



FITM -AYUSH Research Fellowships Scheme

1. Introduction

The Forum on Indian Traditional Medicine (FITM), established at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) in collaboration with the Ministry of AYUSH, to contribute to pragmatic policy making on Indian Traditional Medicines (ITMs).

One of the objectives of the FITM is to undertake studies/research on issues pertaining to ITMs. These include assessment of regulatory frameworks on protection and promotion of traditional medicine in India and other countries.

While there is already a substantial body of clinical, pharmacological, pharmacognosy, and other related research on ITMs, there is greater need for research that explores economic, sociological, politico-economic, trade, management and technology related aspects of ITM health systems.

Under the Research Fellowship Scheme, FITM aims to encourage and promote research in the aforementioned areas.

2. Subject of Research

The Scheme encourages systems research on any subject that explores economic, sociological, politico-economic, trade, management and information/digital technology related aspects of ITM health systems.

The scheme **does not apply** to research on clinical, pharmacological, pharmacognosy and related subject areas.

3. Categories of Fellowships

- Doctoral Fellowships
- Post-doctoral Fellowships

4. Duration

The duration of the Doctoral Fellowships will be for two years from the date of award.

The duration of the Post-doctoral Fellowship will be for one year from the date of award.

5. Eligibility

- The Fellow would be a person with an outstanding academic record or experience in any discipline, with a proposal relevant to the study of ITM as required and specified by the Fellowship Committee.

- Doctoral Research Fellowship applicant should be a full time PhD scholar in any UGC recognised Indian University or deemed University /Institute.
- Post-doctoral Research Fellowship applicant should have obtained his/her PhD degree at the time of application for the Fellowship.

6. Selection Procedure

- The selection of the Research Fellows will be made by the Fellowship Committee of the FITM.
- The applicant will be required to submit his/her particulars in the prescribed format, duly filled-in, along with a Proposal.
 - The Proposal for the Doctoral Research Fellowship may or may not be similar to the Proposal for PhD thesis submitted to the University where the applicant is registered.
 - The Post-doctoral Fellowship applicant may submit a Proposal based on the area of research he/she intends to undertake during the Fellowship.

Based on the shortlisted meritorious Proposals from eligible applications and/or interviews with the candidates, the Fellowship Committee shall recommend the names to the FITM for grant of Fellowships. The Fellowship Committee reserves the right to call or not to call a candidate for interview. If the Fellowship Committee does not find any applicant suitable for the grant of the Fellowship in a given year, no Fellowship may be granted during that year. The FITM may, however, consider awarding the Fellowship for that particular year in the next year subject to the availability of funds.

- The validity of the award letter shall be one month from the date mentioned in the award letter. No extension beyond one month will be considered. Decision of the FITM in matters of selection for interview or for award of Fellowships, etc. shall be final and binding on the candidate.

7. Application Procedure

Online applications will be invited on all-India basis through press/online advertisement. The information with respect to inviting applications is also to be made available on the RIS /FITM website <http://www.fitm.ris.org.in/fellowship> and Ministry of AYUSH website www.ayush.gov.in. Applicants are required to apply online.

8. Age Limit

The upper age limit for applicant for Doctoral Research Fellowship shall not be more than 30 years on the last date of application.

The applicant for Post-Doctoral Fellow should not be more than 35 years of age on the last date of application.

In both cases , the upper age limit is relaxable upto 5 years in case of candidates belonging to scheduled castes/scheduled tribes/OBC, physically challenged and female applicants.

9. Guidelines for Submission of Research Proposal by Applicants

The Proposal is to broadly comply with the following guidelines:

- a. **Title of the project:**
- b. **Statement of the Problem:** In the opening paragraphs of the research proposal, the problem to be investigated should be stated clearly and briefly. The significance of the topic in the context of the ITM should be explained.
- c. **Overview of Literature:** The overview of literature should summarize the current status of research, including major findings in the proposed area of study. The research Proposal should clearly establish the relevance of the approaches and findings to the objective of the Research Fellowship.
- d. **Conceptual Framework:** The Proposal should clearly indicate the concepts to be used and demonstrate their relevance for the study. It should further specify the empirical dimension, if any, that need to be explored for carrying out research.
- e. **Research Questions/Hypotheses:** Given the conceptual framework and dimensions of the research to be conducted, specific questions to be answered and hypotheses to be tested through the proposed study should be explicitly formulated, compatible with the research design.
- f. **Coverage:** In the light of the research proposed, if sampling becomes necessary, full information on the following points should be given: (I) universe of the study, (ii) sampling frame, and (iii) units of observation and sampling size.
- g. If the study requires any control groups, they should be specifically mentioned. An explanation of the determination of size and type of the sample shall also be necessary. Proposals not requiring a sample selection should specify their strategy appropriately and describe the rationale behind it.
- h. **Methodology:** A suitable description of the methods of research for the study may be given.
- i. **Data Collection:** The different types of data proposed to be collected should be clearly mentioned. The sources for each type and the tools and techniques that will be used for collecting these data should also be specified.

- j. **Time Budgeting:** The Proposal should have a clearly defined time line, specifying the time required for the completion of each stage of research.
- k. The Proposal is not to exceed a word limit of **3000**.

10. Undertaking

The selected research scholar shall sign an Undertaking with FITM/RIS to abide by the terms and conditions outlined in the Scheme.

11. Conditions of Grant

Amount of Fellowship

- The total (lumpsum) amount of each Doctoral Research Fellowship will be a maximum of INR 5/- lakh (Rupees Five Lakh Only) per year.
- The total (lumpsum) amount of Post-doctoral Fellowship will be a maximum of INR 7.5/- lakh (Rupees Seven Lakh Fifty Thousand Only) per year.
- No other grant or allowance or assistance will be provided by FITM.
- The amount sanctioned to a Fellow will be disbursed in quarterly instalments, subject to the satisfactory progress of the project and/or recommendation of the Fellowship Committee to that effect after its review.

Tenure

The Doctoral Research Fellow is required to complete the research project within a period of two years from the date of the award of Fellowship with no extension.

The Post-doctoral Research Fellow is required to complete the research project within a period of one year from the date of the award of Fellowship with no extension.

Progress Report

The preparation of quarterly progress report on the research work done shall be essential part of the Fellow's work.

- The Research Fellow has to submit quarterly progress report/ update of his/her Report for the consideration and satisfaction of the Fellowship Committee within 15 days of the completion of each quarterly period in the prescribed proforma (Annexure I and II) . The final Report shall be submitted for the appraisal of the Fellowship Committee within 15 days of completion of the tenure of the Fellowship.
- The progress report should be always accompanied by copies of published papers, re-prints and pre-prints of papers accepted for publication, and manuscripts of papers communicated for publication duly acknowledging financial assistance of FITM.

Noncompliance of FITM norms for submission of progress report along with other requisite documents may result in termination of Fellowship.

12. Obligations of Research Fellow

Doctoral Research Fellow

- He/She has to be a full-time researcher and submit himself/herself to the disciplinary regulations of the University/ Institute/ Laboratory where he/she is working. Regular attendance of the Fellow may be ensured by the department by keeping an attendance register. Regular meetings of the Fellow with the FITM designated representative at the time of grant of Fellowship will be ensured.
- In case a Fellow decides to appear for competitive examination, he/she would invariably seek permission from the guide and inform FITM about it.
- The Research Fellow is not to take any assignment other than related to his/her approved research programme, paid or unpaid.
- Once a Research Fellow accepts the Fellowship and joins, it is incumbent on him/her to continue the research for the normal tenure of the Fellowship or for such lesser duration in which the original objectives of the research problem have been achieved.
- No Fellow shall discontinue his/her Fellowship without prior approval of FITM. In case he/she wishes to discontinue the Fellowship prior to completion of the tenure on attainment of original objectives of research, he/she must submit the resignation to FITM through the Guide one month in advance, indicating specific reasons for not continuing the Fellowship. The Fellowship shall cease from the date stipulated in the FITM letter approving the resignation.
- The Research Fellow shall keep FITM informed about his/her getting the higher degree, submission of thesis for Ph.D., MD, MDS, MS, MPhil, ME, etc. and submission/acceptance/publication of any research paper arising out of the research work done during the tenure of the Fellowship. He/She must acknowledge the support of FITM in the publication(s). One copy each of all the research papers published must be sent to FITM at each stage of publication/ manuscript/reprint.

Post-doctoral Research Fellow

- In case a Fellow decides to appear for competitive examination, he/she would invariably seek permission from FITM about it.
- The Research Fellow is not to take any assignment other than related to his/her approved research programme, paid or unpaid.

- Once a Research Fellow accepts the Fellowship and joins, it is incumbent on him/her to continue the research for the normal tenure of the Fellowship or for such lesser duration in which the original objectives of the research problem have been achieved.
- No Fellow shall discontinue his/her Fellowship without prior approval of FITM. In case he/she wishes to discontinue the Fellowship prior to completion of the tenure on attainment of original objectives of research, he/she must submit the resignation to FITM one month in advance, indicating specific reasons for not continuing the Fellowship. The Fellowship shall cease from the date stipulated in the FITM letter approving the resignation.
- The Research Fellow shall keep FITM informed about submission/acceptance/publication of any research paper arising out of the research work done during the tenure of the Fellowship. He/She must acknowledge the support of FITM in the publication(s). One copy each of all the research papers published must be sent to FITM at each stage of publication/ manuscript/reprint.

13. Termination of Fellowship

- Non-submission of satisfactory Reports within the specified timeframe may lead to suspension/ cancellation of the grant without notice. FITM/RIS, in the event of unsatisfactory progress reported by Fellowship Committee, will have the right to terminate the award at any time without assigning any reason.
- In case of discontinuance of the Fellowship by the Research Fellow, the Research Fellow will have to refund the entire amount already released under the Research Fellowship Scheme. If the Research Fellow leaves without completion of the work/task agreed upon/assigned and without informing the Member Secretary, FITM, he/she has to refund the entire amount of Fellowship released as per the undertaking given by the Fellows.

14. Facilities and Administrative Support

The Doctoral and Post-doctoral Research Fellow will be provided the facility to access RIS library. Based on the exigencies of service, office accommodation may be provided (only to the Post-doctoral Research Fellow) if agreed upon by the FITM Fellowship Committee. The administrative support will be provided by RIS.

15. Publication Assistance in respect of Reports/ Books

- The publication of the Report/Book based on the research mandated by the FITM-AYUSH Research Fellowship and produced by the Research Fellow will be made after the approval of

the final Report by the FITM Fellowship Committee. RIS may provide publication assistance to the Fellow at its discretion.

- The following text shall be prominently printed on the back of the inner title page of the Report/Book for which publication grant shall be provided by the Ministry of AYUSH/ RIS

The publication of the Report/Book has been financially supported by the Ministry of AYUSH/RIS. The responsibility of the facts stated or opinions expressed is entirely of the author and not of the Ministry of AYUSH /RIS.

- In case publication assistance on research mandated by the FITM Research Fellowship and produced by the Research Fellow is not granted by the Ministry of AYUSH/ RIS, and the Fellow wishes to publish it on his/her own, then he/she must seek permission from the Fellowship Committee for the same. The decision of the Committee will be final. If permission is granted, RIS may invoke the 'Disclaimer Clause', i.e., '*The responsibility of the facts stated or opinions expressed is entirely of the author and not of the Ministry of AYUSH/RIS*'. In the aforementioned instance he/she will supply 10 copies of the publication to the Ministry of AYUSH and to RIS on a complimentary basis.

16. Patents

The commercial exploitation of the results and ownership of patent rights pertaining to investigations concerning the intellectual work of the Research Fellows will be as follows: (i) Public funded educational/research institution, to which a Fellow is associated, may seek patent right at their own cost and/or commercial exploitation of the results of the investigation concerning the intellectual work of the Fellow and all rights would vest exclusively with the institution concerned. All matters concerning ownership of Intellectual Property (IP) and its licensing/exploitation would be governed by the IP policy of the concerned institution. (ii) If the Research Fellow wishes to seek a Patent on his/her intellectual work, FITM would have no objection to the same.

17. General

The decision of FITM Fellowship Committee will be final in all matters relating to the Fellowships. On all other matters decision of RIS shall be final.

18. Copyright

The copyright of the Report/Book publication shall vest with the RIS.

19. For all legal purposes the FITM / FITM Fellowship Committee will imply RIS.

CONDITIONS
To be signed by selected Research Fellow

I agree

1. That the research project shall be completed and the final manuscript of the Report/Book shall be submitted to RIS within the stipulated time mentioned in FITM Research Fellowships Scheme.
2. That the quarterly progress Report of the work shall be submitted to RIS as scheduled.
3. That non-submission of Reports at specified schedules will lead to suspension/cancellation of the grant at any time without notice and without assigning any reason.
4. That RIS has the right to terminate the award of Fellowship at any time without notice, and without assigning any reason, if the progress is found to be unsatisfactory by the Fellowship Committee.
5. That in case of discontinuance of the Fellowship by the Research Fellow, the Research Fellow will have to refund the entire amount already released to the Research Fellow earlier under the Research Fellowships Scheme. If the Research Fellow leaves without completion of the work/task agreed upon/assigned and without informing the Member Secretary, FITM, he/she has to refund the entire amount of Fellowship released to RIS.
6. After the completion of the study, a declaration to the effect that, "The project being basically the work of the author, the Ministry of AYUSH/RIS is not responsible for factual errors, inaccuracies and inferences, if any", shall be suitably incorporated in the manuscript of the Report/Book by the Fellow.
7. The Fellow, who has been granted the research project, would be required to acknowledge the assistance from the Ministry of AYUSH/ RIS in such terms as may be specified by the Fellowship Committee.
8. The copyright of the publication shall vest with the RIS.
9. The decision of RIS shall be final in all matters.

I....., accept the above conditions in entirety.

Signature of the Fellow

Place:

Date:

UNDERTAKING

To be signed by selected Research Fellow

Ihereby accept the FITM Research Fellowship for writing Report/Book offered by RIS amounting to Rs to be disbursed in instalments on the subject titled, and I agree to fulfil all the requirements and conditions attached to the grant and abide by the Conditions /Rules likely to be framed in future.

I have not/will not accept financial assistance from any other source for undertaking research on the same subject/project.

I agree that the RIS has the right to suspend the award of Fellowship if I violate /modify/ignore any of the conditions attached to it.

I agree that in case of discontinuance of the Fellowship by me, I will refund the entire amount already released earlier by RIS under the FITM Research Fellowships Scheme, to RIS. If I leave without completion of the work/task agreed upon/assigned and without informing the Member Secretary, FITM, I will refund the entire amount of Fellowship released, to RIS.

I do agree that any recovery from me may be effected either from me under the “Public Debt Act, 1944” (as amended from time to time) or through my institution at the discretion of the RIS.

Signature of the Fellow

Signature of the Head of the Department/Institution

(Wherever applicable)

Place

Date

Annexure I

Proforma for Quarterly Progress Report of Doctoral Research Fellow

1. Name of the Fellow/Associate:
2. Email Address of the Fellow/Associate:
4. FITM Award No.:
5. Name, designation and address of Guide:
6. Place of work (Names of the Department/Institute/University/College, etc.):
7. Date of joining:
8. Period upto which Fellowship is tenable:
9. Date of registration for higher degree (PhD):
10. (a) Topic of Research
 - (i) For PhD
 - (ii) For Fellowship
- (b) Broad Subject Area:
12. Period of Report: Fromto
13. Attendance:
 - (a) Total Number of working days during the period under report:
 - (b) Out of these, total number of days in which the Fellow was present and worked:
 - (c) Number of days for which leave was sanctioned:
14. Detailed report about the research work done during the above-mentioned period. This should include quantitative results of research presented in Table(s)/Figure(s), discussion and conclusions drawn (separate sheets should be attached):
15. Summary of research work done during this period (in not more than 300 words: a separate sheet may be attached):
16. Plan of work for the next year (separate sheet may be attached):
17. Research papers published/accepted for publication/communicated for publication (Details of authors, title, journal, volume, page number and reprints of published papers/preprints of accepted papers/and manuscripts papers must be sent):

18. It is affirmed that I have devoted my full time to research and that I did not take up any other assignment/research, paid or unpaid without taking written permission from FITM. It is also certified that due acknowledgement of FITM financial assistance has been made in the published work.

Date:

Signature of Fellow

19. Overall assessment and comment of the Guide:

(a) It is certified that the information provided above and in separate pages enclosed with this report by the Fellow is correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(b) My specific comments about the performance of above Fellow/Associate are as under:-

Date:

Signature of the Guide/Supervisor/Head

Annexure II

Proforma for Quarterly Progress Report of Post-doctoral Research Fellow

1. Name of the Fellow:
2. Email Address of the Fellow:
3. FITM Award No.
4. Place of work (Name of the Department/Institute/University/College, etc.):
5. Date of joining:
6. Period upto which Fellowship is tenable:
7.
 - (a) Topic of Research:
 - (b) Broad Subject Area:
8. Objective in undertaking the work:
9. Period of Report: From..... to
10. Attendance:
 - (a) Total number of working days during the period under report:
 - (b) Out of these, total number of days in which the Fellow was present and worked:
 - (c) Number of days for which leave was sanctioned:
11. Detailed report about the research work done during the above-mentioned period. This should include quantitative results of research presented in Table(s)/Figure(s), discussion and conclusions drawn (separate sheets should be attached):
12. Summary of research work done during this period (in not more than 300 words: a separate sheet may be attached):
13. Research papers published/accepted for publication/communicated for publication (Details of authors, title, journal, volume, page number and reprints of published papers/preprints of accepted papers/and manuscripts of papers must be sent):
14. It is affirmed that I have devoted my full time to research and that I did not take up any other assignment, paid or unpaid, without taking written permission from FITM. It is also certified that due acknowledgement of FITM financial assistance has been made in the published work.

Date:

Signature of Fellow