

BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, PILANI

ACADEMIC - GRADUATE STUDIES AND RESEARCH

5th March 2025

Institute Fellowship Policy for students admitted to full-time PhD programme

This note describes the policy related to institute fellowship offered to full-time PhD students of BITS Pilani (Indian campuses only).

1. The students admitted to the PhD programme with institute fellowship will receive a fellowship amount of INR 37000/- per month.
2. After completion of two years from the date of admission and DCC approval of the research proposal, the fellowship may be increased to either INR 40,000/- or 42,000/- per month based on assessment and recommendation by a campus level assessment committee constituted by the Director. The assessment though not limited to will be based on the following criteria:
 - Supervisor, DAC and DRC recommendation.
 - Publication or acceptance of publication in a Scopus/ SCI indexed journal or conference. The published work should be related to the proposed thesis topic.
 - Patents filed, published or awarded. Patented work should be related to the proposed thesis topic.
 - Award or recognition received by the student

A separate detailed guideline document on fellowship enhancement is available on the AGSRD website.

3. A student supported by a sponsored project (through government agencies, industry, alumni donations etc.) will become eligible to be converted to institute fellowship as per the following guidelines.
 - (i) The student has been supported by a sponsored project for at least one year from the date of PhD admission.
 - (ii) Recommended by supervisor, DRC and associate dean AGSRD.
 - (iii) The fellowship amount provided after the conversion from sponsored project to institute fellowship would be INR 37000/- per month before completion of two years from the date of admission. If the student is converted to institute fellowship after two years from admission date, the assessment committee will review the performance of the student against the guidelines and provide fellowship (if enhanced at INR 40000/- or 42000/- month) from the date of conversion to institute fellowship. If the fellowship is not enhanced, the student will continue to receive INR 37000/- per month. This is irrespective of the fellowship the PhD student may be receiving through the sponsored project.
4. A PhD student can be admitted through a sponsored project only when there is a project funding available for at least one year. The minimum amount of fellowship to be paid to a PhD student through sponsored project funds (other than government funded projects) should be INR 30,000/- per month (equivalent to a Project Associate I fellowship amount without GATE qualification).
5. The total duration of fund support (Sponsored Project/Institute Fellowship) will be limited to five years counted from the date of admission to PhD programme, including any semester drops, or till the date of viva voce examination, whichever is earlier.
6. This policy is effective from 1st April 2025.

Dean, AGSR