



Directorate of Environment & Climate Change Government of Kerala

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

The Directorate of Environment & Climate Change (DoECC) under the Department of Environment has been established 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.

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) program is to encourage and retain young Ph.D. scholars with high potential and promise to conduct 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 help 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 on the DoECC website; Other institutions and affiliates shall be encouraged to replicate it on their websites.

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

It is mandatory that the applicant has been 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 toward 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. Based on 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 the 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 the application. The result shall be notified on the DoECC website. No interim inquiries will be entertained within this period. The Ujjwal Fellowship is restricted to natives of the Kerala 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 are 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 Ph.D. guide of the candidate cannot be chosen as his/her mentor for this program.
- (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 the 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 the 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 the Directorate, well in advance, about their "no objection" to providing the infrastructural facilities to the new Mentor.
- (8) Candidates who have been 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 expresses 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 a travel grant.

- The fellowship also covers Escorts/Reader assistance @ Rs. 2,000/- per mensem (fixed) in cases of a Person with a 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 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
- Range shift of fauna with emphasis on amphibians, birds, and butterflies due to climate change.

Selection Criteria

The application shall be submitted in the given format with a 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 are found feasible and complete in all respects will be invited to make presentations before the Technical Committee. Selection of the proposals received will be made only based on the 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: The Directorate would endeavor 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 upon receipt of the consent letter.

After the issue of the Directorate order and subsequent execution of a tri-party agreement, the administration will take steps to effect the payment. Copies of the Proceedings regarding the issuance of funds 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 PSTSB account of the Host Institution. While the 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 recommendations 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 upon 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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