

Goa State Research Foundation

GSRF/Schemes/Minor Gr/12/2023 GSRF Minor Grant Research Scheme

FULL Scheme AS IS of date *inclusive of original notification and amendments published as per the approval of the Governing Council*

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The Goa State Research Foundation (GSRF) is pleased to frame the “GSRF Minor Grant Research Scheme” to provide financial assistance to the faculty members of Goa University and its affiliated/autonomous colleges and Goa Government-funded educational/research institutes/centres who wish to undertake a Research Project.

I. Short title and commencement.— (i) The scheme shall be called the “GSRF Minor Grants Research Scheme”.

(ii) The scheme shall come into force from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette and remain in force until it is amended.

II. Introduction to the scheme.— National Education Policy 2020 recognises the importance of Research and knowledge creation in sustaining a vibrant economy. It underlines the significant expansion of research capabilities and output across disciplines. However, to conduct their research, funding opportunities shall be provided to the faculty members at Higher Educational Institutes. Hence, the “GSRF Minor Grant Research Scheme” has been designed to promote research in all areas by providing financial assistance to the faculty members of Goa University and its affiliated and autonomous colleges and Goa Government-funded educational/research institutes/centres on a competitive basis to pursue research work along with their academic engagement.

III. Objectives and scope of the scheme.— This scheme aims to promote excellence in research and innovation in various disciplines at Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs). Research problems shall also consider local needs. Industries and Government Departments shall be partners, and the benefits shall ultimately reach society. The key objective of the scheme is:

- (i) To provide research support for the faculty members of HEIs in Goa and foster their research temper.
- (ii) To cultivate the basic research capacity of faculty through the individual level of research support and motivate their original ideas and talent.
- (iii) Provide grants to faculty in all disciplines and encourage interdisciplinary research work for the benefit of society.

Research and Development activities are considered essential components of the higher education system because they create new knowledge and insights and impart excitement and dynamism to the educational process. The scope of the scheme includes creating and improving the general research capabilities of the faculty members of the various Higher Educational Institutes (Goa University and its affiliated and autonomous colleges and Goa Government-funded educational/research institutes/centres).

The proposals submitted by the project investigators shall include a specific project theme with a clear statement of achievable objectives, methodology, details of equipment and other research facilities proposed to be acquired and the expected deliverables from the project.

IV. Operation of the scheme.— This scheme shall be implemented and operated by the Goa State Research Foundation (GSRF).

V. Eligibility.— Financial assistance for GSRF Minor Grant Research Scheme, can be availed by faculty of Goa University and its affiliated and autonomous colleges and Goa Government-funded educational/research institutes/centres as under:

(i) The Principal Investigator (PI) shall belong either to category A or B as given below:

A. The PI shall be a full-time regular faculty member of Goa University and its affiliated and autonomous colleges and Goa Government-funded educational/research institutes/centres; in addition, the PI shall fulfil any one of the following conditions:

(a) Hold a PhD degree or M.D/M.S//M.D.S/M.V.Sc. in Medicine, Dental and Veterinary from a recognised institution.

(b) A registered PhD candidate at a recognised institution.

(c) Published at least one article in the UGC-CARE list of journals as the first author or corresponding author within the last three years.

B. The PI shall be a full-time faculty member on a self-financed position from Goa University and its affiliated and autonomous colleges and Goa Government-funded research institutes/centres, if he/she fulfils the following conditions:

(a) Hold a PhD degree or M.D/M.S//M.D.S/M.V.Sc. in Medicine, Dental and Veterinary from a recognised institution.

(b) Has taught in the same institution for at least five continuous years.

(c) Published at least one article in the UGC-CARE list of journals as the first author or corresponding author within the last three years

(ii) Faculty members can apply for only one project at a time under this scheme.

(iii) A faculty member can avail of only one project under this or any other scheme of GSRF at any given time.

(iv) The proposal submitted must be original in idea and content. Plagiarism in any form will lead to rejection of the proposal.

(v) There is no provision for a Co-Investigator under this scheme.

VI. Pattern of assistance.— In a given financial year, the number of new projects sanctioned under this scheme shall not exceed 30.

A. The quantum of assistance under this GSRF Minor Grant Research Scheme will be as follows:

The maximum permissible grant in the disciplines outside STEM areas will be Rs. 3.00 lakhs in which non-recurring, if any, shall not exceed Rs. 1.00 lakh, and in STEM areas will be Rs. 4.00 lakhs in which non-recurring, if any, shall not exceed Rs. 2.00 lakhs. No project staff will be allowed under this scheme.

B. The following are the Heads under which the budget will be recognised:

(i) Non-Recurring Grants (Minor Equipment)

The non-recurring grants may be utilised to procure the essential equipment needed for the proposed research work. Purchase of equipment such as Computer, Laptop, Printer, furniture, etc. is NOT permitted. However, Computer/Workstation (not Laptop) as an equipment on which the whole or major part of the project work is based, will be permitted based on proper justification. Works requiring high-end computing facilities can project budget for computer time under the Head *Recurring*, Sub-head *Hiring Services*.

The Equipment acquired by the PI under this scheme must be deposited at the institution where they are employed after the completion of the project. These items will be institutional property.

(ii) Recurring Grants

- (a) Hiring Services: This is meant for specialised technical services available on a payment basis, such as sample analysis, for which the University/ College/institution has no infrastructure.
- (b) Contingency: The admissible contingency grant may be utilised on spares for apparatus, photostat copies and microfilms, typing, stationery, postage, telephone calls, internet, fax, computation, printing and other project related items. Expenditure towards the audit fee may also be claimed under the contingency head.
- (c) Chemicals and Consumables: To meet expenditure on chemicals, glassware and other consumable items.
- (d) Travel and/or Field Work: The amount allocated under the head travel/field work will be utilised for data collection and other information, including documents and visits to libraries within the general scope and sphere of the ongoing project. This can also be used for attending conferences, seminars, workshops, training courses, etc. However, it should be directly related to the project work and, at the most, one event in a year. The mode of travel will be as per the eligibility and institutional norms, but not above norms fixed by the Government of Goa.
- (e) Special Needs: Assistance may be provided for any other specific requirement concerning the project which is not covered under any other 'Head' of assistance under the scheme.
- (f) Overhead charges: Institutional overhead charges are NOT PERMITTED under this scheme.

Grants will be released to the Head of the Institution.

- (iii) Re-appropriation: The Principal Investigator may re-appropriate a maximum of 20 per cent of the non-recurring grant to a recurring grant and vice-versa allocated under each Head with the permission of GSRF by providing proper justification.

VII. Tenure and implementation.— The tenure of the GSRF Minor Grant Research project will be two years (2 years) from the date of sanctioning the project.

VIII. Procedure for applying for the scheme.— The Applicants are required to apply online as per the format in response to the call by GSRF. Pre-registration of PI is a must for applying online.

IX. Procedure for approval.— The applications received, complete in all aspects, will be peer-reviewed by the subject experts. Based on the review, recommendations will be made by the committee constituted for the purpose. The Governing Council of GSRF will take the final decision based on the recommendations made by the committee and the availability of funds under the scheme.

X. Procedure for release of grants.— The first instalment of the grant shall comprise 100% of the non-Recurring grant and 50% of the Recurring grant approved by the GSRF for the project's duration. The grant will be released to the Head of the Institution.

On completion of one year, the PIs must submit the Annual Progress Report, statement of expenditure and utilisation certificate of 1st instalment of the grant. GSRF reserves the right to seek a presentation by the PI before a Committee constituted to review the progress of the work done, before the release of the next instalment. Based on the recommendation of the committee and/or submission of the necessary documents, the remaining grant will be released as the second instalment.

XI. Completion of the project.— The following documents shall be submitted within three months from the end of the project:

- (1) Copy of the Final Technical Report of the project along with the soft copy.

- (2) A consolidated item-wise detailed statement of expenditure incurred during the entire project period in the prescribed proforma duly signed and sealed by the PI and the Head of the Institution.
- (3) A consolidated Audited Utilization Certificate for the amount utilised towards the project duly signed and sealed by the Chartered Accountant, Head of the Institution and the PI in the prescribed proforma.
- (4) The unutilised grant, if any, may be refunded immediately through a demand draft in favour of GSRF.
- (5) It is mandatory to post the Executive Summary of the report, Research documents, monograph, academic papers published (or its link in case of copyrighted material), etc., under the Project on the college's website and that of GSRF.
- (6) Upon project completion, the PI/Institution is expected to settle the accounts immediately (within three months).
- (7) The committee constituted for the purpose should review the completion report, and the closure letter shall be issued to the PI and the institution by the GSRF.

XII. General. — (a) The proposals selected for funding will be displayed on the GSRF website and/or intimated to the respective PIs. The PIs should send their acceptance certificate/letter, duly forwarded by the Head of the Institution, within the stipulated time, to the GSRF, along with pre-receipt, undertaking, etc.

(b) The project is not transferable.

(c) In case the PI is transferred from his/her original place of work to another Institution within Goa, a No Objection Certificate should be furnished for the transfer of the project from both Institutions stating that necessary facilities will be provided by the Institution in which the awardee is transferred for the smooth functioning of the project. The instruments purchased under this scheme can be transferred to the new institution of PI if it is an ongoing project.

(d) GSRF encourages publishing the results with an acknowledgement of its support.

(e) Generally, no extension in tenure is permissible.

XIII. Refund/Recovery.— PIs discontinuing the study/project without justifiable reasons shall return the amount received from GSRF in full. Decision on the justification given by the PI for discontinuing will be taken by the Governing Council, whose decision regarding refund will be final and binding.

XIV. Relaxation.— The GSRF is empowered to relax any or all clauses or conditions of the scheme in genuine cases.

XV. Interpretation: If any questions arise regarding the interpretation of any clause, word or expression of the scheme, the decision about the interpretation shall be with the GSRF, which shall be final and binding on all concerned.

XVI. Redressal of grievances and disputes.— Grievances, if any, arising out of the implementation of this scheme will be heard and decided by the Chairperson (GSRF), and the decision in this regard shall be final and binding on all concerned.

Savio P. Falleiro, Managing Director, Goa State Research Foundation.
Alto-Porvorim, 02 /05/ 2025