

PRIME MINISTER'S FELLOWSHIP FOR DOCTORAL RESEARCH (PMFDR)

*A PPP Initiative of Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF)
and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)*

IN THE AREAS OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AGRICULTURE & MEDICINE

1. About the PMFDR Scheme

The Prime Minister's Fellowship for Doctoral Research (PMFDR) is a Public–Private Partnership initiative of the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The scheme aims to strengthen industry–academia collaboration by supporting high-quality doctoral research with strong industrial relevance.

The fellowship enables PhD scholars to work on industry-driven research problems while receiving enhanced financial support jointly from the Government and an industry partner.

2. Key Features of the Fellowship

- Supports industry-relevant doctoral research in priority sectors
- Joint funding by ANRF (Government of India) and Industry Partner
- Encourages commercialization, innovation, and applied R&D
- Open-ended scheme with multiple selection cycles each year

3. Subject Areas Covered

Applications are invited in the following broad disciplines:

- Science
- Technology
- Engineering
- Agriculture
- Medicine

The proposed research must demonstrate technical excellence, scientific merit, and clear industrial application.

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4. Who Can Apply

4.1 PhD Scholar (Applicant)

The applicant must:

- Be admitted to a full-time PhD programme in a recognized Indian University/Institute/Research Laboratory
- Have taken PhD admission within the last 14 months from the date of application submission (first admission date considered in case of differing admission/registration dates)
- Have an excellent academic record
- Obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the host institution
- Identify and secure commitment from an eligible industry partner before applying

4.2 Industry Partner (Co-applicant)

The industry partner must:

- Be a company registered under the Indian Companies Act (including eligible MNCs registered in India)
- Commit to co-funding the fellowship for up to four years
- Provide technical, intellectual, and mentoring support through an industry mentor

Not eligible: NGOs, societies, and government agencies (e.g., ISRO, DRDO)

5. Fellowship Structure & Financial Support

- Total Fellowship Amount: Up to ₹12.49 lakh per annum per fellow (subject to revision as per prevailing JRF/SRF and HRA norms)
- Funding Pattern:
 - 50% Government Component (ANRF): Up to ₹6.24 lakh per annum (as per JRF/SRF + HRA norms)

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- 50% Industry Contribution: Matching the ANRF component
- Duration: Maximum of 4 years, leading to the award of a PhD degree
- The fellowship is disbursed monthly
- Selected fellows must not receive any other fellowship or salary concurrently

6. Number of Fellowships

- Up to 100 fellowships may be supported in a financial year

7. Step-by-Step Application Process

Joint Application Requirement

- Applications must be submitted jointly by the PhD scholar and the Industry Partner.
- The PhD scholar is the primary applicant and is responsible for completing and submitting the online application.

Step 1: Institutional & Academic Approval

- Obtain in-principle approval from the Academic Supervisor
- Obtain a No Objection Certificate (NOC) and Letter of Commitment from the Head of the Host Institution

Step 2: Research Proposal Development

- Develop a research proposal aligned with industrial needs and the scholar's academic strengths
- Finalize the proposal jointly with the Academic Supervisor and Industry Partner

Step 3: Industry Partner Commitment

- Identify an eligible Industry Partner

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- Obtain a Letter of Commitment from the Industry Partner confirming:
- Industry Financial support (matching the ANRF component + CII Management Fee)
- Appointment of an Industry Mentor (Co-supervisor/Co-guide)

Step 4: Online Application Submission

- Register and apply through the PMFDR portal:
www.primeministerfellowshipscheme.in
- Applications are accepted only online; no physical copies are required

Step 5: Selection & Agreement

- Applications are evaluated by a high-level Apex Council comprising representatives from academia, industry, and government
- Selected candidates must sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) among:
 - PhD Scholar
 - Industry Partner
 - Host Institution
 - Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

8. Selection Criteria

Applications are assessed based on:

- Scientific and technical merit of the proposal
- Innovation and discrete R&D content
- Potential for commercialization and business impact
- Capability of the PhD scholar and host institution
- Level of industry involvement and commitment

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9. Review, Continuation & Termination

- The duration of the Fellowship under PMFDR shall be a maximum of four years.
- The Fellowship will automatically cease upon submission of the PhD thesis.
- The Fellow is required to submit an annual progress report, which will be reviewed by the Apex Council or a committee nominated by it.
- Continuation and subsequent release of funds are subject to:
 - Satisfactory annual progress
 - Recommendations from the Academic Supervisor and Industry Mentor

Termination Conditions

The Fellowship may be terminated if:

- The Fellow leaves the PhD programme or host institution
- The Fellow is found not to be devoting adequate time or effort to the research
- The Fellow wishes to terminate the Fellowship prematurely for personal or professional reasons
- The Fellow is unable to continue due to medical reasons
- The Industry Partner withdraws support during the committed four-year period (in such cases, the Government/ANRF support will also be withdrawn)

Transfer of the Fellowship from one host institution to another is not permitted at any stage during the tenure.

10. Intellectual Property Rights

- ANRF and CII do not claim ownership of any intellectual property generated under PMFDR.
- Ownership and sharing of IP arising from the research shall be mutually agreed upon among the PhD scholar, host institution, and industry partner, and documented in the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA).

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- All publications, patents, and outcomes arising from the Fellowship must acknowledge the support of ANRF, CII, and the Industry Partner.
- Any dispute related to IP or implementation shall be addressed by the Apex Council; unresolved matters will be referred for final arbitration to the CEO, ANRF.

11. Important Timelines

- Application Window: Open-ended; applications may be submitted anytime within 14 months from the date of PhD admission (first admission date considered in case of differing admission/registration dates)
- Selection Process: Conducted multiple times during the year depending on application volume
- Selection Updates: Published on the PMFDR website
- Signing of MoA: Within the timeframe specified in the selection communication
- Fellowship Disbursement: From April (or the month specified in the selection communication), on a monthly basis

12. Management & Implementation of the Scheme

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is the implementing agency of PMFDR.
- The Industry Partner and ANRF deposit the fellowship amount with CII on an annual basis.
- CII disburses the fellowship amount to the PhD scholar monthly.
- No institutional overheads or management charges are payable under the scheme.
- Continuation of the Fellowship is subject to annual review and recommendations from the Industry Partner and Host Institution.

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13. Supporting Documents Required

Applicants must upload the following documents along with the online application:

- Undertaking/Commitment from the Academic Supervisor and Head of the Institution
- Undertaking/Commitment from the Industry Partner
- PhD Admission/Registration Certificate
- CVs of:
 - PhD Scholar
 - Academic Supervisor (including publications and projects)
 - Industry Mentor
- Research Synopsis and uniqueness of the proposal
- List of publications (if any)
- Partner Company profile
- Partner Company Balance Sheet (and Cash Flow Statement for SMEs/Start-ups)
- Passport-size photograph

14. Contact Information

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

Email: pm.scheme@cii.in | javed.ahmad@cii.in | akashdeep.singh@cii.in

Phone: +91 11 4577 1000 (Ext. 240)

This document is for guidance purposes. Applicants are advised to refer to the official documents available on the PMFDR application portal for detailed terms and formats.