# NCERT DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is an autonomous organization set up by the Government of India to advise and assist the Ministry of Education at the center, and Education Departments of States/Union Territories in formulation and implementation of their policies and major programmes in the field of education, particularly for qualitative improvement of school and teacher education. The major constituent units of the NCERT are: (1) National Institute of Education (NIE), New Delhi, (2) Central Institute of Educational Technology (CIET), New Delhi, (3) Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Central Institute of Vocational Education (PSSCIVE), Bhopal, (4) Regional Institute of Education (RIE), Ajmer, (5) Regional Institute of Education, Bhopal, (6) Regional Institute of Education, Bhubaneswar, (7) Regional Institute of Education, Mysore, (8) North-East Regional Institute of Education (NERIE), Shillong, and (9) Regional Institute of Education, Nellore. Among several activities, the NCERT and its constituent units undertake, aid, promote and coordinate research in areas related to school education & teacher education.

In view of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, a new set of priority areas for NCERT Doctoral Fellowships have been identified. The Research Proposals related to these priority areas will receive priority for Doctoral Fellowships.

## Objectives of the Scheme

(a) To provide opportunities to young scholars for research in the field of education from the perspectives of different disciplines.

(b) To build the knowledge base of education in the contemporary context.

## Scope of the Scheme

The NCERT Doctoral Fellowships scheme (NDFs) aims at enabling young scholars to pursue doctoral research in education and other related disciplines. Doctoral Fellows can pursue their work in a recognized university/research institution of their choice. NCERT encourages original thinking in conceptualization of the problem and use of innovative methodology in conducting research related to school education and teacher education.

## Priority Areas :

1. Early Childhood Care and Education
    - Achieving physical and motor, cognitive, socio-emotional-ethical, cultural/artistic development as well as development of communication and early language, literacy and numeracy.
    - Approaches, content and methodology of offering ECCE.

- Studies related to anganwadis and pre-primary schools collated with primary schools, and standalone pre-primary schools.
- Studies concerning “Preparatory class” or “Balavatika”.
- Toy-based pedagogy.
- Teacher training concerning ECCE.

2. Foundational Literacy & Numeracy (FLN)
    - Reading, writing, speaking and numeracy skills at the foundational level.
    - Implementation of NIPUN Bharat.
    - Approaches and methodology of developing literacy and numeracy skills.
    - Nutrition, mental health and well-being of children.
3. Curtailing dropouts and ensuring Universal Access to Education at All Levels
    - Interventions to reduce dropouts and enhance universal access.
    - Schools infrastructure.
    - Teachers’ and community participation.
    - Learning levels of students, particularly those belonging to Socio-Economically Disadvantaged Groups.
    - Implementation of Samagra Shiksha and Right to Education Act.
    - Schools safety.
    - Alternative ways of schooling and learning.
4. Curriculum and Pedagogy in Schools
    - New curriculum and pedagogy structure of 5+3+3+4.
    - Ensuring holistic development of learners.
    - Studies concerning core competencies.
    - Implementation of experiential learning (hands-on learning, arts-integrated and sports-integrated education, story-telling based pedagogy, etc.)
    - Competency-based teaching and learning.
    - Flexibility in choices of courses.
    - Multilingualism and mother-tongue education.
    - Integration of subjects, skills and capacities.
    - Inclusion of Indian knowledge, culture and traditions in the teaching-learning process.
    - Textbook research should focus on identifying deficiencies and removing the deficiencies.
    - Value education focusing on holistic and integral development of learners.
    - Holistic, 360 degree multidimensional assessment.
    - Education of gifted children.

5. Teachers and Teacher Education

    - Teacher autonomy, accountability and functioning.
    - Continuous Professional Development of Teachers and strategies to nurture 21st century skills.
    - Improving the Teacher preparation programs to gear up to the expectations of the NEP-2020 and to prepare them for post pandemic classrooms.
    - Teacher preparation considering multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary settings for various stages of school education.
    - Improving the quality of In-service programs.
    - National Professional Standards for Teachers.
    - Role and functions of Special Educators.
    - Implementation and effectiveness of integrated teacher education programs.
    - Structures and functioning of SCERTs, DIETs, and BITEs.
    - Pedagogical Approaches for Teaching: Documentation of pedagogical practices followed in innovative schools needs to be a priority area.
    - Study of teacher selection examination in terms of content and pedagogy with respect to need and aspiration of teacher education as per NEP 2020.
    - Transfer and deployment policies of teachers in various (central and state run) schooling systems.

6. Equitable and Inclusive Education: Learning for All

    - Education of socio-economically disadvantaged children (such as females and transgender persons, SC/ST/OBC/Minorities, migrants, rural and urban poor, etc.)
    - Children with disabilities or divyang.

7. School Complexes/ Clusters

    - Implementation and effectiveness of school complexes
    - Accreditation system

8. Vocational Education: Preferences for vocations, vertical mobility of students from the vocational education stream to mainstream education, vocational exposure, skill labs, mobility across vocational and general education.

9. Integration of Information and Communication Technology in Education: ICT integration in school and teacher education, implementation of new technologies, technology and professional development of teachers, use of e-content in teaching-learning, disruptive technologies in school education.

10. Adult Education including life-long earning, critical life skills, vocational skills development, basic education, continuing education, volunteerism, community involvement, etc.

11. Financial literacy and intellectual property rights.
12. Research rooted in Indian Tradition and Culture.
13. Aspiration of 21st Century connecting Indian Tradition with Modern Technology.
14. Link between School Education and Higher Education.
15. Multilingualism
16. Assessment reform
17. Learning-Teaching materials

**Eligibility**

1. Good Academic record with at least 60% marks at both Graduate and Post Graduate Levels.
2. Candidates registered for Ph.D. degree in a recognized university/ or working towards their Ph.D. registration are eligible to apply.
3. Candidates should not be more than 35 years of age as on the last date of receipt of applications.
4. Relaxation for SC, ST & OBC candidate is applicable as per NCERT norms

**Other conditions:**

1. Four out of 10 fellowships are reserved for 4 Regional Institutes of Education (RIEs) one each for Ajmer, Bhopal, Bhubaneswar and Mysore. However, if no candidate from RIEs is found suitable, the fellowship will be offered to other suitable candidates.

2. The fellowships will be limited to extremely deserving candidates only. If suitable candidates are not available, Council may not select all 10 Fellows.

3. Candidate applying for Doctoral Fellowship should have either completed predoctoral research methodology course (RMC) or enrolled/selected for such course for appropriate duration as approved by UGC. The fellowship will start after completion of the RMC and confirmed registration with the University for Ph.D. work.

4. Each Doctoral Fellow will be required to present a seminar at the end of each semester.

5. The NCERT Doctoral Fellow will be required to contribute to the RIE teaching programme, field research and/or the curriculum development and textbook

development programmes of NCERT for 30 days in a year. The Fellow will be provided III AC fare for the travel, and accommodation in the RIE hostel.

6. The Doctoral Fellow will be under obligation to present public lecture on larger issues of public interest relevant to his/her doctoral research work, if so invited. The seminar may be held at RIEs or NCERT headquarter and the fellows will be given the III AC fare for travel for the same. `

7. The candidate will submit with their applications, the CV of the research supervisor which should clearly indicate the research work done by them in the last five years. NCERT reserves the right to advise the candidate to choose a new research supervisor if needed. The candidate may select a supervisor/research guide approved by NCERT.

8. The fellowship of the last three months and contingency of the third year will be released only after receipt of the thesis.

**Selection Procedure**

The Shortlisted candidates will be required to appear for an interview-cum-presentation of the proposals. The final selection will be made on the recommendation of the expert committee constitute for this purpose. Candidates will be paid second (sleeper) class train fare by the shortest route for attending the interview-cum-presentation seminar.

**Reservation of Seats**

The statutory provisions for reservation of seats will be applicable to the candidates belonging to different categories.

**Fellowship Amount**

NCERT Doctoral Fellows will receive a fellowship of Rs.35,000/- per month (for Non-NET) and Rs.37,000/- per month (in case of UGC-NET qualified candidates) for a maximum period of three years. They will also receive a contingency grant of Rs.10,000/- per annum during this period. **The fellowship will commence from the date of joining by the candidate after furnishing the documents of permanent Ph.D. registration and Research Methodology Course (RMC) completion in NCERT** and will terminate at the end of three years from the date of joining or with the submission of the doctoral thesis whichever is earlier.

**Disbursement of Fellowship**

The NCERT will credit the fellowship on a quarterly basis to the savings bank account of the Fellow in State Bank of India. For this, each Fellow will be required to submit a 'Certificate of Attendance and Satisfactory Work Performance' along with progress report to NCERT on a quarterly basis. Release of the quarterly fellowship from second quarter onwards will be subject

to receipt of the said certificate. Annual contingency grant to the extent of actual expenditure incurred but not more than Rs.10,000/- per annum will be credited to the account of the Fellow after receipt and scrutiny of the bills/vouchers submitted by the fellow duly signed and countersigned by the supervisor and Head of the Department.

**Monitoring of Work**

Doctoral Fellows will be required to submit six monthly progress reports duly forwarded by their supervisors/Head of the Department and Research Advisors to NCERT. A Committee of Experts will review the progress. Also a research colloquium will be held annually where, Fellows will present the progress of their research. If the progress of the research is found unsatisfactory, NCERT reserves the right to terminate the fellowship at any point of time.

**Leave Rules**

Leave rules as prescribed in case of UGC Junior Research Fellowship will be applicable.

**No Remunerative Employment during Fellowship**

NCERT Doctoral Fellows will not accept any other remunerative assignment (Scholarship/Temporary/Permanent employment) during the period of fellowship.

**Publication of the Thesis**

After the award of Ph.D. degree, the Doctoral Fellows will be required to submit a hard bound copy of the thesis (along with a pen drive) to NCERT. NCERT will consider publication of the completed research in an appropriate form. The Fellow can apply for permission to publish his/her work elsewhere.

**Application Procedure**

Application should be filled in the prescribed format available on the NCERT website (www.ncert.nic.in). Completed application forms should be accompanied by a concept paper of about 1500 words on the theme of the proposed research, which should contain statements about (a) rationale and objectives of the study, (b) conceptual framework, (c) proposed methodology, and (d) potential contribution of the study. Attested copies of all mark sheets/certificates and proof of Ph.D. registration (if already registered) should also be sent with the application at the following address:

The Head
Division of Educational Research (DER),
NCERT, Sri. Aurobindo Marg,
New Delhi-110016

**Online Procedure**

Application should be filled in the prescribed format available on the NCERT website (www.ncert.nic.in). Only online application will be accepted.

The last date of receiving completed application is one month from the publication of the advertisement in the newspaper and on the NCERT website.

Incomplete application will not be entertained and will be summarily rejected without any intimation.

**National Council of Educational Research and Training, New Delhi**

Application for NCERT Doctoral Fellowship - 2026

Latest Photo

1. Name: Mr./Ms. _____

2. Date of Birth _____(DD/MM/YY)

3.Gender_____

4. Whether belongs to SC/ST/OBC/PH(Attach Certificate)/General category _____

5. Address for Correspondence: _____

_____

_____

Telephone number: _____

E-mail: _____

6. Permanent Address: _____

_____

Mobile Number: _____

7. Mother's/Father's Name: _____

8. Educational Qualifications: (Attach copy of Certificates)

| Examinations passed | Board/University | Year | Subject(s) | Division/ Grade | %age of marks |
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9. (a) Any other qualifications:

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(b) Please mention the course where you have studied Research Methodology and its duration (Attach certificate, if completed Research Methodology Course)

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10. Publications/Presentations:_____

(if any) _____

11. Details of Ph.D. Registration: _____

| Title of the Study | University (with complete address) | Department/ institution | Name and address of the Supervisor with Telephone and email* | Actual/Expected date of registration |
|---|---|---|---|---|
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* Attach detail CV of the Guide.

12. Title of the Concept Paper/PhD Synopsis: _____

13. Priority Areas of Research (as advertised for the fellowship)

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14. Justify, Why did you select this theme for research? (Not exceeding 150 words)

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15. Please describe your strengths and weaknesses in support of your candidature for the fellowship (Not exceeding 150 words).

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Place: Signature of the Candidate
Date:

Certificate from the University/Institution :

The University/institution agrees to provide all facilities to the candidate to pursue doctoral research and also to administer the NCERT Doctoral Fellowship as per its rules.

Place: Head of the Department / Institution

Date: SEAL

Note: Please attach attested copies of all the Mark Sheets, Degree Certificate, Category Certificates (whichever is applicable), Proof of Registration (if already registered), RMC, the Concept Paper/Synopsis in 1500 words and Curriculum Vitae of the Supervisor with the application.