

PART I

Chief Minister's NavaKerala Post-Doctoral Fellowships

Govt. of Kerala Department of Higher Education

&

The Kerala State Higher Education Council

Revised Guidelines

The Government of Kerala have introduced the prestigious NavaKerala Post-Doctoral Fellowships scheme for meeting innovation and development needs of the State through promoting quality research spanning sectors like social, economic, agriculture and industry. The scheme envisages 500 individual Post Doctoral fellowships and each one carries an amount ranging from 50,000/- to 1,00000/-per month.

Eligibility Conditions:

- Applicant should be a Keralite in origin and should possess Ph.D. degree in Science, Technology, Social Science, Arts and Humanities. Scholars who are not Keralites but working in research related to Kerala in Universities/Institutions in Kerala.
- Candidates who have submitted their Ph.D. thesis can also apply.
- MD holders in medicine from recognised Universities that are approved by appropriate Councils can apply
- All experts both in India and abroad can apply for these fellowships
- The period of fellowship will be for two years, which may be extended for one more year, if required.
- The upper age limit is 40 years as on the date of notification, with relaxation of five years for women and candidates from other eligible categories.(5 years relaxation will be given to candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC/physically challenged/women/transgender)
- Fellowship amount will be granted based on the progress of the project work.

- Applications shall be accompanied with synopsis of the project proposal.
- Those who have already availed one CMNPF cannot apply.
- The post-doctoral fellowship registration can be done either in departments/centres or schools of the Universities/ Recognised Research Centres and the studies will be undertaken in collaboration with outside hospitals, industries and technical centres.
- To set up laboratory and other facilities, an additional amount of Rs.50000 will be made available subject to requirement.
- Priority of fellowships will be based on the present developmental needs of Kerala especially the following sectors
- In order to explore the possibilities of Ayurveda and eco-diversity, the fellowship may be in the sectors of Bio-Informatics, Computational Biology, Bio Manufacturing, Bio-Processing, Genetic Engineering, Cell and molecular Biology, Systems Biology and Biotechnology.
- Against the backdrop of commercial crops and rubber, polymer science and technology is another priority sector. The composites of bamboo, coir and wood will also be given priority in this sector.
- In view of the major leap in cyber physical digital technologies, sectors such as Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Block Chain, Internet of Things, Machine learning, Big data Analysis, Gaming, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, Digital Security Systems, Geo Spatial Systems, Quantum Technology and Application, Space Technologies, Advanced Materials, Edge Computing etc.
- Based on the major leaps in the scientific branches of genetics and genomics, Genetic Medicine, Stem Cell biology, Medical imaging, Bio Medical Photonics, Medical devices and modelling, Brain Computer interface, epidemiology, Assistive

Technologies, Genomics in medicine, Social Medicine, Public Health, Health Science and Technologies.

- We need to strengthen the search for the alternative possibilities for reducing the use of fossil fuels. In this background, sectors like Energy storage, Fuel cells, E-mobility, Battery technologies, Photo Voltage, Solar, thermal, bio energy modelling, Bio-mass recycling.
- For the all-round development of agricultural sector of Kerala – Food Science and technologies, Food Processing, Land and Water Management, Agricultural Sciences, Veterinary and Fisheries, Organic Farming, Agricultural value-added products, Precision Agriculture, Agriculture drones.
- For facing the challenges of climate change and for scientifically tackling recurring natural calamities – Housing, transport and Infrastructure, Climate Change, Disaster Management, Carbon foot printing, Hydrological Modelling, land slide prediction, Disaster forecasting, Waste recycling, Pollution control.
- Considering the importance of Innovation Sector – Innovation eco systems, Innovation studies, frugal innovation, Innovation Methodologies.
- In order to reinforce the indigenous culture of Kerala, Social equality and cohesion of Kerala – Archaeology and Material culture studies, Migration Studies, Art, history, language, Social studies, ecological laws, Intellectual property rights, Econometric Modelling of Kerala economy, Digital transformation of Kerala Co-operative sector, handling of new generation technologies including fintech.
- Applicants can submit proposals in areas related to Translational Research centres in state universities granted by the government of Kerala. For details regarding Research centres please visit the websites of the universities

How to apply?

Eligible candidates may submit the application in the prescribed format with all relevant documents as prescribed through online mode. An undertaking from Head of any of the recognized Research Centres/Schools of Universities/ Departments stating that they have no objection to allow the PD Fellow to carry out the programme. The candidate may also submit a brief profile in the prescribed format along with the application form. The application should contain mailing address, contact number and e-mail ID. The soft copy of the application must also be sent to heckerala@gmail.com. The hard copy of the application should be sent to The Member Secretary, The Kerala State Higher Education Council, Science and Technology Museum Campus, Vikas Bhavan P.O. Thiruvananthapuram – 695 033

Mode of Selection:

The selection of the Post Doctoral Fellowships under the NavaKerala Scheme from amongst the eligible applications is through a process of evaluation of project proposals by the selection committee. Eminent experts from respective subject domains should be included in the selection committee constituted for the purpose. Subject experts may be included for detailed evaluation if necessary, of project proposals in the respective discipline in which a member of the selection committee will be chaired.

Procedure for submission of Statement of Expenditure and Utilization Certificate:

First year – within three months of completion of project period. Second year, within 6 months. The PD Fellows should submit three copies of the Annual Progress Report and Final Technical Report along with the soft copies within the above mentioned duration.

Periodic Review of the Projects:

Review and monitoring of the progress of the project will be done by the selection committee/subject committee formed for the purpose.

Final Technical Report Evaluation:

The Final Technical Report (FTR) submitted within 6 months after completion of the project shall be evaluated by the selection committee.

Further resolved to constitute Selection Committee for the NavaKerala Post-Doctoral Fellowships.

Selection Committee:

Chief Minister's NAVAKERALA Post-Doctoral Fellowships are intended for the promotion of original research in interdisciplinary issues relating to REBUILD KERALA involving the primacy of sustainability, equity and resilience. Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC), authorised to administer the Fellowships, has identified ten experts of international reputation in their fields to be Chair Persons of the following Areas of Knowledge. They will chair the Committee of academics, who matter in the Area concerned as specialists of convergence research. These specialists would be invited under the direction of the Chairperson concerned and on demand, as the specialization involved in the research proposals requires.

Part II
The Chief Minister's NAVAKERALA Post-Doctoral Fellowships
Progress Monitoring and Assessment Guidelines

These guidelines are in continuation of the Revised Guidelines issued primarily regarding the eligibility conditions for application and mode of selection for Post Doctoral Fellowships. These guidelines incidentally and briefly indicate only certain procedures after the award of the Fellowship, such as periodic reviews, monitoring and evaluation etc. As the procedures for the same are too general, certain set of specific Guidelines of Monitoring and Assessment require to be formulated. These guidelines are supplementary to the Revised Guidelines and should be applied in conjunction with them.

As originally notified, the Chief Minister's NavaKerala Post-Doctoral Fellowship (CMNPF) has been instituted so specifically as to lead the research inevitably to the production of original knowledge relevant to the Rebuild Kerala Project (RKP). As already notified the research under the CMNPF shall address multidisciplinary and appreciably interdisciplinary/trans-disciplinary issues such as sustainability, equity and resilience. Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC), which is authorised to administer the Fellowships, has identified experts of international reputation to be Chairpersons of the various Areas of Knowledge.

Accordingly, the selection of suitable researchers for the Fellowship has involved strict administration of higher order criteria insisting upon academic brilliance, research excellence and potential proposals to deliver the goods. Hardly does all this alone guarantee quality output contributing to RKP. Hence appropriate conditions of CMNPF are to be stipulated, an Expert Committee (EC) is to be constituted, and a mandatory Progress Monitoring and Assessment System (PMAS) is to be created for ensuring the attainment of the objective of the CMNPF.

1. Conditions of CMNPF

Guidelines/ Terms and Conditions are subject to modifications by the Council based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee.

- I. The CMNPF is a non-renewable Fellowship granted conditionally for a period of two years, reckoned with the date of inception which is to be within a period six months from the date of the award.
- II. The Fellowship Amount is rupees Fifty Thousand during the first year and rupees One Lakh during the second year subject to the conditions stipulated thereof.
- III. The Fellowship amount shall be remitted by the KSHEC directly to the Bank Account of the CMNP Fellow with intimation to the Head of the Institution and Mentor.
- IV. The Department/Centre/Institution, where the CMNP Fellow conducts research shall cooperate with the KSHEC to ensure a hassle free institutional environment by preventing cumbersome procedures and bureaucratic control.
- V. Salaried candidates shall be allowed to choose either the Scheme of the protection of the pay and allowances, if eligible, or the Fellowship Amount, whichever is more advantageous to the Awardee. The Awardees shall be granted study leave with their service benefits protected subject to the Government orders.
- VI. PMAS shall be the assessment tool with which the performance of the CMNP Fellow would be measured.
- VII. An EC shall be entrusted with the responsibility of PMAS.
- VIII. Every CMNP Fellow shall be required to undergo a short-term Orientation Course before starting the Project as may be intimated by the KSHEC.
- IX. Each CMNP Fellow shall identify and benchmark stages appropriate for the proposed research progress and agree upon to attain them within the duration of the stage without fail.

- X. Every CMNP Fellow shall be required to execute an agreement that he/she would attain the benchmarked goals of each stage within the stipulated duration.
- XI. Irrespective of the stage of progress it shall be mandatory for the researcher to submit in the prescribed format a Self Assessment Report on the Progress (SARP) attained during the first six months.
- XII. CMNP Fellows shall be required to submit the SARP by using the Six Monthly Assessment Questionnaire (SMAQ) designed for the purpose.
- XIII. The SARP shall be uploaded online to the portal of the KSHEC site within ten days of the CMNP Fellow's completion of the first six months of the Fellowship.
- XIV. Continuation of the Fellowship after the first six months shall depend upon the EC's recommendation under the PMAS.
- XV. PMAS Committee's recommendation is mandatory for the KSHEC to continue disbursing the Fellowship.
- XVI. In the event of the Committee's disapproval of an CMNP Fellow's claims of progress in the first SARP, the Fellowship would be suspended until the attainment of the target within the next three months. On attainment such CMNP Fellows would be reimbursed the Fellowship including the arrears.
- XVII. Only those CMNP Fellows who satisfactorily attain the avowed goals postulated against each stage shall be eligible for the continuation of the Fellowship.
- XVIII. Contribution of intellectual property by way of copyright, trademarks and patents as common property is the primary output expected from each CMNP Fellow.
- XIX. CMNP Fellows shall be supported to participate in academic conferences/seminars if their supervisors/mentors certify that such participation will contribute to the Project. Payment shall be in the form of reimbursement as per rules regarding TA and DA.

- XX. CMNP Fellows shall be considered for partial financial support for overseas conferences relating to the Project if they are invited with hospitality and recommended by the supervisor/mentor as well as the EC. Payment shall be in the form of reimbursement.
- XXI. Details of funding received in support of the Project from external bodies if any either prior to, during or subsequent to the award of Fellowship must be reported in writing to the Government through the KSHEC within six weeks of its receipt.
- XXII. CMNP Fellows may publish their findings with due acknowledgement of the Fellowship and the source of Funding (Government of Kerala) and with the consent of the supervisor.

2. The Committee of Experts (EC)

The KSHEC shall constitute an EC consisting mainly of locally available but leading Academics representing domains of sciences, social sciences and humanities, and chaired by one among them. The Committee shall meet at least once in three months for a critical appraisal of research progress in the CMNP Projects.

3. Responsibilities of EC

- I. To regularly monitor and critically appraise the progress of the CMNP Projects and render appropriate advice.
- II. To seek external experts' opinion regarding progress of research in themes of rare specialization, if necessary.
- III. To meet periodically and discuss the measures to be adopted for ensuring hassle free research environment for the CMNP Projects in the Department/Centre/ Institution concerned.
- IV. To facilitate the successful completion of CMNP Projects by making sure the prevalence of suitable ambience in the Institution concerned as well as outside the

Institution to carry out the activities approved by the Committee as part of the Project's research protocol.

- V. To create awareness regarding research methodology, ethical issues, biosafety practices, and any other information relevant to the CMNP Projects.
- VI. To make sure ethical, scientific and professional standards of research by joining the KSHEC in assuring the cooperation of the Institution concerned.
- VII. To facilitate presentation of their research outputs in the proper scientific forum, workshops, conferences, etc., and publication of their discoveries and inventions in refereed journals of high impact.