

Government of India
Department of Science and Technology
Science for Equity, Empowerment and Development (SEED) Division

Societal Research Fellowship (SoRF) under 'KIRAN' Program

Conditions of the Grant

The **Societal Research Fellowship (SoRF)** for Women Scientists and Technologists is an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India to maximally utilize the skills, knowledge, creativity and motivation of women scientists for development of the country.

1. The Fellowship is a scientist/individual/ - specific and cannot be transferred.
2. A consolidated fellowship will be provided to the scientist for a period recommended by the expert selection committee. However, the project may be extended if the progress is found to Excellent. The projects rated below Very good will not be considered for further extension and the next round of women Scientist Scheme of DST. The amount is taxable.
3. The equipments need to be purchased as early as possible to avoid any escalation price.
4. Apart from the consolidated Fellowship amount, no other allowances such as HRA, PF, LTA etc will be permissible. No liability on any of these accounts will be borne by DST.
5. During the project duration, the candidate should not be away from the project for a period of more than 15 days in continuation and 30 days total without the prior consent of DST. PI will be entitled for leaves as per guidelines of host institute for project staff/JRF/SRF/research fellows.
6. The host institute will provide a proper staff workspace to the Women Scientist along with an Identity Card.
7. Host institute will maintain the attendance register of the women scientist. This information will be made available to DST as and when required.
8. Approval of the research proposal and the grant being released is for the specific project sanctioned and should be exclusively spent on the project within the stipulated time. The scientist is not permitted to seek or utilize funds from any other organization (Government, Semi Government, Autonomous or Private Bodies) for this research project. Any unspent balance out of the amount sanctioned must be surrendered to the Government of India through a crossed Demand Draft drawn in favour of the Drawing and Disbursing Officer, Department of Science and Technology and payable at New Delhi.
9. Equipments sanctioned under the project should procure according to policy of host institute and PI will be responsible for proper inventory of the same.
10. For permanent, semi-permanent assets acquired solely or mainly out of the grant, an audited record in the form of register shall be maintained by the scientist. The term 'assets' means (i) immovable property and (ii) movable property of capital nature, where the value exceeds of Rs. 1,000/-. The scientist is required to send to DST a list of assets acquired from the grant. The grant shall not be utilized for construction of any building unless specific provision is made for that purpose. Full facilities by way of building unless specific provision is made for that purpose. Full facilities by way of accommodation, utilities maintenance etc for the project shall be given by the host institute.

11. PI will maintain logbooks/register for all chemicals, glasswares, equipments and travel details.
12. PI will submit audited Statement of Expenditure and Utilization Certificate as per the prescribed format for each financial year. It is also clarified that financial year begins on 1st April and ends on coming 31st March. The formats can be downloaded from DST and SEED division website i.e. www.scienceandsociety-dst.org and www.dst.gov.in
13. The PI will furnish progress report of the work annual (two copies). In addition the DST may designate scientists/specialists to visit the institute periodically to review the progress of the work and for suggesting suitable measures to ensure realization of the objectives of the project. During the period of the project, the institute will provide all facilities to the scientist/specialist by way of accommodation, laboratory computer etc., and the project can be terminated any time, if the progress is not found satisfactory. On completion of the project, three copies of the Project completion Report on the work done should be sent to DST.
14. The PI will furnish to DST, a statement of expenditure and utilization certificate in the prescribed formats along with the Progress Report, at the time of seeking subsequent installment of the grant or at the end of each financial year. Carry forward for unspent funds to the next financial year for utilization for the same project may be considered only with specific approval of the DST.
15. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India, at his discretion shall have the right to access to the books and accounts of the institute for the grant received from DST.
16. The scientist will maintain separate audited accounts for this project. If it is found expedient to keep a part or whole of the grant in a bank account earning interest, then the interest earned should be reported to DST. The interest thus earned will be treated as a credit to the project to be adjusted towards further installment of the grant.
17. PI wishing to publish papers based on the research work done under this project should acknowledge the assistance received from DST, indicating the name of the scheme. Kindly inform to DST also about any publication, presentation or participation as result of project's output
18. Patent facilitating Cell (PFC) in DST will handle all matters relating to Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) resulting from the project under implementation. IPR will be held jointly by the concerned institution.
19. The PI may not entrust the implementation of the work for which the grant is being sanctioned to another institution and to divert the grant receipts as assistance to the latter institution. In case the scientist herself is not in a position to execute or complete the project, she may be required to refund forthwith to DST the entire amount of grant-in-aid received.
20. PI and staff that may be employed for the project by the PI are not be treated as employees of DST (Government of India) and the employment of such staff at the time of completion or termination of the project will not be concern/responsibility of the Government of India. For the expeditious implementation of the research projects the PI will take the assistance of the concerned institute in the process of selection and appointment of staff and payment to them. In case of any special posts the emoluments may be decided by DST.
21. DST reserves the right to terminate the grant at any stage if it is convinced that the grant has not been properly utilized or appropriate progress is not being made.
22. The project will become operative with effect from the date of receipt of fund by the host institute or afterward. The date should be intimated by the PI and host institute to the DST.
23. If the scientist to whom the grant for a project has been sanctioned wishes to leave the institution where the project is based, the institute/scientist should inform the same to the

DST and, in consultation with DST, the scientist shall evolve steps to ensure successful completion of the project.

24. Maintain progress as proposed in project submitted and keep a record for all positive as well as negative results. A team of experts may come and evaluate the project at any time. Project can be terminated on unsatisfactory report of experts.
25. Any deviation in project implementation against proposed plan should be intimated to DST well in time and reasons thereof.
26. All assets acquired from the grant will be property of Department of Science and Technology and should not be disposed off or encumbered or utilized for purposes other than those for which the grant is sanctioned without the prior permission of the DST
27. At the conclusion of the project DST will be free to sell or otherwise dispose the assets which are the property of DST. The scientist/institute shall render to DST necessary facilities for arranging the sale of these assets. The DST has the discretion to gift the assets to the institute or transfer them to any other institute, if it is considered appropriate.
28. The decision of the Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Science and Technology on the question whether there has been break or violation of any of the terms and conditions mentioned shall be final and binding on the PI/Institute.

I have gone through the Fellowship rules and conditions of the award and I agree to abide them.

(Signature of the candidate)

(Signature of the Institution)
Seal bearing designation and Address

(Signature of the guide/mentor)