



**Mahatma Gandhi University
Meghalaya**

Fellowship/Scholarship Policy for Ph.D. Scholars

Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya

Fellowship/Scholarship Policy for Ph.D. Scholars

Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya

1. Preamble

In accordance with the *University Grants Commission (UGC) Regulations, 2022* and other relevant statutory provisions, Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya (hereinafter referred to as "the University") establishes this **Fellowship/Scholarship Policy for Ph.D. Scholars** to provide structured financial assistance, promote research excellence, and ensure equitable access to funding for meritorious and deserving scholars. This policy aims to support research endeavors across disciplines, foster innovation, and uphold academic integrity while aligning with national research priorities.

2. Objectives

The primary objectives of this policy are:

1. To facilitate financial assistance to Ph.D. scholars to enable them to conduct high-quality research without financial constraints.
2. To promote inclusivity by ensuring scholarships and fellowships reach scholars from diverse socio-economic backgrounds.
3. To encourage interdisciplinary and socially relevant research contributing to national and global development.
4. To align university research funding with UGC norms, government schemes, and international funding agencies.

3. Categories of Fellowship/Scholarship

In compliance with *Clause 3.1* of the UGC Fellowship Regulations, the following categories of financial assistance shall be available to Ph.D. scholars at Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya:

3.1 University Funded Fellowships

The university shall allocate fellowships from its research budget to **meritorious full-time Ph.D. scholars** based on academic excellence and research potential. The fellowship amount and tenure shall be revised periodically by the **Fellowship/Scholarship Committee (FSC)** in alignment with UGC norms.

3.2 UGC/External Agency Funded Fellowships

Ph.D. scholars who qualify for centrally funded fellowships, such as:

- **National Fellowship & Scholarship for Higher Studies of ST Students**
- **UGC Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) / Senior Research Fellowship (SRF)**
- **CSIR-NET Fellowship**
- **ICSSR Doctoral Fellowship**
- **DST-INSPIRE Fellowship**
- **DBT Fellowship**
- **Maulana Azad National Fellowship (MANF)**
- **Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF)**

shall receive funding as per the respective agency's norms.

3.3 Need-Based and Merit-Cum-Means Scholarships

The university shall provide **financial assistance to economically disadvantaged scholars** who demonstrate research potential but lack adequate financial support. This shall be governed by the socio-economic status verification process outlined by the **Fellowship/Scholarship Committee (FSC)**.

3.4 Special Fellowships for Women, Persons with Disabilities (PwD), and Marginalized Communities

In alignment with *Clause 4.2 of the UGC Fellowship Regulations*, the university shall extend **special fellowships** to women researchers, differently-abled scholars, and candidates from **Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBC-NCL)** to promote inclusive research participation.

4. Eligibility Criteria for Fellowships/Scholarships

The eligibility for receiving fellowships/scholarships shall be based on the following criteria:

1. **Full-Time Enrolment:** Only full-time Ph.D. scholars shall be eligible for University Fellowships. Part-time scholars may be considered under external/industry-funded projects.
2. **Minimum Academic Qualifications:** Scholars must have obtained a minimum of **55% marks (or equivalent CGPA)** in their qualifying postgraduate degree. A **5% relaxation** shall be applicable for SC/ST/OBC-NCL/PwD candidates.
3. **Research Proposal Merit:** Candidates shall be evaluated based on the strength, feasibility, and societal relevance of their research proposal.
4. **UGC-NET/GATE/Equivalent Qualification:** Candidates who have qualified **UGC-NET (including JRF), CSIR-NET, GATE, GPAT, CEED, or other equivalent national-level examinations** shall be given preference for funding.

5. Selection Process

The selection process shall be **rigorous, merit-driven, and transparent**, ensuring the fair allocation of scholarships/fellowships.

5.1 Notification & Application Submission

- The university shall issue a **Fellowship/Scholarship Notification** annually, specifying the number of available fellowships, eligibility criteria, and application deadlines.
- Applicants must submit a **completed application form** along with supporting documents (academic transcripts, research proposal, socio-economic status proof if applicable).

5.2 Evaluation & Shortlisting

The **Fellowship/Scholarship Committee (FSC)** shall evaluate applications based on:

1. **Academic Record & Research Potential**
2. **Performance in University's Fellowship Selection Test (if applicable)**
3. **Research Proposal Quality & Societal Impact**
4. **Funding Category Compliance**

5.3 Interview & Final Selection

Shortlisted candidates shall appear before the **Fellowship/Scholarship Committee (FSC)** for an interview to assess their research preparedness and eligibility for funding.

6. Disbursement of Fellowship/Scholarship

1. Fellowship amounts shall be **disbursed monthly** upon verification of attendance and research progress reports.
2. Scholars receiving external fellowships shall comply with their respective funding agency's regulations.
3. University-funded scholars must **submit a progress report every six months** for continued funding eligibility.

7. Termination of Fellowship/Scholarship

A scholar's fellowship shall be **terminated** under the following conditions:

1. Non-compliance with research ethics, including plagiarism or academic misconduct.

2. Failure to maintain **satisfactory academic progress** as per the recommendations of the Doctoral Research Committee.
3. Exceeding the **maximum tenure limit** for the fellowship as per UGC guidelines.
4. Submission of **fraudulent information** in the fellowship application.

8. Constitution of the Fellowship/Scholarship Committee (FSC)

The **Fellowship/Scholarship Committee (FSC)** shall oversee the selection, evaluation, and disbursement of financial assistance to Ph.D. scholars. The composition of the **FSC** shall be as follows:

S.No.	Designation	Name
1.	Chairperson (Vice-Chancellor)	Prof. (Dr.) Sagar O' Manjare
2.	Dean of Research	Prof. (Dr.) Dinesh Vaishya
3.	Account Officer	Mr. Dhruvojyoti Kalita
4.	Research Expert	Prof. Sunjit Basumatary
5.	Controller of Examinations	Prof. (Dr.) Y. Krishna Reddy

9. Policy Review and Amendments

The **Fellowship/Scholarship Policy** shall be subject to **periodic review** by the **Academic Council and Fellowship/Scholarship Committee (FSC)** to align with evolving UGC norms and research funding policies. Any amendments shall be duly notified.

Mahatma Gandhi University, Meghalaya remains committed to fostering a **robust research ecosystem** by ensuring equitable financial assistance for Ph.D. scholars. This policy serves as a cornerstone for promoting **research excellence, academic integrity, and socio-economic inclusivity**. The university pledges to uphold **transparency, meritocracy, and accountability** in the fellowship/scholarship allocation process.