Guidelines for Research Project Mentorship under SCHOLARSHIP FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (SHE) Scheme of INSPIRE

Preamble:

Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) is a component under Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) program, which is a flagship scheme of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), under the Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, to engage young talents for the study of Science and Technology and pursue research as a career. SHE aims to augment youth to undertake higher education in Science by providing scholarships as well as early exposure in research through Mentors to deserving students.

Under this scheme SHE, 10,000 scholarships, each valued at Rs 80,000/- are announced annually for students pursuing Bachelors and Masters level courses in Basic and Natural Sciences.

Eligibility:

(a) Students with aggregate marks within top 1% of their Class XII examination of any State/Central Board in India are eligible. In addition, the student must be pursuing courses in Natural and Basic Sciences at the B Sc or Integrated M Sc level. Natural and Basic Sciences include Mathematics, Statistics, Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology and Earth Sciences. Course other than these subjects (such as Engineering Sciences, Computer Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Electronic Sciences and Medical and Biomedical Sciences) are NOT included in the current scheme. The percentage cutoff marks of various States/Central Boards is available on INSPIRE - DST website (www.inspire-dst.gov.in).

(b) those students who have secured ranks in the IIT-JEE, AIEEE, AIPMT (within top 10000 ranks), Kishore Vigyanik Protsahan Yojna (KVPY), National Talent Search Examination (NTSE), Jagdish Bose National Science Talent Search (JBNSTS) and International Olympiad medalists and are pursuing Natural and Basic Science course in India.

© Students pursuing Integrated BS/MSc/MS in Natural & Basic Science courses at IITs, IISERs, NISER, IISc, Viswa-Bharathi and Department of Atomic Energy Centre for Basic Sciences.
Value:

Each candidate will receive annual scholarship @ total value Rs 60,000/- in cash. All the SHE scholars are required to undertake research projects under an active researcher in any recognized research centres across India or abroad. An attachment fee of Rs 20,000/- will be paid to the mentoring institution or to the student directly for undertaking research project every year.

Tenure:

Selected candidates will be supported for a maximum period of five years starting 1st year courses in B Sc, B Sc (Hons), BS and integrated courses leading to M S or M Sc. Continuation of the scholarship for the selected candidates is based on satisfactory performance of the examinations conducted by the University and certified by the institution imparting education.

Terms of Research Projects to be undertaken by all the INSPIRE scholars:

The main objective of INSPIRE/SHE program is to encourage young students to pursue Research as a career. In order to inculcate scientific values and develop scientific temper, the scholars are required to enroll in a Research Project of every year. To do project work under a Research Supervisor (Mentor) during summer vacation period in any recognized Universities or Institutes or Research Laboratories/ Centers of their choice either in India or abroad, (preferably outside their parent institutions), the Scholar will qualify for receiving support from the Mentorship Grant. In some cases Scholar may avail institutional arrangement; otherwise Scholar shall need to arrange both Mentoring Institution and Mentor to carry out this. Consumables required to carry out project work, if recommended by the Mentor, will be paid from the Mentorship Grant, either to the Institute where project work is pursued or to the Scholar directly.

Project in India: Students doing a project in India, the expenses related to travel, accommodation and consumable expenses are reimbursed to the student. Please note that no food expenses are covered by this grant, since the students receive scholarship during this period.
**Project abroad:** Students at 4\textsuperscript{th} or 5\textsuperscript{th} year of the Scholarship may be allowed to carry our research project in any Institute/ University/ Laboratory abroad by utilizing the Mentorship Grant available for five years on pro-rata basis. If the sponsoring institute pays any stipend or travel grant, only the difference between the support received from all sources put together and actual expenditure, will be reimbursed from the Mentorship Grant.

**Reimbursement Mechanism of Mentorship Grant :**

The DST shall make provision of Rs 20,000/- per annum or Rs 1,00,000/- in 5 years as Mentorship Grants to each INSPIRE Scholar to carry our Summer vacation research work. The Mentorship Grant shall be reimbursed either to the mentoring institutions as a bench fee to accommodate the INSPIRE scholar or directly to the Scholar to carry out successful research work. In case a Scholar does not utilize this Grant in any year, it can be carried forward every year to the subsequent years till be student leaves the Institute. Student is eligible only to receive the expenditure, which he has incurred for the above purposes. However, there will be no provision for gifting the unutilized grant to the student.

After completion of the project work at the Institute or University or Research Laboratory (either in India or abroad) under a Research Supervisor (Mentor), the candidate should submit the following documents to the DST for reimbursement of the Mentorship Grant either to the Mentoring Institutions or to the Scholar:

(a) A letter attested by the Research Supervisor and Head of Institution where the scholar is enrolled for the project, and;
(b) A brief report outlining the objectives and results of his/her project.
(c) Specify clearly who will be required to reimburse (Mentoring Institutions or Scholar).