

PMRF Guidelines, recommended by NCC

1. Admission Guidelines:

1.1 PMRF Application for Direct Entry- You can apply for this if you satisfy ONE out of the following criteria in the preceding THREE years from the date of submission of the application:

(a) completed or be pursuing the final year of four (or five) year undergraduate or five year integrated M.Tech. or 2 year M.Sc. or five year undergraduate postgraduate dual degree programs in Science and Technology streams from IISc/IITs/NITs/IISERs/IIST and centrally funded IITs. These candidates should have secured a CGPA/CPI of at least 8.0 (on a 10-point scale). For applicants in the five year integrated or dual degree programs, if separate CGPAs/CPIs are awarded for UG and PG parts of the program, the CGPA/CPI of the UG part (first four years) will be considered. Further, you should have been selected to the Ph.D. programme at the PMRF granting institute.

OR

(b) completed or is pursuing the final year of four (or five) year undergraduate or five year integrated M.Tech. or five year integrated M.Sc. or 2 year M.Sc. Or five year undergraduate-postgraduate dual degree programs in Science and Technology streams from any other Institute/University recognized in India, not covered in 1(a) above. These candidates should have secured a minimum CGPA of 8 or equivalent apart from a minimum score of 650 in the respective GATE subject, or a UGC/CSIR JRF rank of 100 or less, or those with NBHM fellowship. Further, you should have been selected to the Ph.D. programme at the PMRF granting institute.

OR

(c) qualified GATE and be pursuing or have completed M.Tech./MS by research at one of the PMRF Granting Institutions having a minimum CGPA or CPI of 8.0 (on a 10-point scale) with a minimum of four courses at the time of application. Further, you should have been selected to the Ph.D. programme at the PMRF granting institute.

NOTE: Scholars who have upgraded from M.S./M.Tech. to Ph.D. are NOT eligible to apply for PMRF under the Direct Entry channel.

You need to submit a soft copy of your official grade sheet/transcript (to support the CGPA requirement stated in (a)/(b)/(c) as applicable to you) and GATE scorecard (if appropriate).

In addition :

(i) A candidate who converts from Masters(M.S/M.Tech) to PhD Programme is not eligible for direct entry.

(ii) Integrated PhD students are not eligible for direct entry at the time of completion of Masters requirement. However, if they joined the programme with a 4 year degree, they can be considered for direct entry at time of admission into the PhD programme.

(iii) A candidate who defers admission in a PhD programme cannot be considered for direct entry at the time of joining the PhD programme.

(iv) A candidate with a degree in a foreign university is eligible under criteria (b) of Direct entry provided other conditions are met.

1.2 PMRF Application for Lateral Entry :

You can apply for this if you satisfy ALL the following eligibility conditions:

1. You are currently pursuing Ph.D. (regular or upgraded from M.S./M.Tech./M.Sc.) or Direct Ph.D at the PMRF granting institutes.
2. You have a CGPA of at least 8.5 after completing a minimum of 4 FULL courses (other than Research Methodology/Ethics/Project course etc) at one of the PMRF granting institutes..
3. You should apply within the following time limits:
 - i) 12 months from the date of joining for Ph.D. (if you joined for Ph.D. after completing your Master's degree).
 - ii) 24 months from the date of joining for Direct Ph.D. (if you joined for Ph.D. after completing your Bachelor's degree).
 - iii) Up-gradation from M.S./M.Tech.: 12 months from the date of up-gradation to Ph.D. from M.S./M.Tech. (OR) 24 months from the date of joining for M.S./M.Tech.
 - iv) Up-gradation from M.Sc.: 24 months from the date of up-gradation to Ph.D. from M.Sc. Such students should complete at least 4 FULL Ph.D. level courses AFTER their date of up-gradation to Ph.D.
4. The NCC discussed the course requirement for lateral entry candidates. The NCC observed that if a candidate converts from Masters to PhD programme or is enrolled in the Integrated PhD programme, then the courses done while satisfying the Masters level requirement can be counted towards the 4 course requirement.

Please note that you can apply AT MOST twice for PMRF under the Lateral Entry channel.

Four courses as required for lateral entry should be as per the local rules of the PMRF granting institutions, and can include NPTEL courses if the PMRF granting institution allows such courses to count towards PhD requirement.

1.3 Admission Process :

Admission to PMRF is a three-stage process.

Stage 1: Nomination : PMRF Granting institutes send their nominations through the PMRF portal.

Stage 2: Recommendation by National Panel

Step1 : Nominated PhD scholars apply through the PMRF Portal with details.

Step2 : Review by National Panel for each broad area :

- 1 : Civil Engineering, Earth Science, Architecture, Ocean and Naval Engineering.
- 2 : Mechanical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Design
- 3: Electrical Engineering, Electronics Engineering
- 4: Computer Science & Engineering, Data Science, Mathematics
- 5: Biomedical Engineering, Biological Sciences, Agricultural Sciences.
- 6: Chemical Engineering, Textile Engineering
- 7: Materials Science and Metallurgical Engineering, Mining Engineering
- 8: Physics
- 9: Chemistry
- 10: Interdisciplinary areas in Science and Engineering

Stage 3: Final Selections by NCC based on the ranks and the number of seats allocated for each PMRF granting institutes, approved by NCC

2. Portal Logins and points of contact

After selection, each PMRF is expected to login to the PMRF portal. Instructions for login will be sent along with the Award Letter.

All data pertaining to the PMRF will be updated in the portal.

The immediate point of contact for all PMRFs is the PMRF Institute Coordinator. The name and email ids of the institute coordinators is available in <https://www.pmrfin.in/>

Any support required at the national level can be availed by writing to pmrfsupport@smail.iitm.ac.in

3. Fellowship Tenure, Monthly Fellowship and Yearly Research Grant

The selection for Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF) happens twice in an academic/calendar year: the 2 cycles being termed the 'May cycle' and the 'December cycle' (although the call for applications and the actual selection may happen a little later than these 2 months). An Institute that is eligible to grant PMRF is called a PMRF Granting Institute (GI). Each GI typically follows a slightly different timeline for PhD admission, but it is broadly expected that a call for nominations would be made every July/August and January/February (for the May cycle and the December cycle respectively). The date of PhD admission may vary slightly between the GIs and the PMRF tenure for each fellow is typically calculated by each GI from the corresponding date of admission to the PhD programme.

The purpose of this document is to provide a uniform framework for fellowship calculation for PMRF fellows.

NOTE: For simplicity, the tenure of a fellow is taken to be in multiples of 6 months, although this may slightly vary depending on the individual GI's admission calendar.

The following pay matrix may be followed from Cycle 5 onwards. The general guideline of the pay matrix, as approved by the Ministry is given below, year indicated Year in PhD

Year 1 : Rs. 70,000

Year 2 : Rs. 70,000

Year 3 : Rs. 75,000

Year 4 : Rs. 80,000

Year 5 : Rs. 80,000

Research Grant : Rs 2 Lakhs per year. Institute overhead allowed as per the rules of the respective institutes. The Research Grant can be carried forward. The amount has to be spent by the PMRF before the thesis submission or the PMRF tenure, whichever is earlier. Any balance Research Grant amount must be refunded. For those who are submitting thesis on or after November 1, 2022, the research grant can be spent before the final viva voce or the completion of PMRF tenure, whichever is earlier. Any balance Research Grant amount must be refunded. Each institute can formulate their own guidelines regarding what is allowed as a Research Grant.

The following table shows the fellowships payable monthly.

Lateral Entry

Group	Definition	Fellowship Tenure	Remarks
L1	Fellows who were admitted to the PhD programme after completion of a Master's degree in Engineering, Technology or Equivalent	4 years minus the completed tenure in PhD	<u>Group L11:</u> This includes fellows selected for PMRF 1 year after admitted to the PhD programme. Their PMRF tenure would be at most 3 years Year 2 of Ph.D: Rs 70,000 Year 3 of Ph.D: Rs 75,000 Year 4 of Ph.D: Rs 80,000. Total Payable Research Grant : Rs 6 Lakhs <u>Group L12:</u> This includes fellows selected for PMRF 6 months (1 semester) after admitted to the PhD programme. Their PMRF tenure would be at most 3.5 years 0.5 - 1 year of Ph.D: Rs 70,000 1 - 2 years of Ph.D : Rs 70,000 2 - 3 years of Ph.D: Rs 75,000 3 - 4 years of Ph.D : Rs 80,000 Total Payable Research Grant : Rs 7 Lakhs

L2	Fellows who were admitted to the PhD programme after completion of a Master's degree in Science or Equivalent	5 years minus the completed tenure in PhD	<u>Group L21:</u> This includes fellows selected for PMRF 1 year after admitted to the PhD programme. Their PMRF tenure would be at most 4 years Year 2 of Ph.D: Rs 70,000 Year 3 of Ph.D: Rs 75,000 Year 4 of Ph.D: Rs 80,000 Year 5 of Ph.D : Rs 80,000. Total Payable Research Grant : Rs 8 Lakhs <u>Group L22:</u> This includes fellows selected for PMRF 6 months (1 semester) after admitted to the PhD programme. Their PMRF tenure would be at most 4.5 years 0.5 - 1 years of Ph.D: Rs 70,000 1 - 2 years of Ph.D : Rs 70,000 2 - 3 years of Ph.D: Rs 75,000 3 - 4 years of Ph.D: Rs 80,000 4 - 5 years of Ph.D: Rs 80,000 Total Payable Research Grant : Rs 9 Lakhs
L3	Fellows who were admitted to the PhD programme after completion of a Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Technology or Equivalent	5 years minus the completed tenure in PhD	<u>Group L31:</u> This includes fellows selected for PMRF 1 year after admitted to the PhD programme. Their PMRF tenure would be at most 4 years Year 2 of Ph.D: Rs 70,000 Year 3 of Ph.D: Rs 75,000 Year 4 of Ph.D: Rs 80,000 Year 5 of Ph.D: Rs 80,000. Total Payable Research Grant : Rs 8 Lakhs <u>Group L32:</u> This includes fellows selected for PMRF 6 months (1 semester) after admitted to the PhD programme. Their PMRF tenure would be at most 4.5 years 0.5 - 1 year of Ph.D: Rs 70,000 1 - 2 years of Ph.D: Rs 70,000 2 - 3 years of Ph.D: Rs 75,000 3 - 4 years of Ph.D: Rs 80,000 4 - 5 years of Ph.D: Rs 80,000 Total Payable Research Grant : Rs 9 Lakhs <u>Group L33:</u> This includes fellows selected for PMRF 2 years after admitted to the PhD programme. Their PMRF tenure would be at most 3 years Year 3 of Ph.D: Rs 75,000 Year 4 of Ph.D: Rs 80,000 Year 5 of Ph.D: Rs 80,000. Total Payable Research Grant : Rs 6 Lakhs

			<u>Group L34:</u> This includes fellows selected for PMRF 1.5 years after admitted to the PhD programme. Their PMRF tenure would be at most 3.5 years 1.5 - 2 year of Ph.D: Rs 70,000 2 - 3 years of Ph.D: Rs 75,000 3 - 4 years of Ph.D: Rs 80,000 4 - 5 years of Ph.D: Rs 80,000 Total Payable Research Grant : Rs 7 Lakhs
L4	Fellows who are admitted to the PhD programme by upgradation from their MTech or MS (by Research) programme in the same GI	4 years minus completed tenure in PhD (calculated from the date of upgradation to PhD)	<u>Group L41:</u> This includes fellows selected for PMRF 1 year after upgraded to the PhD programme. Their PMRF tenure would be at most 3 years Year 2 of Ph.D: Rs 70,000 Year 3 of Ph.D: Rs 75,000 Year 4 of Ph.D: Rs 80,000. Total Payable Research Grant : Rs 6 Lakhs <u>Group L42:</u> This includes fellows selected for PMRF 6 months (1 semester) after upgrading to the PhD programme. Their PMRF tenure would be at most 3.5 years 0.5 - 1 year of Ph.D: Rs 70,000 1 - 2 years of Ph.D: Rs 70,000 2 - 3 years of Ph.D: Rs 75,000 3 - 4 years of Ph.D: Rs 80,000 Total Payable Research Grant : Rs 7 Lakhs
L5	Fellows who are admitted to the PhD programme by upgradation from their MSc programme in the same GI	5 years minus completed tenure in PhD (calculated from the date of upgradation to PhD)	<u>Group L51:</u> This includes fellows selected for PMRF 1 year after upgraded to the PhD programme. Their PMRF tenure would be at most 4 years Year 2 of Ph.D: Rs 70,000 Year 3 of Ph.D: Rs 75,000 Year 4 of Ph.D: Rs 80,000 Year 5 of Ph.D: Rs 80,000 Total Payable Research Grant : Rs 8 Lakhs <u>Group L52:</u> This includes fellows selected for PMRF 6 months (1 semester) after upgrading to the PhD programme. Their PMRF tenure would be at most 4.5 years 0.5 - 1 year of Ph.D: Rs 70,000 1 - 2 year of Ph.D: Rs 70,000 2 - 3 years of Ph.D : Rs 75,000 3 - 4 years of Ph.D: Rs 80,000 4 - 5 years of Ph.D: Rs 80,000 Total Payable Research Grant : Rs 9 Lakhs

L6	Fellows who are admitted to the Integrated-PhD programme on successful completion of coursework, related project work	4 years minus completed tenure in PhD (calculated from the PhD start date)	Group L61: This includes fellows selected for PMRF 1 year after upgraded to the PhD programme. Their PMRF tenure would be at most 3 years Year 2 of Ph.D: Rs 70,000 Year 3 of Ph.D: Rs 75,000 Year 4 of Ph.D: Rs 80,000. Total Payable Research Grant : Rs 6 Lakhs Group L62: This includes fellows selected for PMRF 6 months (1 semester) after upgrading to the PhD programme. Their PMRF tenure would be at most 3.5 years 0.5 - 1 year of Ph.D: Rs 70,000 1 - 2 years of Ph.D: Rs 70,000 2 - 3 years of Ph.D: Rs 75,000 3 - 4 years of Ph.D: Rs 80,000 Total Payable Research Grant : Rs 7 Lakhs
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Direct Entry

Group	Definition	Fellowship Tenure	Remarks
D1	Fellows who were admitted to the PhD programme after completion of a Master's degree in Engineering, Technology or Equivalent (eg.: ME, MTech, MS by Research)	4 years	Year 1: Rs 70,000 Year 2 : Rs 70,000 Year 3 : Rs 75,000 Year 4 : Rs 80,000. Total Payable Research Grant : Rs 8 Lakhs
D2	Fellows who were admitted to the PhD programme after completion of a 5-year Integrated Bachelor's-Master's	4 years	Year 1: Rs 70,000 Year 2 : Rs 70,000 Year 3 : Rs 75,000 Year 4 : Rs 80,000. Total Payable Research Grant : Rs 8 Lakhs

	degree in Engineering, Technology or Equivalent		
D3	Fellows who were admitted to the PhD programme after completion of a 1-year MSc degree OR a 5-year Integrated Bachelor's-Master's degree in Science or Equivalent	5 years	Year 1 : Rs. 70,000 Year 2 : Rs. 70,000 Year 3 : Rs. 75,000 Year 4 : Rs. 80,000 Year 5 : Rs. 80,000 Total Payable Research Grant : Rs 10 Lakhs
D4	Fellows who were admitted to the PhD programme after completion of a Bachelor's degree in Engineering, Technology or Equivalent (eg.: BE, BTech, BS)	5 years	Year 1 : Rs. 70,000 Year 2 : Rs. 70,000 Year 3 : Rs. 75,000 Year 4 : Rs. 80,000 Year 5 : Rs. 80,000 Total Payable Research Grant : Rs 10 Lakhs
D5	Fellows who are admitted to the Integrated-PhD programme on successful completion of coursework, related project work	4 years	Year 1: Rs 70,000 Year 2 : Rs 70,000 Year 3 : Rs 75,000 Year 4 : Rs 80,000. Total Payable Research Grant : Rs 8 Lakhs

4. Guidelines for TAship of PMRF:

A PMRF fellow is expected to **teach** once a week in a neighbourhood ITI/Polytechnic/Engineering College/School. Expectation is to transfer technical knowledge to others.

Direct interaction in the offline mode is preferred, but in case that is not feasible, PMRF can

also teach online.

Certification of teaching should be submitted during the annual review, for the review period.

5. Review Guidelines

1. Each PMRF is expected to maintain their webpage, projecting their work. This website should be kept updated all the time.
2. All Fellows will be reviewed annually. The review cycles would be held in May and December to cater to the reviews of fellows who are admitted in May and December cycles respectively.

Direct entry Fellows would be reviewed for the first time within 18 months of their joining. Lateral entry Fellows will be reviewed for the first time, within 12 months of their joining. Subsequently, annual reviews will be conducted for both Direct and Lateral Entry Fellows.

Direct entry Fellows should have completed at least four full- semester courses with a CGPA of 8.5 before the first review. Courses such as Seminar/Research Methodology/ Self Study must not be counted against full-semester courses. PMRF-granting institutes are advised to send the details of course work to the National Coordinator, along with waiver details if any. Those who do not satisfy this course requirement would be given a “Needs Improvement while retaining the fellowship – corresponding to 3(a)” (Details of the comments given below in point 4).

3. Each fellow is required to submit their latest CV, Research Progress Report, Teaching Report, link to their website and the presentation file in the portal, before the review. Relevant announcements will be made about a month in advance. Reviews are typically done online, where the Fellow has to make a presentation to a National Panel, followed by a Q& A. One of the following is recommended by the Review Panel for each student:
 1. Recommended with commendation
 2. Progress satisfactory, continue fellowship/restore full fellowship if downgraded earlier
 3. Needs improvement
 - a) Previous review comments were either 1 or 2, so continue fellowship
 - b) Previous review comment was 3a, some progress compared to previous review but not satisfactory yet, reduce fellowship to institute level; research grant to continue as is.
 - c) Previous review comment was 3a or 3b, minimal progress demonstrated, to be removed from fellowship .Detailed comments that justify removal of fellowship will be given by the review panel.

Detailed technical comments will be given for all fellows, which would be visible in the Fellow's portal page.

6. Rules regarding long leave

1. Maternity Leave

The following are the rules applicable to female PMRFs who are availing maternity leave :

- a) Women PMRFs with less than two surviving children are entitled for Maternity Leave during the period of absence (maximum of 180 days) on grounds of maternity. Such leave requests should be approved internally in the respective PMRF granting institute and informed to the National Coordinating Institute. The fellow has to update the corresponding leave page in the PMRF portal. Fellowship is paid during the maternity leave duration every month.
- b) Fellows cannot use research grants during this leave period. PMRF duration extends by duration of maternity leave - fellowship is not given during the extension, but research grants can be utilised during the extension duration. Maternity leave can be availed once during the fellowship.
- c) If the fellow is eligible for a fellowship hike during the maternity duration, she receives it only from the date of rejoining after Leave (and not retrospective).
- d) Annual review will get deferred to the next review round - Fellows who are expected to have reviews in May cycle, will get reviewed in the next Dec cycle; those who are expected to get reviewed in Dec cycle will be reviewed in the next May cycle.
- e) Individual institutes are free to arrange for alternate fellowship at the institute level during the extension period.

2. Medical Leave

- The institutes follow their own internal rules.

3. Academic Leave

PMRF is a full-time program and the internship/other fellowship that the scholar is planning to take is expected to contribute to their Ph.D.

- During the tenure as an intern/fellow, they will not be paid a PMRF fellowship if they accept funds from another source (no double payment). Institutes to decide.
- There will be no extension in the duration of the PMRF fellowship.
- PMRFs will have to attend all the annual reviews and complete internal

- reviews as everything (including the internal review) can be done online.
- PMRFs have to meet all teaching deliverables (online is okay).
- PMRFs will be able to use the PMRF research grant.

The overall idea is that from the PMRF perspective, the Fellows will be treated as a usual PMRF scholar keeping in mind that there will be no double payment (i.e., you do not receive fellowship/stipend simultaneously from two sources).

7. Guidelines for change of institute:

Requests of transfer of PMRFs from one PMRF granting institute to a second PMRF granting institute may be considered in the following case :

- The guide has moved to the second PMRF granting institute and the PMRF also has changed the registration to the second PMRF granting institute.
- The PMRF should submit no objection certificates from both the institutes to the National Coordinating Institute.

8. Guidelines for Joint Degree Programs

PMRFs are allowed to participate in the Joint PhD programmes offered by the granting institutes, subject to certain conditions as indicated below:

- A. The candidates will go through a regular selection process like all other eligible candidates.
- B. No stipend and other perks will be paid to these candidates when they are in the host institution abroad.
- C. All IP matters will be as per the existing IP agreements between the two collaborating institutions.
- D. Only Indian students are eligible to apply for the PMRF.