

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg,
New Delhi-110 002

GUIDELINES

**U.G.C. SCHEME FOR AWARD OF POST DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP
TO SCHEDULED CASTE/SCHEDULED TRIBE CANDIDATES**

1. Introduction

This scheme has been initiated keeping in view the social background of the candidates from the deprived section of the society and to provide them an opportunity to undertake advanced studies and research in Science, Engineering & Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences in Indian Universities/Institutions/Colleges.

2. Objective

The objective of the scheme is to provide an opportunity to SC/ST candidates to undertake postdoctoral research in Sciences, Engineering & Technology, Humanities and Social Sciences in Indian Universities/Institutions/Colleges.

3. Eligibility

The candidate must have a doctorate degree in the relevant subject preferably with published research work to their credit. The upper age limit for male applicants is 50 years as on 1st July of the year of application, and 55 years in the case of female candidates. In exceptional cases, the age may be relaxed.

4. Procedure for applying for the scheme

The candidates belonging to SC/ST category fulfilling the eligibility conditions are required to apply through online mode against the advertisement to be published by the UGC normally in the month of April every year. The selections would be made with the help of an Expert Committee as per the procedure of the Commission and would be completed by the end of August of the year.

5. Nature of Assistance available under the Scheme

The number of slots available under the scheme are 100 per year. The tenure of the award is five years with no provision for further extension. The financial assistance available under the scheme is as follows

Fellowship	@Rs.25,000-p.m. first two years & Rs.30,000/-p.m. third years onwards
Contingency	@Rs.50,000/-p.a. for five years
Escorts/Reader assistance	@ Rs. 2000/- p.m. (fixed) in cases of Physically disabled & blind candidates.

HRA: Post Doctoral Fellowship provided with accommodation in hostel recognized/maintained by the institutions may be reimbursed the hostel fee, excluding mess, electricity, water charges, etc. A certificate to this effect is to be furnished through the Registrar/Director/Principal (**Annexure-II**). If Post Doctoral Fellow makes his/her own arrangements of accommodation, he/she may be entitled to draw HRA as per categorization of the cities by the Government of India. The Post Doctoral Fellow will submit a certificate for this purpose to the UGC for claiming HRA through the concerned University/Institution/College.

Medical: No separate/fixed medical assistance is provided. However, the Post Doctoral Fellow may avail of the medical facilities available in the University/Institution/College.

Leave: Leave for maximum period of 30 days in a year in addition to public holidays may be taken by the Post Doctoral Fellow with the approval of the Head of Department. However, they are not entitled to any other vacations, such as summer, winter and pooja vacations. Women candidates are eligible for maternity leave at full rates of the fellowship for 135 days as per Government of India rules once during the tenure of their award. The fellow may in special cases may be allowed by the Commission leave without fellowship and contingency for a period not exceeding three months during the tenure of award on the recommendation of the Head of department of the institution concerned. The period of leave without fellowship will be counted towards the tenure.

6. Procedure for release of grant by the UGC

On receipt of Joining Report (Annexure-II) & Continuation Certificate (**Annexure-III**) of the fellow will be provided a fellowship, Contingency amount through e-Banking system. Thereafter, the grant will be released on receipt of half yearly progress report (**Annexure- IV**), the Utilisation Certificate of Contingency grant (**Annexure V**) and H.R.A. certificate (**Annexure- VI**) duly signed by the competent authority.

7. Procedure for monitoring the Progress of the Post Doctoral Fellow

The progress of the fellow is monitored by the Supervisor and the Head of department. The fellow is required to submit a half-yearly progress report of the work duly signed by the Head of department and the Registrar/Director/Principal of University/Institution/College. The award of Post Doctoral Fellowship ceases immediately after expiry of the due date and no claim of continuance under the scheme will be entertained.

8. Cancellation of Award

The fellowship is liable to cancellation, in case of:

- Misconduct.
- Unsatisfactory progress of research work.
- Candidate is later found ineligible.
- Candidate is already availing scholarship/fellowship from any other sources.
- Candidate if found employed during the PDF research.