**National Post Doctoral Fellowship (N-PDF)**

**Objective**
The ANRF-National Post Doctoral Fellowship (N-PDF) is aimed to identify motivated young researchers and provide them support for doing research in frontier areas of science and engineering. The fellows will work under a mentor, and it is hoped that this training will provide them a platform to develop as an independent researcher.

**Eligibility**

* The applicant should be an Indian citizen.
* The applicant must have obtained Ph.D/M.D/M.S degree from a recognized University. Those who have submitted their PhD/M.D/M.S thesis and are awaiting award of the degree are also eligible to apply. However, such candidates, if selected, will be offered lower fellowship amount till they qualify the eligible degree.
* The upper age limit for the fellowship is 35 years at the time of the submission of application, age will be calculated by taking the date of closure of the respective call. Age relaxation of 5 (five) years will be given to candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC/Physically Challenged & Women candidates.
* NPDF can be availed only once by a candidate in his/her career.
* Mentor must hold a regular academic/research position in a recognized institution in India. Should hold Ph.D. degree in Science or Engineering.
* A mentor shall not have more than two ANRF NPDF fellows at any given time.
* Applicants of NPDF, SRG and EMR can submit their proposal only once in a calendar year in any of these schemes.

**Nature & Duration of Support**

* The fellowship is tenable only in India and can be implemented in any of the recognized academic institutions, national laboratories and other recognized R & D institutions. The host institution should provide necessary administrative and infrastructural support.
* The fellows will not be allowed to work with the PhD guide/co-guide. It is also normally not availed at the same Department / institution where the candidates have earned their PhD/M.S/M.D degree.
* The fellowship is purely a temporary assignment, and is tenable for a period of 2 years.
* The fellows will be entitled to receive the grants as given below:

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| **Sl. No.** | **Budget Head** | **Amount** |
| 1 | Fellowship | Rs. 80,000/- per month plus applicable HRA and Rs. 50,000/ per month plus applicable HRA for candidates who have submitted the thesis but PhD degree not awarded  |
| 2 | Research Grant | Rs. 2,00,000/- per annum |
| 3 | Overheads | Rs. 1,00,000/- per annum |

* Research grant can be used for minor equipment, consumables, contingencies and domestic travel. There is no provision for providing research personnel support under this scheme. The Fellow is expected to undertake the research objectives by himself/herself during the entire duration of the fellowship.
* The fellows are not eligible to receive any other fellowship from any Government or Non-Governmental source during the tenure of the fellowship.
* The fellows must seek the consent of ANRF if he/she intends to be away from the implementing institute (except for field work related to the project) continuously for a period more than eight weeks.

**Selection & Mode Of Application**

* The call for applications for ANRF-N PDF will be notified through the website [www.anrfonline.in](http://anrfonline.in/ANRF/HomePage) and [www.anrf.gov.in](http://serb.gov.in)
* The application form along with a research proposal highlighting the objectives of the research work to be undertaken should be submitted online through the website [www.anrfonline.in](http://anrfonline.in/ANRF/HomePage)
* The applicant must identify a suitable Mentor under whom the proposed research would be carried out.
* The selection will be based on the recommendations of an Expert Committee that will be constituted by the Board. If required, the applicants may be called for personal interview.

**How to apply online**
For successful online submission of the application the following points may be noted:

* Applicants should first register into the online website   [click here to register](http://anrfonline.in/ANRF/Registration)
* After log-in, applicants are required to fill all the mandatory fields in **Profile Detail** section under **User Profile**. which includes Bio-data, Photo, Institute Address etc.
* Please ensure that your proposed Mentor is registered into the system by following the same procedure. After log-in, Mentor is required to fill all the mandatory fields in **Profile Detail** section under **User Profile**. which includes Bio-data, Photo, Institute Address etc.
* Details including Project Title (max 500 characters), Project summary (max 3000 characters), Keywords (max 6), Objectives of project (max 1500 characters), Expected output and outcome of the proposal (max 1500 characters) should be provided online at the time of submission of the application.
* Work Methodology and Research plan has to be uploaded in single PDF file not more than 3 pages (max 10 MB).
* For details one may visit <http://anrfonline.in/ANRF/npdf>
* Please ensure that your proposed Mentor is registered into the system by following the same procedure as PI. After log-in, Mentor is required to fill all the mandatory fields in Profile Detail section under User Profile. which includes Bio-data, Photo, Institute Address etc.

**Documents required (in PDF) should be in prescribed format**

* Bio-data (under user profile section) [Download Template](https://anrfonline.in/ANRF/AbstractFilePath?FileType=E&FileName=PI_Biodata.pdf&PathKey=DOCUMENT_TEMPLATE)
* Age Proof Certificate
* Qualification Certificate
* Category Certificate (in case of Age Relaxation)
* Undertaking Certificate by the applicant [Download Template](https://anrfonline.in/ANRF/AbstractFilePath?FileType=E&FileName=UBA_PDF.pdf&PathKey=DOCUMENT_TEMPLATE)
* Endorsement Certificate from the Mentor & Host Institute [Download Template](https://anrfonline.in/ANRF/AbstractFilePath?FileType=E&FileName=END_PDF.pdf&PathKey=DOCUMENT_TEMPLATE)
* Short CV of the mentor (see online portal for its format)
* CV of Mentor [Download Template](https://anrfonline.in/ANRF/AbstractFilePath?FileType=E&FileName=CVM.pdf&PathKey=DOCUMENT_TEMPLATE)
* Plagiarism undertaking [Download Template](https://anrfonline.in/ANRF/AbstractFilePath?FileType=E&FileName=PUT_PDF.pdf&PathKey=DOCUMENT_TEMPLATE)

**Termination of the Fellowship**

* If any fellow wishes to terminate the fellowship, he/she shall inform the ANRF through the mentor and host institute immediately. The implementing institute should not incur any expenditure from the date of termination of the project or the date of resignation of PI. The institute will also arrange for submission of documents mentioned above.
* ANRF reserves the right to terminate the Fellowship at any stage if it is convinced that appropriate progress is not being made or the grant has not been utilized properly.

**Leave**

ANRF PDFs are entitled to leave as per rules of the host institution. Participation in scientific workshops held in India or abroad will be treated as on duty. Maternity leave as per the Govt. of India instructions issued from time to time would be available to female candidates in all categories.

**Frequently asked questions**

Q1: Who can apply for NPDF? What are the eligibility criteria for availing the post- doctoral fellowship?

A1: The applicant should hold Ph.D. degree in Science or Engineering or M.D or M.S degree in any area of medicine. Those who have submitted their PhD/M. D/M. S thesis and are awaiting award of the degree are also eligible to apply.
Applicants should have an outstanding track record as evident from the quality of the research outputs and publications. The selection will be based on the recommendations of an Expert Committee.

Q2: What is the age limit for availing NPDF?

A2: The upper age limit for the fellowship is 35 years at the time of the submission of application. Age relaxation of 5 (five) years will be given to candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC/Physically Challenged & Women candidates.

Q3: What is the amount of fellowship? Is my fellowship taxable? Is the fellowship tenable outside India?

A3: The Fellowship amount for NPDF is Rs. 80,000/- per month. For those who have submitted their Ph.D. degree, Rs. 50,000/- per month will be offered till they are awarded the eligible degree. The fellowship is taxable under the Income Tax rules of India.
The fellowship is tenable only in India and can be implemented in any of the recognized academic institutions, national laboratories and other recognized R & D institutions. The host institution should provide necessary administrative and infrastructural support.

Q4: What is the tenure of the NPDF? Can it be extended?

A4: The fellowship is purely a temporary assignment, and is tenable for a period of 2 years.

Q5: Can I avail the NPDF from the same institution from where I have obtained the Ph. D. degree? Can I avail other fellowship grants?

A5: The fellowship is generally not availed at the same institution where one has obtained or worked for the PhD/M.S/M.D degree. Also, the fellowship cannot be availed with the doctoral thesis supervisor or co-supervisor as a mentor.
The fellows are not eligible to receive fellowship/salary from any other Government or Non-Governmental source during the tenure of the ANRF National Post-Doctoral Fellowship.

Q6: What is the nature of support in NPDF scheme?

A6: National Post-Doctoral Fellow will be entitled to receive grants under the following budget heads.

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| **Sl. No.** | **Budget Head** | **Amount** |
| 1 | Fellowship | Rs. 80,000/- p.m. + HRA (Rs.50,000/ p.m. + HRA for candidates who have submitted the thesis but degree not yet awarded)  |
| 2 | Research Grant | Rs. 2,00,000/- per annum |
| 3 | Overheads | Rs. 1,00,000/- per annum |

Q7: When should I apply for NPDF? Can I apply for the National Post-Doctoral Fellowship (N- PDF) projects throughout the year?

A7: The applicant must first identify the host institution and a suitable Mentor in the host institution under which the proposed research objectives will be pursued.
The call for applications for ANRF- NPDF will be notified through the website [www.anrfonline.in](http://anrfonline.in/ANRF/HomePage) and [www.anrf.gov.in.](http://serb.gov.in) Usually, one month window will be provided to submit the application along with other documents. All applications should be submitted through the ANRF online portal [www.anrfonline.in](http://anrfonline.in/ANRF/HomePage).

O8: Who is eligible to be a Mentor? Can my Ph.D. supervisor or co-supervisor act as a mentor?

A8: The Mentor should hold a regular academic or research position in the host institution. The fellowship cannot be availed with the doctoral thesis supervisor or co-supervisor as a mentor.

Q9: How should I apply for NPDF? What documents should I submit?

A9: All applications should be submitted through the ANRF online portal [www.anrfonline.in](http://anrfonline.in/ANRF/HomePage).
Usually, one month window is provided to submit the application along with other documents.
The following documents are mandatory.

* Research proposal (see [www.anrfonline.in](http://anrfonline.in/ANRF/HomePage) for the correct format).
* Proof of Date of Birth (Class X certificate or Date of Birth Certificate).
* Proof of Caste (only for cases seeking age relaxation).
* Proof of Ph.D. Degree or proof of Ph.D. thesis submission certificate.
* Endorsement Certificate signed by Mentor and Head of the Host Institution (format can be downloaded from [www.anrfonline.in](http://anrfonline.in/ANRF/HomePage)).
* Undertaking Certificate by the applicant (see online portal for its format.
* Reprints of your two best publications.
* CV of the Mentor (see online portal for its format).

The applicants are advised to follow detailed instructions provided in the ANRF online portal [www.anrfonline.in](http://anrfonline.in/ANRF/HomePage)

Q10: When will I be informed of my selection?

A10: The selection process on an average takes at least two months from the last date of submission of the applications. All selected candidates shall receive an Email notification through the ANRF online portal, who are then required to download the offer letter.

Q11: Is there any break up available for the NPDF research grant?

A11: Flexibility is provided to the Fellow and the Mentor for utilizing the Research Grant as per the needs of the research work. Generally, the Research grant can be used for purchasing minor equipment, consumables and contingencies. The grant can also be utilized for travel in India for attending workshops/conferences and other research related activities. In this regard, the host institution's norms shall apply for TA/DA.

Q12: Can I recruit a manpower under this scheme?

A12: There is no provision for providing manpower under this scheme. The Fellow is expected to undertake research himself/herself during the entire duration of the fellowship.

Q13: I have received my fellowship for the first year. What documents should I send to receive my scholarship for the second year?

A13: The Fellows should upload annual Progress Report and financial statements at the end of each financial year. The release of the next instalment of the grant will be considered only after submission of (a) Proper Utilization Certificate and Statement of Expenditure, financial year wise and (b) Annual Progress Report through the ANRF online portal.

Q14: I intend to change my Mentor/Host Institution? What procedure should I follow?

A14: Change of Mentor/Host Institution is generally discouraged and can be allowed only in exceptional cases. Change of Host Institution shall be undertaken only after obtaining due approval from ANRF. The new host institute in any case should not be the institution from which the applicant has worked for his Ph.D. or obtained his Ph.D. degree.
The transfer of the fellowship along with balance grant and the assets to the new institute is allowed, provided the administrative authority of both institutes agree in writing.
NOC from the previous host institute and Endorsement Form from the new host Institute & new Mentor must be sent to ANRF through the online portal.

Q15: I wish to resign as NPDF? What documents must I send to ANRF?

A15: If the one wishes to terminate the fellowship and leave the institute, he/she shall inform the ANRF through the host institution immediately. The implementing institute should not incur any expenditure from the date of termination of the project or the date of resignation of fellow.

Q16: What are the rules for availing leave?

A16: The NPDF is entitled to leaves as per norms of the host institution. Participation in scientific workshops held in India or abroad will be treated as on duty. Maternity leave, as per the Govt. of India instructions issued from time to time, would be available to female candidates in all categories.

Q17: Is ANRF terminate NPDF fellowship?

A17: ANRF reserves the right to terminate the Fellowship at any stage if it is convinced that appropriate progress is not being made or the grant has not been utilized properly.

Q18: Can I be away from the implementing Institute when I am working as National Post-Doctoral Fellow?

A18: The fellows must seek the consent of ANRF if he/she intends to be away from the implementing institute (except for field work related to the project) continuously for a period more than eight weeks.

Q19: What document needs to be sent after completion of the tenure of the fellowship?

A19: The following documents should to be sent to the ANRF after the duration of the Fellowship is completed:

* Final Consolidated Statement of Expenditure (in duplicate), giving expenditure financial year wise (FY) from date of start till date of completion.
* Utilization Certificates (FY wise) for all FYs (in duplicate) matching with Statement of Expenditure figures in that FY.
* Project Completion Report (PCR) with list of publications, patents filed.
* Mentor and PDF candidate are responsible for the timely submission of progress report, utilization certificate, project closure report (PCR) etc.