

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on Fellowship Revision Office Memorandum (OM)

(The FAQs and answers given below attempt to answer the main queries amongst the large number received on the OM on Fellowship Revision. Researchers are advised to approach respective funding agencies for further clarifications and definitive statements.)

1. What categories of research personnel do the OM on revision of fellowship cover?

The OM is applicable to Junior Research Fellows (JRF), Senior Research Fellows (SRF) and Research Associates (RA). Other designations such as Project Fellow, Project Assistant, DS Kothari Post doctoral fellow, Fast Track Young Scientist, Women Scientist etc. are not covered in the OM. Funding agencies concerned may consider revising the emoluments for these other categories also in view of the revision in fellowship for JRF, SRF and RA.

2. Is the OM applicable to the Humanities and Social Sciences?

This OM is applicable only to Science and Professional degree holders and not to other disciplines such as Humanities and Social Sciences, Commerce, and Management.

3. What are the Professional degrees for the purpose of granting fellowship under this OM?

Degrees in Engineering/Technology, Medicine, Pharma, Veterinary and Agriculture.

4. What are NET examinations?

The previous (2010) OM mentioned only CSIR-UGC NET and GATE examinations. This has now been expanded. Now, any national level examinations conducted by the central government departments/agencies for admission to PhD program are considered NET. The following are the list of NET Examinations (may not be comprehensive)

CSIR - CSIR - UGC National Eligibility Test

MHRD - Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering Admission

DBT - Biotechnology Eligibility Test & Test conducted in Bioinformatics by Bioinformatics National Consortium

DAE - JEST & JGEEBILS, NBHM

ICMR - JRF Entrance Examination

ICAR - Test conducted by ICAR for admission to PhD program

DoP- GPAT

5. Will the revision be applicable to candidates who have passed one of the above NET examinations?

Yes. The revised fellowship will be provided to candidates who qualify in any of the above examinations and are selected through institutional mechanisms. For those who are already enrolled PhD programmes or working in Central Government sponsored Projects as JRF, SRF, RAs with the NET qualification, the revised emoluments can be paid provided they are drawing fellowship amount mentioned in the earlier OM issued on 31.3.2010.

6. What about researchers who have qualified lectureships in CSIR NET?

We will inform you about this category later

7. What about Non NET candidates?

The present OM does not cover candidates who are not qualified in any of the NET examinations outlined above. DST is taking up enhancement for those in Non-Net categories.

8. What about fellows drawing research fellowships under INSPIRE Scheme? Will it be applicable to them?

Not yet. DST is taking it up the matter separately.

9. I fulfill all the eligibility criteria (PG degree in Science and passed NET) but not registered for PhD nor working in sponsored Projects. Will I also get the fellowship?

No. Mere fulfillment of eligibility does not guarantee the fellowship. Fellowship will be provided only after the person joins R&D program (either through institutional fellowship or through R&D projects) following institutional selection procedures.

10. Which are the Central Government Departments/agencies that will implement the OM.

The OM will be immediately implemented by the Departments under the Ministry of Science and Technology (DST, DBT and DSIR). Other Ministries and Departments of Central Government such as MHRD, MoES, DAE, DoS, DRDO

etc and agencies like ICMR, ICAR and Councils like CSIR will use it as guidelines, and adopt it (with modifications, if necessary) by following their internal approval mechanisms.

11. Will the revised fellowship be paid only to researchers working in IITs and not to NITs and other institutions?

The OM is applicable to researchers (JRF, SRF and RA) working in all types of institutions - academic (colleges, universities including deemed universities both public funded and private funded, institutes of national importance), national laboratories and NGOs etc.

12. I did not get any details regarding the fellowship hike for SPM-SRF. Kindly let me know the details for SPM fellowship hike.

This OM does not cover SPM fellowship. CSIR is the appropriate body to decide about the SPM fellowship.

13. When will researchers start getting the revised fellowship amount?

The fellows getting stipend from DST and DBT will get it immediately, but for those getting emoluments from other departments/agencies, they will be informed by their respective funding agencies.

14. How will the revision in fellowship be implemented in projects? Do the fellows have to write to the funding agency or will they initiate the process themselves?

The fellows working in DST (including SERB) and DBT projects can be paid the enhanced fellowship from the available project grant from Oct. 2014 onwards by the implementing institutions provided the fellows satisfy requirements mentioned in clause 5 of the OM and eligibility conditions. Principal Investigators are advised to send the details of additional budget requirements due to enhancement to the Program Officer concerned to sanction additional budget.

15. Is there no distinction in emoluments between graduate degree holders and post graduate degree holders in professional courses?

The OM does not distinguish between Post-graduate degree in Science and Professional degree holders. However, Post graduate degree holder in Science and graduate degree holder in Professional Course need to qualify NET examination to get the same emoluments as PG degree holder in Professional Course.

16. Is there any notification about increase in fellowship for M.Tech students?

The OM issued by DST is not applicable to students studying M Tech. MHRD/AICTE is the appropriate body to decide about the M Tech fellowship.

17. The OM does not talk of contingency? What is the revised contingency amount?

The amount of contingency will be decided by the respective funding agency, and it is not part of the OM.

18. What is the duration of JRF, and SRF?

The duration remains the same.

19. What is the status of students getting fellowships from State Governments?

The OM is applicable only to the R&D programs funded by the Central Government departments/agencies, and it is not applicable to research personnel working in State Government funded projects/fellowships. State Government may use this OM as guidelines to revise the fellowships.