

PERSPECTIVE

Promoting a Climate for University Research: OURIIP, the Odisha University Research and Innovation Incentivization Plan

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Introduction

On November 14, 2018 the Minister for Higher Education in Odisha, Mr. Ananta Das released a policy guideline on the Odisha University Research and Innovation Incentivization Plan (OURIIP). The plan provides funding support in three aspects with the aim of promoting high-quality research. The first is to provide fellowships for students pursuing research. The second is to provide seed funding for early career research to the faculty across universities in the state, and the third is to support high-quality publications. The details of the scheme are given in the attached brochure, and in this introduction, I briefly discuss the motivation behind the OURIIP.

The best way to define Higher Education is a process that goes about creating a better tomorrow for all of us. There are four main constituents of higher education today namely, teaching-learning, competency development, research – innovation, and inculcation of a value system. In its efforts towards raising the level of higher education to global excellence, the state of Odisha has introduced a large number of reforms in each of these sectors. Some of them include capacity building, governance changes, examination reforms etc., and these are already being introduced in the state universities.

Research and Innovation is the heart of knowledge, a means to create livelihood and the benchmark of global excellence in the new millennium. The present government of Odisha was quick to realize it. The state of Odisha has been trying to address the lacunae like inadequate sophisticated research tools, e-libraries, scarcity in competitive research funding in

terms of early career grants, lack of full-time research scholars in state universities, etc. While a few of these are being addressed through the World Bank loan assisted project, Odisha Higher Education Program for Excellence and Equity (OHEPEE), the issues related to full-time research scholars and the seed research grants needed to be addressed through a different scheme.

In this context, this new scheme OURIIP will provide about 175 state junior research fellowships (5 in each subject for 35 subjects) @ Rs. 15,000/- per month for four years (+1) or on completion of PhD, whichever is earlier. The CSIR-NET qualification is kept as the minimum eligibility for the scholarship. The candidate has to complete her work as a full-time scholar at any state university of Odisha and publish quality papers in Science Citation Index (SCI) journals for the continuance of the fellowship. A novel monitoring scheme through an annual *Scholars Conclave* is designed as the platform for review, and it is expected that this will increase annual research publication by at least 150 good papers per year. At the end of five years, the state should have more than 700 full-time research scholars producing excellent output in terms of publications and patents. The annual outlay would increase by Rs. 35 million until it steadies at Rs. 175 million after 5 years. Keeping equity goals in mind, 40% of fellowships will be reserved for women researchers.

Beyond the research students, young faculty below 40 years of age play a key role in contributing to R&I footprint. In the second part of the OURIIP proposal, young faculty will be encouraged to compete for a seed grant of Rs. 500,000 for a two-year period. Proposals will be reviewed, assessed and up to 40 seed grants in all subjects including technical areas will be sanctioned annually. In the next five years, this should induct about 200 young faculties into the R&I culture. The *Scholars Conclave* will also be the common platform to monitor their progress.

The third part of OURIIP provides publication support to outstanding journal publications. This initiative is expected to expand and revitalize the research-innovation culture/footprint in the state universities of Odisha. This scheme will be implemented by the State Higher Education Council on behalf of the Higher Education Department of Odisha Government.

Odisha University Research and Innovation Incentivization Plan (OURIIP)

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ଅଭିନବୀକରଣ ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହନ ଯୋଜନା



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Higher Education Department,
Government of Odisha

2018



1. Preamble

In the changing dynamics of higher education a new world order in terms of the knowledge based economic and socio economic change vis a vis knowledge awareness has been rapidly emerging across nations. Developing nations are rapidly transforming their higher education strategies with wide ranging reforms in teaching learning strategies, research – innovation plans and skill development sectors to be in line with the market requirements and with quality of students at par with that of the developed nations. The mission of all higher education programs now represent a symbiosis of knowledge, skill, livelihood-creation, environment conservation and value system integration in the student.

The practice of research and innovation has been widely accepted as the most essential component of a developing country's repertoire of higher education. While research contributes to creation and application of new knowledge, innovation not only incites deeper understanding but parallel thinking regarding value creation out of research. The value creation can be commercial or directed towards societal philanthropy aiming at large scale value addition to human livelihood. It has also been proven beyond doubt that developing a research and innovation culture in colleges and universities improves the learning effectiveness of students and incites the spirit of inquiry in them. Therefore, the quality of a higher education institution is being measured in terms of its research and innovation footprint and their impact on the national/international arena. The systems of knowledge production now include not only universities but also public laboratories, research centres and think-tanks run by policy and civil society groups, industry, the private sector, and the military complex. In fact, these systems have undergone profound transformation to emerge as the main engines of development in a globalized world. Therefore, one now sees major changes in the landscape of higher education, notably in the university sector. Consequently, countries across all regions worldwide are facing increased demand to strengthen their capacities for research and knowledge production. These challenges have become particularly overwhelming for middle - and low-income countries, thus increasing the risk of their further marginalization. Similarly, there is a new focus on knowledge generated by research to be applied to and be the basis of sustainable social development.

If we look at the contribution of India to major global research outcomes, success has been few and far between. As a nation with a large contingent of researchers both in mission departments as well as universities, a large number of publications do come out but very few of them are in the path breaking research category. At the state level, universities in the state of Odisha have developed a good basic teaching learning protocol but show extremely poor research outcome.

In the above context and to bridge the gap in research activities in the state, a new scheme called the ODISHA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND INNOVATION INCENTIVIZATION PLAN is proposed for implementation from the academic year 2018-19. The aim of the scheme is to facilitate a research-innovation culture in the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) of the State.

GUIDELINES FOR ODISHA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND INNOVATION INCENTIVIZATION PLAN (OURIIP)

(ଓଡ଼ିଶା ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ଅନୁସନ୍ଧାନ ଏବଂ ଅଭିନବୀକରଣ ପ୍ରୋତ୍ସାହନ ଯୋଜନା)

Odisha State Higher Education Council(OSHEC) in the Higher Education Department, Government of Odisha has envisaged a new scheme called the “Odisha University Research and Innovation Incentivization Plan (OURIIP) (Odisha Vishwavidyalaya Anusandhan ebam Abhinavikarana Protsahan Yojana) to bridge the gap in research activities and promote research in emerging areas. Thrust area would be on original research instead of incremental research. The aim of the scheme is to facilitate a research-innovation culture at Higher Education Institutes of the state.

Objective :

The objective of the project is to provide scholarships to talented youngsters to devote themselves to full time research in Odisha and facilitate young faculty to start a research program in Odisha. The scheme particularly emphasizes to facilitate women researchers of Odisha.

There are three components, under which financial assistance will be provided to strengthen the Research, Development and Innovation Ecosystem in State Universities and Higher Education Institutions of Odisha.

- (A) Research Fellowship
- (B) Seed Funding for Young Faculty working in State Universities and Colleges
- (C) Support for Publication related expenses

(A) For Research Fellowship :

Eligibility :

1st Category : It is proposed to provide a Research fellowship to the top ranking NET qualifiers (leaving aside the JRF) in each subject who has not been found eligible for National Junior Research Fellowships for doing research in state universities.

The applicant for the scholarship must be a permanent resident of Odisha.

Advertisement inviting Applications :

The OSHEC shall invite applications from eligible candidates through advertisement in local newspapers and/or the websites of the Higher Education Department. The format of application and guidelines are available in the website of HE Department (www.dheodisha.gov.in).



Tenure of the Fellowship :

The period of fellowship will be limited to 04 years, extendable to another one year with the prior approval of the Odisha State Higher Education Council (OSHEC).

Fellowships :

The candidate would be eligible for receiving the following financial assistance :

Fellowship	Rs. 15000/pm with a contingency of Rs. 25000/- per year for subjects having laboratory work and Rs. 15000 for subjects without laboratory work.
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Number of Fellowship :

The number of fellowship in each subject would be limited to five (05) with two (02) numbers of fellowships reserved for girl students exclusively.

Subjects at Masters Level (MA, M.Sc., M.Com.) covered under this scheme (Participants must have cleared NET (UGC, CSIR, DBT, ICAR etc.), conducted by Nationally recognized Agencies in areas relevant to these subjects):

Physics	Population studies	Education	Labour Welfare/Personnel Management/ Industrial Relations Labour and Social Welfare/Human Resource Development
Chemistry	Economics	Social Work	Law
Botany	Political Science	Home Science	Library and Information Science
Zoology	Philosophy	Public Administration	Mass Communication and Journalism
Biotechnology	Psychology	Business Management (MBA)	Women Studies
Mathematics	Sociology	Odia	Computer Science and Applications
Statistics	History	Hindi	Electronic Science
Geography	Anthropology	Sanskrit	Environmental Sciences
Geology	Commerce	English	

Relevant NET subjects will be as defined by the State Universities.

Selection Process :

1. The candidate must be below 30 years of age as on January first of the year in which the fellowship award is being made.
2. Candidate must be NET qualified in any one of the above subjects. Those who are JRF qualified will be eligible for UGC/CSIR/DBT/ICAR fellowship and will not be considered here.
3. Candidates who qualified at NET more than three years back to the year of application will not be eligible, i.e., to be eligible in 2018, NET qualification must be of 2015 or after.
4. The fellowship shall be available only for pursuing full time Ph.D. programme in/under any Govt. university of the State or any State Govt. Institute established in the State.
5. The prospective researchers will apply to the state government citing their NET eligibility certificate, mark sheet/Rank and clearly indicating the specific subject, topic, specific state university where research will be carried out.
6. The student must have registered under an approved research guide after completing the required course work at any of the state universities of Odisha .
7. The OSHEC will be responsible for administering the entire program and procedure for State Research Fellowship as well as the seed funding.
8. The scholarship continuance will depend upon the annual review by domain experts at the Odisha Research and Innovation Conclave. If the work is evaluated to be below 5 on a scale of 10, scholarship will be discontinued.
9. The scholar should not be getting any other financial support from any other source and be a full time research scholar.
10. Selected candidates should be willing to teach at PG/UG level at least 3 hours per week .
11. Candidate would be willing to provide a bond to complete the research work as a full time scholar and submit for Ph.D. within a period not exceeding 4 years. If it has to be extended to 5thYear,it has to be on prior approval of OSHEC.
12. The selected candidate shall remain under the administrative control of a Supervisor. The Supervisor must be a regular faculty/recognized guide of any Govt. University of Odisha/Govt. or Aided Colleges or a regular Scientist of any State Govt. Research Institute of Odisha or any Central Govt. Research Institute established in Odisha.
13. All correspondences of the Scholar should be routed through the supervisor, Head of the Department and Head of the Institution concerned.



Release of Fellowship & Fund :

1. The fund with respect to fellowship shall be made available to the Head of the host Institution by the OSHEC/HED.
2. The fellowship shall be directly credited to the bank account of the scholar on monthly basis by the Head of the host institute within the first week of the month.
3. The contingent grant shall be credited to the bank account of the scholar/Head of the Institute.
4. The host Institute/University/College shall submit the financial year wise audited statement of Expenditure & Utilization Certificate in OGFR 7(A) in duplicate countersigned by the competitive authority for each fellowship.
5. The Fellow will be required to submit progress report every year through proper channel.

Cancellation/Withholding of Fellowship :

1. The fellowship shall be discontinued if it is found that the candidate has furnished incorrect information or suppressed materials. In such cases, other disciplinary action will be initiated against the candidate as deemed fit to recover the fellowship amount.
2. The fellowship shall also be discontinued while pursuing Ph.D. Degree if the conduct of the scholar is found to be unsatisfactory, as per the report by the Committee of three members comprising of Head of the Department, Supervisor and one outside subject expert to be constituted by the concerned Department of the University/Institution/College.
3. The fellowship will be automatically cancelled if a candidate changes the Course of Study for which she/he is in receipt of the fellowship under this scheme or the progress is found unsatisfactory during review.

Other Conditions :

1. The Higher Education Department, on the basis of request of OSHEC with justification, may increase the amount and number of fellowships with due concurrence from Planning & Convergence Department and Finance Department, Govt. of Odisha.
2. In general, the Fellow once accepts the offer of fellowship at a particular University/College/Institute shall not be allowed to transfer the fellowship to any other University/College/institute during the tenure of the fellowship. However, under unavoidable situation, the fellow must seek prior permission from the Higher Education Department, Govt. of Odisha through OSHEC for transfer of Institute through written application with the following documents.
 - ✓ No Objection Certificates(NOCs) from both host Institutes and Supervisors
 - ✓ Detailed justifications for changing/shifting of host institute for implementation of fellowship

- ✓ Area of Ph.D. Work with an up-to-date progress report
 - ✓ Curriculum vitae of research supervisor at the new host institute
 - ✓ Up-to-date Financial Statement from the old host institute
3. In case of discontinuity of the research project by the scholar, the Institute concerned shall return the unutilized funds to the OSHEC immediately. Further, the scholar is required to hand over the research findings to the OSHEC through proper channel.
 4. In case of suppression of facts regarding receipt of any other fellowship from any other Govt. and/or Private Institutions, the scholar is required to refund the total grant (with interest) received from HE Department through OSHEC.

(B) Seed Funding for Young Faculty working in State Universities and Colleges :

1. Any Young faculty with a Ph.D. and below 40 years of age working in a regular capacity in State Universities and Colleges (Government & Aided) under Higher Education Department and also in State Government Technical Colleges/Universities under Skill Development and Technical Education Department can apply for this seed funding with an appropriate research proposal.
2. The proposal will be prepared in the standard format that will be uploaded in OSHEC/HED website.
3. She/he has to submit a proposal in the prescribed format for review followed by a presentation. The funding will be decided on merit.
4. The quantum of each seed funding will be limited to Rs. 5 lakh per faculty and duration of two years will be the period for providing the deliverables.
5. Faculty in receipt of funding from other research agencies will not be eligible for this scheme.
6. The state will annually award 40 such seed funding on competitive basis after due evaluation of the proposals by a domain expert committee.
7. The seed funding scheme will expect the concerned faculty to produce about 2 research publications (at least one in Scopus Indexed Journals) per year. They will also be expected to write and secure funded research projects from national agencies towards the end of the two year period.
8. Annual Review of Work would be done through a poster presentation at Odisha Research Conclave.

(C) Support for Publication related Expenses :

If a faculty in State Universities or Government or Government aided Colleges under Higher Education Department or State Government Technical Colleges/Universities under Skill Development and Technical Education Department publishes in extremely high impact journal that is also appearing in SC indexing (Science Citation indexing), there will be a provision to subsidize 50% of the publication cost limited to Rs.25000/.



However, in exceptional cases where publication is approved in a globally renowned journal like Nature etc., and higher cost is indicated, the request can be taken up as a special exceptional case.

In case Eligible candidates in any area are not found, no scholarships will be awarded and it would also not be carried over.

Monitoring of Fellowship in Odisha Research Conclave :

The scheme will also include few annual thematic research conclaves titled, “Odisha Research Conclave” for these research scholars of the state, where they will showcase their work and be reviewed and be mentored by domain experts with awards for best research work in a category. An amount of Rs. 30 lakh is earmarked annually for conducting these conclaves. The money will be used in TA, stay, hospitality and other contingent expenditure for these events. Annually three conclaves; one in each faculty, i.e., (a) science, (b) social science and liberal arts as well as (c) business, economics and commerce will be organized. These conclaves will provide the much needed platform for review and monitoring.

Executing Agency :

The entire scheme will be operated and executed by the Odisha State Higher Education Council with funds sanctioned from Department of Higher Education. Committees will be formed with the domain experts as members. Vice-Chairperson of the OSHEC will prepare the list of the Members and submit to the Government for approval.

Timeline :

1. For Research Scholarship :

- a. Advertisement before March every year
- b. Selection and award before May in the same year

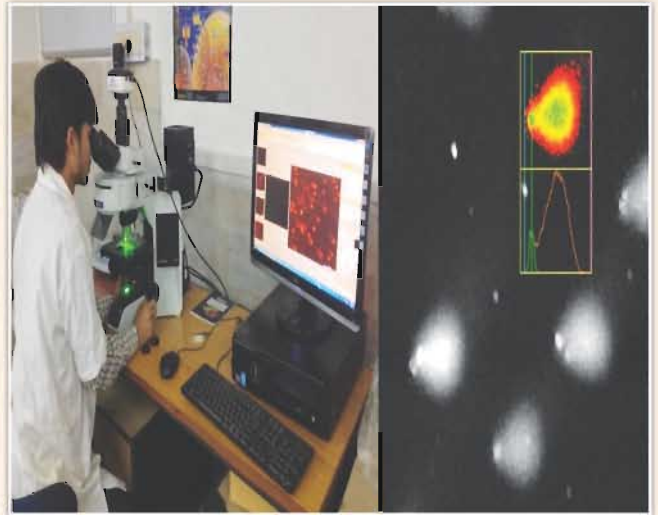
2. For Seed Funding :

- a. Advertisement twice a year preferably January and July
- b. Selection and award by March and October

3. For Research Scholar's Conclave : December every year

4. Reviewing/Mentoring Panel : to be drawn up by OSHEC

The implementation of the scheme, the funding pattern and outcome of the scheme will be reviewed annually by competent authority. The Higher Education Department, Govt. of Odisha, with the advice from OSHEC reserves the right to amend the rules. The decision of the competent authority shall be final and no body/individual can go for any legal or other remedy against the decision of the competent authority.





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