

1. What does CCRAS-PDF stand for, and what is its objective?

CCRAS has initiated the “Post Doctoral Fellowship (PDF)” with the objective of identifying motivated young researchers in Ayurveda and related science disciplines. The program aims to provide them with support for conducting research in frontier areas of Ayurveda and to enhance their academic and research capabilities.

2. Who are eligible to apply under the scheme?

Indian nationals holding a Ph.D./PG degree in Ayurveda or allied sciences disciplines are eligible to apply. Ayurveda candidates must apply within three years of receiving their Ph.D./PG degree, while candidates in allied sciences must apply within three years of receiving their Ph.D. degree.

3. How can an applicant apply for the scheme?

Applicants need to register online on the CCRAS-PDF Portal (pdf.ccras.org.in) during the month of June and December for June and December batch respectively, as applicable. After registration, they can proceed to submit the form, research proposal, and required documents online.

4. Which is the implementing agency of this scheme?

The implementing agency of this scheme is the Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences, Government of India.

5. How many fellowships does CCRAS offer annually under this scheme?

CCRAS intends to offer ten (10) fellowships every year to fresh PhD/PG degree holders in Ayurveda and Ph.D. holders in related science disciplines at reputed organizations.

6. What is the tenure of the CCRAS Post Doctoral Fellowship?

The fellowship is for full-time research work, with a tenure of two years. There is a possibility of extension for one more year based on outstanding performance and recommendation from the Mentor at the University/Institution where the fellow will be working, subject to approval by the Director General, CCRAS.

7. What is the maximum age criterion to apply under the scheme?

The maximum age limit is 40 years, with relaxations up to 5 years for SC/ST/Physically handicapped and women candidates, and up to 3 years for OBC (Non-Creamy Layer) candidates, as of the last date of application.

8. How much will the monthly fellowship be given to the eligible fellows?

CCRAS Post Doctoral Fellows will receive a consolidated fellowship of Indian ₹60,000/- per month along with House Rent Allowance (HRA) as admissible.

9. How much will the contingency grant be paid to the fellows?

An annual contingency grant of ₹3,00,000/- will also be paid to eligible fellow.

10. What is the duration of the fellowship?

The fellowship duration is two years, with the possibility of extension for a maximum of one more year based on outstanding performance, recommendation from the Mentor at the University/Institution/Lab where working, and approval of the Director General, CCRAS.

11. What is the timeline for application submission and selection?

Applications are accepted until the last date of submission, which is 30th June and 31st December for June and December batch respectively, as applicable. Selections occur twice a year, with interviews conducted after shortlisting candidates based on their applications.

12. Can I conduct the same research work for my post-doctoral fellowship that I did during my Ph.D.?

No, the post-doctoral research work should not be identical to your Ph.D. work.

13. Can a fellow engage in paid or honorary employment during the fellowship?

No, any form of paid or honorary, part-time or full-time employment is not permissible during the tenure of the fellowship.

14. What are the priority research areas for CCRAS-PDF?

The Scheme encourages systems research on any subject focusing on following priority areas–

- (a) Network Pharmacology / In-silico study
- (b) Studies on Drug-Drug interaction
- (c) Toxico-genomics
- (d) Pharmaco-Informatics in Ayurveda System of Medicine
- (e) Ayurveda Biology / System Biology
- (f) Validation of Ayurvedic Principles
- (g) Drug development (Pre-clinical/ Clinical studies) for unmet medical needs
- (h) Ayurveda Dietetics and Pharmaco-nutrition
- (i) Development of Ayurveda based Diagnostic tools
- (j) Biomedical Instrumentation
- (k) Argo-techniques and cultivation protocols for RET Species including Good Agricultural and Collection Practices (GACP)
- (l) Bio-informatics/ Digital Technology
- (m) Research on neglected drugs of Rasa Shastra in all respects including preparations of formulations, chemical analysis, Pre-clinical safety & efficacy studies, and genomics safety profile in some drugs, clinical studies etc. and involvement of reputed industries may also be done as per requirement.
- (n) Research on Co-relation of Poorvaroopas with Disease markers.

- (o) Studies on injectable forms of Ayurvedic medicines and exploration of clinical dosage form and uses of classical injectable Ayurvedic medications like Suchikabharana Rasā.

15. What is the remuneration provided for CCRAS Post Doctoral Fellows?

CCRAS Post Doctoral Fellows receive a consolidated fellowship of Indian ₹60,000/- per month along with House Rent Allowance (HRA) as admissible. Additionally, they are granted a research contingency fund of ₹3.00 lakh per annum, subject to the proposal submission and approval process.

16. How can the research contingency grant be utilized?

The contingency grant can be utilized for expenses related to minor equipment, consumables, and domestic or international travel, including per diem expenses. However, there is no provision for manpower support under this scheme. (Refer Annexure-VIII General Guidelines of the Scheme)

17. Is there any restriction on receiving other fellowships during the tenure of the CCRAS Post Doctoral Fellowship?

Yes, fellows are not eligible to receive any other fellowship from any Government or Non-Governmental source during the tenure of the fellowship.

18. What are the selection criteria for the CCRAS Post Doctoral Fellowship?

Eligible candidates need to apply using the prescribed format available on the CCRAS PDF Portal. Selections are made twice a year, in June and December. Shortlisted candidates are called for an interview based on their Project. Selection is based on the presentation of the proposed research project and interview conducted by a specially constituted Committee.

19. Can a student send a Physical copy of his/her Proposal if they unable to submit their Proposal Online successfully?

No, only online proposals will be entertained, and they must be submitted through the PDF portal. Neither physical forms nor proposals forwarded via email will be accepted under any circumstances. Any such proposals, if received, they will get rejected automatically. Students should ensure they have all documents ready before filling out the online application form.

Scanned documents, including the **Application Form, Project Synopsis, U.G Degree Certificate/Provisional Degree Certificate, PG Degree Certificate/Provisional Degree Certificate, Ph.D. Degree Certificate (if applicable), Caste Certificate issued by competent authority (if applicable), Certificate with respect to benchmark disabilities (lower locomotive disability) issued by competent authority (if applicable), and Proof of Identification (Aadhar card/ Voter ID card/ Driving License/ Any Govt. ID), should be submitted in a readable PDF file only. Any other formats, such as MS Word, jpeg/scanned PDF, etc., will not be accepted.**

20. Can the fellowship be utilized for research other than the approved project?

No, the fellowship cannot be utilized for any other research work other than the approved research work mentioned in the Post Doctoral Fellowship proposal.

21. I am about to complete my final year, but I have not yet attended the final exam. Can I apply? (Eligibility)

The eligibility criteria may be referred on PDF website also. Please refer to Answer No. 2 mentioned above.

22. Where may I get my CCRAS PDF ID?

The CCRAS PDF ID will be generated after registration and before document upload. After registration, log in again, go to the 'Add Project' tab, and fill out the form. Once submitted, your PDF ID will be generated. This ID should be used for further proposal submissions or any query-related communication via email.

23. How many Proposals can an applicant submit?

An applicant can submit only one proposal on a selected topic. If an applicant submits more than one proposal, all the proposals will be automatically rejected.

24. What is the ideal manner to prepare a Proposal?

Candidates should submit their research proposal in two parts:

A) Abstract of the research proposal (about 300 words).

B) Detailed research proposal (about 3000 words).

An indicative outline for the detailed research proposal is given below:

1. Title: The research proposal should have a clear, meaningful and concise title reflecting the scope of the investigation.

2. Introduction: The research proposal should begin by clearly stating the research problem to be investigated in the light of its theoretical and/or empirical context in the relevant area.

3. Objectives of the Study: The general aim of the study as well as its specific objectives should be clearly stated in the proposal.

4. Research Questions or Hypothesis: Given the conceptual framework and the specification of dimension, the specific questions to be answered through the proposed research should be sharply formulated. In the case of an explanatory research design, specification of variables and positing of relationship among them through specific hypothesis must form a part of the research proposal.

5. Review of Literature (National & International): The proposal should summarize the current status of research in the area and major findings, including the researcher's own work in the area. Existing empirical findings may also be discussed. The overview should clearly demonstrate the relevance as well as inadequacy of existing findings or approaches and provide a rationale for the proposed study.

6. Research Methodology: The researcher must describe in detail

(a) The scope and coverage of her/his study; and

(b) Approach and methodology with adequate justification. Emphasis should be given to bringing out innovativeness in approaches proposed to be followed. The detailing of the methodology may include research design, data to be collected and empirical and

analytical methods to be used. The description of the methodology must be clearly linked to the aims of the research and the research questions/hypotheses of the study.

7. Relevance and Anticipated Outcomes: The proposal should include a statement on the relevance of the study and the anticipated outcomes. It should bring out the significance of the research problem, the contribution which the proposed study is expected to make to theory and to methodology as well as its practical importance to society and policymaking. It should also describe the proposed outputs from the study (Books, research papers, occasional papers with themes etc.).

8. Tentative Caution: Details cauterization should be clearly spelt out in the research Proposal.

9. Bibliography: Bibliography should be prepared in Chicago Manual Style

25. What is the timeline for joining the fellowship after receiving the award letter?

Selected candidates are required to join the fellowship within one month of receiving the award letter. However, in exceptional circumstances, the DG, CCRAS can extend this period up to six months.

26. What are the terms for the initial sanction and renewal of the fellowship?

The fellowship is initially sanctioned for one year, starting from the scholar's joining date. Six-monthly installments are disbursed upon receiving the prescribed claim bill form (**Annexure-IV**). The renewal for the subsequent year depends on submitting a satisfactory Annual Progress Report (**Annexure-V**), a Statement of Expenditure (**Annexure-VI**), and a Utilization Certificate as per GFR 2017 (**Annexure-VII**). These documents must be approved by the mentor of the working University/Institution/Lab for the entire first-year fellowship.

27. How does the fellowship monitoring occur, and what could prompt its discontinuation?

Monitoring involves the submission of six monthly and annual progress reports by the scholar. Discontinuation may happen due to unsatisfactory research progress or violation of any CCRAS rules. Additionally, scholars may undergo annual presentations or mid-term appraisals. They are also required to publish a minimum of two research papers in peer-reviewed journals related to their research during the fellowship.

28. How many research papers are PDFs required to publish during the fellowship?

PDFs are required to publish a minimum of two research papers in peer-reviewed journals on the theme of their research work during the fellowship.

29. What are the requirements for completion of the fellowship?

Upon completion of the fellowship, scholars are required to submit a book-length final report, a summary of the report, published research papers, and a certificate of settlement of assets and books purchased using the contingency grant.

30. Is there flexibility in the fellowship duration in case of special circumstances?

In special cases such as maternity leave, medical leave, or other extraordinary circumstances (not exceeding six months), the fellowship tenure may be extended. However, the total duration

of the fellowship will not exceed 24 months (36 months in exceptional cases).

31. What are the stipulated conditions for post-doctoral research under the CCRAS fellowship?

The post doctoral research work should not be the same as the Ph.D. work. Fellows are also required to refrain from accepting any other fellowships, research projects, financial benefits, or employment from any institution during the tenure.

32. Can research be conducted outside India during the fellowship?

Research is expected to be conducted full-time in India. However, data collection outside India may be permitted in exceptional cases with approval from the DG, CCRAS.

33. Can I apply if I haven't received my PG/PhD degree certificate yet, but I have received my Provisional degree certificate?

Yes, candidates who haven't received their PG/PhD degree certificate but have received their Provisional degree certificate are also eligible to apply.

34. Whether a mentor can guide two Post Doctoral Fellows in the same year

No, a mentor can guide only one Post Doctoral Fellow in a year. However, no mentor can guide more than two Post Doctoral Fellows within a five-year period.

35. What circumstances may lead to termination of the fellowship by CCRAS?

The DG, CCRAS reserves the right to terminate the fellowship at any stage if appropriate progress is not being made or if the grant has not been utilized properly.

36. What is the jurisdiction for disputes related to the fellowship scheme?

All disputes pertaining to this Scheme fall within the jurisdiction of Delhi only.

37. Where to contact for any queries?

Address: Post Doctoral Fellowship (PDF), Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS), No.61-65, Institutional Area, Opp. 'D' Block, Janakpuri, New Delhi – 110058

Email: ccras.pdf2023@gmail.com

- **Contact: Telephone: 91-011-28525862 / 28525897 / 285258529**

(Extension - 117/103/204/206)

NOTE: The candidates who will be short listed for presentation/interview will be intimated to submit seven original hard signed copies of their research proposal in advance before Presentation.