

INDIA-AFRICA FELLOWSHIP SCHEME

A – Background

First India – Africa Forum Summit (IAFS – I) was held in the year 2008 at New Delhi. Second India – Africa Forum Summit (IAFS – II) was held in the year 2011 at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Third India – Africa Forum Summit (IAFS – III) was held in the year 2015 at New Delhi.

2. Under IAFS- III, Cabinet has granted the approval to the Ministry of External Affairs for 500 scholarships for African Students over a period of five years (PG Degree - 375 candidates, Ph.D – 125 candidates) at a total cost of Rs. 60 crores, the implementation period being 2015-20. Scholarships are offered for duration of two years and three years to pursue Masters and Ph.D programmes respectively. Candidate admitted under the programme is provided monthly fellowship, the air ticket and visa through the Indian Mission in the respective African Country. All foreign students are provided accommodation in the host-university campus.

3. During the period 2010 – 2015, a total of 195 Candidates were enrolled in Post Graduate and Doctoral Programmes from 27 Countries of Africa in 36 Indian Universities. Under IAFS III, admissions have started from session 2017-18. During 2017-19, a total of 88 candidates (66 Master's, 20 Ph.D's) have joined the programme so far. Major Areas studied by African Candidates are Agricultural Economics, Agronomy, Animal Science/ Husbandry, Plant Breeding, Soil Science, Agricultural Extension, Environmental Science, Biotechnology, Agricultural Business, Biochemistry, Crop Science, Water Technology, Apiculture etc.

B – Eligibility

To enrol under India Africa Fellowship Scheme under IAFS III, all candidates must have good knowledge of English

4. Post Graduate - Two Year Programme:-

For admission in M.Sc. programme in Agriculture and allied fields, candidate must have a four year bachelor's degree in the agriculture/ related subject. For admission in M.V.Sc. programme, the candidate must have passed B.V.Sc. & A.H. with internship before the date of registration in the University under Five years degree programme. For admission in M.Tech. programme, the candidates must have passed B.Tech. or B.E. programme. Overall Grade Point Average (OGPA) of 5.50/10 or equivalent percentage of marks at Bachelor's degree level.

5. Doctorate - Three Year Programme :-

Must have Master's degree in respective/ related subject. Overall Grade Point Average (OGPA) of 6.5/10 or equivalent percentage of marks at Master's degree level. Ph.D. programme is of three years duration.

C – Fellowship Amount

6. Fellowship will be awarded for Master's degree programme for two years @INR 18,000/- per month, per student and @INR 22,000/- per month, per student for three years for Ph.D. programme, out of the India Africa Fellowship Scheme of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Apart from this, an annual payment shall be paid to host institute towards medical insurance @INR 2,000/- and institute economic fee @USD 4,000/-

D – Time Schedule

7. Notification of the fellowships by African Countries	End of December
Last date for receipt of application in African Countries	End of February
Scrutiny of applications and forwarding nominations to the DARE, Government of India	Middle of March
Communication of selection for admission to the candidates and the name of Agricultural Universities, where admitted	Middle of May/June
Confirmation/acceptance of admission by the Agricultural Universities	End of June
Commencement of academic session	End of July/First week of August

E – Role of Indian Mission

8. The Indian Mission has to verify the academic as well as proficiency of the candidate for basic writing and speaking English as required in the application form. In addition to the normal medical certificate of fitness, Indian Mission may advise the candidate to obtain a medical fitness certificate that they are free from AIDS and any other ailments, before issue of visa and air ticket. The Indian Mission will issue visa to the candidate after receiving confirmation from University/DARE/ICAR for admission. The Mission will ensure the right arriving port to the candidate and send the travel plan of the candidate to the concerned University well in advance so that University can make proper arrangements for his/her reception and accommodation.

F - Guidelines for Students

9. Agricultural Universities (AUs) are autonomous and independent and hence, have their own eligibility criteria. Thus, the forwarding of applications is not a guarantee of admission. A fellowship is awarded only when admission is confirmed by the University and the ICAR.

- Once admitted, the candidates have to abide by the rules and regulations of the University.

- Candidates must carry a proper visa for the entire duration of the course. They should ensure that they get the correct visa from the Indian Embassy in their country. Guidelines issued by Government of India stipulate that if a fellow arrives without proper visa and his/her actual admission at the University/ Institute does not materialize, he/she will be deported back.
- Before departing for India, the fellows should seek a full briefing from the Indian Diplomatic Mission in Africa about living conditions in India, the details of fellowship, the type and duration of the course to which he/she is admitted.
- Fellow should ensure that the University forwards his/her Joining Report (format provided in application) to the ICAR immediately after his/her joining the course, duly signed and stamped by college authorities, to enable DARE/ICAR to release the fellowship amount to the Universities.
- Upon arrival in India all fellows should register themselves with local FRRO within 7 days or within the stipulated time.
- Fellows are advised to carry some money with them to meet some initial expenditure while joining the course. However to avoid financial hardship at initial stages, there is a provision of advance payment of fellowship to the candidate by the concerned Universities, which shall be adjusted from the fellowship released subsequently.
- A candidate may bring his/her family only after permission of the University authorities. The expenditure on family travel and sustenance throughout the period shall be met by the candidate out of his/her own resources.
- All tuition fees, hostel and Registration fee are to be met by the host Institute utilizing the Institute/Bench fee paid to host University on annual basis.
- Traveling expenses for outside the country during the course of study for personal reasons or data collection etc., are to be borne by the fellows themselves.
- The fellowship will be paid only up to the declaration of result/receipt of provisional certificate and not till the issuance of degree by the University.

G - Mandatory Attendance

10. Fellows must ensure that they have completed the mandatory attendance as required by the particular University to be eligible to take their exams. DARE/ICAR will not issue any recommendation letter if the fellow is short of attendance.
 - DARE/ICAR would not extend the fellowship period if the fellow is detained/debarred from sitting in the exam due to shortage of attendance.

H - Change of University /Course

11. Once a fellow is admitted in a particular University/course, he/she is not allowed to change the course or the University even if the duration and the tuition fee is the same. If any student is found violating this norm, his/her fellowship would immediately be cancelled.

I - Extension of Fellowship period

12. Request for extension of fellowship though is not permissible, but may be considered on case-to-case basis by the competent authority of DARE/ICAR in consultation with MEA.

- For extension of fellowship tenure, fellows would have to apply to DARE/ICAR in writing, giving justifiable/valid reasons for seeking such extension. They should also invariably route their applications, enclosing all supporting documents, through the Head of the Departments, Dean of Faculty and the Registrar of the University for consideration.

J - Travel/Visit to home country

13. Fellows should leave the country immediately after the completion of their studies.

- A fellow wishing to travel outside India during the course of study for personal reasons may do so at his/her own expense and with the prior permission of the concerned University where he/she is studying with intimation to DARE/ICAR. However, he/she will have to keep the attendance and other requirements of University in view.
- If a fellow decides to return his/her country before the completion of the course, he/she would not be entitled to a return passage, and the expenditure need to be borne by the candidate.
- Fellows are permitted to go to their home country during vacations without any financial liabilities on the DARE/ICAR. Fellowship will not be paid for this ex-India period. Prior intimation regarding such departures must be conveyed to the ICAR/University they are studying. The fellows must submit a copy of their passport as well as the related original documents, for verification of the ex-India period. Only on completion of such verifications, further fellowship dues will be released.

K - Estimations/Requirements during 2019-20:

14. Keeping in view the presently pursuing candidates (83, Master's 64, Doctoral 19) and considering that candidates of Master's programme who have joined and pursuing since session 2017-18 (33 candidates) would not be requiring funds in years ahead, an outlay of budget - Rs five crores has been estimated and submitted to the Ministry External Affairs Eastern and South Africa Division on 03 December

2018. This includes expected Students (Master's 35, Doctoral 15) during session 2019-20.

L - Participation of Host Universities:

15. The list of host universities (State Agricultural Universities, ICAR-Deemed Universities and Central Agricultural Universities) is available on ICAR website (<https://www.icar.org.in/>) or can be extracted by using Agricultural Education Portal (<https://education.icar.gov.in/>). The details on admission viz. schedule, eligibility criterion of candidates and availability of discipline could be surfed from the website of respective university.

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Estimated Fund Requirement for the year 2019-20- Special Agricultural Scholarships- (IAFS III)

Item	Master's Programme/PG Candidates (Monthly Fellowship @ 18000/-)	Doctoral Programme/PhD Candidates (Monthly Fellowship @ 22000/-)	Total
(A) Monthly Fellowships	*32	07	39
(i) Candidates pursuing from session 2017-18			
<u>Calculation (Row i)</u>	18000x6=108000 108000x32=3456000	22000x12=264000 264000x07=1848000	5304000
* Funds for Master's (32) to be issued for 6 months only			
(ii) Candidates pursuing from session 2018-19	26	06	32
<u>Calculation (Row ii)</u>	18000x12=216000 216000x26=5616000	22000x12=264000 264000x06=1584000	7200000
(iii) Candidates expected to join in 2019-20	35	15	50
<u>Calculation (Row iii)</u>	18000x12=216000 216000x35=7560000	22000x12=264000 264000x15=3960000	11520000
No. of Candidates for which funds are to be paid in academic year 2019-20 (i+ii+iii)	93 (32 six months+ 61 one yr.)	28	121
(B) Medical Insurance @ INR 2000/- per year per student:	121000/- (61 candidates)	56000/- (28 Candidates)	178000
(C) Institute Economic Fee @ 4000USD= 280080/- per year per student (15=70.02INR) as on 03.12.18	17084880 (61 candidates)	7842240 (28 Candidates)	24927120
(D) Monthly salary of Research Associate @ 67,600/-			811200
Grand Total (A+B+C=D)			49940320/-