

GUIDELINES FOR RIGHT TO INFORMATION FELLOWSHIP

RTI Fellowship

The Department of Personnel and Training (DOPT), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India, is the nodal Ministry for the Right to Information Act. It is also administering a Plan scheme titled 'Improving Transparency and Accountability in Government through effective Implementation of the Right to Information Act'. The primary goal of the scheme is to contribute towards more accountable and transparent government and it has several components including programmes for awareness generation, training and e-governance initiatives for RTI for achieving the purpose.

Under this scheme, DOPT proposes to offer 4(**Four**) short-term fellowships to researchers from the field of media / Civil Society professionals / RTI Trainers to conduct field based research on themes relating to RTI. It is hoped that the research output will enhance our understanding of the status of the implementation of the act, including its successes, constraints in its implementation and how those are being / could be overcome and what more needs to be done to help achieve the objectives of the Act.

Who can Apply/

The fellowship is open to professionals in the age group 25 to 40 from the field of journalism (newspaper/ magazine/ radio/ TV), Civil Society and research and training in the field of RTI. The applicant should have proven credentials in his / her professional area, have some prior experience of work relating to the Right to Information and should have an aptitude for research.

Suggested Areas of Study and Research Output

RTI fellowships would be granted for researching any theme relating to RTI with the objective of contributing towards better understanding of the successes of RTI and/ or constraints in its implementation and how implementation of the Act could be strengthened? Some examples of themes that could be selected are given below. These are only in the nature of examples and applicants may choose any theme relating to RTI as long as they are able to justify that it would meet the objective of the scheme.

- (a) Issues relating to awareness generation and accessibility for seeking information.
- (b) Role of civil society in strengthening RTI regime and how government may coordinate with the efforts of the CSOs.
- (c) Successes of RTI in improving transparency and accountability.
- (d) Issues in functioning of Central Information Commission /State Information Commissions.
- (e) Implementation of provisions regarding pro-active disclosures.
- (f) Best practices from the field.

The proposal should clearly indicate the output that will be delivered at the end of the fellowship. It could be in the nature of a monograph of 10,000 words which is ready for publication, or features/news stories /investigative stories that could be printed / published as a journalistic piece in national /international media or, in the case of professionals from the field of audio-video media, it could even be short video films or stories. The copyright of the research output will vest in Government of India who may publish the research output and /or may use it in any other way for the purpose of strengthening the working of the RTI regime in the country. GOI may, however, upon request, permit the Fellow to use the output for publication etc., if government itself does not publish / make use of the output within one year.

Duration

The fellowships would be for a duration of three months.

Compensation and funding

- a) Each selected Fellow will receive a stipend of Rs. 2.00 lakhs (subject to tax deduction at source).
- b) The fellowship will be disbursed on a monthly basis (Rs. 50,000.00 per month) on receipt of satisfactory progress report by an expert group as per the monthly targets defined in the proposal. In addition, a grant of Rs. 50,000 for books, research material, travel, printing, production of creatives etc. will be provided. These funds will be sanctioned on the basis of the research proposal and released on production of actual bills.
- c) Final payment of Rs. 50,000.00 will be made on the submission of the final output /deliverable and its acceptance by the expert group.

Selection

RTI fellows will be selected on the basis of appraisal of the application and the research proposal and/or interviews /presentation of the proposal. The proposals will be evaluated on the basis of evaluation criteria detailed below.

Application for fellowship should be accompanied by the following documents:

- a) A comprehensive proposal (not more than 6-8 A4 size pages) outlining the subject to be researched, the research plan and final deliverable.
- b) Curriculum vitae (no more than 3 A4 sheets) along with a photograph.
- c) A brief statement of work done in the field of RTI.
- d) Two references from professionals familiar with the applicant's work from his /her professional field.
- e) A no-objection from the present employer.

Evaluation of Applications will be done by a committee of eminent persons in the field of governance, research, Media or Training on the following criteria:

<u>Evaluation criteria</u>		<u>Marks</u>
1	Curriculum vitae	10
2	References	10
3	Professional Experience and achievements	20
4	Proposal	
	a) Relevance and Importance of Theme	10
	b) Quality of Research Plan	40
	(i) Problem Definition	10
	(ii) Research Methodology	15
	(iii) Expected Deliverable	10
	(iv) Emphasis on field / action research	5
	c) Innovativeness of the proposal	10
	Total	100

Final Selection

Final selection will be made on the evaluation of the proposals. However the selection committee may call short-listed candidates for an interview/presentation in Delhi, before finalizing the selection.

How to Apply?

Five sets of the application with enclosures in the enclosed proforma may be sent by post to Under Secretary (IR), Department of Personnel and Training, Government of India, North Block, New Delhi-110001 **Applications received by 5 PM, 9th January, 2012 only will be considered.**

Application Proforma for Right to Information Fellowship

Affix self-attested recent passport size photograph

To be submitted with enclosures in Five sets.
 The format given below should be neatly typed.
 Application in an incomplete form will not be entertained. All fields are mandatory.

Please tick professional field		
Journalist	Civil society professional	RTI Trainer
Government Employee	Yes	No

A. Personal Details		
1	Name	
2	Age as on 01/01/2012	
B. Correspondence Address		
1	Complete postal address	
2	Telephone / Fax Nos (including STD code)	
3	Mobile No	
4	E-mail Address	
C. Qualifications		
1	Academic Qualifications	
a		
b		
c		
2	Professional Qualifications	
a		
b		
c		
3	Affiliations to professional bodies	
a		
b		
c		
4	Employment details (only last 3 may be mentioned)	
a		
b		
c		

D	Documents enclosed	Tick
1	A comprehensive proposal (not more than <u>6-8 A4 size pages</u>) outlining the subject to be researched, the research plan and final deliverable.	
2	Curriculum vitae (no more than <u>3 A4 sheets</u>) along with a photograph.	
3	A brief statement of work done in the field of RTI. (1 A4 size page)	
4	Two references from professionals familiar with the applicant's work from his/her professional field.	
5	A no-objection from the present employer	

(Five sets of application along with all enclosures should be submitted)

Declaration:

I affirm that the information given in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further undertake that if at any stage it is discovered that an attempt has been made by me, willfully to conceal or misrepresent the facts, my fellowship shall be summarily rejected or terminated without any notice.

Date: _____

Signature:

Place: _____

Name of candidate: _____

E. Instructions to applicants:

1. Persons working under Central/State Govt. /Public Sector Undertakings should submit their applications through proper channel. They may, however, send one advance copy of the application along with requisite enclosures.
2. Incomplete applications are liable to be rejected.
3. Affix recent passport size photograph on the application.
4. Only Indian Nationals are eligible to apply.
5. Canvassing in any form will lead to disqualification.
6. No interim enquiries or correspondence shall be entertained.