

UGC PhD Scholarship Guideline 2026

(Approved at the 179th Commission meeting held on 31-08-2026)

Introduction: The Government of Bangladesh has given topmost priority to quality education and research at the tertiary level, particularly in science and technology. However, with the establishment of a number of public universities as well as more than hundred universities in the Private Sector, there is a serious dearth of qualified teachers to cater to the needs and demands students enrolled at the universities. In a meeting of the Committee for selecting UGC PhD Scholars, it was decided that the existing guidelines for awarding the UGC PhD scholarship/fellowship would be reviewed and updated in consideration of the present scenario of tertiary education prevailing in Bangladesh. The updated guidelines have been prepared in the light of the above mentioned consideration.

1. Name of the Scholarship:

UGC PhD Scholarship.

2. Objective:

To strengthen quality higher education and research in Bangladesh by developing skilled researchers to address national and societal needs, solve emerging challenges, and advance national interests. The Programme encourages cutting-edge, evidence-based research and innovation in priority areas, including emerging technologies and other frontier fields, contributing to a resilient, inclusive and knowledge-driven Bangladesh.

3. Categories of the Scholarship:

Number of Scholarships 100 (One hundred) per year. The Scholarships will be distributed as follows:

(i) Teachers of Public Universities	- 40
(ii) Teachers of Private Universities	- 15
(iii) Teachers of Government Colleges	- 15
(iv) Teachers of MPO Colleges	- 05
(v) Meritorious Students	- 25

If required number of applicants in any category is not found suitable, then the remaining scholarship of that category may be offered to another category.

4. Eligibility Criteria:

Candidates enrolled into full time PhD programs in a public university will only be considered for this Scholarship.

The following category of candidates will be eligible for this Scholarship:

- (i) Teachers of Public Universities;
- (ii) Teachers of Private Universities;
- (iii) Teachers of Government Colleges;
- (iv) Teachers of MPO Colleges;
- (v) Meritorious students with requisite qualifications.

5. Employment Status:

The teacher/researcher in service must take academic leave and carry out research as a full-time researcher.





6. Duration of Scholarship:

The UGC PhD Scholarship is for 3 (Three) years from the date of joining, subject to satisfactory progress. In special circumstances, this period may be extended for a further 2 (Two) years or part thereof.

7. Scholarship Benefits:

(a) Monthly Stipend

A UGC PhD Scholar shall receive an allowance of Tk. 50,000.00 (Fifty thousand) per month (maximum 36 months from the date of joining);

(b) Annual research grant for books, software and material etc.

For data collection, secretarial costs, lab fees, purchase of chemicals, purchase of lab materials, participation in seminars/conferences (domestic and foreign), field visits, industrial visits and other expenses maximum an amount of Tk. 50,000.00 (Fifty thousand) for Agriculture/Basic Science/Biological Sciences/ Engineering & ICT and Medicine Tk. 30,000/- (Thirty thousand) for Arts and Humanities/Business Studies/Legal Studies/Social Science may be paid to the scholar each of first, second or third year of joining the UGC PhD Scholarship program on submission of the supervisor's/co-supervisor's countersignature with payment VAT-Tax (as per govt. rules) on the prepared bill voucher to the UGC.

(c) Thesis Binding Grant (one time)

Tk. 10,000.00 (Ten thousand) may be paid for preparation and finalization of thesis;

8. Mode of Payment:

(a) Scholarship allowances will be sent to the scholar's personal bank account in every six months installments from the date of joining only paid after submission of half-yearly satisfactory research progress report signed by Supervisor/Co-Supervisor. During 2nd year 24 months allowance will be paid after submission of satisfactory evaluation report by the Evaluation Committee consisting of the Supervisor (as Convener), Co- Supervisor (if any) and one expert to be nominated by the UGC. Final installment will be paid after the award of degree by the university within the duration of the Scholarship (3 to 5 years). In this case, the scholarship recipient must submit published journal from his/her research work in MJICA (at least one), verified certificates, thesis and necessary documents to the UGC.

(b) Data collection, secretarial costs, lab fees, purchase of chemicals, purchase of lab materials, participation in seminars/conferences (domestic and foreign), field visits, industrial visits and other expenses will be paid each of first, second and third year respectively after receiving the request from the scholar recommended by the Supervisor and Head/Director of the Department/Institute;

(c) The payment for the preparation of thesis will be paid when verified certificate from the Registrar of the concerned university stating that he/she has been awarded PhD degree;

(d) The supervisor will receive an honorarium of Tk. 25,000.00 (Twenty five thousand) and if there is any co-supervisor (maximum two), each will receive an honorarium of Tk. 10,000.00 (Ten thousand) for per year from UGC.

9. Application Procedures:

(a) University Grants Commission of Bangladesh will advertise the Scholarship through well-circulated national dailies/university/ college authorities/UGC website/online platform etc.;

(b) Intending candidates will submit an application through online platform in the prescribed form available at the UGC website (www.ugc.gov.bd);

- (c) The application must be submitted following the rules of the respective university;
- (d) All necessary papers: all academic certificates, transcripts, published articles and books, 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 with the application form;
- (e) A brief research proposal highlighting: (i) Title of the proposed research, (ii) Appropriateness of research, (iii) Clarity and importance of objectives, (iv) Research methodology, (v) Importance of the research in relation to the needs of the department, (vi) Necessity of the proposed research in the perspective of the national interest, (vii) Brief review of the work done with justification, (viii) Comprehensive plan of research, (ix) State whether any work on the proposed study and/or research has already been done. If so, give details indicating, among others, (x) Expected date/time of completion, (xi) Research relevant references must be submitted.

10. Eligibility of Supervisor/Co-supervisor:

- (a) 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;
- (b) A university teacher who is supervising not more than 5 (Five) PhD students shall be eligible to recommend an applicant for research under his/her supervision. However, under this scholarship guideline, a supervisor shall not be permitted to supervise more than 1 (One) PhD student in a single year.

11. Method of Scholar Selection :

- (a) The Member, Research Grants and Award Division, UGC will be in charge of preliminary scrutiny. He/she may incorporate Members/any Member to assist him/her in the scrutiny;
- (b) Following a thorough scrutiny, a Preliminary Selection Committee (approved by the UGC Chairman) will prepare a shortlist. This list will be presented to the subject-specific Sub-Committee (comprising of Expert Members) for the purpose of evaluation and recommendation of the candidate.
- (c) Afterwards, the candidates will be asked to present his/her research proposal before a subject specific Sub-Committee(s) approved by the Chairman of the UGC;
- (d) Based on the evaluation and recommendations received from the Sub-Committees, the Steering Committee headed by the Honorable Chairman including members of UGC will select the final nominations.
- (e) The Sub-Committee(s) will be divided as follows:
 - i. Agriculture;
 - ii. Arts and Humanities;
 - iii. Biological Sciences;
 - iv. Business Studies;
 - v. Basic Sciences;
 - vi. Engineering & ICT;
 - vii. Legal Studies;
 - viii. Medicine;
 - ix. Social Sciences;
 - x. Others.
- (f) The list of the selected candidates will be published in the UGC website.



12. Responsibility of Scholar:

- (a) Half Yearly progress reports countersigned by the respective supervisor/co-supervisor must be submitted by the scholar;
- (b) The scholar must mention the period for which the report is submitted;
- (c) The release of fund will be dependent on satisfactory progress report;
- (d) Progress of research during second 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;
- (e) A copy of the thesis both the soft (.pdf file) and hard copy must be submitted after the award of degree by the university.

13. Acknowledgement:

The Scholar must acknowledge the assistance from University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh for supporting through UGC PhD Scholarship Program in any publication in the form of a research article or book.

14. Terms & Condition of the Scholarship:

- (a) 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 valid reason acceptable to the UGC;
- (b) A scholar must complete the PhD degree and submit the thesis within maximum five years from the date of joining to UGC PhD Scholarship. Otherwise, no further scholarship allowance will be provided, only the awarded thesis will be accepted by the UGC.
- (c) Upon being awarded the PhD degree and submitting the required certificates/documents to the UGC, the scholar shall receive an additional amount of Tk. 25,000.00 (Twenty five thousand) taka as an incentive for successfully completing the PhD within 3(Three) years from the date of joining the UGC PhD Scholarship program;
- (d) If any Master Journal List of Clarivate Analytics (MJLCA) paper is published from their research work based on PhD dissertation during or within 2 (Two) years of the completion of degree, the scholar will be paid an additional amount of Tk. 20,000.00 (Twenty thousand) as an incentive. At this case, Scholar must be the main author of the Journal.

15. Monitoring and Evaluation:

Presentation weeks will be organized every year on a regional basis to monitor the annual research progress of researchers participating in the UGC PhD Scholarship Program. In that case, financial or institutional sponsorship may be obtained from relevant industrial organizations, corporate bodies, or research-oriented institutions to support the arrangement and successful conduct of these programs.

16. Termination of Scholarship:

- (a) A scholar shall not accept any other Award/Fellowship/Scholarship/ Research project during the tenure of this UGC PhD Scholarship; otherwise, the scholarship will be terminated;
- (b) A scholar fails to complete the PhD degree and submit the thesis paper to the Commission within 5(Five) years from the date of joining the UGC PhD Scholarship program, the scholarship will be terminated.



17. Bond Requirement:

A scholar will be fulfill the bond in prescribed format of UGC and submit it with necessary documents.

18. Leave Policy:

- (a) A Scholar must take prior approval from UGC authority for Ex-Bangladesh leave. This provision will be applicable for the Scholar intending to stay abroad for more than 10 (Ten) days.
- (b) A Scholar (employed researcher) must obtain prior approval from the UGC authority before joining or resuming duties at his/her respective organization.

19. Amendment of the Guideline and Resolution of Ambiguities:

- (a) The Commission reserves the right to amendment, modification, addition, deletion or correction any provision of this Guideline based on the recommendations of the 'UGC PhD Scholarship' Selection Committee and any decision taken by the Commission authorities in this regard shall be final and binding.
- (b) Furthermore, if any question arises regarding the interpretation or meaning of any clause, sentence, or word of this Guideline, or if any special situation occurs, the decision of the Commission authority shall be considered final and binding.

31.8.26

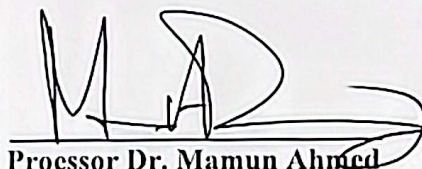
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Research Grants and Award Division
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31/8/26

Dr. Md. Fakhru Islam
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