

CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME OF  
'RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP'  
FOR  
PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS TO  
OTHER BACKWARD CLASS (OBC) STUDENTS  
TO PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION IN  
M.Phil. & Ph.D.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

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**CONTENTS**

<b>S.NO.</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>PAGE NO.</b>
1.	Background	3
2.	Scope of the Scheme	3
3.	Implementing Agency	3
4.	Eligibility	3-4
5.	Number of Fellowships	4
6.	Duration of Fellowship	4
7.	Rate of Fellowships	4-5
8.	Procedure for Applying for Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF)	5-6
9.	Evaluation and Monitoring	6

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**  
**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT**

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**CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME OF 'RAJIV GANDHI NATIONAL FELLOWSHIP' FOR  
PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS TO OTHER BACKWARD CLASS (OBC) STUDENTS  
TO PURSUE PROGRAMMES IN HIGHER EDUCATION SUCH AS M.Phil. AND Ph.D.**

**I. Background**

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Government of India had launched a Central Sector scheme namely, Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship during the financial year 2014-15 to increase opportunities for the students of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) for pursuing higher education leading to their acquiring degrees such as M.Phil. and Ph.D.

The scheme aims at providing financial assistance to the OBC students in obtaining quality higher education leading to degrees such as M.Phil and Ph.D in universities, research institutions and scientific institutions. This will not only enable them to be eligible for employment to the posts of Lecturers lying vacant in various colleges and universities but will also equip them to effectively take advantage of the growing opportunities at the national and international level in the context of the new economic order.

**II. Scope of the scheme**

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The scheme is designed to provide a total number of 300 Junior Research Fellowships per year from the year 2014-15 onwards and 300 Senior Research Fellowships during 2016-17 to Other Backward Class (OBC) students. The scheme covers all universities/institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and is implemented by the UGC itself on the pattern of the scheme of UGC Fellowships being awarded to research students pursuing M. Phil. and Ph.D.

**III. Implementing agency**

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The UGC is the nodal agency for implementing the scheme and notifies the scheme by releasing advertisements in the Press at a suitable date.

**IV. Eligibility**

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- (i) Any student belonging to Other Backward Class (OBC) category who has been admitted to M.Phil./Ph.D. course in a University or academic institution after completing the required formalities of admission in that University or academic institution is eligible for the award of Fellowship subject to provisions of the scheme as per the advertisement of UGC.

(ii) After two years, if the progress in the research work of the awardee is found satisfactory, his/her tenure will be extended for a further period of three years as Senior Research Fellow (SRF). The research work will be assessed as per the UGC norms. The total period of award of JRF and SRF shall not exceed a period of 5 years. The fellowship will be paid from the date of registration of the student in the M.Phil./Ph.D. course.

(iii) Students belonging to Other Backward Class (OBC) category once considered eligible for the fellowship shall not be entitled to any other benefits from Central or State Government or any other body like UGC offering similar benefit to avoid duplication and increase coverage. Only those, doing regular and full time M.Phil./Ph.D. course of a University/Research Institution shall be eligible for the fellowship. Employees of any University/College/Educational Institution/Central/State/UT Government shall be excluded from availing Fellowship, even if they are on Study Leave or EOL to pursue the M.Phil./Ph.D. course.

#### **V. Number of Fellowships**

(i) The total number of fellowships to be awarded to the Other Backward Class (OBC) students under the scheme is 300 as per details given at para-II. In case of non-availability of adequate number of Other Backward Class (OBC) candidates, the number of fellowships not availed during a year will be carried forward to the next academic session.

(ii) In case, the number of candidates exceeds the number of available awards, the UGC will select the candidates based on the percentage of marks obtained by the candidates in their Post Graduation Examination.

#### **VI. Duration of Fellowship**

Name of the Course	Maximum duration	Admissibility of JRF and SRF	
		JRF	SRF
M. Phil	2 years	2 Years	Nil
Ph.D	5 years	2 years	Remaining 3 years
M.Phil + Ph.D	5 years	2 years	Remaining 3 years

#### **VII. Rate of fellowships**

(i) The rates of fellowship for JRF and SRF will be at par with the UGC Fellowships. Presently these rates are as follows:

Fellowship in Science Humanities and Social Science	@ Rs. 16,000/- p.m. for initial two years (JRF) @ Rs. 18,000/- p.m. for remaining tenure (SRF)
Fellowship in Engineering & Technology	@ Rs. 18,000/- p.m. for initial two years (JRF) @ Rs. 20,000/- p.m. for remaining tenure (SRF)
Contingency for Humanities & Social Sciences	@ Rs.10,000/- p.a. for initial two years @ Rs.20,500/- p.a. for remaining tenure
Contingency for Sciences, Engineering & Technology	@ Rs. 12,000/- p.a. for initial two years @ Rs. 25,000/- p.a. for remaining tenure
Departmental assistance (All subjects)	@ Rs.3,000/- p.a. per student to the host institution for providing infrastructure
Escorts/Reader assistance (All subjects)	@ Rs.2,000/- p.m. in cases of physically and visually handicapped candidates

- (ii) The House Rent Allowance (HRA) will be on the UGC pattern and will be payable to those students who are not provided with hostel accommodation. In case hostel accommodation offered by the university/institution is refused, the student will forfeit his claim of HRA. Other facilities such as medical facilities, leave including maternity leave will be governed as per the guidelines of the UGC in case of their fellowship programme.

#### **VIII. Procedure for applying for RGNF**

- i. UGC is the nodal agency for implementing the RGNF scheme for OBC students.
- ii. UGC will notify the scheme by inserting suitable advertisement in the press.
- iii. UGC will implement the scheme once it is approved by the Government.
- iv. It would be sufficient for an OBC candidate to have passed the Post Graduation Examination for being eligible for the RGNF.
- v. There is no restriction to the effect that a OBC candidate should have cleared NET/SLET examination for being eligible for receiving the RGNF.
- vi. UGC will give one month's time to the candidate for applying for the RGNF.
- vii. UGC shall disburse the scholarship amount to the candidates through Bank Smart Cards.
- viii. UGC will also issue a booklet containing all the details about the scheme, for the benefit of prospective candidates.
- ix. UGC will evolve its own mechanism for verifying the genuineness of the OBC certificates furnished by the candidates in order to eliminate the possibility of students availing of the RGNF on fake certificates.
- x. The decision of the UGC in regard to awarding the RGNF shall be final and no appeal could be filed against it.

- xi. In case the numbers of fellowships so allocated to a State/UT are not fully utilized, due to non-availability of eligible candidates, the UGC will allocate the slots amongst the other States/UTs where the number of eligible candidates is much more than the slots allocated to that State/UT. A Committee consisting of the representatives of UGC and Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment will take this decision.

#### **IX. Monitoring & Evaluation**

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The expenditure on evaluation/monitoring of the fellowship programme shall be met out of the funds provided for this scheme. Award of SRF done after appropriate evaluation of performance in carrying out the research work by the candidate in the Junior Fellowship phase.

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Narain Agrawal School

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N.G.

Reg. Ed 16/5

**Government of West Bengal**  
**Backward Classes Welfare Department**  
**Administrative Building**  
**DJ-4, Sector-II, Bidhannagar**  
Website: [www.anagrasarkalyan.gov.in/vb.gov.in](http://www.anagrasarkalyan.gov.in/vb.gov.in)

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vb.gov.in

No. 2468(39)-BCW/MR-149/2014

Dated: 11.08.2014

From : The Assistant Commissioner for Reservation and  
Ex-Officio Assistant Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal

- To : *Higher*  
1) The Secretary, Education Department, *Dr. Karu B. Barua*  
2) The Secretary, Minority Affairs Department  
3) D.M. \_\_\_\_\_  
4) P.O. cum DWO's \_\_\_\_\_

*Slr*  
*Pl. circulate to all -  
NCs / API / STE & on the  
website. L  
22/8/14*

**Sub : Launching of Scheme of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) for OBC students during the XII Five Year Plan Starting from the year 2014-15 regarding.**

*Fellowship*

*DS (i)*

Sir,

I am directed to forward herewith a copy of letter, alongwith its enclosures, as received from Shri A.K. Mohanty, Director (BC), Government of India, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (Deptt. of Social Justice & Empowerment) vide memo no.12013/1/2011-12-BC-1, dated 23.07.2014 on the subject noted above and to request you to kindly take necessary steps for circulation and publicity of the letter and its enclosures on your website immediately.

This may kindly be treated as extremely urgent.

Yours faithfully,

*11/8/14*

Assistant Commissioner for Reservation &  
E.O. Assistant Secretary to the Govt. of West Bengal

Enclo. As stated.

No. 2468/1(2)-BCW/MR-149/2014

Dated: 11.08.2014

Copy forwarded for information to:-

- Shri A.K. Mohanty, Director (B.C), Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.  
(Department of Social Justice & Empowerment),  
Government of India,  
9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Jeevan Prakash Building, 25, K.G. Marg, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi.
- The PA to the Principal Secretary, BCW Department, Government of West Bengal.

*11/8/14*

SS-CA/L-10128

05/07/14

MR-149/2014



No. 12013/1/2011-12-BC-I

Government of India

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment  
(Department of Social Justice & Empowerment)

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Please forward copies  
to Secretary higher -  
Education/Minority affairs

9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Jeevan Prakash Building  
25, KG Marg, Kasturba Gandhi Marg,  
New Delhi the 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2014

All DM / All PO's for Circulation  
The Principal Secretary/Secretary,

Backward Classes Welfare Department/Social Welfare Department  
All State Governments and UT Administrations

Publicity  
Website

Subject:- Launching of Scheme of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) for Other Backward  
Classes students during the XII Five Year Plan starting from the year 2014-15 -  
regarding.

SP/Madam,

I am directed to refer to the above mentioned subject and to say that the Government of India has launched the Central Sector Scheme of Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF) for Other Backward Classes (OBC) students. The guidelines governing this scheme is enclosed which will come into effect from the financial year 2014-15. This may be given wide publicity.

2. This issues with the approval of the competent authority.

Encl: As above.

(A.K. Mohanty)  
Director (BC)

Tele. No. 011-23753404

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:

1. The Secretary, Deptt. of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, North Block, New Delhi.
2. The Adviser (SJ&E), Planning Commission, Yojana Bhavan, New Delhi.
3. The Adviser (PAMD), Planning Commission, Yojana Bhavan, New Delhi.
4. The Secretary, University Grants Commission, New Delhi.
5. The Chief Controller of Accounts/PAO, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi.
6. Sr. Technical Director, NIC, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Shastri Bhavan, New Delhi - with a request that the scheme document be uploaded on the website of the Ministry to give it wide publicity.

Sanjit P  
5/8/14