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Notification

Policy on PhD Research Fellowships in Thrust Areas

August 1, 2025

1. Policy Objective

CHRIST (Deemed to be University) aims to enhance the quality and visibility of its doctoral research by supporting meritorious PhD scholars through structured fellowships. The fellowships will:

- Attract top academic talent, particularly **university rank holders and high-merit scholars**, into full-time PhD programs.
- Encourage **interdisciplinary and policy-relevant research** aligned with institutional and national research priorities.
- Support scholars in producing **high-quality publications**, engaging in funded research, and contributing to academic innovation.

2. Fellowship Structure

2.1 Fellowship Type and Count

Fellowship Type	Number of Awards	Monthly Stipend
St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara Research Fellowship	20	₹45,000

2.2 Duration

- Fellowship is awarded for a **maximum of 3 years**, renewable annually based on performance.

3. Scope

3.1 Disciplines and Schools Covered

Open to PhD candidates across all Schools, including:

- Sciences
- Engineering

- Architecture
- Social Sciences
- Arts and Humanities
- Psychological Sciences
- Commerce, Finance & Accountancy
- Business and Management
- Law
- Education

3.2 Research Areas

- Must align with **University-designated thrust areas**, developed by Research Centres and Schools, and reviewed annually.

4. Eligibility Criteria

- Admitted to a **full-time PhD program** at CHRIST (Deemed to be University).
- Must be a **University Rank Holder** or demonstrate exceptional academic performance.
- Submit a **high-quality research proposal** aligned to a thrust area.
- Endorsed by a **faculty mentor**

5. Selection and Evaluation Process

Criterion	Weightage
Academic Merit (UG/PG Performance, Rank)	50%
Research Proposal Quality	30%
Interview by Research Committee	20%

- Evaluation will be conducted by the **Fellowship Selection Committee**, comprising:
    - Director, Centre for Research
    - Dean of the respective School
    - Research Centre Coordinators from Schools
    - Associate Director, RDC

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Stakeholder	Responsibilities
PhD Scholar (Fellow)	- Conduct research aligned with the approved thrust area - Submit bi-annual progress reports - Publish in Q1/Q2 journals or file patents (as per disc benchmarks) - Engage in departmental work (minimum 8 hours/week)

Faculty Research Guide	- Provide academic mentorship and guide research progr - Review deliverables and validate progress reports - Support publication and conference planning.
Centre for Research	- Administer the fellowship policy - Maintain records and documentation - Conduct fellowship reviews and performance audits
Department/Dean of School	- Integrate scholar into centre's research agenda - Provide access to labs/resources - Monitor research alignment with thrust area - Endorse application and mentor allocation - Ensure administrative support for scholar's engagement - Review department-level compliance
Fellowship Selection Committee	- Evaluate applications based on merit, proposal, and intervie - Recommend selection list to the Vice Chancellor
Research Advisory Committee (RAC)	- Periodic review of research progress - Approve continuation of fellowship each year
Finance Office	- Disburse fellowship stipend on a monthly basis - Maintain audit-ready financial records of fellowship funds

7. Expected outcome

- **Minimum 5 Q1/Q2 publications or patents** (Science & Engineering) based on scheduled targets defined during the proposal approval
- **Minimum 3 Q1/Q2 publications or patents** (Other disciplines) based on scheduled targets defined during the proposal approval.
- Attraction of **competitive research funding**.
- Establishment of CHRIST (Deemed to be University) as a center for **policy-relevant and socially engaged doctoral research**.
- Strengthened linkages between doctoral research and **national development goals**.

8. Fellowship Disbursement & Renewal

- Monthly disbursement via Finance Office
- Annual renewal based on:
    - Compliance with publication targets
    - Performance reviews
    - Report submission

9. Non-Compliance

- Delayed submissions or inadequate progress may result in:
    - Temporary suspension of fellowship
    - Permanent withdrawal upon recommendation by the Research Committee

10. Ethics and Conduct

- All scholars must comply with CHRIST (Deemed to be University)'s **Research Ethics and Academic Integrity Policy**.
- Misrepresentation, plagiarism, or misconduct will lead to immediate **termination of fellowship**.

11. Review and Policy Revision

- This policy will be **reviewed every three years**.

- Updates will be approved by the Vice Chancellor and communicated via official university circulars.

12. Contact for Clarification Email: phd@christuniversity.in

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