

REVISED GUIDELINES FOR

AICTE DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP (ADF)

2024-25

(This scheme shall be applicable for the candidates admitted from the academic year 2024-25)



अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद् All India Council for Technical Education

AICTE DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP **(ADF)**

1. OBJECTIVE

The objectives of the ADF Scheme are:

- (a) To seed, grow and facilitate research for transforming the quality and quantity of research in AICTE-approved institutions/ affiliated Universities.
- (b) To nurture a strong culture of research and knowledge creation which is essential for outstanding education and development.
- (c) To fund and hence promote collaborative and outstanding peer-reviewed research between technical institutions and industries leading to start-ups.
- (d) To catalyze quality academic research for developing a robust ecosystem of research in AICTE-approved institutions.

2. PROPOSED THRUST AREAS FOR RESEARCH

Some of the broad areas (but not limited) identified for the research are as follows: -

(a) Engineering and Technology

- Green Technologies
- Big Data, Machine Learning & Data Sciences

- Blockchain
- Artificial Intelligence
- Energy Production and Storage
- Electronics & Photonics
- Nuclear Engineering and Allied Technologies
- Robotics and Mechatronics
- Augmented Reality (AR)/ Virtual Reality (VR)
- Energy Efficiency, Renewable and sustainable Energy
- Green Hydrogen
- Electric and Hybrid Mobility
- Smart Cities, Housing and Transportation
- Internet of Things (IoT)
- 3D Printing
- Quantum Computing
- Smart Technologies for Agriculture and Food Industry
- Water purification, conservation and management
- Public Policy
- Social & Organizational Psychology & Behaviour
- Cyber Security
- Waste management
- Defence Technology
- Rural and Urban infrastructure
- Climate Change & sustainable solution

(b) Management

- Technology Management
- Business Analytics
- Six Sigma in Quality Management
- Engineering Management
- Innovation Management
- Supply Chain Resilience
- Heritage Management
- Project Management
- Operations Management
- Organizational Behavior
- Strategic Planning
- Management Information System
- Social Enterprise Management
- Talent Management
- Risk Management

(c) Design

- Digital Game Design
- Graphic Design
- Information Design
- Interaction Design
- Ceramic, Glass Design
- Apparel Design
- Product Design

- Textile Design
- Transportation, Automobile Design
- Universal Design
- Design thinking

(d) Hotel Management and Catering Technology

- Masters in relevant/Allied field of Hotel Management and Catering Technology.

3. DEFINITION

- **AICTE** - All India Council for Technical Education
- **ADF** – AICTE Doctoral Fellowship
- **GoI** – Government of India
- **JRF** – Junior Research Fellow
- **SRF** – Senior Research Fellow
- **“Course”** means one of the branches of learning in a Programme such as Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, etc.
- **“Level”** means Under Graduate Degree and Post Graduate Degree Programmes
- **“Programme”** means the field of Technical Education, i.e., Engineering and Technology/ Management/ Design/ Planning/Applied Arts, Crafts and Design/Hotel Management and Catering Technology/Computer Application as prescribed by the AICTE.
- **“GATE”** means The Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering
- **“GMAT”** means The Graduate Management Admission Test
- **“CEED”** means Common Entrance Exam for Design

- “**CAT**” means Common Admission Test
- “**CMAT**” means Common Management Admission Test
- **NET** means National Eligibility Test

4. REGISTRATION:

Category (A): The candidate can register directly for the scheme through AICTE ADF portal along with NOC from the University as per guidelines of the Scheme.

Or

Category (B): University can register in the scheme and will admit students in their Ph.D programme as per their procedure following minimum eligibility criteria prescribed by AICTE.

To promote the quality in Research (Ph.D) in the field of Engineering & Technology/ Management/ Design/ Planning/ Applied Arts, Crafts and Design/ Hotel Management and Catering Technology/ Computer Application, the evaluation committee of the AICTE will evaluate the research proposal of the candidate from category A or category B before admitting candidate in the scheme or grant of any financial benefit.

5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD OF FELLOWSHIP

The criteria for the award of fellowship are as follows:

- (a) The Candidate must be admitted to Ph.D. in any of “Engineering and Technology/ Management/ Design /Planning/ Applied Arts, Crafts and Design/ Computer Application” department approved by the AICTE to Post Graduate Level.

Note: The candidate must have completed UG program of Hotel management &

Catering technology approved by AICTE and Master Degree in relevant/ allied area.

- (b) The candidate must have successfully completed the Under Graduate or Post Graduate Degree (or Five Year Integrated/ Dual Degree leading to Postgraduate Degree) in “Engineering and Technology/ Management/ Design/ Planning/ Applied Arts, Crafts and Design/ Hotel Management and Catering Technology/ Computer Application” as per the condition prescribed by the admitted university.
- (c) Applied Science Post Graduate candidates willing to admit/admitted in Ph.D. in AICTE approved Institution are also eligible.
- (d) The candidate should have qualified during the last 5 years in the following examinations: -

Program	Qualified Examination
Engineering & Technology	GATE/ SRF
Management	GMAT, CAT & CMAT
Design	CEED/ NET
Planning	NET/ GATE
Applied Arts, Crafts and Design	NET/ CEED
Applied Science	GATE/ JRF/ SRF
Hotel Management and Catering Technology	There is no National exam at PG level. Evaluation Committee of AICTE will evaluate the research proposal of the candidate

- (e) The candidate should be below 30 years of age:

At the time of registration in ADF Scheme along with NOC from the university in

case candidate is applying directly (category A).

Or

At the time of submission of application form for admission in university/ institute in case of (category B).

For admission age relaxation of 5 years would be applicable to candidates belonging to SC/ST/Women Physically challenged and 3 years for OBC category. In case, a candidate falls in more than one category, the maximum age relaxation would be of 5 years only.

(f) The candidate should not have availed benefit of AICTE Doctoral Fellowship (ADF)/ NET JRF before in any institution. (An undertaking be provided from the candidate duly verified by their Head of the Institution).

6. NATURE OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE UNDER THE SCHEME: -

The tenure of fellowship is initially for two years under the JRF scheme. Upon expiry of this period, the work of the Fellow will be evaluated by experts. If the research work is found satisfactory, his/her tenure will be extended for a further period of three years under the enhanced emoluments of the Senior Research Fellowship (SRF). In case the work for the first two years is not found satisfactory, an additional year will be given to him/her for improvement. However, during this period he/she will be designated as a Junior Research Fellow. In such cases work will be evaluated again after three years, and if improvement is found, the Fellow will get two more years under the SRF. Thus, the total period of fellowship (JRF and SRF) is five years and there is no further provision of extension.

(a) **Emoluments:** The amount of fellowship will be **Rs. 37,000/- pm** for JRF followed by **Rs. 42,000/- pm** for SRF. The ADF students shall also be governed by the following conditions in

addition to the emoluments:

- (i) **Dearness Allowance (DA):** ADF students will not be entitled to DA.
- (ii) **House Rent Allowance (HRA):** ADF students may be provided hostel accommodation wherever available. ADF students residing in hostels shall not be entitled to HRA. Wherever hostel accommodation is not possible, HRA is allowed as per Central Government norms applicable in the city where the admitting institution located. The percentage for calculating HRA will be based on the amount of Fellowship.
- (iii) **Leave and other Entitlements:**
 - The ADF students are eligible for leave for a maximum period of 30 days in a year, in addition to public holidays. They are not entitled to any other vacation. The period spent for attending Conferences, Short-term Training Programmes, Workshops/ Seminars and any other outstation research work with the prior permission of his/ her supervisor will be treated as "on Duty"; this however, should not exceed 30 days in a year.
 - The ADF students are also eligible for maternity/ paternity leave as per GOI norms.

Note:

- *All kinds of leave and "On Duty" period should be approved at the level of the institute on the recommendation of his/ her supervisor and proper record shall be maintained.*
- *Here "Year" starts with the date of start of ADF.*

(b) **Contingency Grant:** ADF students shall be entitled for a Contingency Grant limited to Rs. 15,000/- per year to meet the miscellaneous expenditures related to research work. The student is not bound to follow purchase rules of the Institute/ AICTE for procurements under contingency grant. The bills will not be sent to the AICTE.

7. PROGRESSION OF THE FELLOWSHIP

The duration of the Fellowship shall be of maximum 5 Years (60 months) and will have periodic reviews for continuation/ upgradation.

(a) ADMISSION

The candidate shall be allowed to apply for ADF throughout the year after completion of admission process in the academic year. The process of uploading the detailed information of the admitted students must be completed on the AICTE portal within two months of date of admission. The date of start of ADF shall be the date of start of course work subject to uploading on the AICTE portal in time.

(b) ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

The institute will annually assess the performance/ progress of research work of the student as per applicable rules/ regulation/ ordinance. The Annual Progress Report with assessment must be uploaded on the AICTEportal within one month of the completion of a year from the date of startof ADF. The progress of student will be evaluated as "Satisfactory / Not satisfactory". If the progress is assessed semester-wise (or 6-monthly) in any institute, then it must be satisfactory for both to continue. In case the progress in one semester is Satisfactory and in the other Unsatisfactory, the institute must assess the progress afresh. The report either satisfactory or unsatisfactory as the case may be, must be uploaded within one month of renewal/ extension.

(c) JRF TO SRF UPGRADATION

JRF may be upgraded to SRF after completion of two years from the date of start of ADF. Three member assessment committee shall be constituted by the Competent Authority of the respective University for assessment of JRF to SRF. Committee shall consist the following members:

1. Head of the Department
2. Supervisor*
3. One external member not below the rank of Professor in relevant area of research.

**If Head of the Department is supervisor then one senior faculty member of department not below the rank of Associate Professor.*

The student will submit his/ her application to the Head of the Institution along with all requisite documents within one month from the date of completion of 2 years from the date of start of ADF. The upgradation from JRF to SRF shall be subject to fulfilling the following mandatory conditions, within 2 years from the date of start of ADF:

- (i) The student has successfully completed the Course-work.
- (ii) The research plan/ proposal of student has been approved by the competent authority/ committee/ Student Research Committee (SRC)/ Departmental Research Committee (DRC) of the institute as per its applicable Ordinance.

Note:

- I. *The upgradation will be granted by the AICTE on the recommendation of three members committee as constituted above.*
- II. *The recommendation of committee approved by the Competent Authority of the University shall be uploaded on the AICTE portal within a month after the meeting on the prescribed proforma.*

8. ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY/INSTITUTE

- (a) The university/ institute will assign one faculty as Nodal Officer for the ADF Scheme who will interface between the university and AICTE on various operational aspects of the Scheme.

- (b) The university will admit students in their Ph. D. program as per their procedure following minimum eligibility criteria prescribed by AICTE.
- (c) The university/institute will update joining report of the student on the online portal of AICTE along with bank account seeded with Aadhaar card number.
- (d) The university/institute shall mark the monthly attendance of the admitted student through online portal for the disbursement of the fellowship directly in the student's account through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.
- (e) The university/institute shall verify all information submitted/ uploaded by the student regularly such as Annual Progress Report, application for upgradation from JRF to SRF, application for extension beyond three years etc. before it is uploaded on the portal.
- (f) The university/institute will follow the reservation policy of the Government of India issued from time to time. At present the reservation policy is as under:
- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------|
| SC | : | 15% |
| ST | : | 7.5% |
| OBC | : | 27% |
| General {including EWS (Max. 10%)} | : | 50.5% |
- (g) University/ Institute shall indicate any discontinuation/ cancellation of student from ADF, if any, immediately on the designated

AICTE portal. The fellowship is liable to discontinuation or cancellation in case of:

(I) Discontinuation:

- (a) Non-completion of course-work and non-submission of approved research plan proposal as per university/ institute norms within 24 months.

Note: In the cases where the fellowship has been discontinued as per clause (a), the fellowship may be resumed within 36 months after the successful completion of the course-work and approval of research plan/ proposal by the University/Institute.

- (b) If the Annual Progress Report is “Not satisfactory”, the fellowship shall be discontinued for the succeeding year. The fellowship may be resumed within 60 months if the student succeeds to obtain “Satisfactory” Annual Progress Report.

(II) Cancellation: The fellowship will be cancelled due to any of the reason given below:

(a) Cancellation of admission by the university/ institute.

(b) Misconduct by the student.

(c) False information/ documents submitted by the student or indulged in any fraudulent activity.

(d) Student found “Not-Eligible” for fellowship at any later stage.

(h) The university/ institute will have assigned Teaching Assistantship to

ADF students of 6 to 8 hours per week, by the Supervisor(s)/ Head of the Department based on the recommendation of his/ her supervisor(s) during the entire tenure of fellowship with effect from the date of start of ADF. The

Assistantship may include assistance in tutorial and lab classes; establishment, operation and maintenance of laboratories; invigilation during examinations; evaluation of answer sheets; etc. No independent teaching load can be assigned to the student, as a substitute for any regular teacher.

9. OTHER TERM AND CONDITIONS

- (a) The student shall not be allowed for transfer of fellowship from the institution where admitted for Ph.D. during the entire tenure of the fellowship.
- (b) The student shall devote full-time to research during the tenure of fellowship and will not be permitted to take any part-time/ full-time assignment. He/ she will not accept any salary, fellowship or any type of financial assistance during the tenure of fellowship through any other source. In case student receives any financial assistance from any other organization during the tenure of fellowship, with due permission of the university/ institute, he/ she will not be entitled for the fellowship for the duration in which he/ she is availing such financial assistance and it shall be resumed on discontinuance of such external financial assistance. Further the period for which the scholar has received external financial assistance shall be deducted from the

maximum duration of the fellowship i.e. 5 years.

- (c) The nature of the candidature (full-time AICTE sponsored Doctoral Fellow) will not be changed during the program.
- (d) In case student joins any employment during the tenure of fellowship, he/ she has to inform to the AICTE through the university/ institute mentioning the date of joining the employment. In such cases, ADF shall be terminated with effect from the date of joining. However, the student may be allowed to continue his/ her Ph. D. as Full-Time/ Part-Time student as per the university/ institute rules/ regulations. The student will not be considered for resumption of the ADF at any stage under such circumstances even he/she leaves the employment and joins back in the institute.
- (e) The student shall give a declaration that if the results of research are such that they can be exploited commercially by taking a patent or otherwise, then the commercial exploitation and patent rights would be with the Institute, student and the supervisor(s).
- (f) AICTE online portal will have mechanism for releasing ADF emoluments and allowances (HRA/ contingency etc.) directly in the Aadhaar seeded bank account of the beneficiary through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- (g) The Ph.D. rules/ regulations of the concerned university/ institute where the student is registered will be applicable under this Scheme.
- (h) In case student avails break during the tenure of the fellowship on

medical ground with due permission of the institute, the fellowship will be discontinued from the date of start of break and shall be resumed on rejoining the program for the remaining period of fellowship.

- (i) In case student is granted any kind of leave (maternity/paternity etc.) during the tenure of fellowship and goes beyond the entitled tenure of 5 years, the fellowship shall expire on the last day of completion of entitled tenure of 5 years and shall not be extended under any circumstance.
- (j) The period of fellowship shall not be extended beyond 5 years from the date of start of ADF, under any circumstance including cancellation/discontinuation of fellowship.
- (k) The fellowship may be terminated at any time during the tenure and the decision of the AICTE shall be final and binding.