

## **Dr. Ambedkar Post-Doctoral Fellowships**

### **Background**

**1.1.** Dr Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC) has been envisaged to be the Centre of Excellence for study, research, analysis and policy briefs in the field of Socio-economic Transformation and Buddhist Studies. The Centre works on reducing discrimination and exclusion and monitors progress towards more inclusive society.

**1.2.** The main focus of the Centre is to tackle Socio-political and Economic inequalities. In DAIC, research will be conducted by the scholars from select universities both in India and abroad to reduce discrimination and exclusion and monitor progress towards inclusion. The other important areas of research which DAIC is going to take up are theory of social and economic transformation of Dr. Ambedkar, transformational and developmental aspects of Buddhism, policy review and policy advocacy and sustainable development and livelihood through various activities in the Centre. These researches will not only be used to support industry and business houses but also to back all branches related to social sciences aiming to uplift the life of people. DAIC has its own infrastructure and divisions for achieving its aims and objectives.

**1.3.** During the last one year, DAIC has made ‘Socio-economic Transformation’ a niche area of its research activities through lectures, internship programme for University students, seminars, conferences and panel discussions. Under the broad research area of Socio-economic Transformation, the following are priority research segments:

- 1.3.1 Trends and patterns of Socio-economic Transformation in Rural India
- 1.3.2 Urbanisation, Migration and Socio-economic Transformation
- 1.3.3 Socio-economic Transformation for Nomadic Tribes in Urban Area
- 1.3.4 Tackling Inequalities through Social and Economic Empowerment
- 1.3.5 Policies for Socio-economic Transformation and Sustainable Development
- 1.3.6 Caste and gender-based Identities and Challenges for Inclusive Growth
- 1.3.7 Policies for Better Livelihood for economically Backward Classes and other allied sectors such as Transgender, Rag Picker, Beggars, etc.
- 1.3.8 Dr. Ambedkar’s Thoughts and Philosophy on Socio-economic Transformation
- 1.3.9 Sustainable Development and its Goals
- 1.3.10 Welfare Policies and Schemes by the Government for SC, ST, OBC, Divyangjan, and Minorities.

## **2. About Fellowship**

**2.1** DAIC has focused on Socio-economic Transformation, Sustainable Development and Livelihood, Inclusive Growth and Tackling Inequalities. The Centre is keen to develop high quality applied research practices for undertaking research which may help DAIC become a Think-Tank for policy feed to the Government. In this regard, DAIC is some important steps

towards collaboration with various reputed institutions for joint research projects and training programmes both in India and abroad.

**2.2** Dr Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), under the financial assistance of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, is going to start national and international doctoral and post-doctoral fellowship schemes to produce a Monograph and a document for policy feed.

**2.3** The Fellow is expected to undertake research and publication in one or more areas of Socio-economic Transformation as mentioned above. Under no circumstances, the fellow may be allowed to use the opportunity to convert her/his PhD work into a publishable manuscript. The fellow will have to take up a new research work under the fellowship and he/she is strongly expected to generate a publishable manuscript towards the end of the fellowship. As per the UGC norms, the fellow is also expected to deliver two seminars, and contribute in the academic activities of DAIC including setting up a digital archive on Socio-economic Transformation and Buddhist Studies.

### **3. Objective:**

The objective of the Fellowships is-

- I. To provide an opportunity to scholars to carry out advanced studies and research in the fields of Socio-economic Transformation, Sustainable Development and Buddhist Studies.
- II. To bridge the gap between policy for Socio-economic Transformation and Sustainable Development and their impact after implementation.
- III. To foster and promote collaborative research activities which will help in providing policy feeds.
- IV. To take up the problem whose solution will be a big step forward for the field, rather than an incremental step and which is going to matter to more people than just a small group.

### **4. Types of Post-Doctoral fellowships:**

Dr. Ambedkar National and International fellowships are completely mentored fellowship schemes. During the entire period of fellowship, the fellow shall be working under two supervisors, one from a university in India or abroad and the other from DAIC. The Scheme shall be coordinated and administered by DAIC for Research in coordination with the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. DAIC may introduce the following two types of completely mentored fellowship schemes-

- I. International Post-doctoral fellowships for Indian Students to study abroad.
- II. National Post-doctoral fellowship

All the fellowship schemes will include rigorous training and experience based on field study on the topic of research.

## **5. Post-Doctoral fellowship:**

Post-doctoral fellowship is designed for fellows to refine and expand upon skills in the areas of analytic thinking, research techniques, public presentation, and professional writing. The overall goal for fellows is to develop the skill sets required to pin point novel high impact areas of investigation and then obtain resources to prepare a fact-based document with the help of scientific analysis of data collected during the study, reading and review of the existing policies and related document.

## **6. Duration of the proposed Fellowship Scheme:**

The timeline for the post-doctoral fellowships is set for two years. Under no circumstances, the timeline should be extended. Post-Doctoral fellowship may be awarded to the students who enrol themselves in the University that has signed an MoU with DAIC. However, good proposals forwarded by the other universities in India and abroad may also be considered.

## **7. Eligibility**

### **7.1 For Post-Doctoral Fellowship**

7.1.1 Research Scholars who have completed their PhD with recognised research publications to their credit.

7.1.2 The candidate must have a doctorate degree in the relevant subject from Universities/Institutions recognised by UGC/Association of India Universities (AIU), with published research work to their credit.

7.1.3 Not more than 10 years must have lapsed after award of the doctorate however relaxation may be given to the bright candidates on the recommendations of an expert committee.

7.1.4 The candidate should have secured a minimum of 55% marks (or equivalent Grade) at UG and PG levels. (5% relaxation will be given to SC, ST, OBC and other candidates as per Govt. of India rules.)

7.1.5 The Candidate must not be more than 50 years of age as on the date of publication of the advertisement. The upper age limit may be relaxed as per government of India norms for women and for SC/ST/OBC/PH/ Minority Community candidates.

7.1.6 The Candidate should not be receiving any grant or research assistance by whatever name called from any other source.

7.1.7 The Candidate should not be engaged in any part-time or full time employment of any nature during the entire tenure of Fellowship. Those who are employed\* will have to produce relieving/study leave certificate issued by the respective Organisation/Institution from the day the fellowship is awarded.

## **8. Outcome and Deliverables**

### **8.1 Stated aims and objectives of the scheme**

- I. To nurture and promote quality research in the identify fields.
- II. To foster and promote collaborative research for providing policy outputs.
- III. To prepare young research scholars to substantially contribute to their research themes.
- IV. To encourage and retain young scholars who have completed Ph.D. and looking forward to pursue a regular career in teaching and research.
- V. To give a pedagogy of the Pride to heterogeneous sections like policy makers, bureaucrats, government officers, academicians, social thinkers etc. for understanding the relevance of Buddhism and Dr. Ambedkar's thoughts in modern and contemporary times.
- VI. To provide an opportunity to scholars to carry out advance studies and research in the fields of socio-economic transformation, Sustainable Development and Buddhist Studies.
- VII. To impact the development process through knowledge products of quality research.
- VIII. Through implementation of the scheme promote networking among research institutions, thereby contributing to an active discourse on the identified fields.

## 8.2 Measurable Indicators.

**Fellowships** will help in promoting quality research, providing policy outputs and young research scholars to DAIC, opportunity to carryout advanced studies, propagating thoughts and philosophy of Dr. Ambedkar on sustainable development, creating knowledge bank and think tank for the government and understanding relevance of Buddhism and Dr. Ambedkar's thoughts in contemporary times.

For post-doctoral scheme, the evaluation scheme is divided into the fowling evaluation matrix:

- i. First Six Months (Presentation and Research Paper Publication)
- ii. Second Six Months (Progression Report/ Presentation)
- iii. Third Six Months (Monograph Publication)
- iv. Forth Six Months (A Book-length final report)

## 9. Target Beneficiaries:

**9.1** Although the scheme has not been designed for any location, area and segment of population yet the Government of India norms for selection for all candidate. The candidates for post-doctoral degree will be registered at a Universities in India or abroad through proper

channel. For award of fellowship to the selected candidates. The following procedure will be followed-

10 post-doctoral fellowships both for Indian and foreign student will be awarded through a mechanism to identify the deserving candidate maybe as follows:

- a) Setting up an apex-level committee, headed by the Secretary to the Govt. of India and comprising at least two external experts.
- b) Priority maybe given to students from partner institutions though the scholar from any university may apply for the fellowship through proper channel.
- c) The eligibility criteria for the schemes are proposed as per the provisions of the University Grant Commission in India and provisions of Association of Indian Universities for overseas.

## 9.2 Specific interventions

Both the schemes are dedicated to socio-economic transformation, thereby including the marginalized and the socially and economically backward groups. Therefore, government of India norms for welfare of SC, ST, OBC EWC, etc. will be followed in selection of the fellows.

## 9.3 Gender balance

A fair try will be made for selection of women candidates in case sufficient number of applications are received and proposals are as per the criteria decided by DAIC.

## 9.4 Special interventions

Although no special provisions have been made which may go against the rules made by the Government of India yet at least 10% seats may be given to North-east states, Bengal and Orissa as some researchers from these states will be immensely helpful in conducting research on inclusive growth and affirmative actions in North-east region.

## 10. Cost Analysis:

### 10.1 Cost estimate for the scheme duration\*.

Nature of Assistance	Post-Doctoral
Duration	2 Years
Monthly Fellowship with annual increase of Rs 3000/-	RS.50000= Annual Grant Rs. 600000
HRA* per month	RS.6500= Annual Grant Rs.75000

Contingency Fund per Annum**	RS.30000
Escorts / Reader Assistance per month in cases of (Divyangs) physically disabled & blind candidates	RS.3000 = Annual Grant Rs. 36000
National Travel per month***	RS.5000 = Annual Grant Rs. 60000
Total amount per year per fellowship	801000
<p>* The amount indicated is maximum permissible. Eligible amount will be fixed on actual rent agreement basis. No HRA will be paid to the local residents.</p> <p>** The amount indicated is maximum permissible. Eligible amount will be fixed by assessing the Research Project.</p> <p>*** The amount indicated is maximum permissible. The amount will not be given in advance. It will be reimbursed through proper channel after verification of the approved travel plan by the competent authority and on the basis of hard copies of travel tickets.</p>	

<b>Nature of Assistance</b>	<b>Post-doctoral (Overseas) 2 Fellowships</b>	
<b>Annual Maintenance Charge</b>	<p>i. The annual maintenance allowance of US Dollars 15400/- (Fifteen Thousand Four Hundred) for the USA and other Countries</p> <p>ii. The annual maintenance allowance of 9900/- (Nine Thousand Nine Hundred) Great Britain Pound (GBP) for UK only</p>	
Contingency Allowance	US Dollars 1500 for the USA and other Countries and Great Britain Pound (GBP) 1100/-(One Thousand One Hundred) for the UK only	
Incidental journey allowance & equipment allowance	The prescribed Incidental journey allowance is US \$20/- (Twenty) or its equivalent in Indian Rupees and the prescribed equipment allowance is US\$ 20/- (Twenty)	
Poll Tax	Actual visa fees in Indian Rupees will be	

	paid.	
Tuition Fees	Actual as charged	
Medical Insurance Premium	Actual as charged	
Air Passage	Air passage from India to the nearest place to the educational institution and back to India, by economy class and shortest route in arrangements with the national carrier, will be provided.	
Local Travel	(i) Second or Coach Class railway fare from the port of disembarkation to the place of study and back. In case of far flung places not connected by rail, bus fare(s) from the place of residence to the nearest railway station, actual charge of crossing by ferry, air fare to the nearest rail-cum-air Station and/or second class railway fare by the shortest route to the port of embarkation and back will be permissible. (ii) The mode of disbursement of above listed financial assistance will be decided by the Government of India and Indian Missions abroad.	

## 11. Completion of Fellowship

11.1. Once joined, a fellow will have to complete the fellowship and the research work within two years. In case (due to unavoidable circumstances) a fellow leaves the fellowship before two years, he/she will have to submit a detailed progress report of the work done with publications, if any, duly forwarded by the supervisor and the affiliating institution with the final settlement of account by the affiliating institution up to the period of fellowship. In such cases, the fellow will have to present his/her case before the committee and final decision will be taken by the committee. The committee will advise whether the research will be completed by the other scholar or by DAIC professors/research staff.

11.2. In special case of maternity/medical/extra ordinary circumstances, if a scholar remains on leave (not to exceed six months) with prior approval of the competent authority DAIC, the tenure of fellowship will be extended by that period but the total amount of fellowship will not exceed 24 months.

11.3 On completion of the fellowship, the scholar will have to submit the following:

- a) A book-length final Report in a publishable form along-with a Summary of the report (2500-3500 words) and published research papers.
- b) All documents should be submitted in hard copies (three copies of final report and five copies each of the Summary and research articles) and a soft copy of both in pen-drive.
- c) A certificate of settlement of assets and books purchased out of the contingency grant issued by the affiliating Institution.

11.4. A maximum of three months period will be granted for submission of the final report after completion of the fellowship. In special case of maternity/medical/extra ordinary circumstances, the period for submission of report may be extended to 6 months with prior approval of the competent authority.

1.5. Under no circumstances, the period of submission of report shall be extended to more than 6 months.

## **12. Obligations of the Affiliating Institution**

12.1 The affiliating institution will have to maintain the accounts properly and provide the requisite research infrastructure to the scholar. For this, DAIC shall pay to the affiliating/administering institution overhead charges of seven and a half percent (7.5%) of the total Fellowship.

12.2 The affiliating institution will have to give an undertaking in the prescribed format annexed with the Application Form to administer and manage the DAIC fellowship amount.

12.3 Ensuring submission of the final report, audited Statement of Accounts, Utilization Certificate and a completion certificate duly signed by the competent authority will be the responsibility of the affiliated institution.

12.4 DAIC shall pay overhead charges only after the completion of the fellowship and on receipt of the final audited Statement of Accounts.

## **13. Conditions for Post-doctoral fellows**

13.1 The post-doctoral research work should not be as per the requirement of DAIC.

13.2. The duration of full time regular fellowship shall be strictly for two years. In no case, the fellowship beyond two years will be considered. However, extension for submission of final report may be granted on justified reasons without any additional financial commitment of the DAIC.

13.3 The contingency grant may be utilized for books, journals, stationery, computer related costs, and the field work expenses connected with the research work. All items purchased from contingency fund during the fellowship will have to be deposited to DAIC through affiliated institute.

13.4 DAIC reserves all the rights to publish the fellowship report funded by it. In case the fellow wishes to publish the research, prior permission of the competent authority is needed. In such cases, the scholar will have to acknowledge DAIC's support in all publications.

13.5 Income tax deductions as per the Government of India rules are applicable on all fellowships. It will be done at the level of the affiliating/ administering institution.

13.6 DAIC follows Government of India Rules and Directives in case of SC, ST, OBC, EWS, Divyangs, Widows, etc.

13.7 Defaulters of any previous fellowship/project/grant from any other institution will not be eligible for consideration until the applicant obtains the clearance from the concerned administrative division.

13.8 Once enrolled in an institution and received DAIC fellowship, a fellow should not accept any other fellowship or research project or regular financial benefit/assignment from any other institution.

13.9 The research proposal/final report of the fellowship cannot be submitted for the award of any University degree/diploma or funding by any other institution. DAIC however, will have no objection if, with prior permission of DAIC, the scholar utilizes the research data for this purpose.

13.10 The fellowship may be transferred from one affiliating institution to another on the request of the scholar under special circumstance with prior approval of DAIC, subject to submission of the following documents-

- i. Satisfactory progress report.
- ii. No objection certificate from both previous and the proposed university/institute.
- iii. Consent letter along with C.V. of the new supervisor.
- iv. Audited statement of account and utilization certificate along with unspent balance, if any.

13.11 During the tenure of fellowship, the rules regarding all matters including drawls of TA/DA, holidays/leave and contingency grant, etc. will be as per the rules of the affiliating/administering institution.

13.12 The selected fellows are expected to do full time research in India. They could, however, undertake data collection outside India in exceptional cases only in case it is the need of the approved proposal but with the permission of DAIC. For this the scholars are required to apply separately for consideration with the approval of the affiliating/administering institution.

13.13 The scholar should not have been subjected to any disciplinary/legal action/proceedings/financial penalties in his/her career/ research career.

13.14 The final report submitted by the scholar will be considered satisfactory only after its evaluation by DAIC.

13.15 Books/periodicals/equipment purchased by the scholar out of the contingency grant should be deposited to DAIC with the affiliating/administering institution and a certificate to this effect may be submitted along with the final report.

13.16 DAIC reserves all the right to reject any application/nomination. The final interpretation of the rules will be given by DAIC. The Centre is also not responsible for any postal loss/delays in communications.

13.17 Incomplete applications in any respect shall not be considered for fellowship.

## RESEARCH PROPOSAL FORMAT

Other than the mandatory information accompanying each application, candidates should submit their research proposal in two parts:

**A) Abstract of the research proposal (about 300 words).**

**B) Detailed research proposal (about 3000 words) in the format given below-**

**1. Title:** The research proposal should have a clear, meaningful and concise title reflecting the themes of research mentioned in Para 1.3.

**2. Introduction:** The research proposal should explicitly mention the research problem to be investigated in the light of its theoretical and/or empirical context in the relevant area.

**3. Objectives of the Study:** Aims and objectives of the study should be clearly mentioned corresponding with the major themes in para 1.3.

**4. Research Questions or Hypotheses:** In correspondence with the problem statement, specific hypotheses must be indicated as a part of the research proposal.

**5. Review of Literature (National & International):** The current status of the work done in the area, existing empirical findings and the overview should clearly be demonstrated/explained/mentioned with relevance as well as inadequacy of existing findings or approaches and provide a rationale for the proposed study.

**6. Research Methodology** The research methodology which is going to be used by the scholar should contain the following elements-

- i. The scope and coverage of her/his study.
- ii. Approach and methodology with adequate justification.
- iii. Emphasis on bringing out innovativeness in approaches proposed to be followed.
- iv. Research design, data to be collected and empirical and analytical methods to be used.
- v. Explicit linkage with the aims of the research and the research questions/hypotheses of the study.

**7. Relevance and Anticipated Outcomes:** The proposal should include relevance of the study and the anticipated outcomes. It should bring out the significance of the research problem, the contribution which the proposed study is expected to make society and policy making. It should also describe the proposed outputs from the study (Books, research papers, occasional papers with themes, policy document, monograph, etc.)

**8. Tentative Chapterisation:** Details chapterisation with at least 100 words on each chapter.

**9. Bibliography:** Bibliography should be prepared in Chicago Manual Style.

**Note-** Applications with all relevant documents should reach the office of the Director, Dr. Ambedkar International Centre within 45 days for national and 60 days for overseas from the publication of this advertisement in newspaper.

### Annexure / Checklists (Send along with application form)

1. Abstract of the Proposal (*upto 300 words*).
2. Detailed Research Proposal (*about 3000 words in the format as indicated in the guidelines*).
3. Brief academic CV (*upto three pages including (1) educational qualifications, (Post-Graduation onwards), (2) list of five best publications in the form of books/research papers/reports with bibliographical details*).
4. Consent letter and brief academic CV of the Supervisor (2-3 pages).
5. Forwarding letter from the Head of the affiliating Institution duly stamped and signed on the letter head.
6. Self-attested Matriculation Certificate and Post-Graduation/M Phil/Ph D. Certificates/Mark sheets.
7. Self-attested SC/ST/OBC/PWD certificate issued by the competent authority.
8. Those, applying under salary protection, should attach a certificate of Last Month's Gross Drawn Pay.

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\* In case of the employed scholars, the salary and other allowances (except those mentioned in para 10) will be protected by the parent institution.