

Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme

FAQs

1. What was the rationale behind initiation of the scheme?

In addition to enhancement of the number of PhDs in Electronics System Design & Manufacturing (ESDM) and IT/IT Enabled Services (IT/ITES) sectors in the country the scheme aims to

- Give thrust to R&D, create an innovative ecosystem and enhance India's competitiveness in these knowledge intensive sectors.
- Thrust on significantly increasing the number of PhDs in the country to enable India to compete globally in the coming decades, to develop an ecosystem of research, development and IP creation in these knowledge intensive sectors.
- Encourage working professionals and non-PhD faculty members to pursue PhD.

2. What is the procedure for joining the PhD Scheme?

Visvesvaraya PhD Scheme is an institutional scheme where seats are allocated to eligible institutions for enrolment during particular academic year and the candidates, interested to join the scheme, need to contact respective institutions for admission formalities.

3. Which institutions are eligible to participate in the scheme?

- All IITs, NITs, IISc, IISERs, Central Universities, Deemed Universities under the Central Government, and institutions of national importance.
- State Universities, Private Universities, and other R&D institutions with PhD programs in Electronics/IT, recognized by AICTE with NBA or accredited by NAAC.

4. How are institutions allotted seats?

PhD Cell invites proposals periodically from eligible institutions for allotment of PhD seats under the scheme. Subsequently the proposals are evaluated by experts and accordingly, the PhD seats are allocated to the institutions.

5. What are the eligibility criteria for PhD candidates?

- The institutions with PhD seats, allotted under the scheme, would conduct their admission process for enrolment of candidates on those seats.
- Only new PhD candidates admitted during the scheme period are eligible.
- Candidates already availing financial support from other government schemes are not eligible.

6. Can individual candidates apply directly for financial support?

No, candidates must apply through their respective institutions that have been approved under the scheme.

7. Can a candidate apply for this scheme if they have already started their PhD?

No, the scheme applies only to new PhD scholars enrolled after the PhD seats are allocated to the eligible institutions.

8. Who are the beneficiaries of the scheme?

- Institutions across the country
- PhD candidates (Full and Part Time)
- Faculty through Young Faculty Research Fellowships (YFRFs) award

- Post-Doctoral Fellows

9. What financial support is available for full-time PhD candidates?

- Fellowship:
 - ₹38,750 per month (1st & 2nd year)
 - ₹43,750 per month (3rd, 4th & 5th year)
- Reimbursement of Rent (RoR)
- Institutional Overheads of ₹25,000 per year per Full-time PhD candidate.
- Research contingency grant of ₹1,20,000 per year.
- Support up to ₹1.5 lakh for attending international conferences.
- One-time support of ₹10.5 lakh for 250 selected PhD candidates for a 6-month visit to labs abroad.

10. How will the funds be disbursed?

- Fellowships and HRA will be transferred directly to candidates' bank accounts via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).
- Institutional Overheads and Research Contingency Grants will be sent to the respective institutions.

11. What is meant by Reimbursement of Rent (RoR)? Is it different from House Rent Allowance (HRA)?

RoR is similar to HRA in respect of the rates as per classification of the cities notified by Ministry of Finance however, the HRA may be paid to those who are not paying any rent while in case of RoR the support is applicable to only those PhD candidates who are either not provided hostel facility by the institution or the candidate does not choose to stay in the hostel

12. How Fellowships are disbursed to the PhD candidates?

Every month the eligible PhD candidates under full-time category receive the fellowship directly in their bank accounts. Confirmation of continuation of the research work is sought well in advance from the host institution.

13. What happens if a candidate drops out from the scheme or is non-compliant with the scheme guidelines?

The institution has to immediately inform the PhD Cell, DIC and obtain an acknowledgement of receipt from PhD Cell. If not reported on time, the institution will be responsible for recovering any excess funds paid.

14. Can an institution transfer its PhD seats to another year if not filled?

No, unfilled seats will be reallocated to the general pool and assigned to other institutions.

15. Can the fellowship be extended beyond five years?

No, the maximum duration of support is five years or until PhD completion, whichever is earlier.

16. Is there any funding for laboratory equipment under the research contingency grant?

Yes, institutions can apply for funding for research equipment under Research Contingency Grant, but civil construction/expansion costs are not covered.

17. How can institutions apply for the Research Contingency Grant?

They must submit a proposal with details of required equipment, payment terms, and justification of the equipment's role in research of a particular Full-time PhD candidate.

18. What is included under support for International Conference?

This covers the travel and other expenses of a PhD candidate for attending an International conference, where the research paper has been accepted for oral (not poster) presentation. There is a list of renowned International Conferences related to the areas of ESDM and IT/ITES where the candidate can visit.

19. How is the International Conference Grant disbursed?

After submission of request, with required supporting documents, through the Nodal Officer of the institution, the grant is provided to the institution, not directly to the candidate, to ensure proper utilization and compliance.

20. How a faculty can apply for Young Faculty Research Fellowship (YFRF)?

PhD Cell invites nominations periodically from eligible institutions for award of YFRF under the scheme. Subsequently the nominations are evaluated by experts and accordingly, the fellowships are awarded. Initially the fellowship is awarded for 2 years which is extendable up to 5 years based on periodic evaluation of the awardee. In addition to the monthly fellowship of Rs. 20,000/- over and above the regular income of the awardee, an important financial component for the awardee is Research Contingency Grant of Rs. 5 Lakh per annum. This grant can help them a lot in meeting the need of equipment for research.

21. What support is available for Young Faculty Research Fellowship?

- a. Fellowship of ₹20,000 per month (in addition to regular salary).
- b. Research Contingency Grant of ₹5 lakh per year.
- c. Maximum tenure: 5 years (subject to performance review after 2 years).

22. Can faculty from private institutions apply for the Young Faculty Research Fellowship?

Yes, if their institution meets the eligibility criteria specified in the guidelines.

23. Can an awardee of another research fellowship avail the Young Faculty Research Fellowship?

No, the candidate must opt for only one fellowship.

24. How is Post-doctoral Fellowship (PDF) awarded?

Proposals for allotment of PDF seats are to be submitted by eligible institutions only. Suitable no. of seats would be allotted to institutions for further enrollment of PDF fellows on these seats following the scheme guidelines.

25. Is financial support available for Part-time PhD candidates?

Yes, part-time PhD candidates will receive a one-time incentive of ₹3 Lakh upon successful completion of their PhD and reporting of the same to PhD Cell through their institution with PhD completion documents.

26. What are the few research areas supported under the scheme?

Research has been undertaken under the scheme in emerging research areas viz. Image Processing, DSP, Pattern Recognition, 3D Printing, 5G Communications, AI, Big Data, Blockchain, Distributed Computing, Cyber Security, Green and Sustainable ICT, Quantum Computing/Communication, Semiconductor Design etc.

27. What is being done under the scheme to promote Industry Linkage?

To encourage and motivate PhD candidates, undertake industry specific problems for their research under the scheme NASSCOM has provided a list of industry specific research problems. Click on the following link for details <https://phd.digitalindiacorporation.in/industry-linkage>

28. How many Patents have been filed under Phase-I of the scheme?

More than 90 Patents have been reported by researchers under Phase-I of the scheme. Click on the following link for details <https://phd.digitalindiacorporation.in/achievement>

29. Are Theses of PhD candidates supported under the scheme in Phase-I, available on the Shodhganga Platform?

Yes, PhD Theses of all the PhD candidates supported under Phase-I of the scheme is available on the Shodhganga Platform.