

IndiaAI Fellowships for PhD Students

1. Objective:

The IndiaAI Mission aims to bolster India's global leadership in AI, foster technological self-reliance, ensure ethical and responsible AI deployment, and democratize the benefits of AI across all strata of society.

IndiaAI Mission encompasses key pillars of the AI ecosystem including, IndiaAI Compute Capacity, IndiaAI Innovation Centre, IndiaAI Datasets Platform, IndiaAI Application Development Initiative, IndiaAI FutureSkills, IndiaAI Startup Financing and Safe and Trusted AI. The mission is being implemented by "IndiaAI" – an independent business division of Digital India Corporation.

The IndiaAI FutureSkills aims to mitigate barriers to entry into AI programs by focusing on all levels of higher education in AI and will coordinate with existing efforts in skilling. Under this initiative, 100 fellowships per year will be offered by IndiaAI to full-time PhD scholars researching in the areas of Artificial Intelligence in the 50 NIRF ranked Research Institutes.

2. Eligibility criteria:

- a. Institute's will be onboarded to participate in IndiaAI Fellowship for PhD in Artificial Intelligence, and they agree to intake new PhD candidates for IndiaAI Fellowship. The Institute agreeing to participate in IndiaAI Fellowship for PhD in Artificial Intelligence and agree to intake new PhD candidates for IndiaAI Fellowship, need to submit the details as per the proforma template provided in Annexure 1.
- b. Each institute will identify the PhD scholars in Artificial Intelligence as per the eligibility criteria mentioned below.
 - i. The candidate shall pursue a Full-time PhD course in Artificial Intelligence.
 - ii. The candidate should not be receiving any other scholarship / salary from any other organization at the time of enrolment into IndiaAI PhD Fellowship.
 - iii. The candidate with a graduation degree should have secured a CGPA/CPI of minimum 8.0 or equivalent in the programme.

Or

The candidate with a master's degree should have secured a CGPA/CPI of minimum 7.5 or equivalent in the programme. For candidates with the five-year integrated dual degree programs, if separate CGPAs/CPIs are awarded for UG and PG parts of the program, the CGPA/CPI of the PG part (final year) will be considered.

3. Financial Support:

The fellowship support is provided from the date of commencement of the PhD programme for a duration of 4 years or completion of PhD, whichever is earlier.

- a. **Monthly Fellowship:** Rs. 38,750 per month till 4th year of PhD. (Support till PhD completion or 4 years whichever is earlier).
- b. **Accommodation Support:** This component is linked with the fellowship of PhD Candidate. The accommodation support will be 30% of the fellowship amount.
- c. **Institutional Overheads:** An amount of Rs. 25,000/Year/Full-time PhD candidate for support duration of PhD candidate to be given to the institution.
- d. **Research Contingency Grant Support:** An amount of Rs. 1,20,000/Year/Full time PhD candidate for support duration of PhD candidate. This will be applicable from the second year onwards of the commencement of the PhD program.
- e. **International Conference Support:** One time support for selected Full-Time PhD candidate up to Rs. 1.5 Lakhs for presenting a paper in an international conference. This would cover the travel and other expenses of a PhD candidate for attending international conferences, where his/her research paper has been accepted for the presentation by him/her. This will be applicable from the second year onwards of the commencement of the PhD program.
- f. **Visit to Labs abroad:** One time support for 50 candidates/year from final year for visit to labs abroad. The selection of the candidates will be done by IndiaAI from that year's pool for final year scholars.

All transfer of funds to PhD candidates will be through Direct Account transfer.

4. Terms and Conditions for support of Full Time PhD Candidates

- a. The support will be for additional PhD candidates taken up by an institution. No support would be provided for current levels of enrolment in the PhD programme at the institutions. Transfer from other scholarship schemes would not be permitted.
- b. Only the candidates enrolled/registered for PhD during the period of the scheme would be eligible to apply for the financial support. This scheme will be applicable for new PhD Scholars after notification of the scheme.
- c. The candidate would be eligible for Fellowship for the period during which the candidate is in good standing and fulfills the requirements of the PhD successfully. The maximum period for which the support would be available for any Full-time candidate would be four years or till the completion of PhD whichever is earlier.
- d. The participating Institution will ensure that a candidate receiving fellowship under this scheme is not receiving any financial support for PhD from any other scheme of Government of India/States etc. at the same time, The candidates who have availed support for their PhD from any other scheme of Government of India/States etc. will automatically be disqualified for support under this scheme.
- e. The PhD seats allotted for a particular year should be utilized in the same academic year only.

- f. The institutions, in the event of any drop-out, need to report it to IndiaAI immediately. The institutions cannot enroll a substitute candidate on their own. Only the cases which are found extraordinary would be considered for a substitute candidate's enrollment. For this consideration, the institution would require submitting adequate justification beyond the administrative checks and formalities. Any substitute enrolled by the institution without prior permission and due approval of IndiaAI would not be considered for support under the scheme.
- g. Once the institution has recommended the candidate for award of fellowship and the same has been approved under the scheme by the competent authority the fellowship amount and eligible "HRA" amount will be transferred directly to the bank accounts of the PhD candidate through DBT. The institution will submit an annual performance report for each candidate enrolled under the scheme. In case of nonperformance of any candidate, the institution shall intimate IndiaAI regarding the same. In case no such intimation is received, IndiaAI will continue to transfer the fellowship directly to the bank accounts of PhD candidates.
- h. The items of expenditure eligible to be released to the institution like Institutional Overheads shall be released directly to the institution.
- i. The amount to be released under "Support for attending International Conference" and "Visit to labs abroad" will be released as per the requirement on a case-to-case basis.
- j. The institution will be responsible for furnishing utilization certificates of the funds released to them based on the scheme parameters, and as per conditions of the sanctioned grant-in-aid, if requested by IndiaAI.
- k. Candidates shall be solely responsible for all taxes, and other similar statutory obligations.

5. Miscellaneous

- a. Collaborations with internationally reputed academics and R&D Institutions will be encouraged.
- b. Intellectual Property Rights generated under the Scheme will be governed by existing rules and regulations of IndiaAI.
- c. All institutions who will participate would be subjected to Audit of their accounts/records in respect of the scheme as per government norms.
- d. Candidates need to have an Aadhaar seeded bank account to receive the monthly fellowship amounts.
- e. Assets created under the scheme using the research grant to the participating Institutions would be used by Institutions for the research and development activities in these institutions after the end of the scheme.

- f. Mere submission of a proposal would not entitle the institution for support under the scheme.
- g. IndiaAI may make additions/deletions/modifications in these guidelines at its own discretion.
- h. Awarding support, its continuation, discontinuation etc. for component(s) of the scheme would be as per the sole discretion of IndiaAI and would be final and binding to all the applicants seeking support/beneficiaries.

6. SOP- Fund Release to Full Time PhD candidates and Institutions

#	Components	SoP to be followed
1.	Monthly Fellowship for Full Time PhD (Rs. 38,750 per month till 4th year or completion of PhD, whichever is earlier)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. The institute based on administrative approval for PhD seat allotment would enroll the PhD Candidates ii. The institute will shortlist 2 applications from the onboarded applicants who deem fit as per the IndiaAI fellowship eligibility criteria. iii. IndiaAI makes the final decision on the successful candidates and informs respective institutes iv. The successful candidates need to submit details to IndiaAI in the proforma attached in Annexure 2 which include their APAAR ID, Account Number, cancelled check etc. would be sent to IndiaAI. Subsequently the candidates will be registered for fellowship transfer through DBT mode. v. If due to any reason there is a change in the project, guide, co-guide etc. the institute shall intimate IndiaAI regarding the same immediately. vi. The institute would submit an annual performance report for each candidate. In case of non-performance, noncompliance with the scheme's guidelines of any candidate at any point of time, the institution shall intimate IndiaAI regarding the same immediately. vii. In absence of such intimation, IndiaAI will continue to transfer the fellowship directly to the candidates every month of a financial year. viii. If due to non-intimation or late intimation by the

		<p>respective institute, the fellowship is released to the candidate by IndiaAI then it will be the responsibility of the institute to recover that amount paid to the candidate in excess & beyond eligibility. IndiaAI in its sole discretion may decide to recover it from the amount due to be paid to the institute under other budget heads of the scheme.</p>
2.	HRA	<p>i. Accommodation support amounting to 30% of the fellowship amount will be disbursed along with the fellowship.</p>
3.	Research contingency grant (Rs. 1,20,000/ Year)	<p>i. Research contingency grant will be applicable from the second year of the PhD.</p> <p>ii. The institution would submit a proposal based on the eligibility of the candidate. The proposal would include the details of requirement equipment/ service/ software etc., payment terms, account details of the institute etc.</p> <p>iii. The proposal would then be examined by IndiaAI with respect to the guidelines of the scheme & then request the institute to procure the equipment/ service/ software etc. as mentioned in the proposal with certain changes if applicable.</p> <p>iv. The institution following the same would procure the equipment/ service/ software etc. and would raise the payment request.</p> <p>v. IndiaAI would examine the request and if it is in order then the amount would be paid to the institute's account.</p>
4.	One Time International Conference Support for presenting a paper	<p>i. The institution would submit a request based on the eligibility of the candidate. The request would include the details of the conference, paper to be presented by the candidate, and any other detail as per the request from IndiaAI.</p> <p>ii. IndiaAI would examine the request and give go ahead if</p>

	(Rs. 1,50,000)	<p>the request is found deemed fit.</p> <p>iii. After the conference, the candidate will need to file a reimbursement of the expenses incurred.</p> <p>iv. IndiaAI will review the request and approve it if found complete and as per the expectations.</p> <p>v. IndiaAI may request for additional supporting documents from the candidate, if needed.</p>
5.	Visit to Labs abroad	<p>i. The institution would submit a request based on the eligibility of the candidate. The request would include the details of the lab visit, research purpose, and any other detail as per the request from IndiaAI.</p> <p>ii. IndiaAI would examine the request and give go ahead if the request is found deemed fit.</p> <p>iii. After the visit, the candidate will need to file a reimbursement of the expenses incurred.</p> <p>iv. IndiaAI will review the request and approve it if found complete and as per the expectations.</p> <p>v. IndiaAI may request for additional supporting documents from the candidate, if needed.</p>
6.	<p>Institutional overhead</p> <p>Rs. 25,000/full time candidate/ Year</p>	<p>i. Institutional overhead amount would be paid to the institute's account every year at the commencement of the academic year</p>
