

Guidelines for UGC PhD Scholarship Program

(Amended by the Guideline Committee

and

Approved at the 166th Full Commission meeting held on 30 April 2024)

Bangladesh, with a population of nearly 170 million is gradually progressing and has already being graduated from a least-developed country to lower middle-income developing country and aims to earn the status of a Developed Nation (Smart Bangladesh) by 2041. With this end in view, the Government of Bangladesh has given top priority to quality education and research at the tertiary level, particularly in science and technology. However, with the establishment of several public universities of science and technology as well as more than a hundred universities in the Private Sector, there is a serious dearth of qualified teachers to cater to the needs and demands of about 4.8 million students enrolled at the universities. The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh underscored the importance of higher education and research in the overall socio-economic development of Bangladesh and initiated a PhD program to meet the growing demand for PhDs and encourage young teachers, researchers and meritorious students to engage in cutting-edge research and innovation. In a meeting of the Committee for Selecting UGC PhD Scholars, it was decided that the existing guidelines for awarding PhD scholarships would be reviewed and updated in consideration of the present scenario of tertiary education prevailing in Bangladesh. The updated guidelines have been prepared in light of the above-mentioned considerations.

- 1. Name of the Scholarship** : UGC PhD Scholarship
- 2. Number of Scholarships** : 75 (Seventy five) per year
- 3. Duration of the Scholarship** : Three years are subject to satisfactory progress. Under special circumstances, the tenure may be extended for another year or part thereof.
- 4. Scholarship allowance** :
 - (i) A UGC PhD Scholar shall receive an allowance of Tk.40,000.00 (Forty thousand) per month (maximum 36 months from the date of joining);
 - (ii) Tk.10,000.00 (Ten thousand) may be paid for the preparation and finalization of the thesis;
 - (iii) For data collection/travel costs /secretarial works an amount of Tk.10,000.00 (Ten thousand) may be paid in each of the first, second and third year.
- 5. Candidature for application** : The following category of candidates will be eligible for this scholarship:
 - (i) Teachers of public universities;
 - (ii) Teachers of private universities having an approved permanent campus;
 - (iii) Teachers of government colleges;
 - (iv) Teachers of MPO colleges;
 - (v) Meritorious students with requisite qualifications.The scholarships will be distributed as follows:
 - (i) Public Universities (35)
 - (ii) Private Universities (15)
 - (iii) Government Colleges (15)
 - (iv) MPO Colleges (05)
 - (v) Meritorious Students (05)If the required number of applicants in any category is not found suitable, then the remaining scholarship of that category may be offered to another category if suitable candidates are available.
- 6. Eligibility** : Candidates enrolled in full-time PhD programs in a public university will only be considered for this scholarship.

7. Supervisors/Co-supervisors : (i) Public university teachers, not below the rank of Assistant Professor with PhD are only eligible to be Supervisor. Teachers of private universities or research institutions approved by the government may be accepted as Co-supervisors;
(ii) University teachers already supervising not more than 5(Five) MPhil/PhD students will generally be eligible to recommend an applicant to work under her/his supervision with this scholarship;
(iii) The supervisor will receive an honorarium of Tk. 25,000.00 (Twenty-five thousand) from respective universities after submission of the thesis by the candidate. If there are more than one supervisor/co-supervisor, the amount will be equally distributed among them.

8. Mode of Payment

- : (i) Unless otherwise stated, payment of the scholarship allowances will be made every term through the relevant Registrar;
- (ii) The Registrar will release the scholarship allowances monthly on receipt of a payment request from the Scholar certified by the supervisor and Head/Director of the Department/Institute;
- (iii) Scholarship allowances will be sent to the designated account in 4(Four) installments from the date of joining. 1st installment (Six months) allowance will be paid after two months; 2nd installment (One year) allowance will be paid after twelve months; 3rd installment (One year) allowance will be paid after eighteen months & submission of satisfactory evaluation report of 1st & 2nd year by the Evaluation Committee and 4th or final installment for rest of the months will be paid after the award of degree by the university and submission of certificate/documents to the UGC;
- (iv) The data collection/travel costs/secretarial costs will be paid after Six, Eighteen and Thirty months respectively after receiving the request from the scholar recommended by the Supervisor and Head/Director of the Department/Institute;
- (v) The payment for the preparation of the thesis and the honorarium to his/her Supervisor/Co-supervisor shall be made as and when the scholar produces a certificate from the Registrar of the concerned university stating that s/he has been awarded PhD degree;
- (vi) A copy of the thesis both the soft (.pdf file) and hard copy must be enclosed with the certificate.

9. Method of application

- : (i) The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh will advertise the scholarships through well-circulated national dailies/university/college authorities/UGC website/online platform etc.;
- (ii) Intending candidates will submit an application in the prescribed form available at the UGC website (www.ugc.gov.bd);
- (iii) The application must be submitted following the rules of the respective university;
- (iv) All necessary papers: all academic certificates, transcripts, registration certificate of enrollment into PhD program in any discipline of any public university, evidence of acceptance by the university and a copy of a detailed research proposal must be included;
- (v) A brief research proposal highlighting the objectives, methodology, expected results and impact of this research on Bangladesh must be submitted.

10. Method of selection

- : (i) The UGC Member, in-charge of the Research Support and Publication Division, will be in charge of preliminary scrutiny. He/she may incorporate Members/any Member to assist him/her in the scrutiny;
- (ii) After preliminary selection, the candidates will be asked to present his/her research proposal before a Selection Committee(s) approved by the Chairman of the UGC;

- (iii) An allowance of Tk.1,000.00 (One thousand) and Tk.2,000.00 (Two thousand) will be given to the candidates from the Dhaka City and from the outside of Dhaka city respectively for his/her appearance to the Selection Committee;
- (iv) The selected candidates will be notified afterwards.

11. Progress Report

- : (i) 06 (six) monthly progress reports countersigned by the respective supervisor must be submitted by the scholar;
- (ii) The scholar must mention the period for which the report is submitted;
- (iii) The release of the fund will be dependent on a satisfactory progress report;
- (iv) Progress of research during first, second and third year shall be evaluated by a committee consisting of the Supervisor (as convener) Co- Supervisor (if any) and one expert to be nominated by the UGC. However, if extension beyond the third year is sought, progress must be evaluated by a committee consisting of two experts nominated by the UGC, other than the Supervisor and Co-Supervisor (if any).

12. Acknowledgement

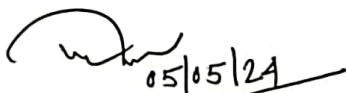
- : The scholar must acknowledge the assistance from the UGC in any publication in the form of a research article or book.

13. Terms & Condition of the Scholarship

- (i) A scholar shall be liable to refund the total amount drawn from the UGC in case he/she prematurely discontinues his/her research work without a valid reason acceptable to the UGC;
- (ii) A scholar will be liable to refund the total amount drawn from the UGC if he/she fails to get into the PhD program within 05(five) years of the commencement of the course;
- (iii) On being awarded PhD program and on submission of the necessary certificates/documents to the UGC, the scholar will be paid an additional amount of Tk.25,000.00 (Twenty-five thousand) for successful completion.
- (iv) If any Scopus Indexed (SCI) journal paper is published from their research work based on a PhD dissertation during or within 02 (Two) years of the completion of the degree, the scholar will be paid an additional amount of Tk. 20,000.00 (Twenty thousand) as an incentive;
- (v) The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh reserves the right to terminate the scholarship for plagiarism and non-compliance/violation of the terms and conditions agreed upon by the candidate.

14. Termination of the Scholarship

- : A scholar shall not accept any other Award/Fellowship/Scholarship during the tenure of this UGC PhD Scholarship; otherwise, the scholarship will be terminated;



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