Last checked: 20 October 2026 · Department of Health Research (DHR-ICMR)

DHR Biomedical Research Fellowships for Scholars with Non-Medical Background (BRET)

PhD fellowships for science postgraduates outside the medical stream, given on the Biomedical Research Eligibility Test (BRET). A second category covers Health Economics and Technology Assessment.

What you may get

A Junior Research Fellow gets Rs 37,000 a month plus HRA for the first two years, and a Senior Research Fellow gets Rs 42,000 a month plus HRA from the third year. A contingency of Rs 20,000 a year is also paid, for up to five years or until the PhD is done.

Who it is for

Postgraduates in biomedical sciences from UGC recognised universities or institutions, up to 35 years of age, who want to do a PhD on a health research topic.

Main conditions

- Category 1 needs a basic or professional postgraduate degree in biomedical sciences from a UGC recognised university or institution.
- The upper age limit is 35 years with effect from 1 April 2025.
- Qualifying marks in BRET are 50 percent for General, OBC, PwBD and EWS and 45 percent for SC and ST, and reservation applies as per government policy.
- Category 2 (HETA) is for Indian residents with an MSc in Economics, MPH or MBA in Healthcare Management with at least 55 percent marks, up to 45 years of age.

How to apply

1. Appear in the nationwide Biomedical Research Eligibility Test that DHR and ICMR hold with a national agency.
2. Selected fellows take admission for a PhD either at a recognised university or at one of the ICMR institutes, depending on their place in the merit list.
3. Fellows register on the ePMS portal and send the research synopsis through the guide and host institute.
4. For HETA, submit the application in the prescribed format on the ePMS portal.

Status

Last date: 8 December 2025

Official source: https://schemes.dhr.gov.in/staticweb/pdf/DHR/Downloads/HRD/HRD-SCHEME-AMENDED-GUIDELINES-01-01-2026.pdf#page=11
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