INDIAN INSTITUTUE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI

ACADEMIC SECTION

IITD/Academics/ 31890 Dated: 22.07.2026

Constitution of Doctoral Final Mile (DFM) Fellowship for Ph.D. Students

The Director has kindly approved the institution of the Doctoral Final Mile (DFM) Fellowship for Ph.D. students.

The DFM Fellowship has been introduced to encourage the timely completion of doctoral studies while promoting high-quality research. The Fellowship aims to support research scholars in achieving their academic and research objectives by providing financial assistance and recognition to those who demonstrate academic excellence and make significant contributions to their respective fields.

The Fellowship shall be administered by the Dean, IRD, on the recommendations of the Dean, Academics.

The Guidelines governing the operation of the DFM Fellowship, along with the prescribed proforma for submission of recommendations, are enclosed for information and necessary action.

(Alan V. Sinate)
Dy. Registrar (Academics)

All Ph.D. students

Cc to:-

Director
Deputy Director (S&P)
Deputy Director (OP.)
All Deans and Associate Deans
Heads of Department/Centre/School
Registrar
J.R. Accounts
J.R. Director office

GUIDELINES FOR DOCTORAL FINAL MILE (DFM) FELLOWSHIP

Eligibility Criteria:

(i) All full-time Ph.D. students (irrespective of their fellowship category) and all Part-Time Ph.D. students registered through sponsored research or consultancy projects of the Institute through IRD/FITT, or any other scheme of the Institute would be eligible.

(ii) The PhD students who submit their PhD thesis within 5 years from the date of their first registration in the PhD programme at IITD are eligible for this fellowship. This period excludes the semester withdrawal, if any.

(iii) A candidate applying for this grant must establish through a suitable application form his/her excellence in research through previous publications and patents, pertaining to PhD research. A candidate must have a minimum of 2 SCI journal publications, or 2 patent applications submitted through IIT Delhi. In the case of publication, the applicant should be the first author (published, or at least after final acceptance) in top-quality peer-reviewed international journal before he/she can be considered for this grant. The publication must be a part of the PhD thesis of the student.

(iv) The SRC must certify the candidate's excellence in research and provide justification for the same. SRC's recommendation and the Academic Unit Research Committee (AURC) recommendation are necessary for the candidate's selection for the DFM fellowship, at the time of thesis submission.

Shortlisting Process:

(v) Eligible students must submit an application in the prescribed format (Annexure A) to the AURC, duly endorsed by the SRC, after submission of their synopsis.

(vi) The AURC shall review and recommend candidates once every month, based on the prescribed eligibility criteria and the recommendation of the SRC.

(vii) The AURC's recommendation must be submitted to the Office of the Dean, Academics at the time of thesis submission.

(viii) Upon receipt of AURC's recommendation, the Office of the Dean (Academics) shall review the student's complete academic records and verify compliance with the Code of Conduct. Following due verification and approval by Dean, Academics, the application shall be forward to the Dean (R&D) for further processing and release of the fellowship.

Terms and conditions:

(ix) DFM fellow must work as a Teaching Assistant during the period of fellowship, preferably for a course with a minimum strength of 20 students.

(x) The research during the fellowship period can be supervised by the current thesis supervisor(s) of the PhD student or can be in collaboration with other faculty members from the institute along with the current thesis supervisor(s).

(xi) The DFM fellow will be reviewed on the research work progress by the same SRC, 3 months into the fellowship period.

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(xii) The DFM fellow has to perform scholastic research in cutting-edge areas of academic units and is expected to publish research articles with IIT Delhi affiliation in peer-reviewed scientific journals and present research work at reputed conferences.

(xiii) The DFM fellow must not undertake any employment position outside IIT Delhi during the tenure of the fellowship. He / She must submit his/her resignation to the Dean (Academics) office through the Supervisor and AURC before undertaking any employment positions outside IIT Delhi. Failing to do so will lead to termination of their DFM fellowship and disciplinary action will be taken against him/her. Academic Unit must record daily attendance of the fellow.

(xiv) The DFM fellowship will be effective w.e.f. the date of thesis submission.

Fellowship Amount and Duration:

(xv) The fellowship amount is ₹50,000 plus HRA (inclusive of any existing fellowship). If the DFM fellow is within 5 years of registration in the PhD programme, he/she will continue to receive his/her existing assistantship, with IRD providing a top-up to reach the ₹50,000 total, plus HRA if applicable. This top-up will be paid in accordance with the Academic Section notification. Upon completing the five-year tenure of the existing assistantship, IRD will cover the full fellowship amount of ₹50,000 plus HRA.

(xvi) Students submitting the thesis within 5 years from the date of registration can avail the fellowship for a maximum of 6 months from the date of thesis submission OR until 5 years 3 months, whichever is earlier.

(xvii) Allocation of DFM fellows to faculty members will not be counted towards full-time assistantship quota.

Experience Certificate:

(xix) The DFM fellows will be eligible for an experience certificate on successful completion of the tenure.

(xx) The experience certificate will also be awarded from the date of thesis submission to the date of resignation in case the DFM fellow resigns before completion of the tenure.

Accommodation:

(xxi) The DFM Fellows will not be provided accommodation on the campus, including Hostels. He/she will have to vacate the institute accommodation before joining as DFM Fellows.

Enrolment for Placement:

(xxii) The procedure and guidelines for enrolment in placements for the DFM fellows will be as applicable for the regular full-time PhD students at the Institute.

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Quitting/Termination of Fellowship:

(xxiii) A DFM fellow can quit the fellowship under DFM before completion of the tenure. For this, the concerned Fellow shall give one month's prior notice.

(xiv) The said notice, duly recommended by the supervisor(s) and concerned Head of the AU, should be submitted to the Office of the Dean Academics. The fellowship, if discontinued, cannot be resumed under any circumstances.

(xv) DFM fellowship may be terminated under any of the following conditions: (i) unauthorized absence for more than 7 days OR (ii) unsatisfactory progress judged by the SRC during the progress review.

No Dues:

(xvi) The students receiving DFM fellowship must complete the No Dues process from his/ her PhD program after completing their thesis defense. The PhD degree certificate and the testimonials will be awarded after completing the no-dues process from the PhD Program.

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI
ACADEMIC SECTION

(Only For Ph.D. Research Scholars)
APPLICATION FORM FOR DOCTORAL FINAL MILE (DFM) FELLOWSHIP
(Eligibility criteria mentioned in the Guidelines for this Fellowship may be referred)

A. PERSONAL INFORMATION:

Name: _____ Entry No.:_____

Deptt./ Centre/ School: _____ Date of Joining: _____

Date of submission of thesis: _____ Semester withdrawal, if any:_____

Email: _____Mobile No.:_____

B. Details of publications in SCI Journals and patents:

SCI Journals:

Sl No.	Details (Author, Journal name, year, volume, page No.)	Whether first author? Chapter no. of thesis based on the paper

Patents:

Sl No	Details	Chapter no. of paper based on the patent

Please enclose the copies of the Journal publication and patent.

Date: _____ Signature of Ph.D. Research Scholar: _____

P.T.O.

C. Recommendations of Student Research Committee (SRC):

(Clearly certify candidate's excellence in research with justification)

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Signature of Supervisor: _____Name: _____

Signature of Joint Supervisor, if any: _____ Name: _____

Signature of Internal Expert member: _____Name :_____

Signature of External Expert member: _____ Name :_____

D. **Recommendations of Academic Unit Research Committee (AURC):**

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_____

Date:_____ Signature of AURC Chairperson:_____ Name:_____

Academic Section

Dealing Assistant's remarks regarding compliance of Code of Conduct or any other observations		Signature
DAO/AAO's remarks. if any		
Deputy/ Assistant Registrar/ Senior Consultant (Academics)'s remarks, if any.		

Dean, Academic's Approval

Approval of Dean, Academics/Associate Dean, Academics (PGR)	Remarks, if any	Signature
Approved/ Not Approved		