

D. S. Kothari Post Doctoral Fellowships in Sciences

Preamble:

Post-doctoral research is an important enabling step in grooming young researchers for launching an academic/research career. This is a **transition** phase from a largely supervisor directed student at doctoral level to an independent researcher for leadership position, particularly in academia. A post-doctoral stint also provides an opportunity to acquire new skills, broaden one's horizon and offers a platform for transiting into cross-disciplinary areas.

Experience in other parts of the world has shown that university faculty is best inducted from among **candidates** who had a year or two of post-doctoral training and is generally considered **an essential** requirement. Mentoring for independent research is an indispensable element of post-doctoral training. Top rated institutions in our country which value research also follow this practice but it has not permeated widely. Leading research groups around the world usually have a good mix of post-doctoral fellows and doctoral students with the former bringing in a level of experience and maturity. However, in our country post-doctoral research culture has not caught on and is practiced only sporadically in a few selected places. Ironically, Ph. D's from leading institutions in India, particularly in basic sciences prefer seeking post-doctoral positions **overseas**. Within the country, a pdf position is mistakenly viewed as a mere parking opportunity while scouting for a regular appointment.

With our higher education system poised for rapid and massive expansion in the years ahead and the establishment of many new science and technology institutions on the anvil, requirement of potential faculty with pdf experience will be very substantial. Thus, a 'home grown' pdf program can be expected to partly redeem the expected short fall in trained faculty required for HEI's. It is in this context that UGC initiative to launch a prestigious pdf initiative, named after an illustrious scientist, is important and timely and fills a widely felt void.

Several agencies like UGC/CSIR/DST/DBT and a few selected institutions have schemes to award pdfs (also called Research Associateships, RAs) through open call. A few merit-based research schemes funded by various agencies also have provision for pdf/RA. However, the scene is far from satisfactory and opportunities are not only inadequate but the schemes are not optimally structured. This scenario needs change. It is very necessary that a pdf scheme of this nature is run in a flexible mode, with fast track, on-line handling and decision making and must be tuned to the ground realities prevailing in our university system. In our context, with no clearly defined bench marks for thesis quality, a post-doctoral stint for many fresh Ph. D's, may be also an opportunity to overcome the deficiencies at doctoral level research as well as an opportunity to explore new areas of research in different settings. The process outlined below is proposed, keeping some of these factors in mind.

Process:

- a) The selection process is open all the year round in `...as and when... ' mode and not restricted by any specified deadlines as thesis submission and award of Ph. D degree are open ended processes. There would be a rolling advertisement on the UGC website; other institutions and UGC affiliates should be encouraged to replicate it on theirs.
- b) There is a designated website (<http://ugcdskpdf.unipune.ac.in/>) to apply for the fellowships. The entire process would be carried out on-line.
- c) There is a standing (core) peer group which is able to access the applications on the web and grade them electronically. On the basis of the grades received (electronically) from the peer group, the Chair of this group takes the final decision. Since this is a promotional scheme to inculcate post-doctoral research culture, emphasis during the review process/selection should be an appropriate mix of the candidate's accomplishment at Ph. D level and the professional standing of mentor and institution where the post-doctoral research is to be carried out. In general, candidates should be encouraged to move to other institutions and newer areas of research.
- d) The selection process has to be completed within 6-weeks of the receipt of individual application. The whole process should be akin to that employed for manuscript handing and evaluation by leading international Journals and should be a paperless exercise.
- e) These pdfs should also have an, international flavor and be open to students from other parts of the world, particularly to those from developing and neighboring countries.
- f) There could be up to 500 such awards every year, making it to about 1000 at its peak.

Eligibility and duration:

Candidates who have either received a Ph. D degree or submitted their Ph. D thesis are eligible to apply. When selected, those holding the Ph. D degree will be directly awarded the named pdf Those who have submitted their Ph. D thesis may be awarded a `bridging fellowship' (with marginally reduced stipend) until they are formally awarded the Ph. D degree.

The fellowship is awarded on a yearly basis with renewal/termination clause on the basis of pdf mentor/peer group appraisal., the maximum duration of the pdf award would be 3 yrs. Candidates should give an undertaking while availing the award, along with the endorsement of the research mentor, that they would stay in place for a minimum of six months.

Stipend:

The stipend for these awards should be Rs.28,000-30,000/- pm with annual increase of Rs.1000 p.a. The `bridging fellowship' stipend should be Rs. 22,000/- pm. The pdf award should carry a contingency grant of Rs .1,00,000/- pa.

Procedure for Release of Grant

This is a direct benefit transfer scheme the grant is released through Canara Bank to the selected candidates.

After selection of candidates eligible to receive fellowship under the Scheme of BSR FELLOWSHIP, the list of such candidates shall be handed over to the nodal officer of Canara Bank in the predesigned format.

All the selected candidates should Submit the Joining Report in the prescribe format (Certificate-I) along with the Award letter issued to the candidate by UGC to designated Canara bank branch, duly signed by the Head of the Department of the University and countersigned by the Registrar. After verifying the Joining report of the fellow the Canara Bank branch will release fellowship for next three months.

At the end of every three months the fellow has to submit Continuation Certificate (**Certificate-II**) to the designated Canara Bank branch in order to become eligible to draw fellowship for the next three months.

The Contingency grant is also deposited in the fellows account . After the end of one year the concerned fellows has to submit contingency utilization certificate (**Certificate-III**) to the designated Canara Bank branch. Thereafter the contingency amount for the next year will be released.

The concerned fellow has to submit the HRA certificate (**Certificate-IV**) to the designated Canara Bank branch to avail the House Rent Allowance. The HRA certificate has to be submitted after every three months.

Note: Since the scheme is crafted to work electronically, a dedicated officer/and or senior academic can supervise the whole process and the operational part can be through APO (Application Process Outsourcing).

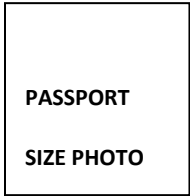
Leave: Research Fellows would be entitled for a maximum period of 30 days of leave in a year in addition to public holidays. They are not entitled to any other vacations. Women candidates are eligible for maternity leave of 135 days at full rates of fellowship once during the tenure of their award.

In special cases Research Fellows may be allowed leave without fellowship by the Commission upto one academic year during the entire tenure of the award for accepting teaching assignments on a temporary basis, provided the assignment is in the same city/town. In other cases, leave

without fellowship will be restricted to a period not exceeding three months during the tenure of the award on the recommendations of the supervisor and the institution. The period of leave without fellowship will be counted towards the total tenure of the award. Research Fellows have to apply for leave through universities / institutions / colleges well in advance for the approval of the Commission.

CERTIFICATE I

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR MARG,
NEW DELHI – 110002



BSR Section

JOINING REPORT

DR D S KOTHARI FELLOWSHIP

Name of Fellow:

Award letter number and date or UGC Circular number and date:

This is to certify that.....has joined the Department of

.....under the above scheme of the DR D S KOTHARI FELLOWSHIP

With effect from.....(F.N./A.N.). He/She will be provided with all necessary facilities during her award. She belongs to (Mention the category). The terms and conditions of the offer are acceptable to Awardee.

Also certified that fellow shall not accept /hold any emoluments paid or otherwise or receive emoluments, salary, stipend, etc. from any other source during the tenure of the award.

Signature	Signature	Signature	Signature
Name	Name	Name	Name
Date	Date	Date	Date
Awardee	Mentor	Head of Deptt.	Registrar/ Director /Principal
Ph. No.	(Seal)	(Seal)	(Seal of University/Institution/ College)
Mobile :			Bank A/c No. of
E.mail :			University/Institution)
Bank A/c No.			IFSC Code :
IFSC Code :			

CERTIFICATE II



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI – 110002

BSR Section

CONTINUATION CERTIFICATE

Award of DR D S KOTHARI FELLOWSHIP

This is to certify that _____

has been continuously working in the Department _____

in the subject under the above scheme for the quarter from _____ to _____.

Signature
Date
Name of the

Signature
Date
Head of the Deptt.

Signature
Date
Registrar/ *Awardee*
Director/Principal

- The candidate is requested to furnish the Aadhar Number, if applicable.

Date

CERTIFICATE III

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI – 110002
BSR Section

***FORM FOR SUBMITTING ACCOUNTS OF CONTINGENCY GRANTS AND
THE UTILISATION CERTIFICATE***

1. Name of Post Doctoral Fellow:
2. Award letter number and date:
3. Name of the scheme under which he/she is working:
4. Period to which the accounts of contingency grant relates:
5. Expenditure

From: to.....

Amount Dated

A – Books and allied items:

B- Typing (tracing and ammonia printing):

C- Stationery:

D- Postage

E- Chemical and electrical goods:

F- Travel/fieldwork:

1- Period for which the contingency grant is payable:

Certified that the expenditure of Rs.(Rupees.....) out of the contingency grant of Rs.(Rupees.....)sanctioned vide Commission letter number F..... Dated..... In respect of..... has been utilized for the purpose for which it was sanctioned in accordance with the terms and conditions lay down by the University Grants Commission.

If, as a result of check or audit objection, some irregularity is noticed at a later stage, action will be taken to refund, adjust or regularize the objected amount.

Signature

Name

Date

**Name of the Candidate
(Seal)**

Signature

Name

Date

**Head of Deptt.
(Seal of University/Institution/College)**

Signature

Name

Date

Registrar/ Director /Principal

N.B.: For any correspondence in this regard, the Commission's letter number and date may please be quoted without fail.

HRA CERTIFICATE

CERTIFICATE NO. 1

Certified that Mr/Ms. is paying house rent of Rs. and is eligible to draw House Rent Allowance @ Rs. as per University rules w.e.f.....

Registrar/Director/Principal

OR

CERTIFICATE NO. 2

Certified that Mr./Ms. is staying independently and, therefore, is eligible to draw House Rent Allowance @ Rs. minimum admissible to a lecturer as per University rules.

Registrar/Director/Principal

OR

CERTIFICATE NO. 3

Certified that Mr./Ms..... Has been provided accommodation in the hostel. But he/she could not be provided with single seated flat type accommodation as recommended by the Commission. Hostel fee @ Rs. per month w.e.f. is being charged from him/her.

Registrar/Director/Principal

If, as a result of check or audit objection, some irregularity is noticed at later stage, action will be taken to refund, adjust or regularize the objected amount.

Signature

Name

Date

Name of candidate

Signature

Name

Date

Head of Deptt.

(Seal)

Signature

Name

Date

Registrar/Director/Principal

(Seal of Univ./Institution/College)

N.B.For any correspondence in this regard, the Commission's letter number and date may please be quoted without fail.

CERTIFICATE V

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI – 110002
BSR Section

***ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR UPGRADATION FROM BRIDGE
FELLOWSHIP TO NORMAL/HIGHER FELLOWSHIP***

Assessment for Upgradation of Mr/Ms. working at the
Department ofUniversity /Institution/College
.....on completion of Ph D.

Date of joining:
PhD registration no.

Mr./Ms. Has been awarded the PhD degree on and is now eligible for
normal/Higher fellowship w. e. f.....

Signature
Name
Date
Name of candidate

Signature
Name
Date
Head of Deptt.
(Seal)

Signature
Name
Date
Registrar/Director/Principal
(Seal of Univ./Institution/College)