

FELLOWSHIP POLICY FOR RESEARCH SCHOLARS



Dr. B.R. AMBEDKAR OPEN UNIVERSITY
HYDERABAD, TELANGANA

Preamble

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University is committed to promoting high-quality research that contributes to knowledge creation, innovation, and societal development. To support meritorious research scholars, the University adopts the Fellowship Policy in alignment with UGC norms for JRF/SRF and UGC Postdoctoral Fellowships.

Objectives

- To facilitate the financial assistance to JRF PhD scholars of BRAOU.
- To promote high-quality, socially relevant, and interdisciplinary research.
- To support scholars in completing research within the prescribed academic timeline.
- To encourage scholars to publish in recognised, peer-reviewed and UGC-CARE listed journals.

Categories of Fellowships

A. Category I: Scholars with UGC-JRF

- Scholars who have qualified UGC/CSIR-NET with JRF will receive fellowship directly from UGC as per UGC norms
- BRAOU will provide necessary administrative support, contingency space, and supervisor endorsements.
- The Candidate has to register with the University after the Ph.D Notification is notified and attend the interview .

Eligibility Criteria

For PhD Fellowship (JRF)

- Must be a *full-time* PhD scholar of BRAOU.
- Should not be receiving any other government/ private fellowship simultaneously.
- Must not be employed outside the University.

For Renewal

- Satisfactory progress in Research Advisory Committee (RAC)/DRC presentations.
- Submission of progress reports every six months.
- Mandatory publication requirement:
 - At least one research paper in a UGC-CARE journal before completion of 2nd year.
 - At least one conference paper presentation.

Fellowship Amount and Duration (As per UGC)

For Junior Research Fellowship (JRF)

Aligned with UGC-JRF/SRF pattern:

Year	Monthly Fellowship Contingency	
1st & 2nd Year	₹37,000 per month	₹10,000 per year
3rd Year (Senior Research Fellow)	₹42,000 per month	₹20,000 per year

Duration

- Minimum: 2 years
- Maximum: 5 years (including JRF + SRF periods, as per UGC norms)

Evaluation and Monitoring

Annual Progress Assessment

- Evaluation by RAC every six months.
- Scholars must present progress, data, publications, and proposed timelines.

Conversion from JRF to Senior Research Fellowship (SRF)

- After 2 years of fellowship, scholar must undergo formal evaluation.
- Evaluated by a 3–5 member committee including external expert (as per UGC norms).
- Based on:
 - Publication record
 - Research data generation
 - Quality of progress report
 - Timeline adherence
- Approval of SRF is at the discretion of BRAOU with committee recommendations.

Responsibilities of Fellows

- Maintain regular attendance and research activity on campus/ with supervisor.
- Submit monthly research logs countersigned by supervisor.
- Participate in university seminars, workshops, and capacity building initiatives.
- Follow plagiarism, research ethics and data integrity guidelines of UGC & BRAOU.
- Acknowledge BRAOU fellowship in all publications.

Termination of Fellowship

Fellowship may be terminated if:

- Scholar fails to appear for RAC review.
- Unsatisfactory progress for two consecutive evaluations.
- Plagiarism or academic misconduct.
- Scholar takes employment without approval.
- Scholar discontinues PhD or fails to submit thesis within prescribed duration.

Rejoining After Break

- Break permitted only under medical or extraordinary circumstances (with documents).
- Rejoining possible with RAC approval; fellowship may remain suspended depending on the duration.

B. Category II: Post-Doctoral Fellowship (PDF)

- For scholars completing PhD from BRAOU or any recognised University.
- Based on UGC-PDF equivalence, awarded on merit, publication record, and proposal quality.

Eligibility

- PhD from BRAOU or any recognised university.
- Minimum two publications in UGC-CARE journals.
- High-quality postdoctoral research proposal aligned with university's priority areas (ODL, ICT-enabled learning, inclusive governance, NEP 2020, social sciences, gender studies, etc.).

Fellowship Amount

According to UGC-PDF norms:

- The Scholar will receive the amount of ₹50,000 per month
- The Scholar is eligible for Contingency: ₹50,000 per year
- The duration of the programme is 3 years

Output Expectations

- 3–4 high-impact publications
- Contribution to teaching-learning, MOOCs, OER development

Administration

- Fellowship will be administered through the Directorate of UGC DEB Affairs
- Disbursement will occur monthly through bank transfer.
- UGC DEB Office will maintain fellowship records, progress reports, evaluation forms, and policy compliance.

Review and Revision of Policy

- The policy will be reviewed every three years or earlier based on UGC guideline changes.
- Any revision will be approved through the statutory bodies of the University.