

CCRAS PG - STAR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

About the CCRAS PG - STAR Scheme

1. What is CCRAS PG - STAR?

CCRAS has initiated “Scheme for Training in Ayurveda Research for PG Scholars” (CCRAS PG - STAR) for Ayurveda Post Graduate Scholars pursuing their MD/MS (Ayu) courses.

2. What is the objective of CCRAS PG - STAR?

CCRAS PG - STAR aims at promoting good quality research in Ayurveda students pursuing post-graduation courses as well as to improve visibility and accessibility of their research work to larger research audience.

3. What are the priority research areas for grant of CCRAS PG - STAR Scholarship?

The priority areas are Clinical research, Pharmacological research, Pharmaceutical research / Drug Standardization / Techno innovation, Literary Research and Fundamental Research.

4. What is the amount of fund after grant of CCRAS PG - STAR Scholarship?

It is up to Rs. 1,00,000/- per scholar

5. How many Scholarships will be granted per year?

Per year 100 Scholarships to the eligible applicants will be granted.

Registration, Submission of proposals and Declaration of Results

6. What are eligibility criteria for applying for CCRAS PG - STAR?

- Ayurveda medical post-graduate scholars of admission batch 2024-25 (from NCISM/GoI recognized Colleges/Institutions) who have received approval for their MD/MS dissertation synopsis by the respective affiliated universities and who wish to avail CCRAS’s financial assistance for pursuing their thesis work.
- PG-STAR is open to Indian nationals only. The applicant should be an Indian citizen

7. What is the maximum number of approved synopses that the Head of the Institute can recommend?

The head of the institute may recommend and nominate maximum 10 percent or rounded up to near higher decimal of the total sanctioned PG strength of the institute of that admission batch for consideration.

8. What will be the timeline for applying and declaration of result?

Interested Candidates and their respective guides are required to register on CCRAS PG-STAR website in the month of December and those candidates nominated by the head of the respective college or institute only can submit the application form and approved synopsis of MD/MS (Ayu) curriculum in prescribed PG STAR scheme format online

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which will be evaluated by the Council. Results will be announced by March of the registration year and list of selected students will be displayed on the Portal.

9. Where can I register for CCRAS PG - STAR?

The dedicated web portal, i.e., may be visited for registration and detailed information regarding CCRAS PG - STAR programme. The portal may be used to register as a guide or as a student.

10. How to add guide at the time of proposal submission through CCRAS PG - STAR portal?

The respective guide must be registered as guide on the portal. At the time of proposal submission, the candidate shall be prompted to choose guide from the list available as drop-down.

11. How many students are allowed to submit their research proposal in CCRAS PG - STAR under the guidance of one guide/mentor?

Only two students are allowed to work under one guide in PG STAR programme.

12. My college name is not showing in the portal. What should I do?

As the CCRAS PG - STAR program is extended only to the NCISM recognized PG Ayurveda colleges, please confirm whether your college is recognized by NCISM. However, ITRA, Jamnagar is an Institute of National Importance under the Act of Parliament and it is also included in the list.

13. Can I have a co-guide out of the institution for project proposal?

It is already notified that approved synopsis from respective University are considered in CCRAS PG - STAR. Thus, the approval for guide/co-guide is considered to be given as per university norms.

14. Where may I get my CCRAS PG - STAR ID?

The CCRAS PG - STAR ID is generated after successful registration before the uploading of documents required for completing the submission.

15. How to submit application form on the CCRAS PG - STAR Portal?

Kindly read the step-by-step submission guidelines on the portal.

16. When should I upload my synopsis and other documents on the portal after my successful registration?

After the successful registration of guide and student and receipt of recommendation letter from the respective colleges, a link will be shared from the PGSTAR team through mail id: pgstar.ayu@ccras.nic.in. The students will be able to upload the synopsis and other documents only after they receive this link.

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17. What is the file format for uploading document on the CCRAS PG - STAR Portal?

Only PDF files can be uploaded on CCRAS PG- STAR Portal.

18. What if the identity of a student is revealed at any step while Online submission of the PG STAR proposal?

If the identity of the student, guide, or college is revealed at any point during submission, the PG research work will not be considered for further evaluation.

19. What is Application Attestation Form (AAF)?

Application Attestation Form is mandatory document to be uploaded with the application. The form can be downloaded from CCRAS - PG-STAR Portal. This form is required to be filled in offline and passport size photograph should be pasted by the student. Further, the form is to be duly certified by the Guide and attested by Head of the Department and the Head of the institution/Principal/Dean of Ayurvedic Medical College. Once attestation form is signed by all the students, they must scan it and save it as a readable PDF file. Application will not be accepted unless accompanied with AAF.

20. Where should I get the Application Attestation Form (AAF)?

AAF (Annexure I) can be downloaded from the Essential downloads on the portal.

21. Could you provide an example that outlines the different categories for furnishing budgetary provisions in CCRAS PG - STAR?

Research Work		
1	Clinical Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Procurement of raw materials ➤ Drug preparation/ Purchase for patients ➤ Package/ Labelling of trial drugs ➤ Drug Standardization ➤ Purchase of investigation kits/Investigations ➤ Patient's panchakarma cost/Bed occupancy charge
2	Pharmacological Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In-vitro, in-vivo and in-silico studies ➤ Procurement of raw materials ➤ Drug and extract preparation ➤ Purchase of cell lines/animals ➤ Purchase of reagents ➤ Physicochemical analysis/ Phytochemical analysis/Soil analysis/Instrumental analysis ➤ Drug authentication & Standardization (microscopy, macroscopy, pharmacognosy etc.) ➤ Purchase of assay kits for conducting specific assays like enzyme activity assay kit, protein quantification assay kit, ELISA kit etc.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Histopathological examination charges
3	Pharmaceutical research / Drug Standardization/ Techno-innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Procurement of raw materials ➤ Raw drug authentication & analysis ➤ Expenditure for formulation preparation/Value added formulations ➤ Quality control & standardization of prepared formulations ➤ Packaging & Labelling ➤ In-vitro, in-vivo and in-silico studies ➤ Procurement of cell lines/animals, animal house charges, animal maintenance, Histopathological charges ➤ Purchase of specific assay kits ➤ Stability tests ➤ Instrumental analysis like ICP-MS, ICP-AES, XRD, XRF, FTIR, Particle size analysis, SEM-EDAX etc. ➤ Mobile application development ➤ Development of algorithms of Artificial Intelligence ➤ Hosting charges ➤ Expenditures for the conceptualization, model specification and designing of instruments ➤ Purchase of mechanical parts/accessories ➤ Development of pilot/prototype for an instrument ➤ Expenses for the testing and refinement of instruments ➤ Expenses for patent filing
4	Literary Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Manuscript procurement/ Purchase of books ➤ Technical editing charge ➤ Copyright fees
5	Fundamental Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Expense for the field visits in surveys/epidemiological studies ➤ Online survey platform fees for interviewers ➤ Expenses for database access, incentives for participants etc. ➤ Costs for technology infrastructure, such as servers or cloud services, needed for data storage or analysis
Miscellaneous		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Publications emerging out of research work (Up to maximum Rs. 10,000/-) ➤ National/International Seminar paper presentation related to the research work (Registration fee up to Rs. 5000/- only) ➤ Statistical Analysis 		

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- Travel Expenses including training/skill development programmes organized by NCISM (Up to maximum of Rs. 5,000/-)

Contingency (10 % of the proposed total budget)

- Acquisition of documents of relevance to the research topic provided these are not available in the library of the university/institute.
- Expenses for patent filing wherever applicable
- Thesis printing/binding of research work (Up to maximum Rs. 5000/-)
- Stationary and postal charges
- Reprints/Off-prints of research papers
- Typing of research papers if computer facility is not available in the host institution
- Photocopying (Case sheets, questionnaires etc.)
- Communication charges

*Contingent grant cannot be utilised for non-consumable items like furniture and office equipment.

* The scholars need to produce quotations as per the clause mentioned in GFR 2017 wherever applicable.

22. Do I have to send hard copy of the application form to CCRAS?

This is a fully online application for the programme. Hard copies shall neither be accepted nor entertained.

23. When will the result be announced and where can I see the result?

Results will be announced in the month of March (or according to admission process of that admission year by NCISM) of the registration year and list of selected scholars will be displayed on the Portal as well as Council's home page.

24. Can I request CCRAS for reconsideration of the application after declaration of result?

The decision of the Council regarding selection of students will be final. Requests for reconsideration will not be entertained and reasons for rejection of applications for award of scholarship will not be provided. The Council reserves the right to reject any application/nomination.

Submission of Documents/Annexures

25. Is it possible to modify the account details (Annexure III) of the college submitted for the purpose of e-transfer of the grant after submission?

No, it is not possible to make changes in the account details of the college after submission.

26. Are accounts registered in the PFMS preferred for the purpose of e-transfer of scholarship amount?

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Yes, the college bank accounts registered in the PFMS should be utilized for the purpose of fund release.

27. What has to be done after result declaration?

After the results are declared, shortlisted candidates are required to submit the Undertaking/Acceptance (Annexure IV) and declaration (Annexure V) duly attested by the Head of Institutions within the stipulated time period.

28. What all documents are required to be provided for receiving financial support at the beginning of Research work?

- a. A soft copy of synopsis submitted in the respective affiliated universities
- b. Proposed research work furnished in scheme format based on the approved synopsis forwarded through the Head of the institute.
- c. Proof of approval of synopsis from the respective affiliated universities
- d. Duly signed and sealed Application Attestation Form (AAF) (Annexure I)
- e. A single consolidated recommendation letter from head of the institute for all nomination of candidates within 10% annual PG intake capacity approved by NCISM/GoI. (Annexure II)
- f. Certificate of approving authority as IEC/ IAEC or any other ethics committee as applicable.
- g. Account details of the institute for transfer of money (Annexure III)
- h. Duly signed and sealed undertaking/acceptance form (Annexure IV)
- i. A declaration to the effect that the funds received from the Council will be used strictly for the purpose for which it has been released. (Annexure V)

29. What all documents are required to be provided for receiving financial support at the end of course work?

- a. An electronic copy of the thesis submitted to the Institute /University.
- b. A final report containing outline, the objectives, methodology, findings and conclusion of the research work. (Annexure VIII)
- c. A soft copy of the research publications (at least one) done out of thesis/dissertation.
- d. The Statement of Expenditure (Annexure IX) and Utilization Certificate (Annexure X) as per GFR 2017 duly approved by the Guide and the Head of the Department/ University/Institution for the entire scholarship released for Scholar.

30. Is there any format for submission of Interim and Final Progress Report?

The interim progress report and Final report must be sent in the prescribed format (Annexure VII and Annexure VIII).

31. What does the term "applied value of the project" mean in Annexure VII?

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‘Applied value of the project’ in Annexure VII refers to the scope of your research and how the study benefits public health and the Ayush sector.

32. Is it mandatory to submit the CTRI registration and IEC/IAEC certificate along with the first interim progress report?

Yes, it is essential to furnish the documents of CTRI Registration, IEC/IAEC approval along with the first interim progress report.

33. What is the procedure for furnishing Statement of Expenditure (SoE) and Utilization Certificate (UC)?

The Candidates shortlisted in the CCRAS PG-STAR scheme have to submit the bills for the expenditure incurred to the college office through proper channel for record. The Statement of Expenditure and Utilization Certificate must be submitted in the specified format as per the scheme (Annexure IX and X) by a qualified chartered accountant through the proper channel of the accounts department of the institution/ college/university.

34. Is the financial assistance provided by CCRAS under PG STAR a recurring or non-recurring grant?

The financial support offered by CCRAS through PG STAR is in the form of a non-recurring grant.

35. Who is accountable for forwarding the SoE, UC and Progress report?

Director/Principal/Dean of the institute/college is responsible for forwarding the SoE, UC and Progress report.

36. What steps might be taken if a student fails to submit the documentation within the stipulated time frame?

If a student fails to submit the documents within the specified period of time, disciplinary action will be taken as deemed appropriate on a case-by-case basis.

Release of Scholarships and Utilization of funds

37. When will the Scholarship amount be released?

The Scholarship will be released after submission of the Undertaking as well as the Mandate form (form available at Portal of PG-STAR) within six weeks through e-transfer after verification of the concerned bank account details provided by the college with a photocopy of cancelled cheque where money is to be remitted.

38. In what manner the scholarship amount be disbursed to the shortlisted candidate?

The financial assistance maximum up to Rs.1,00,000/- would be provided in two installments. The 1st installment of 70% of the total sanctioned amount will be released to

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the selected candidates after receiving a copy of the undertaking. After the completion of the project, the 2nd & final installment of remaining 30% will be released on receipt and acceptance of final report and publication of the study outcome in reputed journals as per recent UGC guidelines.

39. What will be the appropriate mode of utilization of the Scholarship fund?

The amount will be used by the candidate for pursuance of research only and may use the funds for purchase of reagents, drug procurement, manuscript procurement/ technical editing charge in case of literary research, laboratory investigations, quality control and standardisation, or any other preclinical studies viz. in silico, in vitro and in vivo research activity, etc. The candidate shall submit the information to the Council regarding the manner in which the funds were utilized duly signed by the Supervisor and Head of the Institute/College as per format of statement of expenditure (SoE).

40. Is the Scholarship Grant included in the total institutional financial support?

The research grant provided by the Council can be utilized to cover expenses beyond institutional support.

41. What types of expenditures are excluded from the purview of this funding?

The expenditure for the purchase of equipment/tools and books (except Literary), synopsis printing, CA fees etc. does not come under the purview of this funding.

42. What would be the maximum amount of financial aid available for publication and presentations?

The financial assistance for the publication emerging out of the research work and seminar presentation at National/International seminar should not exceed 10,000/- and 5,000/- respectively.

43. Is there a limit or cap on the reimbursement of travel expenses?

The maximum financial support for travel related to research and for attending the training/skill development programmes (3-tier AC train fare only) organized by the NCISM is limited to Rs. 5000/- only.

44. Can modifications be made to the different budget heads previously furnished by the candidate?

The budget approved by the Council cannot be altered once it is approved. However, inter-head adjustments between budget categories may be made with prior approval from the sanctioning authority while submitting the Statement of Expenditure (SoE) and Utilization Certificate (UC).

45. Is it mandatory to provide GST bills to the college authority while submission of SoE and UC?

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It is preferable to procure GST bills for the expenses incurred during the research work.

46. Should the bills be furnished in the name of the college/ principal, student or patient?

The bills should be strictly in the name of Principal/College.

Publications

47. Do I have to publish research paper on the research project under CCRAS-PG STAR?

During the course of the scholarship, the selected candidates are required to publish at least one research papers in reputed journals as per recent UGC guidelines without which 2nd installment will not be released.

48. Do I have to acknowledge CCRAS for the research project completed under CCRAS-PG STAR?

The selected candidate will acknowledge the financial assistance provided by CCRAS for any publication emerging out of the research work and during seminar presentation at National/International seminar.

Miscellaneous

49. Can Guide be changed?

Change of guide, in any case, must be intimated by email to CCRAS at: pgstar.ayu@ccras.nic.in within 10 days with the acceptance of new guide under approval of Head of Institution/Principal and University with due justification and supporting documents.

50. Can I opt for the mentorship from CCRAS including help of laboratory and CCRAS clinical units if required?

If the candidate is interested to opt for the mentorship from CCRAS including help of laboratory and CCRAS clinical units, it may be provided and they may be the part of publication emerging out of the research work.

51. What has to be done if a scholar leaves Scholarship within one year?

If a MD/MS Scholar leaves the scholarship within one year, he/she has to submit a detailed progress report of the work done followed by publications, if any, duly forwarded by his/her Guide ensuring the final settlement of account up to the period of scholarship.

52. What has to be done if a scholar leaves Scholarship after one year?

If a scholar leaves the scholarship after one year, he/she must submit a detailed progress report along with an undertaking to complete the study and submit the final report on completion of the duration of scholarship along with one published research paper, duly forwarded by the Guide and the Head of the Institute.

53. When can my Awarded Scholarship be cancelled?

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If the student leaves the research work either before submission of detailed progress/annual report of the research work or before completion of tenure of scholarship, he/she shall have to refund the scholarship amount received so far to the Council concerned within 6 months.

54. Can I apply funding from other agencies/sources for the research project for which CCRAS PG-STAR Scholarship has been granted?

No, selected candidates can not apply for funding from other agencies/sources for the research project for which CCRAS PG-STAR Scholarship has been granted. A declaration from the applicant will be taken stating that the research project has not been funded by other agencies or applied for funding from other sources.

55. What will happen in case of any technical glitch in proposal submission/communication?

CCRAS will not be responsible for any delay in proposal submission due to technical glitch or delayed communication. The Council will not be responsible in case the student is unable to submit the research work/project in time due to any reason whatsoever and request for extension of last date will not be considered at all under any circumstances.

56. Where to contact for any query?

Write to the Address: PG - STAR, CCRAS, 61- 65, Institutional Area, opp. 'D' Block, Janakpuri, New Delhi – 110058

Email: pgstar.ayu@ccras.nic.in

Telephone: 011-28525959 (Mon – Fri only, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm)

We regret to inform you that personal calls will not be entertained.
