

YCMOU Student Learning and Fellowship Policy

1. Objectives

- To support students' academic and research pursuits across all departments through fellowship opportunities.
- To ensure equitable access to financial resources, enabling students from diverse backgrounds to excel in their studies.
- To encourage innovative research projects that contribute to societal development and align with the goals of YCMOU.
- To leverage external funding from state and central government schemes, enhancing the academic and research capabilities of YCMOU students.

Detailed Overview of YCMOU Departmental Fellowships

YCMOU Departmental Fellowships are designed to support and nurture the academic and research potential of students across various disciplines within the university. Recognizing the diverse needs and challenges of different fields of study, these fellowships are tailored to provide targeted support to students in specific departments, ensuring that they have the resources and encouragement needed to excel in their academic pursuits. Below is an expanded description of the fellowship program across the major departments at YCMOU:

1. Fellowship Overview

Eligibility Criteria:

- Two students from each department, selected annually, will be awarded the fellowship based on their academic merit, research potential, and financial need.
- The fellowship is open to undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral students enrolled in full-time or part-time programs at YCMOU.

Fellowship Amount:

- Undergraduate Students: INR 15,000 per annum.
- Postgraduate Students: INR 25,000 per annum.
- Doctoral Students: INR 40,000 per annum.

Duration:

- The fellowship is awarded for one academic year, with the possibility of renewal based on satisfactory academic performance and progress in research.

Application Process:

- Interested students must apply through the YCMOU online portal, submitting their academic transcripts, a research proposal (if applicable), and a statement of purpose.

The application should clearly outline the student's academic goals, research interests, and how the fellowship will assist in achieving these goals.

Selection Process:

- The Fellowship Committee, comprising faculty members and departmental representatives, will review applications and select recipients based on the eligibility criteria and the quality of their submissions.

2. Department-Specific Fellowship Details

2.1. Social Sciences and Humanities

- **Focus Areas:** History, Sociology, Political Science, Economics, Literature, and Philosophy.
- **Fellowship Purpose:** To support students conducting research in areas that address societal challenges, cultural studies, historical analysis, and policy development. Emphasis is placed on projects that explore social justice, human rights, economic development, and the preservation of cultural heritage.
- **Special Initiatives:**
 - **Field Research Support:** Additional funding is available for students who need to travel for fieldwork, especially in rural or underserved areas.
 - **Publication Assistance:** Fellowship recipients in this department may receive extra support for publishing their research in reputable journals, including covering publication fees.

2.2. Health Sciences

- **Focus Areas:** Public Health, Nursing, Medical Sciences, and Health Policy.
- **Fellowship Purpose:** To support students involved in research that seeks to improve public health outcomes, healthcare delivery systems, and health education. Projects addressing pressing health challenges, such as infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases, and health disparities, are particularly encouraged.
- **Special Initiatives:**
 - **Health Intervention Projects:** Fellowship recipients may apply for additional grants to implement small-scale health interventions in communities as part of their research.
 - **Conference Participation:** Support is provided for attending and presenting at national and international health conferences, allowing students to share their research and gain insights from global health leaders.

2.3. Agriculture

- **Focus Areas:** Sustainable Agriculture, Crop Science, Soil Health, Agribusiness, and Agricultural Policy.
- **Fellowship Purpose:** To empower students to conduct research that advances sustainable agricultural practices, improves crop yields, and supports rural development. Emphasis is placed on projects that align with national priorities such as food security, climate resilience, and the promotion of organic farming.
- **Special Initiatives:**
 - **Experimental Research Grants:** Additional funding is available for conducting experimental research in agricultural fields, including trials of new crop varieties or farming techniques.
 - **Community Outreach:** Fellowship recipients are encouraged to engage with local farming communities, sharing knowledge and innovations that can directly benefit agricultural practices.

2.4. Commerce and Management

- **Focus Areas:** Business Administration, Financial Management, Marketing, Entrepreneurship, and Human Resource Management.
- **Fellowship Purpose:** To support students pursuing innovative research in commerce and management that contributes to the growth of businesses, enhances financial systems, or explores new marketing strategies. Projects focusing on entrepreneurship, start-up ecosystems, and sustainable business practices are particularly encouraged.
- **Special Initiatives:**
 - **Entrepreneurship Grants:** Fellowship recipients with entrepreneurial research projects may receive additional funding to pilot their business ideas or conduct market research.
 - **Industry Collaboration:** The department offers opportunities for fellowship recipients to collaborate with industry partners, providing practical insights and potential internships.

2.5. School of Education

- **Focus Areas:** Educational Policy, Curriculum Development, Teacher Training, and Educational Technology.
- **Fellowship Purpose:** To foster research that improves educational practices, enhances teacher training programs, and contributes to policy development in the

education sector. Emphasis is placed on projects that address educational equity, inclusive education, and the integration of technology in learning environments.

- **Special Initiatives:**
 - **Educational Innovation Grants:** Additional support is available for developing and testing innovative teaching methods or educational tools that can be implemented in schools.
 - **Professional Development:** Fellowship recipients are encouraged to pursue certifications or training in specialized areas of education, with funding provided for course fees and materials.

2.6. Computer Science

- **Focus Areas:** Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Cybersecurity, Software Development, and Information Systems.
- **Fellowship Purpose:** To encourage cutting-edge research in computer science that drives technological advancements and solves complex problems in various industries. Projects related to AI, machine learning, big data, and cybersecurity are particularly encouraged.
- **Special Initiatives:**
 - **Technology Development Grants:** Fellowship recipients working on software or technology development projects may receive additional funding for prototyping and testing.
 - **Hackathons and Competitions:** Support is provided for participation in national and international hackathons, coding competitions, and tech conferences, where students can showcase their skills and innovations.

School of Science

1. Merit-Based Scholarships

- **Dean's Excellence Scholarship:** Awarded to students with outstanding academic performance across all science disciplines.
- **Departmental Topper Scholarship:** Granted to the top-performing student in each department (Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Statistics, etc.).

2. Research-Based Fellowships

- **Undergraduate Research Fellowship (URF):** Supports students interested in conducting research projects during their undergraduate studies.

- **Post Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF):** For graduate students undertaking significant research in their respective fields.
- **Summer Research Fellowship:** A program to encourage students to participate in research during the summer break.
- **Statistical Research Fellowship:** Specific support for students conducting research projects in statistics.

3. Need-Based Scholarships

Can connect to CSR activities in industry collaboration

4. Diversity and Inclusion Scholarships

- **Women in Science Scholarship:** This scholarship is specifically for female students in underrepresented fields like physics, mathematics, and statistics.

5. Subject-Specific Scholarships

- **Physics Excellence Scholarship:** For students excelling in the field of physics.
- **Chemistry Scholar Award:** For outstanding students in the chemistry department.
- **Mathematics Talent Award:** For students showing exceptional promise in mathematics.
- **Statistics Excellence Fellowship:** For students excelling in statistics and data analysis.
- **Botany and Zoology Scholarships:** Support for students specializing in these life sciences.
- **Environmental Science Sustainability Fellowship:** For students working on projects related to sustainability and environmental protection.
- **Geology Fieldwork Scholarship:** To support geology students in their fieldwork and research.

6. Community and Outreach Scholarships

- **Science Outreach Fellowship:** Encourages students to engage in community outreach programs to promote science education.
- **Environmental Advocacy Scholarship:** For students actively involved in environmental conservation projects.

7. Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fellowships

- **Science Innovation Fellowship:** Supports students developing innovative solutions or startups related to their field of study.
- **Interdisciplinary Research and Innovation Grant:** For students working on cross-disciplinary projects that combine multiple science fields.
- **Statistics and Data Innovation Fellowship:** For students innovating in statistical methods or applying statistics to solve real-world problems.

8. Special Achievement Scholarships

- **Innovative Project Award:** For students who have completed outstanding projects in their field.
- **Science Olympiad Scholarship:** For students who have excelled in national or international science competitions.

Above is the broad outline of the fellowship or scholarship program that can be initiated.

Mentorship and Support

- **Faculty Mentorship:** Each fellowship recipient will be paired with a faculty mentor who will provide guidance on their research project, offer academic support, and help navigate the challenges of their field of study.
- **Research Seminars:** Fellowship recipients are required to participate in regular research seminars hosted by their departments. These seminars provide a platform for students to present their work, receive feedback, and engage in scholarly discussions with peers and faculty.
- **Networking Opportunities:** The fellowship program includes opportunities for students to network with industry professionals, alumni, and experts in their respective fields, fostering connections that can enhance their academic and professional careers.

Impact and Evaluation

- **Annual Review:** Fellowship recipients will undergo an annual review process to assess their academic progress, research achievements, and overall contribution to their department. Continuation of the fellowship in subsequent years will be contingent on satisfactory performance.
- **Outcome Reporting:** Recipients are required to submit a detailed report at the end of the fellowship period, outlining their research findings, academic progress, and how the fellowship has contributed to their educational journey.
- **Alumni Engagement:** Fellowship alumni are encouraged to remain engaged with YCMOU, participating in mentorship programs for new recipients, contributing to departmental activities, and sharing their experiences with the broader university community.

Research Project Support

1. Objectives of Research Project Support

- **Encourage Innovation:** To stimulate creative and innovative thinking among students by supporting research that explores new ideas, solutions to societal problems, or advancements in technology and knowledge.
- **Promote Interdisciplinary Research:** To encourage projects that cross traditional disciplinary boundaries, fostering collaboration and new perspectives.
- **Enhance Practical Learning:** To provide students with hands-on research experience that complements their theoretical studies, preparing them for future academic or professional endeavors.
- **Contribute to Societal Development:** To support research that has the potential to make a positive impact on society, particularly in areas relevant to local, regional, or national challenges.

2. Types of Support Provided

2.1. Seed Funding for Research Projects

- **Eligibility:** Open to all students at YCMOU, including those at the undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral levels. Students must propose a research project that is feasible, innovative, and aligned with their academic goals.
- **Funding Amount:** Up to INR 50,000 per project, depending on the scope and nature of the research. The funding can be used for materials, equipment, fieldwork, data collection, or other research-related expenses.
- **Application Process:** Students must submit a detailed research proposal outlining their research objectives, methodology, expected outcomes, and budget. Proposals will be reviewed by a committee of faculty members, who will assess the feasibility, relevance, and potential impact of the project.
- **Selection Criteria:** Projects will be selected based on originality, potential societal impact, interdisciplinary collaboration, and alignment with YCMOU's research priorities.

2.2. Travel and Field Research Grants

- **Purpose:** To support students who need to conduct fieldwork, attend conferences, or visit research institutions as part of their project. This grant is particularly useful for

students whose research requires data collection from specific locations or who need to present their findings at academic conferences.

- **Funding Amount:** Up to INR 30,000 per student, which can be used for travel expenses, accommodation, and other related costs.
- **Application Process:** Students must provide a detailed itinerary, justification for the travel, and a budget breakdown. Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis by the Research Support Committee.

2.3. Publication Support

- **Purpose:** To assist students in publishing their research findings in reputable journals, books, or conference proceedings. This support aims to increase the visibility and impact of students' research.
- **Funding Amount:** Up to INR 15,000 per publication, which can be used for submission fees, publication costs, and other related expenses.
- **Application Process:** Students must submit a draft of their manuscript or paper, along with details of the publication venue and estimated costs. The Research Support Committee will review the application and approve funding based on the quality and relevance of the research.

2.4. Research Equipment and Software Grants

- **Purpose:** To provide students with the necessary tools and resources to conduct their research. This includes specialized software, laboratory equipment, or other technical resources that are essential for the project.
- **Funding Amount:** Up to INR 40,000 per project, depending on the specific needs and justification provided by the student.
- **Application Process:** Students must submit a proposal detailing the equipment or software required, its relevance to their research, and a budget. The application will be reviewed by the department and the Research Support Committee.

3. Mentorship and Guidance

- **Faculty Mentorship:** Each student receiving research support will be paired with a faculty mentor who will provide ongoing guidance throughout the research process. The mentor will assist with refining research questions, methodology, data analysis, and the interpretation of results.
- **Research Seminars:** Supported students will be required to participate in regular research seminars within their departments. These seminars provide a platform for

students to present their progress, receive feedback from peers and faculty, and engage in scholarly discussions.

- **Peer Support:** Students are encouraged to form research groups or communities of practice within their departments, where they can share resources, collaborate on interdisciplinary projects, and support each other's research efforts.

4. Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Progress Reports:** Students receiving research support must submit regular progress reports to their faculty mentor and the Research Support Committee. These reports should include updates on project milestones, challenges faced, and any adjustments made to the research plan.
- **Final Report and Presentation:** Upon completion of the research project, students are required to submit a comprehensive final report and present their findings at a departmental seminar or university-wide research symposium. This presentation allows students to showcase their work, receive constructive feedback, and demonstrate the impact of their research.
- **Evaluation Criteria:** The success of the research project will be evaluated based on the quality of the research conducted, the student's ability to meet project objectives, and the potential impact of the findings. Special consideration will be given to projects that result in publications, patents, or contributions to policy development.

5. Impact and Long-term Benefits

- **Career Development:** Participation in funded research projects provides students with valuable experience that enhances their academic profiles and career prospects. Successful projects may lead to further opportunities for advanced study, professional development, or industry collaboration.
- **Contribution to Knowledge:** By supporting high-quality research, YCMOU aims to contribute to the broader body of academic knowledge, addressing both theoretical and practical challenges in various fields.
- **Societal Impact:** The research supported by YCMOU is expected to make meaningful contributions to societal development, particularly in addressing issues relevant to the region, state, or nation. Projects that align with sustainable development goals, public health, education, and technology innovation are highly encouraged.

3. External Funding Opportunities

3.1. State-Level Funding Programs

- **Maharashtra State Scholarship for Research and Innovation:**
 - Available to postgraduate and doctoral students, this state-level scholarship provides financial assistance for research projects that align with the development priorities of Maharashtra.
 - **Funding Amount:** Up to INR 1,00,000 per year.
 - **Eligibility:** Students must be enrolled in a full-time or part-time research program at YCMOU and demonstrate the relevance of their research to the state's socio-economic development.
 - **Application Process:** Applications are submitted through the Maharashtra State Scholarship Portal, with endorsements from their department and YCMOU.

3.2. Central-Level Funding Programs

- **UGC-NET JRF Fellowships:**
 - Students who qualify for the UGC-NET (National Eligibility Test) with Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) will be eligible for central government funding for their research.
 - **Funding Amount:** INR 31,000 per month for the first two years (with annual contingencies) and INR 35,000 per month for the remaining tenure.
 - **Eligibility:** Must have cleared the UGC-NET examination and be enrolled in a Ph.D. program at YCMOU.
 - **Application Process:** Eligible students must apply directly to the UGC, with required documentation from YCMOU.

DST-INSPIRE Fellowship

- **Purpose:** The INSPIRE Fellowship, provided by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), aims to attract talented young students to pursue doctoral research in basic and applied sciences. The fellowship is part of the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) program, which seeks to strengthen the science and technology ecosystem in India.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Students who are pursuing a Ph.D. in science and technology disciplines at YCMOU.

- Candidates must have a high academic standing and a strong research proposal that demonstrates innovation and scientific relevance.
- **Funding Amount:**
 - INR 25,000 per month for the first two years, along with an annual contingency grant.
 - INR 28,000 per month for the subsequent three years, with additional contingency funding.
- **Application Process:**
 - Applications are submitted through the DST INSPIRE portal, with endorsements from the student's department and faculty mentor at YCMOU.
 - Selection is based on academic excellence, research potential, and alignment with national scientific priorities.
- **Additional Benefits:** INSPIRE Fellows may receive additional support for attending international conferences, collaborative research projects, and access to DST-funded research facilities.

ICSSR Doctoral Fellowship

- **Purpose:** Offered by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), this fellowship supports students pursuing doctoral research in social sciences. The fellowship is designed to promote research that contributes to the understanding and resolution of social issues in India.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Students enrolled in a Ph.D. program in social sciences at YCMOU.
 - Research topics should address critical social, economic, or political challenges facing India, with a clear application of social science theories and methodologies.
- **Funding Amount:**
 - INR 20,000 per month for a period of two years, with a possibility of extension based on satisfactory progress.
 - An annual contingency grant to support research-related expenses such as fieldwork, data collection, and publication.
- **Application Process:**
 - Candidates must submit their research proposal to the ICSSR, along with endorsements from their department and evidence of academic excellence.

- The fellowship is awarded based on the quality of the research proposal and its potential impact on social science research in India.
- **Additional Benefits:** Fellowship recipients may be invited to participate in ICSSR-sponsored seminars, workshops, and training programs.

3. Institutional Support for External Funding Applications

- **Workshops and Training:** YCMOU offers regular workshops and training sessions on how to apply for external funding. These workshops cover topics such as proposal writing, budgeting, and navigating the application process for state and central government funding.
- **Proposal Review and Mentorship:** The university provides a proposal review service where experienced faculty members review and provide feedback on students' funding applications. This service aims to increase the likelihood of success in securing external funding.
- **Administrative Support:** YCMOU's research office offers administrative support for students applying for external funding, including assistance with documentation, endorsements, and submission processes.
- **Networking Opportunities:** YCMOU facilitates networking opportunities with funding agencies, government bodies, and industry partners. These connections can be valuable in securing external funding and establishing collaborative research projects.

Implementation and Monitoring

Implementation Process

1.1. Establishment of a Fellowship Committee

- **Composition:** The Fellowship Committee is composed of senior faculty members from each department, representatives from the research office, and the financial aid office. The committee also includes student representatives to provide input from the student body.
- **Responsibilities:** The committee is responsible for overseeing the implementation of fellowship and research support programs, including the selection of fellowship recipients, approval of research grants, and allocation of resources.

1.2. Communication and Outreach

- **Information Dissemination:** The university will launch a comprehensive communication campaign to inform students about the available fellowship and

research support opportunities. This includes announcements on the university website, emails, webinars, and informational sessions.

- **Guidance Workshops:** YCMOU will organize workshops to guide students on the application process for fellowships, research grants, and external funding. These workshops will cover topics such as proposal writing, budgeting, and submission procedures.

1.3. Application Process

- **Online Portal:** The university will establish an online portal where students can submit their applications for fellowships and research support. The portal will include detailed guidelines, eligibility criteria, and required documentation.
- **Submission Deadlines:** Clear deadlines for application submissions will be communicated to students well in advance. The Fellowship Committee will ensure that all applications are received and processed in a timely manner.
- **Initial Screening:** The Fellowship Committee will conduct an initial screening of applications to ensure that they meet the basic eligibility criteria. Incomplete or ineligible applications will be notified promptly, allowing students to address any deficiencies.

1.4. Selection Process

- **Evaluation Criteria:** Applications will be evaluated based on academic merit, research potential, alignment with departmental priorities, and financial need. The committee will use a standardized scoring rubric to ensure fairness and transparency in the selection process.
- **Interviews:** For certain fellowships or research grants, shortlisted candidates may be invited for interviews or presentations to further assess their suitability. The interviews will focus on the applicant's research goals, academic achievements, and potential impact of their work.
- **Final Decision:** The Fellowship Committee will make final decisions on the allocation of fellowships and research grants. Successful applicants will be notified through the online portal and provided with detailed information on the terms and conditions of the award.

1.5. Award Distribution

- **Fellowship Disbursement:** Fellowship funds will be disbursed in installments, typically at the beginning of each semester. Students must meet ongoing academic and research performance criteria to continue receiving funds.

- **Research Grants:** Research grant funds will be disbursed according to the approved budget and project timeline. Students must submit progress reports to receive subsequent installments of their grant.

2. Monitoring Process

2.1. Regular Progress Reports

- **Submission Requirements:** Fellowship recipients and research grant holders are required to submit regular progress reports to the Fellowship Committee. These reports should detail their academic progress, research activities, challenges faced, and any adjustments made to their project plan.
- **Frequency:** Progress reports are typically submitted at the end of each semester. However, the frequency may vary depending on the nature of the fellowship or research grant.

2.2. Faculty Mentorship and Support

- **Mentor Assignment:** Each fellowship recipient and research grant holder will be assigned a faculty mentor who will provide ongoing guidance and support throughout the duration of the fellowship or research project.
- **Mentorship Meetings:** Regular meetings between the student and their mentor will be scheduled to discuss progress, address any challenges, and provide feedback on research work. These meetings are critical for ensuring that the student stays on track with their academic and research goals.
- **Documentation of Meetings:** Mentors are required to document the outcomes of each meeting, including action items and follow-up plans. These records will be submitted to the Fellowship Committee as part of the monitoring process.

2.3. Research Seminars and Presentations

- **Seminar Participation:** Fellowship recipients and research grant holders are required to present their work at departmental research seminars. These presentations provide an opportunity for students to share their research findings, receive feedback, and engage in academic discussions with peers and faculty.
- **Evaluation of Presentations:** The quality of the student's research work and presentation will be evaluated by the department's faculty members. This evaluation is part of the overall monitoring process and helps ensure that the student's work meets the expected academic standards.

2.4. Financial Accountability

- **Expense Reporting:** Students who receive research grants must maintain detailed records of all expenses related to their project. Regular financial reports, including receipts and invoices, must be submitted to the financial aid office for review.
- **Audit Process:** The financial aid office will conduct periodic audits of research grants to ensure that funds are being used appropriately and in accordance with the approved budget. Any discrepancies or misuse of funds will be addressed immediately, and corrective action will be taken.

2.5. Feedback and Continuous Improvement

- **Student Feedback:** At the end of the fellowship or research project, students will be asked to provide feedback on the support they received, the application process, and any challenges they encountered. This feedback will be used to improve future implementation and monitoring processes.
- **Faculty and Mentor Feedback:** Faculty mentors and department heads will also provide feedback on the effectiveness of the fellowship and research support programs. Their insights will help refine the selection criteria, mentorship approach, and monitoring practices.
- **Review Meetings:** The Fellowship Committee will hold regular review meetings to assess the overall progress of the fellowship and research support programs. These meetings will involve analyzing progress reports, financial audits, and feedback from students and faculty.

3. Evaluation and Impact Assessment

3.1. Final Report Submission

- **Comprehensive Report:** Upon completion of the fellowship or research project, students are required to submit a final report that includes a summary of their research findings, academic achievements, and how the fellowship or grant contributed to their educational and professional development.
- **Review by the Fellowship Committee:** The final report will be reviewed by the Fellowship Committee to assess the overall impact of the support provided. The committee will evaluate the quality of the research, the achievement of project objectives, and the student's academic progress.

3.2. Impact Evaluation

- **Impact Metrics:** The Fellowship Committee will develop a set of impact metrics to evaluate the success of the fellowship and research support programs. These metrics may include publication rates, conference presentations, student satisfaction, and career outcomes.
- **Long-term Tracking:** YCMOU will track the long-term impact of the fellowship and research support programs by following up with alumni. This tracking will help the university understand how the support provided contributed to the students' academic and professional success.
- **Annual Impact Report:** An annual impact report will be prepared by the Fellowship Committee, summarizing the outcomes of the fellowship and research support programs. The report will include data on student achievements, research outputs, and the overall effectiveness of the programs.

3.3. Continuous Improvement

- **Policy Adjustments:** Based on the findings from the monitoring and evaluation process, the Fellowship Committee may recommend adjustments to the fellowship and research support policies. These adjustments may include changes to eligibility criteria, funding amounts, mentorship practices, or monitoring requirements.
- **Best Practices Sharing:** The Fellowship Committee will share best practices and lessons learned from the implementation and monitoring process with other departments and institutions. This sharing will help improve the overall quality of fellowship and research support programs at YCMOU and beyond.