

GUIDELINES FOR ICAR FELLOWSHIPS FOR POST-GRADUATE STUDIES IN AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

1. BACKGROUND

For recognition of talent and promotion of merit in general, and for encouraging talented students to undertake higher agricultural education in particular, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (herein-after referred to as Council) awards a certain number of Junior and Senior Research Fellowships for post-graduate (PG) studies in different disciplines of agriculture and allied sciences. The number and subjects of study for award of Junior and Senior Research Fellowships are announced from time to time.

2. NOMENCLATURE

Council's Junior Research Fellowships for PG studies will be called "**ICAR-JRF (PGS)**" and the Senior Research Fellowships for PG studies will be called "**ICAR-SRF (PGS)**".

ICAR-JRF (PGS) will be awarded for post-graduate study (course and research work) leading to a Master's degree whereas ICAR-SRF (PGS) will be awarded for post-graduate study (course and research work) leading to a Ph.D. degree.

3. ICAR-JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP FOR POST-GRADUATE STUDIES (ICAR-JRF (PGS))

3.1. METHOD OF AWARD

ICAR-JRF (PGS) will be awarded on the basis of merit in the All India Competitive Entrance Examination for (i) ICAR-JRF (PGS) and (ii) concurrent admission to Master's degree program at State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), Deemed Universities viz. IARI (New Delhi) / IVRI (Izatnagar) / NDRI (Karnal) / CIFE (Mumbai) / AAU (Allahabad), Central Agricultural University (Imphal, Manipur), and Central Universities having faculty of agriculture viz. Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Aligarh Muslim University (AMU), Visva Bharti and Nagaland University, collectively hereinafter referred to as the Agricultural Universities (AUs). The **ICAR-JRF (PGS)** will **NOT** be available for admission in any university other than the AUs as mentioned above.

3.2 ELIGIBILITY

Only those candidates having passed their Bachelor's Degree or appearing at the Final Examination of the Bachelor's Degree in the concerned field, under 10+2+5, 10+2+4 or 10+2+3 (only for basic science subjects) are eligible to apply for admission. (For admission, the eligibility requirement laid down by the respective AUs including remedial courses and tenure will be treated as final.)

Candidates must have obtained 60% marks or Overall Grade Point Average (OGPA) of 6.60/10.00 or 3.25/5.00 or 2.6/4.00 for General, OBC and Under Privileged States(UPS) categories whereas for SC/ST/Physically Handicapped (PH) categories, the candidates must have obtained 55% marks or an OGPA of 5.5/10.00 or 2.75/5.00 or 2.20/4.00. The equivalence of OGPA to percent

marks, where needed, will be certified by the Registrar of the concerned University.

For admission in M.V.Sc., candidates must have completed B.V.Sc.&A.H. with internship before the date of registration in the University.

3.3 AGE LIMIT

Minimum age limit shall be 19 years as on the date of the examination. No relaxation is admissible regarding minimum age limit.

3.4 RESERVATION

Reservation of various categories such as SC/ST/OBC and PH 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 PH certificates will solely rest with the concerned Agricultural University (AU) where the candidate has been recommended for admission or granted provisional admission.

3.5 DURATION

Duration of ICAR-JRF (PGS) will be two years and in no case it will be extended beyond the period of two years.

3.6 RATES

The rates of fellowship and contingency grant for higher studies will be as prescribed by the Council from time to time.

4. SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

4.1 METHOD OF AWARD

ICAR-SRF (PGS) will be awarded on the basis of merit obtained in the All India Competitive Examination conducted by the Council and the candidates for award of ICAR-SRF (PGS) would have to secure admission only in the Agricultural Universities (AUs).

4.2 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Candidates having completed their Master's degree program with a minimum of 55% marks or an OGPA of 5.5/10.00 or 2.75/5.00 or 2.20/4.00 or an equivalent OGPA from any recognized University in India and abroad would be eligible. For SC/ST and Physically Handicapped (PH) candidates, the minimum percent of marks will be relaxed by 5 per cent or an equivalent OGPA. The equivalence of OGPA to percent marks, where needed, will be certified by the Registrar of the concerned University. Candidates appearing in the final semester would also be eligible provided they complete their postgraduate degree in all respects by the date of examination and produce the complete degree certificate from the Registrar to this effect.

Fellowship would be granted only when the candidate gets eventually admitted and pursues Ph.D. degree in an Agricultural University(AU) other than the Agricultural University(AU) from where the candidate has completed M.Sc./M.V.Sc./ M.E./M.Tech. degree.

4.3 AGE

The upper age limit would be 30 years as on the date of the examination. For SC/ST & PH categories the upper age limit will be relaxed by 5 years. For OBC the upper age limit will be relaxed by 3 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 as stated above.

4.4 RESERVATION

Reservation of various categories such as SC/ST/OBC and PH 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 PH certificates will be of the concerned Agricultural University (AU) where the candidate has obtained admission.

4.5 DURATION

Duration of ICAR-SRF (PGS) will be three years and in no case it will be extended beyond the period of three years.

4.6 RATES

The rates of fellowship and contingency grant for higher studies will be as prescribed by the Council from time to time.

5. OTHER CONDITIONS FOR AWARD OF ICAR-JRF (PGS) and ICAR-SRF (PGS)

5.1 The fellowships will be admissible to persons of Indian nationality as defined in the Constitution of India or persons domiciled in India.

5.2 A fellow will be under the administrative control of the Head of the Agricultural Universities (AUs) where he/she joins. The Head of the Agricultural Universities (AUs) will ensure that all the rules and regulations of Council governing the award of fellowship are strictly adhered to. The fellow will work under a recognized guide on the faculty of Agricultural Universities (AUs).

5.3 The fellowship will take effect from the date the fellow joins the course or the start of academic session for which fellowship has been offered whichever is later.

5.4 The students must take admission for the relevant degree program within a period of one year from the date of issuance of award letter, failing which fellowship shall stand withdrawn automatically.

5.5 Fellows will not be paid their fellowship during the period of strike or during the period the fellow remains on conduct probation or the day fellow does not attend the class or student seminar in the department/division.

5.6 A fellow will not be allowed to avail of any other fellowship/scholarship during the tenure of fellowship of the Council. In case a candidate is already receiving any other fellowship or scholarship, it will be surrendered by him before accepting the fellowship of the Council.

5.7 Funds will normally be paid to the Head of the Institute/AU in advance for the first year after the issue of sanction for fellowship. The payment of fellowship for subsequent years will be made on receipt of (a) a demand for funds from the Head of the Institute/AU and (b) a certificate in the prescribed form from the Guide of the candidate, duly approved by the Head of the Institute/AU that the progress of the candidate is satisfactory with respect to the time schedule and maintenance of required OGPA as per eligibility of the fellowship at the end of each year of the study. No renewal application would be entertained by the Council if the required OGPA has not been maintained.

6. TERMINATION OF FELLOWSHIP

6.1 The fellowship will be terminated without notice

6.1.1 On the date the fellow ceases to be on the rolls of the Agricultural University.

6.1.2 On the date the sanction of the fellowship expires.

6.1.3 If the fellow leaves the institution where the fellowship was offered.

6.1.3 If a fellow is dropped by the institute due to poor performance

6.1.5 If at any time in the opinion of the Agricultural University (AU) a fellow is found to be negligent in his studies, does not devote full time for studies and research, progress report is unsatisfactory or is guilty of unbecoming conduct.

6.1.6 If a fellow does not complete or leaves his studies before the expiry of sanctioned tenure of the fellowship the guide should immediately report such cases and no fellowship should be paid thereafter.

6.1.7 As per provisions of 5.4 of the guideline.

6.2 All the candidates awarded ICAR-JRF (PGS)/ ICAR-SRF (PGS) will have to execute a surety bond of appropriate amount as per the instructions of the Council from time to time, at the time of registration in the respective University to ensure completion of the program undertaken with fellowship support.

6.3 A fellow shall not leave the course before its completion without prior approval of the Council and ensuring that the required obligations under surety bond are fulfilled. If any fellow leaves without permission he shall not be paid any fellowship amount due to him from the date of leaving. No fellowship amount will be paid if fellow leaves within six months of joining the course.

6.4 Fellow will submit a soft copy of the thesis on Compact Disk (CD) to the Council within three months of the completion of his studies. The result of submission of thesis will be intimated to the Council in due course by the Head of the Agricultural Universities.

6.5 The receipt of financial assistance from the Council should be suitably acknowledged by the fellow in the thesis / research papers

6.6 ICAR will have the intellectual property rights/proprietary right on research outputs of the ICAR-JRF (PGS) and ICAR-SRF (PGS) made during the period of working in the ICAR as per the provisions of "ICAR Guidelines for Intellectual Property Management and Technology Transfer/ Commercialization" *mutatis mutandis*. However, in case the candidate has done some research work, his/her name can accordingly be acknowledged/ included appropriately in the research paper(s) as solely decided by the Guide. No right in this regard can be claimed.

7. LEAVE

ICAR-JRF(PGS)/ICAR-SRF (PGS) will be governed by the extant rules of the concerned AU as applicable to the other students.
