

Guidelines
for
Mukhyamantri Research Fellowship Test (MRFT)
Higher Education Department, Government of Odisha

1. Introduction:

The Mukhyamantri Research Fellowship Test (MRFT) is a standardized examination aimed at identifying exceptional research talents across Odisha's public universities. MRFT will select candidates for the prestigious Mukhyamantri Research Fellowship (MRF) programme, offering fellowship at par with national standard. This entrance test is designed to recognize and support meritorious individuals who demonstrate a passion for research and innovation.

2. Objective:

The primary objective of MRFT is to design and conduct a model test and evaluation system in number of subjects being pursued leading to a Ph. D. Degree in the state of Odisha. The test, like the UGC CSIR NET will measure the domain knowledge, research aptitude, clarity/precision in communication, logical reasoning and analytical thinking capabilities among meritorious research aspiring postgraduates across the state on a scale of 1 to 100` and prepare a subject wise as well as inter se merit list for award of Mukhyamantri Research Fellowship every year.

3. Examination Format:

MRFT will be conducted through the "Student Academic Management System (SAMS)" portal ensuring accessibility and ease of application for candidates. The examination will comprise of a single paper with multiple-choice questions (MCQs) that assess General knowledge, Research aptitude, Logical reasoning, as well as subject knowledge, and analytical abilities. The test will be of two hours duration for 100 marks available in English language except language and literature subjects like Odia, Urdu etc. The question paper will have two parts. The first part (Part-A) will be of 30 marks testing General knowledge, Research aptitude, and logical reasoning abilities whereas the second part (Part-B) of 70 marks will test the subject knowledge as well as analytical abilities. One will have to secure minimum 10 marks in Part-A to qualify for his/her placement in the merit list. If one secures 10 or more in Part-A, then this mark will be added with the marks secured in Part-B and final merit list will be prepared on the basis of this combined marks. But, if one secures less than 10 in Part-A, then his or her name will not appear in the merit list. There will be no negative marking.

4. Syllabus:

The syllabus for MRFT will in general follow UGC CSIR NET syllabi. In subjects where UGC CSIR NET is not available, the syllabi will follow the Master's syllabi being followed in majority of the universities of Odisha. The detailed syllabi will be available in SSB website.

5. Examination oversight and Schedule:

Oversight of the entire examination process will be carried out by the State Selection Board (SSB) under the aegis of the Higher Education Department. This effort will be coordinated by the Odisha State Higher Education Council (OSHEC) in the Higher Education Department.

MRFT is tentatively scheduled for November 2023. The detailed application schedule will be announced by the Higher Education Department, whereas the entrance schedule will be announced by the SSB.

6. Eligibility:

Candidates who have completed their Bachelors and Master's degree in the relevant subjects from a recognized university with a first division or grade equivalent in the concerned subject are eligible to apply.

7. Examination Centres:

The examination will be conducted at the centres across the state in each Regional Directorate jurisdiction or as decided by SSB depending on the number of candidates applied for the entrance test.

8. Result Declaration:

MRFT results and the merit list will be displayed on the SSB/SAMS Portal. Qualified candidates will get the detailed information on fellowship award process from the guidelines, available in HED and OSHEC website.

9. Fellowship Allocation:

Successful MRFT candidates will become eligible for the Mukhyamantri Research Fellowship Program (MRFP), provided they complete all the formalities like pre-Ph.D. Courses and registration under a supervisor.

Fellowship recipients will be required to fulfil specific academic and research milestones in accordance with the MRFP's guidelines.

10. Application and Registration:

Aspiring candidates must register and apply for MRFT through the SAMS Portal within the stipulated timeframe. One candidate can apply for one subject only for MRFT, in which s/he is interested to do Ph.D. Application format, Comprehensive guidelines and instructions pertaining to application, payment, and registration will be made available on the portal.

11. Common Application Form Fees (CAF fees):

CAF fees will be submitted on-line at the time of applying for MRFT.

(i) General candidates: Rs. 1000.00

(ii) SC/ST candidates: Rs. 500.00

(iii) PWD/Transgender candidates: No application fees

Candidates are required to upload the certificates from the competent /appropriate authorities to claim the relaxation of CAF fees [in case of (ii) and (iii)].

12. Subjects for MRFT:

Sl. No.	Subject	Sl.No.	Subject
1	Anthropology	25	Microbiology
2	Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology (AIHCA)	26	Oceanography
3	Botany	27	Marine Biology
4	Biotechnology	28	Material Science
5	Business Management	29	Odia
6	Chemistry	30	Pharmacy
7	Commerce	31	Philosophy
8	Computer Science	32	Physics
9	Economics	33	Political Science
10	Education	34	Population Studies
11	English	35	Psychology
12	Environmental Science	36	Public Administration
13	Electronics/ Electronic Science	37	Statistics
14	Geography	38	Sociology
15	Geology/Earth Science	39	Social Work
16	History	40	Sanskrit
17	Home Science	41	Santali
18	Hindi	42	Tourism & Travel Studies
19	IRPM/PMIIR	43	Urdu
20	Journalism & Mass Communication	44	Women Studies/Gender Studies
21	Law	45	Wildlife & Biodiversity Conservation
22	Library & Information Sc.	46	Yoga and Naturopathy
23	Linguistics	47	Zoology
24	Mathematics		

N.B.: In case of any discrepancies, the decision of the Odisha State Higher Education Council in Higher Education Department is final.