

### Guidelines for Joining ICMR -JRF

<b>1.</b>	<i>Send the willingness letter to ICMR, if you wish to avail the ICMR JRF after issue of Award letter. Find placement under a suitable Guide and submit the following documents (listed in point no. 2) within 12 months of issue of ICMR-JRF Award letter, duly sealed and forwarded by the Guide, Candidate should carryout research in the area of ICMR Health Research.</i>
<b>2.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Joining report (original copy) mentioning exact date of joining (indicating forenoon/ afternoon), recent photo duly signed and seal/rubber stamp (Guide) and Head of the Institute's name (format enclosed).</li> <li>b. <b>PhD Enrollment letter</b> from the Institute/University through Guide</li> <li>c. Mandate Form (format enclosed)- ICMR will release all funds to the Head of Institute Only (clearly mention to whom funds may be released <i>i.e.</i> Registrar/Director/Dean/Principal/others, please specify).</li> <li>d. ICMR JRF Application Form (format enclosed).</li> <li>e. Candidate availing the hostel facilities in the Institute/any other Institution will not be eligible for HRA. A Certificate to this effect may be furnished by hostel accommodation authority of the Institute in prescribed format (format enclosed).</li> <li>f. Undertaking of the fellow for ICMR JRF/SRF (format enclosed).</li> </ul>
<b>3.</b>	<i>In the event of the JRF leaving before completing one year, he/she will be required to refund the stipend drawn by him/her from the date of joining to the date of leaving the fellowship.</i>
<b>4.</b>	<i>The fellow will not be allowed transfer from one institution to another after completion of one year as a JRF, except in special circumstances with the prior approval of the DG, ICMR only. No Travel Allowance (TA) from the contingency will be paid as a result of such a transfer.</i>
<b>5.</b>	<i>Submit registration certificate for the Ph.D. degree within one year from the date of joining.</i>
<b>6.</b>	<i>Submit the following by 10 month of joining</i>
	a. First Annual Report (format enclosed)
	b. Statement of Accounts/Expenditures duly forwarded by concerned administrative authority (format enclosed)
<b>7.</b>	<i>Submit the following by 22 month of joining</i>
	a. <b>Ph.D. Registration certificate from the concerned University/Institute.</b>
	b. Second Annual Report (format enclosed).
	c. Up-gradation letter from JRF to SRF, duly recommended and forwarded by the Guide and recommended, forwarded and signed by Institutional Committee Members including One external member (obligatory) in the field (format enclosed).
	d. Statement of Accounts/Expenditures duly forwarded by concerned administrative authority.
<b>8.</b>	<i>Submit the following after 2 years and 10 months of joining</i>
	a. Third Annual Progress Report (format enclosed).
	b. Statement of Accounts/Expenditures duly forwarded by concerned accounts authority. (format enclosed)
<b>9.</b>	<i>Submit in the final year /completing (4<sup>th</sup> &amp; 5<sup>th</sup>) year</i>
	a. Summary of Ph.D. thesis (hard copy) through Guide, full thesis may be sent in CD.
	b. Ph.D. Degree (attested copy), Research Papers published from the thesis, with due acknowledgement to ICMR in thesis and papers.
	c. Final Statement of Accounts / Expenditures duly forwarded by concerned administrative authority. (format enclosed)

**NOTE:**

1. Annual Utilization Certificate is needed from April to March each financial year
2. No change in the Title of the Project is permitted after submission of 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Report
3. Detailed Fellowship Rules and Regulations enclosed

*Please follow these rules and regulations strictly, as failure of submitting reports and documents in time will be subjected to termination of the fellowship by ICMR.*



## **JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (JRF) RULES**

### **1. ACTIVATION OF ICMR-JRF**

#### **Activation of Fellowship**

The fellowship can be activated after joining/enrolling for Ph.D. programme in any Indian University/Institute. Candidate is given two years time for securing registration in Ph.D. from the date of issue of ICMR-JRF award letter, beyond which the fellowship will lapse. Candidates who are already enrolled for Ph.D. programme can activate the fellowship from the date of issue of award letter.

The Ph.D. Registration certificate is required to be submitted within two years from the date of joining the fellowship. If the Ph.D. registration document is failed to be submitted at the end of two years, the fellowship will be immediately terminated after completion of two years.

#### **Procedure:**

- 1.1 Candidates who have been selected in the JRF examination conducted by ICMR are eligible to apply for the JRF. The applications have to be submitted on the prescribed form to: The Director General,  
(Attention: Head, HRD), Indian Council of Medical Research, V. Ramalingaswami Bhawan, Ansari Nagar, Post Box 4911, New Delhi-110029
- 1.2 The applicants must fulfill the following conditions:
  - 1.2.1 The applications should be sent through the Guide and the Head of the Institute where the applicant proposes to work. If employed, a certificate from his/her employer to accept the fellowship should be submitted. The Ph.D. Enrollment letter should also be submitted through Guide.
  - 1.2.2 The applicant should not draw any stipend or salary or be in receipt of any other type of financial assistance except leave salary during the fellowship. A certificate to this effect must be furnished by the applicant is proposed to be carried out during the fellowship must be submitted with the application.
  - 1.2.3 A detailed plan of work, (two copies), for a specific time bound research project on which research will be conducted should be submitted through Guide
  - 1.2.4 The problem to be studied should be well defined. It should relate to a particular aspect of a problem and not be of a general nature and should be capable of completion within the fellowship period.
  - 1.2.5 The plan of work must be prepared, as defined in the application form. A Statistician should be consulted for the preparation of the plan of work, where considered necessary.
  - 1.2.6 The Guide under whose guidance the work will be carried out should certify that the research plan has been prepared in consultation with him/her, and in consultation with a Statistician where considered necessary, and that he/she has examined the scheme and approves the plan of work and that he/she is willing to guide and direct the research work proposed therein.
  - 1.2.7 The Head of the Institution, where research work will be carried out, must certify that full equipments, laboratory and other facilities are available in the Institution for the proposed work and these will be made available to the applicant. It should be noted that no funds shall be provided for the purchase of equipments or non-expendable articles of use. In addition, the Academic Council or equivalent committee of the Institute must recommend the project proposal.
  - 1.2.8 All projects involving human beings/animals must be cleared by the Ethics Committee/animal ethical committee of the Institute.
  - 1.2.9 IEC approval for the project work proposed should have been obtained in time, to avoid unnecessary delays in starting the research work and submission of annual progress reports in

time and to avoid delay in release of the fellowship amount and terminations. ICMR is not responsible for the administrative and institutional delays for doctoral committee meetings, IEC meetings.

## **2. EMOLUMENTS/REMUNERATION: (w.e.f. 01.01.2019 as per order no. 16/139/2014-Admin.II)**

2.1 The duration of fellowship will initially be limited to two years as JRF subsequently, if SRF upgradation report is submitted after completion of two years then SRF remuneration will be paid accordingly as given below:

2.2 The following remuneration will be paid to the Fellow:

### **2.2.1 Junior Research fellow (JRF)**

1<sup>st</sup> year Rs. 31,000/-

2<sup>nd</sup> year Rs. 31,000/-

### **2.2.2 Senior Research Fellow (SRF)- if upgradation report is submitted after completion of two years**

3<sup>rd</sup> year Rs. 35,000/-

4<sup>th</sup> year Rs. 35,000/-

5<sup>th</sup> year Rs. 35,000/-

2.3 The selected candidate may join the fellowship within one year (as mentioned in the award letter) after declaration of results.

## **3. CONTINGENT GRANT:**

3.1 Rs. 20,000/- per annum (w.e.f. 01.04.2008)

3.2 The Contingent grant can be utilized only for the following purposes:

3.2.1 Acquisition of books and documents of relevance to the research topic including reprints/off prints provided these are not available in the library of the University/Institution. The requisition in this regard must be recommended by the Supervisor and approved by the Head of the Department. The books will become the property of the University/Institution's Library after purchase and may be issued to the Supervisor/.Fellow after accession for use by the indenting Fellow till the end of the fellowship. Normally, not more than 25% of the total annual contingent grant can be utilized for this purpose.

3.2.2 Towards meeting actual train fare and Distance Allowance (DA). During tours, the Fellow will be entitled to TA/DA as admissible in case of government servants drawing basic pay equivalent to the stipend. The calculation of the daily allowance will be made from the date of commencement of the journey to the date the Fellow returns to the headquarters.

3.2.3 Petty expenditure for purchase of chemicals, reagents, stationery postal charges, registration fee for attending scientific conferences.

3.2.4 Charges for typing a thesis limited to up to 10 % of the contingent grant.

3.2.5 Photographic materials for research or thesis work.

3.2.6 Computation charges.

### **NOTE:**

1. No non-expendable articles except those listed in 3.2.1 or equipment can be purchased out of the grant.
2. Contingent Grant cannot be utilized for foreign travel or other expenses for visit abroad.

## **4. TENURE:**

4.1 The tenure for the JRF will be two/three years. The duration of a SRF will be for a maximum of three years. **JRF is generally for first two years. Only after successful assessment by the Review Committee, JRF may be upgraded as SRF after 22 months of commencement of work either on the date when Review Committee meets but not before completion of two years. And SRF is generally for three years or submission of Ph.D. whichever is earlier.**

However, total duration is five years. The fellowship can be terminated at any time on a month's notice if the Annual Progress Report (APR) is not satisfactory or failure of submission of up-

gradation report on time or on receipt of adverse reports from the Guide. In the event if the fellow leaves before completing one year, he/she may be required to refund the stipend drawn by him/her from the date of joining to the date of leaving the fellowship.

- 4.2 The fellowship can be terminated at any time on a month's notice by ICMR if the progress of work is not satisfactory or on receipt of an adverse report from the Guide.
  - 4.2.1 The fellowship can also be terminated forthwith if the particulars given in the application form for fellowship are found to be incorrect or false.
  - 4.2.2 The Council also reserves the right to terminate fellowship forthwith without assigning any reason.
- 4.3 The first assessment shall be made at the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> year. The second assessment shall be made at the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> year.
- 4.4 If the Guide finds the work satisfactory the JRF shall be upgraded to Senior Research Fellow (SRF) for a period of another 3 years.
- 4.5 Each Fellow shall submit the following after 22 months of joining the Fellowship:
  - i) Ph.D. Registration certificate
  - ii) Second Annual Report
  - iii) Up-gradation letter from JRF to SRF, duly recommended and forwarded by the Guide and recommended, forwarded and signed by Institutional committee members including external members in the field. Up-gradation report should be submitted upon completion of 22 months as a JRF and if delayed due to unavoidable circumstances, like administrative delay with a valid reason, before completing three years of fellowship. **Failure to submit the Ph.D. registration document and up-gradation report as mentioned above will lead to termination of the fellowship after completing two years as JRF.**
  - iv) Statement of account/Expenditure duly forwarded by concerned administrative authority.
- 4.6 If the progress is not found satisfactory, and **up-gradation report is not submitted maximum within three years, then the Fellow may be allowed to continue for one more year as JRF after the second year and then his/her fellowship will be terminated at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> year.** The local Institution/Guide shall review his/her case in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year and make a recommendation whether extension for another year should be given. The final decision on grant of extension shall vest in the Director General, ICMR.
- 4.7 In the event of the JRF leaving before completing one year, he/she will be required to refund the stipend drawn by him/her from the date of joining to the date of leaving the fellowship.

## **5. ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL**

- 5.1 The Fellow will not be treated as an employee of the ICMR.
- 5.2 The Fellow will be under the administrative control of the Institution where he/she works and will be subject to the Rules and Regulations of the Institute concerned.
- 5.3 The service of the Fellow will be terminated on the conclusion of the Fellowship.

## **6. LEAVE:**

- 6.1 **In reference to ICMR Order no. 16/139/2014-Admin.II dated 11.06.2019, all ICMR-JRF/SRF are only eligible to avail casual leaves i.e. eight (08) Casual leaves as per ICMR rules.**
- 6.2 During the first year of fellowship or any uncompleted year, leave can be granted on *pro-rata* basis.
- 6.3 Sanction of leave without stipend can be considered by ICMR under special circumstances.
- 6.4 Participation of JRF/SRF in scientific event/workshops held in India or abroad will be treated as "on duty" with due approval of the host institution.
- 6.5 Maternity leave as per the Govt. of India instructions issued from time to time would be available to all female JRF/SRF candidates.
- 6.6 The fellowship amount for leave period will be paid after the Fellow resumes duty and submits a leave application/medical certificate in support of actual confinement. It is expected that the Fellow will make up the deficiency during the remaining tenure.
- 6.7 Leave without fellowship can be granted up to one month in a year.

6.8 No other kind of leave such as sick leave will be admissible. Fellows are not entitled to the vacation normally admissible to the regular staff of an Institution.

**NOTE:**

1. Leave will be treated as a part of the tenure of fellowship.
2. In the case of conversion of fellowship to another category leave can be carried forward.

**7. OTHER ADMISSIBLE BENEFITS**

**7.1 HRA & Medical Benefits:**

7.1.1 All Research Fellows may be allowed hostel accommodation in the parent institute wherever available and those residing in hostel provided by parent institute OR hostel by other University/Institute will not be eligible for HRA.

7.1.2 Medical benefits will be allowed to a Fellow as per the rules of the Institution where they are working. ICMR will not bear any financial burden in this regard.

**7.2 Leave Salary and Other Service Benefits:**

7.2.1 A Fellow will be eligible for the casual leave & maternity leave as per Govt. rules (see point no. 6 above).

**8. IN-ADMISSIBLE BENEFITS**

8.1 Fellows are not entitled for DA, CCA, Bonus and LTC.

**9. ANNUAL REPORTS and Ph.D. THESIS SUBMISSION:**

9.1 **The Fellow shall submit annual reports and up-gradation report only as per the prescribed standard ICMR proforma. (Annexure-VI)**

9.2 The first annual report should be submitted after 10 months from the date of commencement of the fellowship, giving complete factual details of the research work done, through the Guide along with his/her appraisal.

9.3 Subsequent annual report as per the standard pro-forma shall be submitted through the Guide two months before the completion of fellowship year.

9.4 Further continuation of fellowship for each year will depend upon the progress of work.

9.5 Failure to submit report in time may necessitate the termination of fellowship. Two copies of the final report, duly typed clearly, as per standard pro-forma, of the work done during the tenure of fellowship, will be submitted in the last month before the completion of termination of fellowship.

9.6 A list of the papers published or presented at a Scientific Conference during the term of the fellowship should also be furnished in the annual and final reports.

9.7 The work done can be utilized for submission of thesis for a degree after obtaining prior approval of the Director General, ICMR. Due acknowledgement to the ICMR, should, however, be given in all papers published from the Ph.D. work.

9.8 The final summary of thesis (hard copy) is required to be submitted to ICMR upon completion of the degree through Guide, with due acknowledgment given to ICMR in the Ph.D. thesis. Soft copy of Complete thesis is to be submitted in a CD.

**10. PAYMENT OF FUNDS**

10.1 The ICMR will pay the fellowship stipend and the contingent grant to the Head of the Institute for disbursement to the Fellow. The University/Institution shall be responsible for proper utilization of the grant and for rendition of accounts to ICMR.

10.2 The payment of stipends and contingent expenditure will be governed by the following procedure:

10.2.1 Grant to cover fellowship stipend and contingencies for the Fellow will be paid to the Head of the Institutions in four quarterly installments. The first installment will be released as soon as a report, duly forwarded by the Guide is received regarding the assumption of charge by the Fellow.

10.2.2 At the end of every 3 months from the date of commencement of the fellowship, a simple statement of expenditure incurred from the previous installment and a demand for the next

installment will be sent to the Council. The next installment will be released only on receipt of a statement of expenditure for the previous installment.

- 10.2.3 The last three months grants stipend, contingency & HRA may be release after received the certificate of submission of Ph.D. Thesis.
- 10.2.4 A separate receipts and payments account will be maintained by the Institution. The accounts will be subject to audit by the authorized auditors of the Institution. At the end of the financial year, an audited statement of account along with the utilization certificate shall be sent to the ICMR.
- 10.2.5 Further grants will be stopped unless audited statements of accounts and utilization certificates are received within a period of one year after the end of the financial year for which the grant was sanctioned/released.
- 10.2.6 Any unspent balance out of the grant paid by the ICMR will be refunded in full to the ICMR.
- 10.2.7 The Head of the Institution & Guide will, in the matter of payment of stipend and incurring of contingent expenditure, strictly observe the terms and conditions under which the fellowship is awarded.

## **11. TRAVEL**

- 11.1 The ICMR may approve tours of Fellows for the following purposes
- Attending symposium/seminar/conference provided the fellow is presenting a paper, which has been accepted by the organizers of the symposium/seminar/conference.
  - Fieldwork connected with the research project
- 11.2 The travel entitlement for JRF/SRF for participation in scientific events/workshops in India will continue to be the same as earlier *i.e.* 2<sup>nd</sup> AC by rail.
- 11.3 The expenditure on above accounts will be met from the contingent grant sanctioned to the Fellow.

## **12. TRANSFER OF FELLOWSHIP**

- 12.1 The fellow should carefully choose the host Institution, guide/supervisor, availability of necessary infrastructural and other facilities etc. to carry out his/her research work before joining. **Request for transfer of fellowship will not be entertained after completing one year as JRF in a particular institution/organization**, except on compelling circumstances for which the fellow & his/her guide should submit proper justification prior to transferring the fellowship, which is up to the Competent Authority of ICMR to review and approve for the same.
- 12.2 In case of transfer within one year, the 'No Objection' Certificate should also be produced by the fellow from supervisor & Head of Department of University/Institute from where transfer is sought and consent of the guide/host Institute where fellowship is sought to be transferred by giving reasons of transfer.
- 12.3 No fellow will be allowed to join another Institute without seeking prior approval from ICMR. If the candidate leaves the parent Institute/University and joins elsewhere without approval of ICMR, his/her fellowship will be terminated from the date of resignation of his institution/organization where he joined initially. ONLY in special circumstances, the fellowship may be transferred with the prior approval of the DG, ICMR. No T.A. will be paid as a result of such a transfer.

## **13. TEMPORARY DROPPINGS FOR TEACHING or RESEARCH WORK:**

- 13.1 A Research Fellow on the recommendation of Guide, and provided that his/her University/Institute has no objection, may be permitted by ICMR to take up temporary paid lectureship/research job in a recognized R&D Institution/University, College/Institute of repute/Recognized R & D Institution/ PDF studies in India & abroad for a period not exceeding one year during the entire tenure of the Fellowship (JRF & SRF together).
- 13.2 **The Research Fellow will not be entitled to any extension of the JRF fellowship for such periods.** The Fellow will not be entitled to any stipend and contingency grant during such leave. Such leave period will be counted in the tenure.
- 13.3 **Such leave can be taken only after joining and working as JRF at least for one year.** Fellow has to report for duty at the same place from where he proceeded on leave.
- 13.4 **The due submission of APRs and other documents as required should be submitted as per ICMR guidelines on time.**