

**GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

No.ST-BT-MISC-0042-2025- 682 /ST Bhubaneswar, Dt. 10/02/2026

RESOLUTION

Sub: Guidelines for Award of Odisha Biotechnology Research and Innovation Fellowship (OBRIF)

1. Introduction

The Odisha Biotechnology Research and Innovation Fellowship (OBRIF) under the Science & Technology Department (S&T Dept.), Government of Odisha, established to attract young talent with innovative ideas for doctoral research in emerging areas of biotechnology and allied sciences.

2. Objective: The OBRIF aims to

- 2.1. Promote advanced research in frontier areas of biotechnology and allied life sciences.
- 2.2. Provide fellowships in the form of financial assistance to meritorious students to pursue higher studies leading to Ph.D. degree in biotechnology and allied sciences.
- 2.3. Build a skilled human resource base in biotechnology for academia, industry, and societal applications.

3. Priority Thematic Areas

- 3.1. Medical Biotechnology
- 3.2. Agricultural Biotechnology
- 3.3. Animal Biotechnology
- 3.4. Industrial Biotechnology
- 3.5. Environmental Biotechnology
- 3.6. Nano biotechnology
- 3.7. Genetics
- 3.8. Bioinformatics
- 3.9. Biochemistry

3.10. Cell & Molecular Biology

3.11. Bioprocess Engineering

N.B.- These areas are suggestive but are not restrictive.

4. Inviting project proposals:

The Biotechnology Cell of the S&T Dept., Government of Odisha will invite applications online/off-line. It could be through advertisement in newspapers and/or on-line through the website of the Department. The format of application and the guidelines shall be available in its website: <https://st.odisha.gov.in>.

5. Who can apply

5.1. The applicant must be a domicile of Odisha.

5.2. The fellowship shall be available only to registered full time Ph.D. candidates enrolled in any Govt. University/Colleges of the State or any State/Central Govt. Institute established in the State.

5.3. The applicants must have passed M.Sc/ M.Tech. in Biotechnology or allied sciences, securing 1st division or equivalent grade from any recognized university/college/ institution or those holding four-year undergraduate degrees as per the New Education Policy (NEP)-2020.

5.4. Applicants must not be receiving financial assistance from any other source or scheme at the time of application.

6. Nature & Duration Fellowship

The Candidate would be eligible for following financial assistance:

Fellowship	₹30,000/- P.M. for three years
Contingency (Chemicals, Glass ware, Plastic ware, Stationery, Photocopy, Printing, Photography, Travel, registration charges for seminars/workshops, Audit Fee etc.)	₹50,000/- P.A.
Departmental assistance to the host Institution for providing infrastructure	₹10,000/- per student P.A.
Tenure	3 Years
Total number of fellowships / years	20 Nos

7. Screening & Selection

- 7.1. The application complete in all respect received through proper channel and within the dead line only will be considered.
- 7.2. Applications submitted must be original in ideation and content. Plagiarism in any form will not be accepted.
- 7.3. A two-stage selection process will be followed. In the first stage, screening will be done on the basis of the career marks of the applicants. The candidates, twice the number of the fellowships available will be shortlisted.
- 7.4. The shortlisted candidates will be invited for a PowerPoint presentation of their proposed research work before the Project Evaluation & Review Committee (PERC) chaired by the Director, Biotechnology. PERC will comprise of experts depending on the nature of the proposal received.

Composition of PERC:

1	Director	Chairperson
2	Representatives of relevant Govt. Departments/ Organizations	Member/s
3	Subject Experts (Academic/ Research Institutes/ Industry/ Eminent individuals)	Member/s
4	Deputy Director (Technical), Biotechnology	Member Convenor

- 7.5. The PERC will recommend maximum twenty (20) (but not necessarily) most suitable and relevant proposals on the basis of merit of the proposals most preferably with immediate societal and/or industrial applications in reference to societal/industrial challenges, problem/issue relevant to Odisha.
- 7.6. S & T Dept. will not bear any TA/DA of the candidates for attending the PERC meeting.
- 7.7. The final decision and approval of the proposals will be taken by the Secretary, S&T Dept. on the basis of the recommendation made by the PERC and availability of funds.
- 7.8. Each project will be assigned a Unique Identification No. in the format of YYYY/S&T/BT/OBRIF/XXXX for ease of project management and monitoring.
- 7.9. The PERC will recommend the names of selected candidates based on the career marks as well as presentation and personal interview based on the 100 marks

(Career 50; Presentation & Interview 50).

- *Career marking:* The total career weightage is 50 marks. The career weightage for each of the examinations is as follows:

Class 10:	5
+2 Science:	10
+3 Sc. (Hons)/Equivalent	15
M. Sc./M.Tech:	20

The career weightage of each of the applicants will be calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{Percentage of Mark Scored} \times \text{Weightage of mark}}{100}$$

In +3 Science examinations, those who have Honours, career marks will be calculated on the basis of marks scored in the Honours subject only. Those who do not have Honours, career marks will be calculated on the basis of marks scored in aggregate.

- ***Presentation & Interview:*** The total marks for the presentation and interview is 50. Each shortlisted candidate will undergo a presentation and interview before an Expert Committee. Followings are some of the criteria of evaluation.
 - a) Clarity and Originality
 - b) Feasibility and Methodology
 - c) Intellectual Merit and Impact
 - d) Social and Practical Relevance
 - e) Literature Review
 - f) Overall, Knowledge
 - g) Response to Questions
 - h) Communication & Presentation Skills

7.11. Breaking of Tie: In case of a tie, the marks obtained by the Candidates in M.Sc./M.Tech. shall be considered. To break a further tie, marks scored in +3 Science/Equivalent, +2 Science and Class 10 will be considered in that order.

8. Eligibility of the Supervisor:

8.1. The supervisor should be a recognized guide of the concerned University/Institute

with atleast 4 years of service left till superannuation.

- 8.2. The supervisor must be a regular faculty of any Govt. University/College of Odisha or a regular Scientist of any State Govt. research institute of Odisha or any Central Govt. research institute established in Odisha.
- 8.3. The supervisor should have the domain expertise on the proposed research project.
- 8.4. The selected scholar is required to be registered for Ph.D. under the guidance of the Supervisor.

9. Procedure for release of Fellowship & Funds

- 9.1. The fund with respect to OBRIF will be released in three instalments over the period of three years by the S&T Dept.
- 9.2. The Institute shall take utmost care to release the fund to the fellow within 15 days of the receipt of the fund.
- 9.3. Money receipt should be submitted by the Registrar/Principal/Director/Comptroller of Finance/CEO of the Institute within 15 days of receipt of fund and an acknowledgement should be submitted by the Research Fellow following the release of funds by the Registrar/Principal/Director/Comptroller of Finance/CEO of the Institute.
- 9.4. Departmental assistance shall be credited to the bank account of the Head of the concerned department.
- 9.5. The OBRIF Fellow must submit the Progress Report, Utilization Certificate (UC) and Statement of Expenditure (SoE) in OGFR 7(A) within 30 days of the end of each financial year through proper channel. The final UC is to be submitted on closure of the project.
- 9.6. The 2nd year and 3rd year grant will be released only after submission of the progress report, audited SoE and UC duly recommended by the Institutional Advisory Committee (IAC).

10. Evaluation and Monitoring

- 10.1. The IAC needs to be constituted by the concerned Department of the University/ Institution/ College comprising of the Head of the Department, Supervisor and two outside subject experts.
- 10.2. The progress and performance of the project may be evaluated by the PERC during the project tenure, as and when required.

11. Cancellation/ Withholding of Fellowship


- 11.1. The fellowship shall be discontinued, if it is found that the candidate has furnished incorrect information or suppressed any materials. In such cases, other disciplinary action may also be initiated against the candidate, as deemed fit, to recover the fellowship amount.
- 11.2. The fellowship shall also be discontinued while pursuing Ph. D degree if the conduct of the scholar is found to be unsatisfactory, as per the report by the Institutional Advisory Committee (IAC).
- 11.3. The fellowship will be automatically cancelled if a candidate changes the course of study for which he/she is in receipt of the fellowship under this scheme, or the progress observed to be unsatisfactory during review.

12. General Terms and Condition

- 12.1. All correspondence of the scholar with the S&T Dept., should be routed through the supervisor, Head of the Department and the Head of the concerned institute.
- 12.2. Even after the approval or selection of the project, the funds will be released only after obtaining valid ethical approval from all the concerned departments and institutional committees, as applicable.
- 12.3. The fellowship shall remain valid until the award of the Ph.D. thesis or the completion of the sanctioned fellowship period, whichever is earlier.
- 12.4. In all research publication & IP generation out of the project, the funding agency (S&T Dept., Govt. of Odisha) must be acknowledged.
- 12.5. All Scholars are required to publish at least two papers prior to submission of their Ph. D. thesis in reputed journals.
- 12.6. Research fellow should present the PPT before the PERC and the topic should be the same as mentioned in the PhD registrations documents at the time of selection.
- 12.7. In general, an OBRIF fellow, once accepts the offer of fellowship at a particular university/ college/ institute shall not be allowed to transfer this fellowship to any other university/college/ institute during the tenure of fellowship. However, under unavoidable situation, the fellow must seek prior permission from the S&T Dept., for transfer of institute through written application with following documents.
 - i. No Objection Certificates (NOCs) from both host institutes and research

- supervisors.
- ii. Detailed Justifications for changing/shifting of host institute for implementation of fellowship.
 - iii. Area of Ph.D. works with an up-to-date technical progress report.
 - iv. Curriculum vitae of research supervisor at the new host institute.
 - v. Up-to-date financial statement from the old host institute.
- 12.8. In case of discontinuation of the research project by the candidate, the Institute concerned shall return the unutilized funds to the S&T Dept., immediately. Further, the candidate is required to submit the research findings to the S&T Dept. through proper channel.
- 12.9. The unutilized grant including any savings or interest accrued would be refunded immediately through a demand draft drawn in favor of the Director (Biotechnology), Science & Technology Department, 7th Floor, Kharavel Bhawan, Government of Odisha, payable at Bhubaneswar.
- 12.10. In case of suppression of facts regarding award of fellowship from any other Govt. and/or private Institutions, the grant received under OBRIF is required to be refunded with interest accrued.
- 12.11. The S&T Dept., Government of Odisha reserves the right to amend the guidelines. The decision of the competent authority shall be final, and no individual/ institution can go for any legal or other remedy against the decision of the competent authority.
- 12.12. A fellowship completion certificate will be issued to the Research Fellow after receipt of all relevant documents and recommendation from the PERC.
- 12.13. The S&T Dept. reserves rights to reject any or all the applications received without assigning any reasons thereof.

By Order of the Governor



(Chithra Arumugam)

Additional Chief Secretary to Government

**APPLICATION FOR AWARD OF ODISHA BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND
INNOVATION FELLOWSHIP (OBRIF)**

1. Name of the student (in block letters):
2. Name of (a) Mother:
(b) Father:
3. Permanent address:
4. Present address for correspondence with phone No./e-mail etc.
5. Sex (Male/ Female/Third Gender):
6. Date of Birth:
7. Nationality:
8. Whether permanent resident of Odisha (Yes/No)
9. Category (General/SC/ST/OBC/SEBC):
10. Academic Record:

*Passport size
photograph to
be pasted here
with signature*

Name of the Exam.	Board/ University	Year of passing	% of marks secured	Division	Any Honours/ Distinction achieved	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
HSC						
+2 Science						
+3 Science						
M.Sc./ M.Tech						

11. Name and address of the university/college/research Institute where candidate registered for Ph.D:
12. Details of the proposal (this can be attached in separate page, if require within 2 pages only)
 - Title: same as mentioned in registration letter
 - Objectives:
 - Methodology:
 - Deliverables:

13. Name of the Ph.D. supervisor/guide with Address (CV to be enclosed):

14. I undertake that:

- (i) I have read and understood the details of the OBRIF.
- (ii) The information furnished above are correct and true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
- (iii) I am not receiving any kind of aid/scholarship/fellowship for Ph.D. Degree.
- (iv) I shall not receive/accept any other financial assistance other than this fellowship for my Ph.D Degree.
- (v) The project proposal is duly approved by the ethical committee of the institute. (if applicable).

Place:

Date :

Signature of the Applicant

15. Consent of the Supervisor:

I agree to supervise the Ph.D. Programme of Ms. /Mr. She/he will work in the department of..... under..... University.

Signature of the Supervisor

Recommendation of the Head of the Department/Institute

16. Certificate of the Head of the Institute

It is certified that Ms./Mr. is a registered Ph.D. scholar having Registration No. of our university/college/institute, and we have no objection if Ms./Mr. receives the OBRIF. As a Ph.D. scholar of the university/college/institute, the fellow will be provided with all infrastructure and support required during the tenure of this fellowship.

The university/college/institute also certifies that Dr. is a regular faculty member of the university/college/institute and is a recognized Ph.D. guide.


Signature of the Head of the Institute with Seal

Documents (self-attested) to be submitted by the applicant along with the application form

1. Nativity/Residence certificate issued by the appropriate authority.
2. Photocopies of all certificates and mark sheets with regard to academic record.
3. Synopsis of the proposed Ph.D. work
4. Brief curriculum vitae of proposed supervisor
5. Ph.D. registration certificate.
6. Valid ethical approval certificate.

Memo No. 683 /ST dated 10/02/2026

Copy forwarded to the Gazette Cell in charge, Odisha Gazette Cell, Commerce Department, Kharavel Bhawan, Bhubaneswar with a request to publish the above Resolution in an extra ordinary issue of Odisha Gazette and supply 50 (fifty) copies to this Department.


10/02/2026
Director, Biotechnology

Memo No. 684 /ST dated 10/02/2026

Copy forwarded to Private Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha / Private Secretary to Hon'ble Minister, Science & Technology for kind information of Hon'ble Chief Minister and Hon'ble Minister, Science & Technology respectively.


10/02/2026
Director, Biotechnology

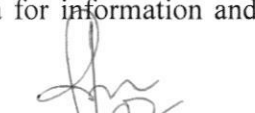
Memo No. 685 /ST dated 10/02/2026

Copy forwarded to Private Secretary to Chief Secretary, Odisha / Private Secretary to DC-cum-Additional Chief Secretary, Odisha for kind information of Chief Secretary and DC-cum-Additional Chief Secretary respectively.


10/02/2026
Director, Biotechnology

Memo No. 686 /ST dated 10/02/2026

Copy forwarded all Departments of Government of Odisha for information and necessary action.

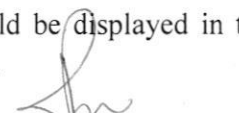

10/02/2026
Director, Biotechnology

Memo No. 687 /ST dated 10/02/2026

Copy forwarded to the Head, State Portal Group, IT Centre, Lokaseva Bhawan, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

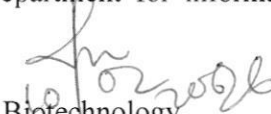
It is requested to upload the same in the Government of Odisha website immediately for wide publication.

The sign 'new' (in red colour) should blink and that should be displayed in the place of advertisement of the 'home page' of Government of Odisha website.


10/02/2026
Director, Biotechnology

Memo No. 688 /ST dated 10/02/2026

Copy forwarded all Sections of Science & Technology Department for information and necessary action.


10/02/2026
Director, Biotechnology