Guidelines for Chief Minister's Research Fellowship for Minorities 2026-27

- The fellowship supports students belonging to the minority communities **(Muslim, Christian (all sects), Sikh, Buddhist, Jain, and Parsi)** as notified under Section 2 of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 who are regular (full time) **Ph.D.** scholars in universities/institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC)."
- The aim is to help financially weak but meritorious students to complete their research successfully.
- The Scholarship amount is **₹2,40,000 per year.** The student will be eligible to receive the fellowship for 3 times (Maximum up to 5 years i.e., 3 times during the course period of 5 years), depending on satisfactory progress. i.e., "consolidated amount of ₹20,000 per month").

Eligibility Criteria

1. Students who are **enrolled in a regular, full-time,** pursuing **Ph.D. programme** in a recognized Government or Government-aided institution in India during **2025–26**.
2. **Priority will be given to the renewal applications of previous year beneficiaries. New applications will be processed only after resolving these applications.**
3. Preference will be given to students belonging to the BPL category. In the absence of BPL applicants, **APL students** with income below the government limit may be considered.
4. Ensure that **only one member per family** applies for this fellowship.
5. The applicant must be a **permanent resident of Kerala** (Non-Resident Keralites are not eligible).
6. The applicant must be below 40 years of age as of the notification date.

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7. The student will be eligible to receive the fellowship for 3 times (Maximum up to 5 years i.e., 3 times during the course period of 5 years) only upon satisfactory academic performance, as per universities guidelines, and based on a confirmatory certificate from the Research Guide, Research Supervisor, Institution or the Research Advisory Committee (RAC).

8. A scholar is eligible to receive only one fellowship at a time. The scholar shall declare that he/she will not accept/receive any other monetary benefit/scholarship/fellowship from any other source. In other words, a scholar who is awarded fellowship under this scheme shall not accept any other fellowship/scholarship or hold any appointment, paid or otherwise, or receive any emoluments, salary, stipend etc. (example: JRF, HTRA, KSCSTE, Institute stipendiary, Sponsorship or scholarship from any other source) during the tenure of the award (except in case of 'academic leave' of one year). In case, a scholar is already in receipt of any scholarship/fellowship, he/she will have to relinquish either the previous scholarship/fellowship/any other monetary benefit within Two weeks of the Publication of the Selection list.

9. A scholar who does not complete his/her research work during the tenure of Ph.D. programme in their concerned institution shall not be eligible to apply again under this scheme. Similarly, a scholar who has completely or partially availed any fellowship for pursuing Ph.D. earlier shall also not be eligible for fellowship under this scheme.

10. Employees of any University/ College/ Educational Institutional/Central/ State/ UT Government shall be excluded from availing fellowship, even if they are on **Study** Leave or EOL to pursue the PhD course.

11. **Renewal Eligibility: Scholars who were awarded the fellowship in the 2025–26 academic year are eligible to re-apply for renewal in subsequent years, provided they satisfy all prescribed academic progression standards.**

Mode of Selection

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Selection will be made by a Departmental Selection Committee. The selection committee includes the following personnel:

a. Additional/Joint/Deputy Secretary from Secretariat.

b. Director, Dept. of Minority welfare

c. Administrative Officer, Dept. of Minority welfare

d. Representatives from any of the prominent government universities in Kerala

e. Project Officer, Dept. of Minority welfare

f. Supervisor, Dept. of Minority Welfare

1. Priority will be given based on BPL status and annual family income, subject to meeting all other eligibility criteria.

2. **30% of fellowships are reserved for women students**. If sufficient women applicants are not available, the remaining slots may be given to male applicants.

3. **5% of fellowships are reserved for Persons with Disabilities (PwD) students.** If sufficient PwD applicants are not available, the remaining slots may be given to open category.

4. Selection is based on:

    a. Eligibility verification

    b. Income level

    c. Minority community proportion in Kerala population

Duration of Fellowship

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Sl No.	Phase	Criteria	Remarks
1.	I (1st year)	Joining Report/ Registration for Ph.D.UGC CSIR NET score/percentile (excluding JRF), PhD only scores etc.	Students can only receive fellowship three times during the tenure of PhD.
2.	II (2nd year)	Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Report, Course work completion report from supervisor/ guide /HoD	
3.	III (3rd year)	Promotion to SRF Report (on the basis of recommendation by a panel of three-guide, HoD and an external expert as in the case of UGC JRF to SRF assessment)	
4.	4th / 5th year	Research Advisory Committee (RAC) Report, Paper Publishing in peer-reviewed or Scopus-indexed journals.	

Table 1.1

Note : If a student qualifies for the fellowship in 1st year but not in the 2nd year, then to apply for 3rd year, they must satisfy the conditions for both 2nd year and 3rd year. The same follows other years as well.

How To Apply

Candidates must first complete the online application via the official web portal **www.mwdscholarship.kerala.gov.in .**

Application Process

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- **Step 1: One-Time Registration** Complete the One-Time Registration on the official portal to create your login credentials.
- **Step 2: Fill Basic & Academic Details** Log in to your account and accurately enter your personal details and academic qualifications.
- **Step 3: Upload Documents** Upload all required documents as per the specifications outlined in the guidelines.
- Submit the completed form with supporting documents to the Directorate of Minority Welfare, 4th floor, Vikas Bhavan, Thiruvananthapuram-695033 on or before 05-11-2026.

Documents to be submitted by applicants

Applicants must submit the following along with the application:

- Printout of application registration form.
- Copies of mark lists of SSLC, Graduate, and Postgraduate examinations.
- Copy of the first page of the bank passbook in the applicant's name (showing name, account number, branch code, and branch address)
- Copy of Aadhaar Card
- Copy of Nativity Certificate.
- Copy of Community Certificate or Minority Certificate.
- Original Income Certificate from the Village Office.
- Copy of Ration Card.
- PwD certificate if applicable
- Admission/registration letter for Ph.D.
- Certificates as per Table 1.1

- Certificate of confirmation signed by the Research Guide/Research Supervisor/Head of Department (as per Annexure I)
- Any other document mentioned in the official notification

Time schedule for the process of application

Last Date for submission of Online Application	**30-11-2026**
Last Date for Receiving Applications by Post/ Person	**05-12-2026**

Digitally signed by
DEVIDAS N
Date: 03-11-2026
17:00:35

DEVIDAS N IAS

DIRECTOR

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Annexure I(അനുബന്ധം 1)

CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATE

(To be issued by the Head of the Department / Research Guide / Research Supervisor)

This is to certify that **Mr./Ms./Mx.** _____, is currently pursuing **PhD (full time)** during the _____ **academic year**, and is in the _____ **year of study** at _____ **University / College / Research Centre.**

The candidate is carrying out research under the supervision of **Dr.** _____, in the subject **"**_____**"**, as a **regular (full-time)** Ph.D. student.

It is further certified that **he/she/they is not receiving any other scholarship, stipend, HTRA, fellowship, or any similar financial assistance from UGC /Central Government /State Government / any other source.**

Place: _____

Date: _____

Signature of Research Guide / Research Supervisor

(Seal of the Department / Institution)

Signature of Head of Department

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Office Seal:

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