

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

IKS PDF

Eligibility

1. **Who can apply for the IKS Postdoctoral Fellowship?**

The fellowship is open to Indian citizens and Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) who hold a Ph.D. from a recognized university. Candidates who possess the Provisional Degree at the time of application are also eligible.

2. **Is there an age limit for applicants?**

Yes, the upper age limit is 35 years (as on 28th February 2025) at the time of application submission. Age relaxation of **5 years is provided for SC/ST/OBC/Physically Challenged & Women candidates.**

3. **Can I apply if I am currently pursuing my Ph.D.?**

No, only candidates who have submitted their Ph.D. thesis and have fulfilled all the requirements or have already been awarded the degree can apply. (Please refer to FAQ 1)

4. **Can independent researchers or students currently pursuing UG/PG degrees apply?**

No, independent researchers without institutional affiliation and students pursuing UG/PG degrees are not eligible.

5. **Can I apply if I have already availed an IKS Postdoctoral Fellowship in the past?**

No, the IKS Postdoctoral Fellowship can be availed only once in a candidate's career.

Mentor and Host Institution

6. **Who can be a mentor for the fellowship?**

The mentor must hold a Ph.D. and hold a regular academic or research position in a recognized Indian institution. Acharyas from gurukulas/pathashalas, and practicing artists with at least three years of teaching experience can be co-mentors. The candidate's Ph.D. thesis supervisor or co-supervisor cannot be their mentor.

7. **Can a mentor guide more than one fellow?**

A mentor can have a **maximum of two IKS Postdoctoral Fellows** at any given time.

8. **Are faculty members of private institutions eligible to be mentors?**

Yes, faculty members from government-recognized private or public educational institutions.

9. How to identify mentor?

It is the responsibility of the applicants to contact and obtain the consent of the mentor & host institution. Applicants may visit IKS Website to look for potential mentors.

10. **Can I undertake my fellowship in the same institution where I completed my Ph.D.?**

No. The fellowship should not be availed at the same department/institution where the candidate earned their Ph.D.

11. **Is it possible to change my mentor or host institution after selection?**

Changes are discouraged but may be allowed under extraordinary circumstances and in some exceptional cases with approval from the IKS Division and the Mentor.

Application Process

12. **How can I submit my proposal?**

Proposals must be submitted through the online link provided in the call for applications. Submissions via any other means will not be considered.

13. **What language can I submit my proposal in?**

Proposals can be submitted in **English or any Indian language listed in the Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution of India.

14. **What are the key factors considered in the selection process?**

Proposals are reviewed based on their relevance to IKS, feasibility within two years, interdisciplinary approach, and potential impact. There will also be a presentation before an expert committee.

15. **Can I submit multiple proposals for different research topics?**

No, each fellow can submit only one proposal.

16. **What happens if my proposal does not follow the given template?**

Proposals that do not adhere to the prescribed format will be rejected without review.

Fellowship Support & Duration

17. **What is the duration of the fellowship?**

The fellowship is for a period of two years. This is purely a temporary position with no possibility of being converted to a permanent position.

18. **What is the fellowship amount and additional support provided?**

Fellows receive ₹1.0 lakh per month (fixed), a contingency grant of ₹2.0 lakh per annum, and ₹1.0 lakh per annum for conference travel and publishing costs.

19. Can the fellowship duration be extended beyond two years?

Extensions are generally not granted. However, in exceptional cases, a request must be submitted **at least four months before the fellowship's end**. No additional funding will be given.

Publication & Reporting Requirements

20. What are the reporting requirements during the fellowship?

Fellows must submit progress reports on 1st September 2025, 31st March 2026, and 1st Sep 2026. A final report is due on 31st March 2027.

21. Are there any publication requirements?

Fellows must publish at least two research papers in peer-reviewed journals on the theme of their research and acknowledge IKS Division in their publications.

General Terms and Conditions

22. Will the funds be transferred directly to the fellow?

No, the funds will be released to the fellow's host institution/organization, not to the individual.

23. Can the grant be used for infrastructure development, purchasing vehicles, or office furniture?

No, the grant does not allow for expenses related to construction, vehicle purchases, office furniture, or establishing a new research facility.

24. Can a fellow receive funding from another fellowship or grant during the tenure of the IKS Postdoctoral Fellowship?

No, fellows cannot receive any other fellowship from any Government source during the fellowship tenure. They may receive additional funding from Private Endowments/Fellowships/Scholarships/Honorariums/Travel Awards for Conferences.

25. Are there any specific rules for procurement under the grant?

Yes, all procurement should follow the procedures laid down in the General Financial Rules (GFR) of the Government of India.

26. What happens if the fellow or institution fails to properly utilize the grant?

If the grant is not properly utilized or satisfactory progress is not made, IKS Division reserves the right to terminate the fellowship at any stage.

International Travel

26. Are mentors permitted to accompany fellows on international travel for conferences or seminars?

No, only the fellow is eligible for international travel.

