



Confederation of Indian Industry
125 Years: 1895-2020

SERB-CII PRIME MINISTER'S FELLOWSHIP FOR DOCTORAL RESEARCH

A PPP Initiative of Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB) Department of Science & Technology,
Government of India and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

www.primeministerfellowshipscheme.in

The Prime Minister's Fellowship Scheme for Doctoral Research is a public-private partnership (PPP) between Science & Engineering Research Board (SERB), which is an autonomous body under the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). This scheme is aimed at encouraging young, talented, enthusiastic and result-oriented scholars to take up industry-relevant research.

The government and industry have jointly developed the Prime Minister's Fellowship Scheme to attract talent for doctoral research, nurture leadership qualities in scholars, provide exposure to international best practices & innovations and encourage industrial research in academic institutions.

CII works to create and sustain an environment conducive to the development of India, partnering industry, Government, and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes. CII is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, playing a proactive role in India's development process. Founded in 1895, India's premier business association has around 9000 members, from the private as well as public sectors, including SMEs and MNCs, and an indirect membership of over 300,000 enterprises from around 276 national and regional sectoral industry bodies.

A special scheme for 100 'Doctoral Research Fellowships' every year was announced during the Inception Ceremony of the Indian Science Congress Association, in June 2012 in Kolkata. Vide Prime Minister's Office ID No-3646245/2012-ES-II dated 2 November 2012; the Prime Minister's Office approved the proposal of naming the 'SERB-CII Doctoral Fellowship Scheme' as Prime Minister's Fellowship Scheme for Doctoral Research. Subsequently, the Prime Minister's Fellowship Scheme for Doctoral Research was formally launched, as a public-private partnership (PPP) between SERB and CII at the 'AICTE-CII University-Industry Congress & CII's 4th Global Higher Education Summit' in New Delhi on 8 November 2012. The first batch commenced in 2013.

SERB-CII Prime Minister's Fellowship has the provision to award up to 100 new scholarships every year, of up to appx Rs 10 lakh per annum per candidate as per the current JRF/SRF and HRA slabs. As per the provisions of the scheme, as approved by the Department of Science and Technology, the scholarship will be given for a maximum period of four years, 50 per cent of which will come from the government and 50 per cent from the partner company.

The scheme is open-ended and applications can be submitted through the portal www.primeministerfellowshipscheme.in any time during the course of the year and aspirants can apply anytime within 14 months from their PhD enrolment/ admission.

Fellowships have been conferred to 204 PM Fellows so far with over 80 institutes and more than 150 companies coming together to support the scheme. It is envisaged that this scheme would eventually attract large number of



talented students into pursuing PhD and on changing industry's mind-set in investing in R&D and recruiting more PhDs.



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Fellowship - Framework

- Up to 100 new Fellowships are provided every year.
- 50% of the scholarship comes from SERB [being equivalent to the prevailing Government norms for Junior Research Fellow / Senior Research Fellow (inclusive of HRA)], which can be revised as per the JRF/SRF norms from time to time.
- Rest 50% (matching equivalent of SERB component) comes from the partner company.
- Duration of the Fellowship is four years or completion of PhD, whichever is earlier.
- If selected to receive the Prime Minister's Fellowship for Doctoral Research, the candidate ceases to receive any other scholarship / salary from any other organisation, which he / she may be receiving at the time of enrolling into the scheme.

Highlights

- 204 fellowships conferred till March 2019
- Over 30 crore worth of scholarship has been disbursed to PM Fellows so far by SERB and industry partners under the scheme
- 20+ awards have been conferred to PM Fellows for their papers and presentations at various conferences, within India and overseas
- 45+ patents have been filed by PM Fellows so far

Benefits of the Scheme

Industry

- Gets a full-time researcher dedicated to the chosen project
- Increases its R&D knowledge for competitiveness
- Able to avail tax benefits for investment in R&D
- Able to increase its productivity
- Gets knowledge support from the institute
- Contributes towards making academia industrially sound and encourages mutual co-operation

PhD Scholars

- Get doctoral research on industrially viable topics
- Attain two perspectives on one research project--academic and business context
- Get two types of supervisions--academic guidance and monitoring by the company
- Gain access to advanced company infrastructure and expertise
- Get higher scholarship resulting in better financial viability of pursuing research
- More attraction towards doing PhD and lesser drop-out rates

Academic Institution



students

- Develops its public-private partnership
- Gets new ideas of industry-relevant research
- Gets additional financial support for its PhD



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