

INSPIRE Fellowship Guidelines (February 2015)

*In suppression of previous guidelines, this new guideline will now be effected from Feb 2015 for all
INSPIRE Fellows*

Mode of application: Online

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 6 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 uploaded in the Website: www.inspire-dst.gov.in.

Eligibility:

- **INSPIRE Scholar** having secured minimum 65% marks in aggregate or equivalent CGPA at MSc or Integrated MS/ MSc course.
- **1st Rank Holders** at University Level Examination (not at Autonomous College Level examination) of overall full time post-graduate program in science, engineering /technology / agriculture / pharmacy / other applied science streams and undergraduate in Medicine i.e. MBBS. However, university shall consider providing 1st Rank for a minimum batch size of 10 students in that university level examination with minimum aggregate of 60% marks of the entire course/ program. Toppers in any subject specialization in Post graduation 2nd year are not eligible. However, merely having the eligibility for the INSPIRE Fellowship will not guarantee the final offer of fellowship. Expert Committee will finally take decision on selections based on the research proposal by the fellow.

Terms and Conditions:

1. General

- This Fellowship shall be available only for pursuing full-time PhD program in any recognized University / Institution/ R&D Laboratory/ in the country.
- The Junior Research Fellow (JRF) or Senior Research Fellow (SRF) under this scheme shall be termed as 'INSPIRE Fellow'.
- The Fellowship shall be governed through the Office Memorandum of this Ministry of Number A.20020/11/97-IFD dated 6th August 2007, 31st March 2010 [www.dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new07/fellowship.pdf] and 21st

October 2014 [http://dst.gov.in/whats_new/whats_new14/fellowship_revision.pdf] 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.

- The Fellowship shall be tenable for a maximum period of five years or completion of the PhD program (i.e. till the final defence of the PhD Thesis), whichever is earlier.

2. Issuing of Fellowship Offer:

- 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 be earlier than the date of application received at the DST.
- Applicant who will be placed under “Provisional Selection” or “Rejection” category during the selection process and subsequently issued “Final Offer” by gaining admission into PhD or by virtue of accepting representation at the DST-INSPIRE, the date of issuing Final Offer” will be the Effective Date” for the INSPIRE Fellowship. For Final selection under INSPIRE Fellowship, the admission into PhD program is necessary.
- Upon Final Selection under INSPIRE Fellowship, the Fellow or the Host-Institution / University shall require to inform DST (by uploading in online portal) about the 'date of joining' of the INSPIRE Fellow in that Institution / University in the Format of Joining and Acceptance Letter, provided by the DST-INSPIRE Program Division within one month of date of issuing the final offer, failing which, his/her Final Offer will be liable for cancellation and no further correspondence will be entertained in this matter.

3. Change of Host Institute:

- Upon accepting the offer for implementing Fellowship at a particular University/ Institute/ Laboratory in the country the INSPIRE Fellow 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 such change of Host Institution by submitting following documents:
 - i. No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from both Host Institutes and Research Supervisors,

- ii. Detailed Justifications for changing / shifting of Host Institute for implementation of Fellowship,
- iii. Area of PhD works with an up to date technical Progress Report,
- iv. CV of the Research Supervisor at the new Host Institute,
- v. Up to date Financial Statement from the old Host Institute.

However, shifting/ change of Host Institute without prior permission 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 that too within one year from effective date of Fellowship at that Host Institute.

4. Short Term Research Internship:

- 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. This research internship would either be arranged by DST or by the individual Fellow and, the Fellow shall be required to obtain prior permission from 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.
- Positioning under HOPE and Newton Bhabha shall dealt in separate call.

5. Release of Fellowship amount:

- 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. In such case, Host institute require to register in CPSMS (Central Plan System Monitoring Scheme www.cpsms.nic.in) and needs to provide unique agency code and details of authorized account of head of institute, to DST.
- While to continue release of fellowship in subsequent years, the Host-Institute or the concerned fellow shall submit the financial year-wise Statement of Expenditure & Utilization Certificate (through online portal: www.online-inspire.gov.in) for each INSPIRE Fellow attached to them, the INSPIRE Fellow will be required to submit Progress Report every year duly authenticated by their concerned PhD supervisor.

6. Up gradation from JRF to SRF:

- 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 PhD programme. However, this performance assessment can also be conducted at any time after completion of one year at JRF level upon publication of at least one paper (1st Authorship) in any peer-reviewed SCI indexed 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.
- Choice of Expert member within the same Host Institute should be totally avoided in this 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 upload the 'assessment report' of the Committee in the format of DST of the concerned Fellow, in online portal of DST-INSPIRE for further actions.
- The expenditure related to such assessment shall not be borne by DST INSPIRE.
- In case any other guidance needed for appointing Expert member for the process, DST can be contacted for the same.
- Generally, up-gradation of JRF to SRF would be effected as per above norms, however, in case assessment is delayed beyond the 2 years for any reasons, the assessment date/ Date of communication of Assessment Report would be considered as 'SRF Effective date'.

7. Completion of Fellowship Tenure and Award of PhD degree:

- On completion of the tenure of Fellowship, the INSPIRE Fellow shall be required to provide the copy of the awarding of PhD degree certificate along with soft copy of thesis and the complete financial documents (SE, UC) to final settlement of the fellow. However, the unspent balance shall be sent by means of demand draft in favor of "DST-INSPIRE Program" payable at New Delhi or through ECS at the A/c No. 32921719272" (IFSC Code: SBIN0000691) in the of State Bank of India, New Delhi.

- INSPIRE Fellows must settle their claims within one year of leaving the Fellowship. No claim will be admitted by DST after one year of leaving the Fellowship.

8. TERMINATION OR DISCONTINUATION of INSPIRE Fellowship shall occur at the following events:

- Upon successful viva-voce of awarding PhD degree or completion of 5 year Fellowship's tenure, whichever is earlier,
- Resignation from the Fellowship before awarding PhD degree and acceptance of resignation by DST based on the Research Supervisor's recommendation,
- Migration of Fellow to another Institution from present Host Institution without prior approval from DST,
- Failed to gain admission into PhD within one year after issuing Provisional Offer,
- Non-Acceptance of Final Offer within one month from the date of Final Offer issued
- In case, any of the previous admission(s) by the Fellow is/are found wrong and the Fellow found ineligible in future for any reason(s) (including any unintentional Computer error or Printer's devil etc)

9. Duties of INSPIRE Fellow:

- Keep update DST always about your progress in Research or any other disciplinary action taken at University.
- The INSPIRE Fellow is not to take any assignment other than related to his/her approved research programme, paid or unpaid. However, if required, the fellow may assist the host institute in its academic work/other activities, as per guidelines of its PhD programme, provided such assignments should not hamper the progress of research work of the fellow. This has to be governed by host institution.
- Once INSPIRE Fellow accepts the Fellowship and joined, he should complete 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.
- INSPIRE Fellow should inform about his discontinuation within one week of date of discontinuation through online portal and upload all required documents in portal. Failing to do so will reflect into settlement of the case.
- The INSPIRE Fellow shall keep DST informed about his/her getting the PhD degree, submission of thesis for Ph.D., 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 DST in the publication(s). One copy each of all the research papers published must be sent to DST at each stage of publication/ manuscript/reprint.