



अखिल भारतीय तकनीकी शिक्षा परिषद्
All India Council for Technical Education

**Guidelines
for
AICTE Productization Fellowship
(APF)**

AICTE Productization Fellowship (APF)

OBJECTIVE

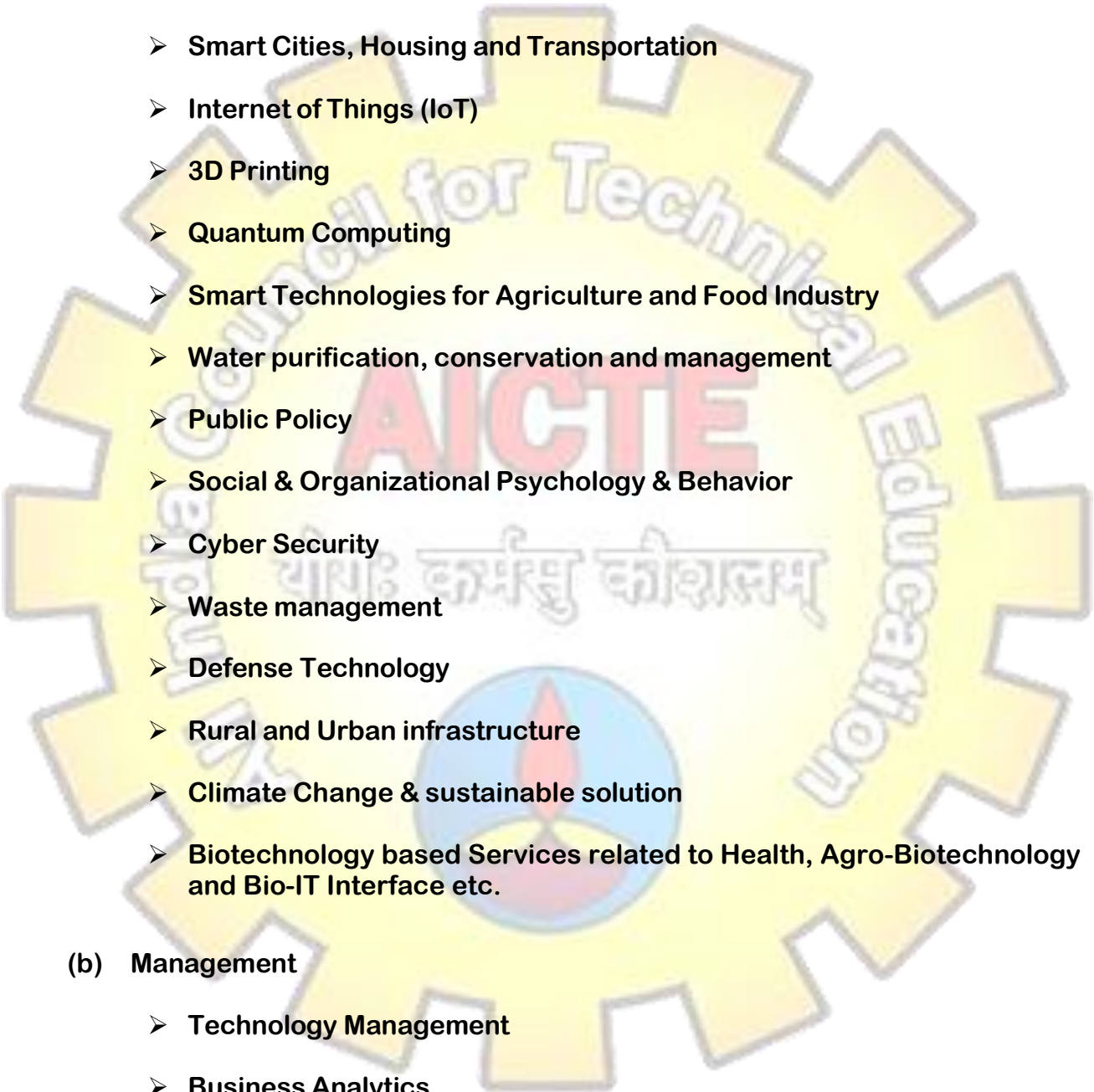
- AICTE Productization Fellowship (APF) intends to support student working on innovative ideas to develop New Product and Services which would address problems in the Society / Introduce new innovative products to the market as per dynamic needs of the market.
- The program aims at supporting students in higher education so that they can develop New products and Services to address the societal challenges and create impact in the society.
- To back Projects working towards developing or validating the Proof of Concept (PoC) for an Inventive and forward-thinking Technology Idea.
- To provide financial assistance for procurement of raw material, equipment, testing kits, software, testing for the purpose of developing new products/Services, scaling lab-based research/innovation and commercialize the solutions.
- Handhold the innovative minds and innovative researchers with practical aspects of intellectual property, new product development, business modelling and technology transfer.
- The main objective of the scheme is to support Innovative Ideas that drive future economic growth and contribute to the Nations Vision of “ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT”.

PROPOSED THRUST AREAS FOR PRODUCTIZATION FELLOWSHIP

Some of the broad areas (but not limited to) identified for the Productization Fellowship are as follows: -

(a) Engineering and Technology

- Green Technologies
- Big Data, Machine Learning & Data Sciences
- Block-chain
- Artificial Intelligence
- Energy Production and Storage
- Electronics & Photonics
- Nuclear Engineering and Allied Technologies

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- **Robotics and Mechatronics**
 - **Augmented Reality (AR)/ Virtual Reality (VR)**
 - **Energy Efficiency, Renewable and sustainable Energy**
 - **Green Hydrogen**
 - **Electric and Hybrid Mobility**
 - **Smart Cities, Housing and Transportation**
 - **Internet of Things (IoT)**
 - **3D Printing**
 - **Quantum Computing**
 - **Smart Technologies for Agriculture and Food Industry**
 - **Water purification, conservation and management**
 - **Public Policy**
 - **Social & Organizational Psychology & Behavior**
 - **Cyber Security**
 - **Waste management**
 - **Defense Technology**
 - **Rural and Urban infrastructure**
 - **Climate Change & sustainable solution**
 - **Biotechnology based Services related to Health, Agro-Biotechnology and Bio-IT Interface etc.**

(b) Management

- **Technology Management**
- **Business Analytics**
- **Six Sigma in Quality Management**
- **Engineering Management**
- **Innovation Management**
- **Supply Chain Resilience**

- Heritage Management
- Project Management
- Operations Management
- Organizational Behavior
- Strategic Planning
- Management Information System
- Social Enterprise Management
- Talent Management
- Risk Management

(c) Design

- Digital Game Design
- Graphic Design
- Information Design
- Interaction Design
- Ceramic, Glass Design
- Apparel Design
- Product Design
- Textile Design
- Transportation, Automobile Design
- Universal Design
- Design thinking

(d) Hotel Management and Catering Technology

- Masters in relevant/Allied field of Hotel Management and Catering Technology.

DEFINITION

- AICTE - All India Council for Technical Education
- APF - AICTE Productization Fellowship
- GoI – Government of India.
- “Course” means one of the branches of learning in a Programme such as Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, etc.
- “Level” means Under Graduate Degree and Post Graduate Degree Programmes.

- “Programme” means the field of Technical Education, i.e., Engineering and Technology/ Management/ Design/ Planning/Applied Arts, Crafts and Design/Hotel Management and Catering Technology/Computer Application as prescribed by the AICTE.

REGISTRATION

To promote/encourage the Innovation culture leading to development of New Products and Services among the students in the field of Engineering & Technology/ Management/ Design/ Planning/ Applied Arts, Crafts and Design/ Hotel Management and Catering Technology/ Computer Application.

The expert committee constituted by AICTE will evaluate the innovative product development/Services proposal of the candidate through online mode before admitting him in this Fellowship scheme or grant of any financial benefit.

The student/ students team shall be allowed to apply for APF throughout the year. However, the applications will be evaluated twice in a year. The process of uploading the detailed information (relevant documents) of the selected students/candidates must be completed on the AICTE portal within two months from the date of selection.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE AWARD OF FELLOWSHIP

The criteria for the award of fellowship are as follows:

Student/ students team from AICTE approved Institutions / University Departments. All Students in the team must be a full-time student pursuing undergraduate/post graduate/ doctoral programme in HEI. If the students are from different HEIs, bonafide certificate from respective institutes would be required.

(Or)

Passed out Student/ Students from AICTE approved Institutions / University Departments within TWO years from the completion of their Course/Program are also eligible.

Students participated/ won National/ International/ state level Hackathons, Grand Challenges, and similar innovation events will be given preference.

Only one innovative product development project proposal from student/team of students would be supported for Minimum One year during their tenure of the particular programme in which student/students team are enrolled in HEI/after their tenure but with a condition of their association with Incubation center in any of the AICTE approved Institute.

A team of maximum 3 members would be eligible for one innovative product

development proposals. In exceptional cases, 4 membered team may be considered.

The project should be at “Proof of Concept” (POC) minimum and NOT IDEA Stage.

Idea stage projects will not be entertained.

DURATION OF SCHEME/FELLOWSHIP

The duration of the Programme/Project/fellowship will be for a period of ONE Year and Extendable for ONE More Year including stage-II of proposal.

The innovative Product Development project can be incubated at the nearest incubation center hosted in any of the AICTE Approved Institute and can be continued there even after the project duration is over.

PROCESSING / SELECTION METHODOLOGY

The proposal shall be submitted in the online mode on the portal. Proposal shall be assessed by an expert committee constituted by AICTE on merit basis. The decision of the Competent Authority, AICTE, shall be final in this regard.

NATURE OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE UNDER THE SCHEME

Fellowship for student / students team would be provided in two stages depending on the stage of the project/innovation leading to development of New Product (or) Service and completion on deliverables.

Stage 1: Initial Funding for PoC / Prototype Development: In the form of Fellowship, Rs 37,000/- per month for a maximum period of one year.

Stage 2: Fellowship will be continued during Stage-II for a maximum period of one year, for Product development, Testing, Market Validation and Commercialization after successful completion of prototype development in Stage-1.

In case the innovation work leading to development of New Product (or) Service after the three-months (Stage-I) is not found satisfactory, NO fellowship would further be provided.

In case the student is availing any other fellowship/ internship during same tenure, he/she will not be eligible to claim fellowship under this scheme.

CONTINGENCY GRANT

APF student / students team shall be entitled for a Contingency Grant limited to maximum of Rs. 50,000/- per year (during Stage-I and Stage-II) to meet the miscellaneous expenditures related to product development work. The student/candidates is not bound to follow purchase rules of the Institute/ AICTE for procurements under contingency grant. The bills will not be sent to the AICTE.

QUARTERLY PROGRESS REPORT

The Institute/AICTE will quarterly assess the performance/ progress of innovative product development work of the student / students team as per the APF scheme guidelines. The Quarterly Progress Report with assessment must be uploaded on the AICTE portal within one month of the assessment. The progress of Student/ students team will be evaluated as “Satisfactory / Not satisfactory”. In case the progress is Satisfactory Student/ students team will be permitted to avail Fellowship, in case the progress is Unsatisfactory, the candidates will not be permitted to avail Fellowship.

ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNIVERSITY/INSTITUTE

- The university/ institute will assign one faculty as Nodal Officer for the APF Scheme who will interface between the university/Institute and AICTE on various operational aspects of the Scheme.
- The university /Institute will encourage students in innovation work leading to product development/services related activities as per the APF Scheme guidelines.
- The university/institute will update details of Student/ Students team on the online portal of AICTE along with bank account seeded with Aadhaar card number.
- The university/institute shall mark progress report of the selected Student/ Students team through online portal for the disbursement of the fellowship directly in the student's/candidates account through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.
- University/ Institute shall indicate any discontinuation/ cancellation of student/ students team from APF, if any, immediately on the designated AICTE portal. The fellowship is liable to discontinuation or cancellation in case of any one of the reasons mentioned below.

DISCONTINUATION

- (a) No progress in the innovation work leading to product development/services as per APF scheme guidelines within 3 months.
- (b) If the quarterly Progress Report is “Not satisfactory”, the fellowship shall be discontinued for the next quarter onwards.

CANCELLATION

The fellowship will be cancelled due to any of the reason given below:

- Cancellation of selection by AICTE.
- Misconduct by the student/ students team.

- False information/ documents submitted by the student/candidates or indulged in any fraudulent activity.
- Student / students team found “Not-Eligible” for fellowship at any later stage.

TERM AND CONDITIONS

The student/ students team shall not be allowed for transfer of fellowship to other student/ students team. during the entire tenure of the fellowship.

The student/ students team shall devote quality-time to innovation work leading to product development/services during the tenure of fellowship and will not be permitted to take any part-time/ full-time assignment.

The student/ students team will not accept any salary, fellowship or any type of financial assistance during the tenure of fellowship through any other source. In case student receives any financial assistance from any other organization during the tenure of fellowship, with due permission of the university/ institute, he/ she needs to inform AICTE in advance/ immediately and in such case, he/ she will not be entitled for the fellowship under this scheme for the duration in which he/ she is availing such financial assistance and it shall be resumed on discontinuance of such external financial assistance.

In case student/candidates joins any employment during the tenure of fellowship, he/ she has to inform to the AICTE through the university/ institute mentioning the date of joining the employment. In such cases, APF shall be terminated with effect from the date of joining or AICTE will decide. The student will not be considered for resumption of the APF at any stage under such circumstances even he/she leaves the employment and joins back in the institute.

The student/candidates shall give a declaration that, if the results of innovation work leading to product development/services are such that they can be exploited commercially by taking a patent or otherwise, then the commercial exploitation and patent rights would be jointly with the Institute and student/candidates.

AICTE online portal will have mechanism for releasing APF emoluments and allowances (HRA/ contingency etc.) directly in the Aadhaar seeded bank account of the beneficiary through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

The APF rules/ guidelines of AICTE will be applicable under this Scheme.

The period of fellowship shall not be extended beyond 2 years from the date of start of AIS, under any circumstance including cancellation/ discontinuation of fellowship.

The fellowship may be terminated at any time during the tenure and the decision of the AICTE shall be final and binding.

For executing the programme, a following is essential:

- (i) Grant letter of AICTE Productization Fellowship /grant for execution of the project.
- (ii) An acceptance letter by the Institute in response to the offer letter.

Any change in the schedule for Project/Scheme, timeline would require prior approval of the council, failing which the offer for the Scholarship/Fellowship already issued would be treated as automatically withdrawn.

First Stage Fellowship only on monthly basis for a period not more than one year in the DBT mode and extendable for another one year in exceptional cases including Stage-2

Second Stage Scholarship (Productization Grant Stage-II).

Fellowship only on monthly basis for a period not more than one year in the DBT mode at each Stage.

Number of Fellowships:

Number of Fellowships:

Stage 1: 500 Teams (Average Students in Each Team =3).

Stage 2: 150 Teams (Average Students in Each Team =3).

RESERVATION: As per Government of India norms.

Processing / Selection Methodology:

The proposal shall be submitted in the online mode on AICTE portal.

Proposal shall be assessed by an expert committee constituted by AICTE on merit basis. The decision of the Competent Authority, AICTE, shall be final in this regard.