

INSPIRE Fellowship Guidelines (Revised on 15.01.2013)

Selection Process:

Two-tier selection process i.e. screening of eligible applications by an Internal Committee, followed by final selection through an Expert Committee. However, the selection process will be completed within 4 months from the date of application received at the DST and the result of the selection process will be communicated to individual selected candidate and will also be up-loaded in the Website: www.inspire-dst.gov.in.

Eligibility:

- **INSPIRE Scholar** having secured minimum 65% marks in aggregate at MSc or Integrated MS/ MSc course.
- **1st Rank Holders** at University Level Examination (not at Autonomous College Level examination) of post-graduate programs in science streams and under-graduate / post-graduation programs in engineering / technology / agriculture / pharmacy / other applied science streams at any recognized universities and academic institutions.

INSPIRE Fellowship shall be regulated with the following '**Terms and Conditions**':

1. This Fellowship shall be available only for pursuing full-time Ph.D program in any recognized University / Institution/ R&D Laboratory in the country.
2. The Junior Research Fellow (JRF) or Senior Research Fellow (SRF) under this scheme shall be termed as 'INSPIRE Fellow'.
3. The Fellowship shall be governed through the Office Memorandum of this Ministry of Number A.20020/11/97-IFD dated 6th August 2007 and 31st March 2010 [www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new07/fellowship.pdf] and shall be liable to be revised from time to time as per Government Order. However, the HRA to the Fellows shall also be applicable as per GoI norms i.e. 30% or 20% or 10%, depending upon the location of the Host Institution.
4. The Fellowship shall be tenable for a maximum period of five years or completion of the Ph.D programmes (i.e. till the final defend of the PhD Thesis), whichever is earlier. This includes the tenure of fellowship awarded by any other agencies and availed by the Fellow, prior to INSPIRE Fellowship.

5. While availing multiple (more than one) fellowships concurrently from different sources will not be allowed, the Effective Date of availing INSPIRE Fellowship would be as under:
 - Fresh applicants who have already taken admission into PhD course prior to submission of application, the date of acceptance or joining or switching over from any other fellowship to INSPIRE Fellowship will be the Effective Date. However in any case the Effective Date would not earlier than the date of application received at the DST.
 - Applicant who will be placed under "Provisional Selection (P)" or "Clarification (P1)" or "Rejection ®" category during the selection process and subsequently issued "Final Offer" by gaining admission into PhD or by virtue of accepting clarification/ representation at the DST-INSPIRE, the date of issuing Final Offer" will be the Effective Date" for the INSPIRE Fellowship.
6. The Fellow or the Host-Institution / University shall require to inform DST about the 'effective date of joining' of the INSPIRE Fellow in that Institution / University in the Format provided by the DST-INSPIRE Program Division.
7. An INSPIRE Fellow once accepted the offer for implementing Fellowship at a particular University/ Institute/ Laboratory in the country shall not be allowed for transferring the Fellowship to any other University/ Institute / Laboratory in the country during 5 years of Fellowship tenure. However, in unavoidable situation for continuation of PhD works, the Fellow must seek prior permission from DST-INSPIRE Program Division for transferring/ shifting of Host Institute through written applications with following documents:
 - No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from both Host Institutes and Research Supervisors,
 - Detailed Justifications for changing / shifting of Host Institute for implementation of Fellowship,
 - Area of PhD works with an up to date technical Progress Report,
 - CV of the Research Supervisor at the new Host Institute,
 - Up to date Financial Statement from the old Host Institute.

However, shifting/ change of Host Institute without prior approval from DST-INSPIRE may be called for withdrawn of the INSPIRE Fellowship. Moreover, such shifting/ change of Host Institute may be allowed only one time in 5 years period of Fellowship tenure and within one year of implementation of Fellowship at that Host Institute.
8. INSPIRE Fellow shall be allowed for availing short-term Research Internship activities at any national or international Laboratory/ University/ Institute up to a maximum period of 18 months either in one or multiple slots during 5 years of Fellowship tenure. However, the Fellow shall be required to inform DST-INSPIRE along with recommendation of PhD Research Supervisor as well as confirmation from Research Internship provider for obtaining prior permission. In the event that the Fellow receives full financial support of the overseas institution, the INSPIRE Fellowship for the period of Overseas stay will not be remitted.
9. The fund with respect to INSPIRE Fellow(s) shall be made available with the Host institution by the Department of Science & Technology, New Delhi for payment of the Fellowship along with Contingency Grant to the Fellow(s) following Government of India and Institute / University norms.

10. While the Host-Institute / University shall submit the financial year-wise Statement of Expenditure & Utilization Certificate for each INSPIRE Fellow attached to them, the INSPIRE Fellow will be required to submit Progress Report every year duly authenticated by their concerned Ph.D supervisor.
11. The entry level position of the Fellow in the Scheme shall be only as 'Junior Research Fellow (JRF)'. The up-gradation of Fellowship status *i.e.* Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) to Senior Research Fellowship (SRF) would normally be considered after two (2) years of INSPIRE Fellowship at JRF level through performance assessment on the progress made in the Ph.D programme. However, this performance assessment can also be conducted at any time after completion of one year at JRF level upon acceptance of at least one publication (1st Authorship) in any peer-reviewed journal by the INSPIRE Fellow out of the PhD work done at that Host Institute.

For up-gradation of Fellowship status, a three (3) Members Committee needs to be constituted by the Host Institute's Vice-Chancellor of the University/ Director of the Institute to assess the progress of concerned INSPIRE Fellow. The composition of said Committee would be one Member (drawn from the list of Chair-Persons & Expert Members available at the INSPIRE Website: www.inspire-dst.gov.in/List_of_Chairpersons_Members.pdf, depending upon local needs) besides the Research Supervisor of the concerned INSPIRE Fellow and one Internal Faculty as Member of the Committee. The assessment shall be carried out by the Host Institute/ University as per above process and upon assessment, the Research Supervisor shall be required to submit the 'Recommendation' of the Committee along with the progress Report of the concerned Fellow to DST-INSPIRE Division for further actions. The expenditure related to such assessment shall not be borne under DST-INSPIRE.