

**National Council of Educational Research & Training, New Delhi
Division of Educational Research (DER)**

**Notification
Call for Research Proposal under ERIC Scheme**

The Division of Educational Research (DER), NCERT, New Delhi under the Educational Research and Innovations Committee (ERIC) scheme invites research proposals for the year 2026-27 from individual/group of researchers affiliated to recognised institution/university for conducting research in the priority areas of School education and Teacher education.

Note: Applicants are requested to read the guidelines carefully for submission of Research Proposals.

Important Dates: Applications are open during **1st April to 30th June** and **1st October to 31st December** only.

**EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND
INNOVATIONS COMMITTEE
(ERIC)**

Guidelines for Submission of Research Proposal

Division of Educational Research
National Council of Educational Research and Training
Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi – 110016

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Guidelines for Submission of Research Proposal under ERIC Scheme

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) was established in 1961 as an autonomous organization of Ministry of Education, Government of India. Research and Development, Training and Extension are three inter-woven functions of the NCERT. One of the Principal functions of NCERT has been to undertake, promote and coordinate educational research on various aspects of school education and teacher education. In addition to promote educational research in its institutional networking, the NCERT has been taking measures to create and sustain interest in educational research amongst the researchers, both within the NCERT and outside.

The Division of Educational Research (DER) is engaged in promoting policy research in education, performing activities as a ‘think-tank’, undertaking, coordinating, sponsoring and commissioning research and innovations in school and teacher education. It functions as the secretariat of the Educational Research and Innovations Committee (ERIC), a standing committee of NCERT that acts as a catalyst to promote and support research in the priority areas of school education and teacher education.

ROLES AND FUNCTIONS OF ERIC

In order to promote research, a Standing Committee known as Educational Research and Innovations Committee (*ERIC*) was set up in the year 1974 with the following objectives:

1. To lay down from time-to-time priority thrust areas in educational research
2. To take such measures which are necessary to initiate, sponsor and coordinate research activities in the field of education
3. To scrutinize and recommend grants to proposals related to research and innovation projects received from the constituent units of the NCERT as well as from outside agencies and individuals
4. To disseminate research findings and to promote their implementation in the educational system.
5. To promote activities in the development of leadership and expertise in research
6. To exercise proper control over the conduct of research projects and utilization of research grants
7. To take such other measures as may be required from time to time to help the Council in meeting its objectives of promoting and disseminating educational research

ERIC gives importance to research proposals developed on the issues of national importance and implemented in collaborative way by institutions located in different parts of the country. Preference will be given to those proposals which fall within the priority areas decided by ERIC, NCERT from time to time. We encourage researchers to submit research proposals on the below high-priority research areas. For further details please click on the following link.

Priority Areas of Research

The priority areas of research identified in light of National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF FS) 2022 & National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF SE) 2023 are as follows;

1. Early Childhood Care and Education
2. Foundational Literacy and Numeracy
3. Curtailing dropouts and ensuring Universal Access to Education at All Levels
4. Curriculum and Pedagogy in Schools
5. Teachers and Teacher Education
6. Equitable and Inclusive Education: Learning for All
7. School Complexes/ Clusters
8. Vocational Education
9. Integration of Information and Communication Technology in Education
10. Adult Education including life-long learning
11. Financial literacy
12. Intellectual property rights.
13. Research rooted in Indian Tradition and culture
14. Aspirations of 21st century connecting Indian Tradition with Modern technology
15. Link between School Education and Higher Education
16. Multilingualism
17. Assessment Reforms
18. Effectiveness of Learning- Teaching Materials
19. Integration of Art Education in Teaching-Learning process
20. Textbooks based on NEP 2020 and its NCFs 2022/2023, and its utilization by teachers
21. Mental health and substance abuse issues
22. Innovative practices by teachers
23. Recent challenges faced by teachers.
24. Teacher Effectiveness and follow-up studies of programs.

When to Apply

Applicants are invited to submit research proposals twice in a year during- **April to June** and **October to December**. The notification regarding the same will be displayed on the NCERT website accordingly.

Eligibility

1. Individual/group of researchers who are employed in recognized educational institution/university are encouraged to apply for funding purposes.
2. All research proposals need to be forwarded through the respective Head of the institution/university with a commitment to administer the funds and also be accountable for the grants received from NCERT.
3. The academic accountability rests with the faculty who initiates the proposal. ERIC designates them as Project In-Charge (PI). In case of collaborative project, the host institution shall designate one faculty to work as PI.
4. All research proposals have to be formulated in the enclosed format and submitted to ERIC within the given time line, along with the prescribed supportive documents (See Annexures I, II, III & IV).

Screening Procedure

1. All proposals received will undergo internal scrutiny by the ERIC secretariat to ensure the research topic aligns with NEP 2020 and NCF- FS & SE, availability of all required documents and forward the complete applications for screening.
2. All proposals will be evaluated by the Screening-cum-Progress Monitoring Committee (SPMC) consisting of experts from different areas of educational research.
3. SPMC meets periodically to expedite the evaluation of the proposals submitted for funding. After evaluating all the aspects of the proposal including the budget, the SPMC would consider in terms of either a) Recommendation of the proposals for funding b) resubmissions of the proposals after incorporating suggested revisions or c) non-recommendation of the proposal.
4. The final authority of the approval for funding the recommended proposals are subject to the approval of the Chairman, ERIC.

Release of Grants

1. The sanction of the project by the SPMC, will be communicated to the PI, along with the budget recommended, formats for agreement between the institution/university and the NCERT (for discharging the obligations), and the Grant-in-Aid Bill (TR-42). The competent authority from the concerned institution/university has to enter into an agreement with the NCERT, provide break-up of the sanctioned budget into annual instalments, if the project duration is more than a year.
2. Research grant for the project will be released in the form of annual instalments, if the project duration exceeds 12 months. A duly-filled Grant-in-Aid bill for the amount mentioned as first instalment in the break-up shall be submitted to NCERT to enable the release of funds (not applicable to NCERT employees).
3. Second installment onwards, as the case may be, will be released subject to submission of the progress report after the completion of nine months and submission of accounts and utilisation certificate at the end of 12 months from the date of receipt of previous installment. The release of the second instalment is also subject to SPMC's recommendation based on the satisfactory progress of the project.
4. Fifteen percent of the final installment and overhead charges (wherever applicable) will be released only after submission and approval of the final report, receipt of the statement of audited accounts, along with the utilisation certificate issued by the competent authority of the institution/university receiving project grant.
 - a. The ERIC funding does not provide any honorarium or salary for Project In-charge (PI) or Co-PI, except for Junior Project Fellow (JPF) @ Rs.35000/- (Non-NET), Rs.37,000/- (NET) per month (Consolidated).
 - b. Furniture and durable assets (including computer, desktop, printer and other hardware) are not allowed to be included in the project budget.
 - c. Any literature, books or journals purchased under the project released funds should be deposited in the institution/university where the research has been conducted.
 - d. The date of receipt of the first installment by the institution/university would be considered as the date of commencement of the project. The project budget will not support any expenditure incurred before the commencement of the project.
 - e. Guidelines to appoint J.P.F and administer funds will be communicated to the PI and institution/university whose proposals are sanctioned under ERIC modalities.

Supporting Documents

The following documents are required to be submitted both in hard and soft copies to smoothen and expedite the decision towards funding;

- i) Appendix I: Three detailed proposals in the prescribed format.
- ii) Appendix II: The undertaking by the institution to administer the project, provide the necessary facilities, and infrastructure and monitor the progress.
- iii) Appendix III: An undertaking by the Project-In-charge.
- iv) Appendix IV: Bio-data of the Project In-charge (PI), which also would include the date of retirement/superannuation of the PI from the institution in the case of salaried employees.

Kindly Note: In case of proposals emanating from non-government organisation, evidence to support the status of organisation in the form of registration certificate, audited annual accounts and annual reports for the last three years immediately preceding the date of submission of proposal, shall be submitted along with the above documents.

Submission of Final Report

- Three copies of the DRAFT of the final report (word processed and spiral bound form) along with three copies of the executive summary (within 1000 words) are required to be submitted for review and approval.
- The DRAFT report will be reviewed anonymously by a subject expert in the field to assess the contribution of the work in the related field and recommend its suitability for sharing in public domain. Subsequently, the PI is required to revise the draft report and send three copies of the final report in **hard bound form**, along with executive summary (3 copies) and a C.D with soft copy for further action.

All Correspondence should be addressed to:

The Head

Division of Educational Research (DER)

National Council of Educational Research and Training

Sri Aurobindo Marg

New Delhi- 110 016

Tel: 011- 26563980;

E-mail: headderncert@gmail.com

PROFORMA FOR FORMULATION OF RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS PROPOSALS

1. Title of the Study/Project

It should be brief, crisp, and communicate the intent of the study.

2. Introduction

This section may focus on need of the study in the Indian context, overview of the work already done in the area and its linkage with the proposed study, and theoretical perspective (if any, to be followed). It will also include educational significance along with rationale of the study.

3. Objectives or Research Questions

Specific achievable objectives or the corresponding research questions may be spelt out. Hypothesis, if any, may also be spelt out.

4. Likely outcome and benefits

Likely outcome of the study and benefits in the context of school education and teacher education needs to be precisely stated.

5. Methodology

This should include the details of the research design, the modality of collecting information and also the methodology of providing meaning to the collected information.

6. Time Budgeting

The proposal must include a statement about time duration in which the study is proposed to be completed. To make it more rational, it may be desirable to visualize various stages involved in the study vis-à-vis the time requirement for each stage.

7. Organisational Framework

An organizational chart indicating the tasks of the PI, Co-PIs (if any), and JPF (if any) with their duration should be given.

8. Cost Estimation

The cost of the project is to be estimated in terms of proposed duration of the project and facilities needed. It may contain the following items:

- i) Junior Project Fellow with duration for which needed
- ii) Travel expenses (TA/DA) of the persons involved (Air travel not permitted).
- iii) Purchase of Books, research tools, etc.*
- iv) Expenses for development/adaptation of research tools and materials.
- v) Expenses for photocopying and printing of tools

- vi) Hiring charges (computer, video recording, etc.)
- vii) Preparation of report (draft report 3 copies with executive summary)
- viii) Contingency (stationery, postage, etc.)
- ix) Overhead charges (5 per cent of the total cost of the project) admissible on production of certificate from the Institution other than NCERT
- x) Printing of the Report & executive summary – 3 copies (after getting clearance from NCERT)

The head-wise budget break-up may be submitted in yearly instalments.

** Purchase of hard wares and durable assets such as almirah, furniture, computer, etc. is not admissible.*

Note: The cover page of the proposal should contain names, and full addresses, telephone and fax numbers, and e-mail addresses of the PI and Co-PI.

APPENDIX – II

UNDERTAKING BY THE HEAD OF THE INSTITUTION

I am pleased to forward the proposal of Shri/Smt./Ms./Dr./ Prof. _____ who is _____ in our institution, for financial support to the NCERT.

The institution agrees to:

- Administer and manage the finance.
- Provide accommodation and furniture and other infrastructure required for the project.
- Make available all its research facilities such as library, laboratory and other requirement; and
- Provide the material and managerial assistance for the project.

If the Project Incharge of the project leaves the institution to join some other institution, after part of the sanctioned grant has been received, we would have no objection to the project being transferred to the new institution if the Project Incharge/NCERT so desires. The institution, however, shall continue to be responsible for submitting the audited statement of accounts and utilization certificate for the grant received by it, for this purpose.

The institution will facilitate the completion of the project within the stipulated time. If NCERT is not satisfied with the progress of the project, the Chairman (ERIC) may terminate the project immediately and ask for the refund of the amount received by the institution along with penal interest. The same will apply to uncompleted projects.

Date

Name & Designation
(in block letters)

(Signature)

(Office Seal)

CERTIFICATE

I certify that:

- A. I shall abide by the rules governing the scheme in case assistance is provided to me by the NCERT for the above project.
- B. In case the above research project or an allied project receives assistance from any other source, I shall inform NCERT accordingly.
- C. In case the research project is not completed in time. I will refund the whole amount along with penal interest as applicable.

Signature of the P.I.

Name of the P.I.
(in capital letters)

Date:
Place:

BIO-DATA OF THE PROJECT INCHARGE (P.I.)

1. Name of the Project Incharge :
2. a) Date of Birth :
- b) Date of Retirement :

3. Institutional Address :
4. Whether recognized or not by the Government/a Registered Society under Societies Registration Act 1860 with functions pertaining to Research in school/teacher education systems (attach photocopy)
5. Department :
6. Position held and Date of Superannuation :
7. Mailing Address with Pin Code :
- Telephone No. (Off.) :
- (Res.) :
- (Mobile):
- E-mail address :

8. Permanent Address :

9. Academic Qualifications (Degree onwards) :

Degree	Subject(s)	University/ Institution	Division/ Grade obtained	Year of passing

Any other specialized course completed (Please list above)

10. List of Publications (in the last five years)
11. Experience:
 - a) Teaching:
 - b) Research:
 - c) Any other:
12. Please give below the details of project(s) completed so far:

S.No.	Title of the Project	Duration	Total cost	Source of budget support	Status of the project*

**Please indicate whether the report has been published/is to be published/is still to be completed.*

13. Research project(s), if any, currently being conducted by the applicant.

14. Was this proposal submitted to any other funding agency: if so, what was the outcome?

15. Is this research being supported by any other agency or is this application being submitted elsewhere? If so, please give details. Decision about application to other agencies (including those made after the award of NCERT grant) should be reported to the NCERT as soon as available.

16. Any other information that you think is relevant for the evaluation of the proposal.

(Signature of the P.I.)

Date:

GUIDELINES FOR APPOINTMENT OF JUNIOR PROJECT FELLOW (JPF)

1. The ERIC allows the appointment of JPF depending upon the nature of research study and only for the duration of essential period. The appointment in any case would not be more than two years in normal circumstances. However, as a special case, where the tenure of the project is extended, the fellowship can be extended for a limited period (not beyond six months) with the prior approval of the Director, NCERT and after extensive evaluation of the work done by the JPF. The rates of payment, educational qualifications, procedure for selection and other aspects for the JPF may be strictly followed as per the regulations of ERIC.
2. The institutional Head where the project is located shall constitute a Selection Committee under his/her Chairmanship with the PI as convener and an expert in the academic area not below the rank of an Associate Professor as member.

Educational Qualifications

Second class with minimum 55 per cent or B+ Grade in Post Graduate Degree in the concerned subject.

Desirable: Knowledge of computers.

Age

Should be below 40 years of age.

Fellowship Amount (consolidated)

Junior Project Fellows – Rs.37,000 (NET) Rs. 35,000/- (Non-NET) p.m. (consolidated)

Selection Procedure

The selection may be made through open selection after calling the names from local Employment Exchange, local educational institutions/universities etc.

In case of projects located at Regional Institutes of Education, Ajmer/Bhopal/Bhubaneswar/Mysore/Shillong, PSSCIVE, Bhopal, the procedure followed for internal approved PAC programmes may be followed for ERIC projects for the selection of JPF. In case of institutions other than constituent units of NCERT, an expert may be called from other Department of the University in case of project being located at the University and in case of NGO, an outside expert from local sister institution and actual local conveyance subject to the limit of one day DA of the city concerned may be paid to the expert.

Terms and Conditions for JPF

1. JPF is entitled for leave for a maximum period of thirty days per year in addition to general holidays. They are not entitled to vacation, for example, summer, winter. However, maternity leave at full rates may be given once during the tenure of her award.
2. The fellow shall not accept or hold any appointment paid or otherwise or receive any emoluments, salary, stipend, other fellowships, etc. from any other source during the tenure of the award.
3. The fellowship may be terminated at any time without assigning reasons and NCERT's decision in this regard shall be final.

GUIDELINES ON FINANCIAL ASPECTS

1. Agreement Bond and TR-42 may be sent after the issue of sanction so that the money may be released.
2. Agreement Bond of appropriate value should be purchased in favour of Head of the Institution/Registrar of the concerned university as the case may be.
3. Agreement Bond should be signed by the Head of the Institution / Registrar of the concerned university.
4. Reappropriation of expenditure from one sanctioned subhead to another is generally not permitted. Only in exceptional situations, the Head of the concerned Institution may allow minor adjustment upon satisfying the genuineness of the change required in the interest of the research study.
5. Audited accounts and utilization certificate for each instalment will be sent by the Head of the Institution. In case of universities, the accounts may be submitted by the Auditor or Finance Officer. In case of NGO, the accounts should be audited by the Registered Chartered Accountants. Subsequent instalments will be released only after the previous ones are settled and also on submission of detailed progress report of the work done for a period of nine months which will be placed before the Screening-cum-Progress Monitoring Committee for consideration.
6. Purchase of hardware and other capital goods and furniture is not permissible from project funds. However, research equipments and facilities (if needed) may be hired.
7. Books and Journals, if any, purchased out of the grant on completion of the project should be retained by the concerned institution and a certificate to this effect from the Head of the Institution may be sent to the NCERT.
8. No additional money will be sanctioned after submission of the final report of the project.
9. JPF fellowship money cannot be re-appropriated to any other head and cannot be utilized for any other purpose.