



Directorate of Environment & Climate Change Government of Kerala

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Specific Guidelines of ‘Ujjwal’ Post Doctoral Fellowship under Climate Change Scheme

Directorate of Environment & Climate Change (DoECC) under the Department of Environment is established with an aim to coordinate all the environment and climate change related activities in the State. Climate change poses a grave challenge to the sustainability of social and economic development, livelihoods of communities, and environment management in Kerala. India has pursued a strong domestic agenda to counter climate change while engaging constructively with the international community in advancing actions to address this global challenge. Over the years, our country has pursued major domestic policies and schemes in areas of climate change mitigation and adaptation actions, particularly in the fields of water and soil conservation, carbon neutral, clean and renewable energy, enhancement of energy efficiency, development of less carbon-intensive and resilient urban development, promotion of waste to wealth, electric vehicles, etc. Even though the signs of climate change are visible across State, still it has not been considered as a major issue in the planning and implementation of State policies and programmes.

The Plan Scheme ‘Climate Change’ of DoECC focuses on projects related to scientific and technological interventions for climate change mitigation and adaptation in different sectors, conservation and management of natural resources, to attain sustainable developmental goals, sustainable livelihoods, etc.

The ‘Ujjwal Fellowship’ is a new initiative to promote Post Doctoral Research in climate change mitigation and adaptation, climate projections, climate change vulnerability analysis on different sectors, ecosystem based risk assessments, socio-economic impacts especially on vulnerable communities, etc. The main objective of the Post Doctoral Fellowship (PDF) programme is to encourage and retain young Ph.D. scholars with high potential and promise for conducting full time research on specific themes and issues related to climate change. Such studies are

expected to contribute to theoretical and conceptual advancement in different aspects; help to generate field work based empirical data and contribute towards policy making. This may also helpful to develop technical and leadership skills in developing their career as efficient scientists.

Application process (How to Apply)

The applications shall be invited each year and the same will be notified in the DoECC website; Other institutions and affiliates shall be encouraged to replicate it on their websites.

Interested candidates shall submit the application on prescribed format as indicated in the DoECC website.

It is mandatory that the applicant has awarded a Ph.D. degree. It is also necessary to obtain the concurrence of the mentor to accept the applicant as a postdoctoral fellow. The proposed mentor must have at least three Ph.D. students guided/supervised towards successful completion of the Ph.D. work. The application will be processed further on satisfying these requirements.

The Technical Committee in the Directorate evaluate the applications and grade them accordingly. On the basis of the grades received from the technical committee, the Directorate will make the final announcements. Since this is a promotional scheme to inculcate postdoctoral research culture, emphasis during the review process/selection will be on an appropriate mix of the candidate's accomplishment at the Ph.D. level and the professional standing of mentor and institution where the postdoctoral research is to be carried out. In general, candidates would be encouraged to move to other institutions and newer areas of research.

The technical committee review process is expected to be completed typically within four months from the last date for submission of application. The result shall be notified in the DoECC website. No interim enquiries will be entertained within this period. The Ujjwal Fellowship has a State-wide flavor and is restricted to natives of the State.

The following should be noted before applying for the Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme:

- (1) These fellowships are open to candidates who have obtained Ph.D. degree and meant for full-time research work.

- (2) The fellowships are open to young researchers below the age of 40 years.
- (3) The fellowships are tenable at Science/ Social Sciences Departments (including Medical & Engineering Sciences) at Universities/Institutions in the State which are eligible to receive developmental grants.
- (4) Candidates should have published at least two research publications in Science Citation Indexed Journals or one patent.
- (5) In general, the postdoctoral work should be undertaken in a place different from where the candidate has carried out his/her Doctoral studies and the PhD guide of the candidate cannot be chosen as his/her mentor for this programme.
- (6) It is necessary to identify a Mentor with whom the candidate would like to work for his/her postdoctoral research.
- (7) The mentor should have at least three Ph.D. students guided/supervised towards successful completion of the Ph.D. work. In addition, the Mentor should have more than four years of service period at the time of submission of the Application. In case of Mentors who would be superannuating during the Postdoctoral Fellowship Programme tenure, association of a qualified "in service" Faculty should be ensured. In such cases, the Institute Authorities should inform to the Directorate, well in advance, about their "no objection" for providing the infrastructural facilities to the new Mentor.
- (8) Candidates who have awarded Ujjwal Fellowship once are not eligible to apply again.
- (9) Candidate should bring a consent letter from the mentor along with the application which express his/ her willingness to guide the applicant's postdoctoral work

The financial assistance

- The tenure of the award is three years with no provision for further extension
- The Post Doctoral Fellowship comprises a monthly grant @Rs.38,500/- plus 10% H.R.A for the first year, @Rs.41,500/- plus 10% H.R.A for the second year, and @Rs.46,500/- plus 10% H.R.A

for the third year; and an annual contingent grant @Rs.50,000/- plus Rs. 20,000/- as travel grant.

- The fellowship also covers Escorts/Reader assistance @ Rs. 2,000/- per mensem (fixed) in cases of Person with disability.

Thrust Areas of Ujjwal Postdoctoral Research

Under this Programme, proposals may be considered in the following thrust areas or according to the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the commissioned proposals or by the requirement of DoECC in serving the policy / planning needs of the State.

- Climate change monitoring and evaluation
- Climate change impact on Health, Fisheries, Water Resources, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Forest and Biodiversity, Soil, Transportation, Tourism and Industry, Coastal and Wetland ecosystems
- Climate change and Air quality
- Climate change Economics and Modeling
- Climate change Mitigation/Adaptation
- Risk Assessment and Vulnerability Analysis
- Projection models on water scarcity, drought, heat waves, etc.
- Vegetation dynamics and climate change

Selection Criteria

The application shall be submitted in the given format with detailed project proposal, timelines and milestones, expected output and outcome.

Screening: The applications will be examined in the Directorate to determine whether or not they conform to one or more of the identified thrust areas of the Directorate. Weak, incomplete, diffused, repetitive and/or superfluous proposal(s) will be rejected at this stage.

Evaluation and Selection: The applicants, whose proposals found feasible and complete in all respect will be invited for making presentations before the Technical Committee. Selection of the proposals received will be made only on the basis of technical evaluation of the proposals and implementing credentials of the proposed researcher. No TA/DA will be paid to the Applicant for attending the interview/presentation

The review committee should, inter alia, assess the following:

- a) Expected and other physical output and outcome of the project

- b) Cost-benefit analysis in terms of the physical outputs and environmental benefits
- c) Minimum required tenure of the project
- d) Modalities for replication of the outputs
- e) No duplication with completed / existing /ongoing projects

Approval and Sanction: It would be the endeavor of the Directorate to complete the award appraisal cycle in three to six months from the date of receipt of invited and commissioned proposals. Based upon the recommendations of the Technical Committee, the applications will be placed before the Director for approval and award of the Fellowship as per the availability of funds under the scheme. The applicant has to submit a consent letter and willingness to undertake the project with the sanctioned fellowship and objectives. A formal Award Letter will be released on receipt of the consent letter.

After the issue of the Directorate order and subsequent execution of a tri-party agreement, administration will take steps to effect the payment. Copies of the Proceedings regarding the issuance of fund will be sent to the Postdoctoral Fellow, Mentor and all concerned.

Release of Funds

The applicant institution will need to execute a tri-party agreement undertaking as acceptance of the terms and conditions for providing facilities to the Postdoctoral Fellow as per the guidelines and conditions prescribed. After receipt of the undertaking, the first year installment of funds will be released to the joint TSB account created in the name of the Postdoctoral Fellow and Mentor of the Host Institution. While first year installment will be released as envisaged above, subsequent ones will be released on request and the appraisal of the Annual Progress Report by the Technical Committee of DoECC and submission of Utilization Certificate (in KFC Form 44) and detailed Expenditure Statement of the funds released. Total funds will be released in 5 installments (in the order of yearly basis for the 1st two installments, half yearly basis for the third installment and quarterly for the last 2 installments) according to the progress of research and recommendation by the Technical Review Committee. Before requesting the 4th installment, the Fellow has to submit a draft Technical Report before the Technical Committee for evaluation. The last installment will be released only on receipt of the Final Technical Report and its appraisal by the Screening/Evaluation Committee, based on their recommendations.

All correspondence is to be addressed to

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