Guidelines Non-NET/GATE Students Joining Sponsored Research Projects

BITS Pilani is committed to providing a conducive research and higher education environment. The Institute recognizes the importance of inclusivity in research opportunities, ensuring that talented individuals can contribute to cutting-edge research regardless of their certification status.

Guideline Scope: This guideline applies to research personnel joining through sponsored projects at BITS Pilani who do not possess NET, GATE, or any other equivalent certification.

1. **Selection Process:**
   - Principal Investigators (PIs) should follow a rigorous interview process as per the Institute norms to select Research Fellows for their projects.
   - PIs should involve an external member during the interview process to enhance credibility.

2. **Required Qualifications**:
   - The applicant should hold a postgraduate Degree in Basic Science OR a Graduate/Post-graduate degree in Professional Course.

3. **Initial Recruitment:**
   - Initially, a Junior Research Fellow (JRF) will be recruited with a monthly fellowship of ₹37,000 for the first two years.

4. **Upgradation to Senior Research Fellow (SRF):**
   - After the completion of two years, an external assessment by the institution where the student is enrolled for a Ph.D. is mandatory for upgradation from JRF to SRF.
   - After two years, the upgrade from Junior Research Fellow (JRF) to Senior Research Fellow (SRF) is contingent upon the recommendation of the institute committee, which must include an external expert.
   - After a successful assessment, the fellow may be awarded the SRF status, with a fellowship amount of ₹42,000 per month for SRF scholars.
   - Upon receiving a successful recommendation, the fellow will be awarded SRF status, with an increased fellowship amount of ₹42,000 per month. This provision applies exclusively to those enrolled in the BITS Pilani Ph.D. program.

5. **Annual Assessment:**
   - Annual satisfactory assessment is mandatory to continue receiving the fellowship benefits during the SRF period.

6. Principal Investigators (PIs) must obtain formal approval or concurrence from the relevant funding agency regarding the fellowship before initiating the recruitment process for Research Fellows for funded research projects.

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