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भारतीय वानिकी अनुसंधान एवं शिक्षा परिषद्
INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION
(पर्यावरण, वन एवं जलवायु परिवर्तन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार की एक स्वायत्त निकाय)
(An Autonomous Body of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
डाकघर : न्यू फॉरेस्ट, देहरादून - 248006 (उत्तराखण्ड)
P.O. New Forest, Dehradun - 248 006 (Uttarakhand)

No. 44-4/2018-ICFRE

Dated the 3rd July, 2024.

NOTIFICATION

In pursuance to the approval accorded by the Board of Governors of ICFRE vide its 61st meeting held on 19.02.2024 and by the Ministry vide letters No.1-17/2023-RT dated 15.04.2024 & 01.05.2024, the Director General, Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education, Dehradun is pleased to notify the rules for "Operationalisation of fellowship for Ph.D. scholars of ICFRE-FRI (Deemed University), Dehradun" as per details at Annexure-I.

These rules shall come into force with immediate effect.

Encl: As above (By Email).

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10 am
3-7-24
(Mahaling)
Secretary (Link Officer)
ICFRE

Distribution :

1. The Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Chairman, Board of Governors of ICFRE, Indira Paryavaran Bhawan, Jor Bag Road, Aliganj, New Delhi, for kind information.
2. All DDGs/Director (IC), ICFRE.
3. All Directors of ICFRE Institutes.
4. The DIGF(RT), MoEFCC, New Delhi for information.
5. The ADG (Education & RB), ICFRE w.r.t. his letter No.11-26/BOG/Edu./ICFRE/290 dated 07.05.2024 & 11.06.2024 for information and necessary action.
6. Guard File.

RRRIBD

05/7/24



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At discuss.*

**OPERATIONALISATION OF FELLOWSHIP FOR PH.D. SCHOLARS OF
FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE (DEEMED UNIVERSITY)**

(INDIAN COUNCIL OF FORESTRY RESEARCH AND EDUCATION, DEHRADUN)

1. Background:

The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun is apex body in the country for planning, promoting, conducting and coordinating research, education and extension related aspects of forestry. ICFRE with its 09 institutes and 05 centres located in different bio-geographical regions of the country, caters the forestry research needs of the nation. Under ICFRE, the Forest Research Institute (Deemed University) is dealing with the post-graduate and Ph.D. level education in various streams of Forestry and Environment to the students of India and SAARC region. Total 18 prominent institutes of the country are recognized by FRI (Deemed University) for Ph.D. programme. The research facilities at the FRI University are amongst the best in the country.

Our endeavor is to bring FRI (Deemed University) to the international map by making it an Institute of Excellence in the world for specialized disciplines of Environment and Forestry, drawing on the strengths of century old Forest Research Institute (FRI). Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India awards 10 Scholarship per year to the students of SAARC Nations for pursuing Post Graduate Courses at FRI (Deemed University). Since 2010, FRI (Deemed University) has adopted UGC (Minimum standards and procedure for award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree), Regulation, 2009 and then UGC (Minimum standards and procedure for award of M.Phil./Ph.D. Degree), Regulation, 2016. The admission in Ph.D. programs is based on entrance examination at all India level.

The Expenditure Finance Committee in its meeting on 25.11.2010 approved the EFC memo for operationalisation of one time grant of Rs. 100 Cr. to ICFRE. Out of that a corpus of Rs. 6.0 Crores was allocated for the establishment of 03 Chairs of Excellence under the component of Endeavors for Promoting Excellence. The major themes for these Chairs of Excellence were Forest and Climate Change; Forest Biometrics and Productivity management; and Biodiversity and Ecology. A corpus fund of Rs. 2.0 Crores was also allocated for establishment of 4th Chair of Excellence under the activities of the Forest Genetic Resources Management Network (FGMRN). Consequently, the rules of investment and expenditure out of the interests of Corpus Fund were formulated and approved in the 44th meeting of the Board of Governors of ICFRE held on 24.06.2011 and notified vide notification No. 58-21/XLIV/2011-ICFRE dated 24.08.2011. The guidelines for establishment, selection and operationalisation of Chair of Excellence in ICFRE were notified vide notification

No. 58-21/XLIV/2011-ICFRE dated 17.02.2012. The Experts were engaged as Chair of Excellence in 03 themes till 08.07.2014 except Biometric and Productivity Management as no application was received against the advertisement. Further, in spite of repeated advertisements and efforts, all the Chair of Excellence could not be operationalised and a need was felt to modify the existing themes and guidelines. Therefore, consequent to the approval in the 57th meeting of Board of Governors held on 16.12.2019, the revised guidelines for establishment, selection and operationalisation of Chair of Excellence were notified vide notification no. 58-21/XLIV/2011-ICFRE (Chair of Excellence) dated 03.02.2020. Further efforts were made to engage the experts against all four Chair of Excellence. However, in spite of the repeated advertisement only one expert could be engaged against one Chair of Excellence in IWST, Bengaluru; and suitable candidate/applications were not received for three other Chairs. A total expenditure of approximate Rs.64.5 Lakh could be made from the interest earned on total Corpus Fund of Rs. 8.0 Cr. Presently, an amount of total Rs. 17.48 Cr. (including the interest generated on Corpus Fund of Rs. 8.0 Cr) is available with the ICFRE. Moreover, no significant achievement could be obtained by the experts engaged since inception upto 07.07.2014 or thereafter.

It is evident from the above detail that the Chair of Excellence has very limited utility and huge amount of fund is lying unspent. Further, in spite of the facts that under MoEF&CC, the ICFRE is apex body in the country for research and education in the field of forestry, but there is no any scheme to provide financial assistance to its students engaged in forestry research. It is also important to note that the parallel organization in the country like CSIR and ICAR are giving large number of fellowships every year to Ph.D. students. Therefore, the best way to attract the meritorious students for forestry research by utilizing this unspent amount, is to constitute a fellowship program to the Ph.D. students of FRI-DU.

Therefore, to promote its excellence in the field of forestry research, the ICFRE is starting 'ICFRE–FRI (DU) Ph.D. Fellowship programme' for the students of FRI(DU), pursuing Ph.D. in ICFRE or its institutes and centres:

2. Name of the fellowship:

The name of the fellowship will be '**ICFRE–FRI (DU) Ph.D. Fellowship**'.

3. Objectives of the Fellowship:

- a) To support and compensate the expenditure of Research Scholars pursuing Ph.D. from FRI(DU).
- b) To attract more quality students for Ph.D. in FRI(DU).
- c) To strengthen the forestry education as well as research activities in India.

4. Number of fellowship:

- a) Total 06 number of ICFRE–FRI (DU) Ph.D. fellowships will be given every year.
- b) The rules/guidelines of reservation issued by Central Government will be followed for number of fellowships to different categories with total 06 fellowships every year.
- c) Depending upon availability of total budget and suitable candidates, the number and amount of fellowship for new batch, may be decreased or increased with the prior approval of DG, ICFRE.

5. Amount, duration and budget of Fellowship:

- a) The fellowship scheme will be started from the new admissions of academic session 2024-25.
The quantum of fellowship will be fixed as under : -

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| Date of commencement of fellowship | Date of start of Ph.D. course work after admission |
| Amount of each Fellowship | Rs. 37,000/- per month for 1 st and 2 nd Year and 42,000/- per month for 3 rd Year |
| Amount for contingent grant of each fellowship | Rs. 10,000/- per annum |
| Number of new fellowships each year | 06 fellowships every year for new batch |
| Duration of fellowship | For three years from the date of start of fellowship |
| Maximum number of Fellowships at any time | 1 st Year: 06 2 nd Year: 06 (continued from 1 st Year) 3 rd Year: 06 (continued from 1 st and 2 nd Year) Total: 18 nos. at any time including all 03 years |
| Annual Budgetary Requirement | Rs. 85.32 Lakh/annum |

- b) This fellowship will be awarded for maximum duration of 03 years subject to continuity of the Ph.D. course with satisfactory performance. The leaves will be permitted as per government norms. However, in exceptional cases and based on the recommendation of the supervisor and RAC with justification, the fellowship period may be extended for the periods not exceeding three months. However, depending upon availability of new budget, the number of fellowship may be increased. Similarly, the duration of fellowships may be increased for the total duration of 05 years as per the norms of DST. DG, ICFRE will be the final authority to increase and decrease the number and duration of fellowships and to grant an extension.
- c) In 2024-25 session the fellowship will be started from the date of sanction order. From next year onwards the fellowship will be started from the date of start of Ph.D. course work after admission.
- d) In case of no vacancy, zero academic session or no admission in any year, the fellowship will not be awarded and such fellowship will not be carried forward in next year.

- e) If a candidate leaves the fellowship before submission of Ph.D. thesis, due to any reason (except as mentioned in 5.f, 5.g and 5.h below), the candidate must return the total received fellowship amount including the annual contingent grant. Such discontinued fellowships will be treated as cancelled and will not be awarded to any other candidate and will not be carried forward in next year.
- f) However, if a candidate is willing to pursue Ph.D. in continuity without receiving the fellowship, he/she may be exempted from returning the received amount of ICFRE–FRI (DU) Ph.D. fellowship. The supervisor of candidate will ensure the continuity of his/her Ph.D. work upto thesis submission.
- g) If a candidate is selected for ICFRE–FRI (DU) Ph.D. fellowship and he/she leaves the fellowship before receiving any fellowship amount, such fellowship may be awarded to next candidate in respective merit list.
- h) If a candidate is selected for ICFRE–FRI (DU) Ph.D. fellowship and subsequently he joins another fellowship without leaving the Ph.D. course, the ICFRE–FRI (DU) Ph.D. fellowship of such candidates will be stopped from the date of joining the other fellowship. Such candidates will be exempted from returning the received amount of ICFRE–FRI (DU) Ph.D. fellowship.
- i) A candidate selected for this fellowship will have to sign a bond with the Director of concerned institute, that in case of dropout or leaving the Ph.D. course, any time before the submission of thesis (subject to the detail mentioned above in 5.e, 5.f, 5.g and 5.h), the candidate will have to return the total amount of received fellowship including the annual contingent grant. The returned amount should be deposited into the same account of corpus fund by the manner decided by the Director of that institute. The amount to be recovered will be calculated by the concerned Ph.D. supervisor. The decision of the Director of concerned institute will be final in case of any conflict or discrepancy in such cases.

6. Eligibility for Fellowship:

Only Indian students registered in FRI (DU) for Ph.D. and working in ICFRE or any of its 09 Institutes and 05 research centres will be eligible for this fellowship.

However, Ph.D. scholar receiving any other type of Scholarship, Fellowship, Sponsorship, Salary or any other funding from any institute/organization/state/national/international level or getting emolument / honorarium for working in other research projects, will not be eligible for this fellowship.

7. Selection process:

The selection of candidate for this fellowship will be based on the performance in examination conducted by FRI (DU) for admission in Ph.D. The topmost candidates in respective merit lists of different categories and with choice of working in ICFRE or any of its 09 institutes and 05 centres will

be selected for this fellowship. The rules/guidelines of reservation issued by Central Government will be followed for number of fellowships to different categories.

- 7.1) If one or more of the candidates selected for ICFRE–FRI (DU) Ph.D. fellowship are getting any other type of Scholarship, Fellowship, Sponsorship, Salary or any other funding from any institute/organization/state/national/international level or getting any other emolument/honorarium, the next candidate in respective merit list will be selected for ‘ICFRE–FRI (DU) Ph.D. Fellowship’.
- 7.2) In case of tie between two or more candidates, the candidate with higher score in qualifying (or written) entrance exam will be selected for fellowship. In case of further tie, the candidate with older age will be selected for this fellowship.
- 7.3) In case of any conflict or doubt in selection of eligible candidate for this fellowship, the Vice Chancellor of FRI (DU) will be competent authority to resolve the matter and his decision will be binding to all.

8. Source of the Funding:

The total amount accumulated under “ICFRE Corpus fund for establishment of Chairs of Excellence” is more than 17.00 Crore (including principal). The whole or part amount (as decided by competent authority) as on date will be converted into corpus and only interest accrued every year will be utilised collectively for funding this fellowship scheme as well as Chair of Excellence. A separate corpus fund (independent of Chair of Excellence corpus fund) may also be created for the purpose of this fellowship. If the interest amount is lesser than the requirement of fellowship, the number and/or duration of fellowship may be reduced with the prior approval of DG, ICFRE.

9. Accounting procedure:

As per Rules for “ICFRE Corpus fund for establishment of Chairs of Excellence”.

10. Termination of the fellowship: The scholarship will be terminated;

- a) On the date, the fellow ceases to be on the rolls (attendance) of the Institute / FRI (DU).
- b) On the date, the fellow completes the study which may include submission of Ph.D. thesis.
- c) If at any time, in the opinion of the Supervisor/RAC/RDC, a fellow is found to be negligent in work or is guilty of unbecoming conduct, with or without notice.
- d) If a fellow completes the study before the expiry of the sanctioned term of the fellowship, the supervisor will immediately inform the RAC/RDC and Vice Chancellor of FRI (DU) regarding the same.

11. Disbursement of payment:

- a) The amount of fellowship is Rs. 37,000/- per month + Rs. 10,000/- contingent grant per annum for 1st and 2nd year and Rs. 42,000/-per month + Rs. 10,000/-contingent grant per annum for 3rd year.
- b) The amount will be disbursed by FRI (DU) through bank account of candidate, after the completion of every quarter. The annual contingent grant will be disbursed after completion of 4th quarter every year.
- c) The disbursement of the fellowship of each quarter will be made by FRI (DU) on receipt of the following documents:
 - A written undertaking by the student to complete the study and research work and a certificate stating that he/she is not drawing any other scholarship/fellowship.
 - Forwarding by the supervisor through Director of concerned institute stating the brief progress and performance; and recommendation for disbursement.
- d) The disbursement of fellowship of last quarter of 3rd year (or additional quarter in case of extension or increase in duration) will be made only after the receipt of certificate from the supervisor that the candidate has submitted his Ph.D. thesis.
- e) The receipt of financial assistance from the ICFRE-FRI (DU) should be suitably acknowledged by the fellow in the thesis and research articles submitted by candidate.
- f) The source of the funding will be the “Corpus fund generated from the accrued interest of Chair of Excellence”.
- g) This fellowship program will be implemented by FRI (DU) in co-ordination with Directorate of Education, ICFRE. The total requirement of fund for each quarter will be submitted by FRI(DU) to Directorate of Education, ICFRE. The Directorate of Education, ICFRE will transfer fund to FRI (DU) for disbursement to candidates.

12. Review:

- a) The fellowships shall be awarded initially for a period of one academic year from the date of joining and can be renewed for another two years, subject to satisfactory performance of candidate and progress as decided by the supervisor and Director of concerned Institute.
- b) The overall implementation of the fellowship may be reviewed every year before the advertisement of Ph.D. entrance examination notification. The DG, ICFRE will be the competent authority to constitute a review committee or modify, withdraw or add any of the provisions in this guideline for the smooth functioning of fellowship program.
