% of ICAR seats (category-wise) from one State would be allocated to any one University in that subject. While computing 40% number, mathematical method of rounding to the nearest integer would be adopted except where there is only one seat, in which case, the whole seat would be allocated. While rounding off, the number might exceed 40% to that extent.
- 6.3** ICAR-SRF(PGS) shall not be transferable under any circumstances. There will be no transfer of ICAR-SRF even if a candidate awarded SRF at the time of counseling does not turn up for admission in the university or leaves in between for any reason. In case the fellowship allotted to a candidate is vacated for any reason, the same will not be allotted/transferred to any other candidate even if there are candidates next to him/her in the merit in same or other subject group.
- 6.4** Candidates qualified for counseling may seek admission only during the session for which examination has been conducted. They are not entitled to claim for admission in other sessions/subsequent years based on this year's examination.

## **7. GENERAL**

- 7.1** There will be no direct nomination through ICAR in any Doctoral degree programme and the candidate will have to seek admission in an AU after qualifying the AICE-SRF(PGS) examination and undergoing the counseling to be conducted by ICAR.
- 7.2** No further entrance examination shall be conducted by the Agricultural Universities (100 % seats of ICAR-DUs shall be filled up through their own separate national level entrance examination) for the candidates who have already qualified for admission against 25 % seats of PhD programmes and the award of ICAR-SRF(PGS) in the Universities under ICAR-AU system through centralized admission conducted by ICAR.
- 7.3** The other terms and conditions related to admissions and the award of ICAR-SRF(PGS) through All India Competitive Examination shall be regulated in terms of the provisions contained in the Information Bulletin of AICE-SRF(PGS) and Guidelines for ICAR Fellowships for Post-Graduate Studies in Agricultural Sciences (as revised from time to time).

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