

Forum for Research on Grassland and Pastoralism (FRGP)

Call for Applications

About the fellowship

The [FRGP](#) is a collaborative platform for furthering research in grassland and pastoral studies from an interdisciplinary perspective. Its aim is to enable the formation of a coherent body of work to inform better public policies, strengthen pastoralist systems and improve grassland management. This fellowship program is the first step toward that end.

Over the next three years, the platform plans to offer fellowships for deepening pastoral and grassland studies in India. This call is meant for disciplines in both natural sciences and social sciences and is aimed at individuals who are already researching or are about to embark on research related to pastoral and/or grassland studies in India. The forum partners with field stations in three regions: Maharashtra (tentative), Munsiri, Uttarakhand and Kutch ([RAMBLE](#)), and Gujarat, to expand our understanding of the pastoralist systems in the Deccan, the Himalayas, and Western India. Should these regions be of interest to researchers, these field stations can serve as a base and provide necessary logistical support, including room and board, field assistance, etc.

For this inaugural year of fellowships, applications are invited for research on any of the following thematic:

- Long term ecological implications of pastoralist grazing in grasslands
- The political economy of pastoralist access to grazing resources given the growing multiple demands on grasslands/wastelands
- Economic contributions of pastoralism, including dealing with questions of uncertainty, risk
- Ethnographies of understudied/lesser-known pastoral communities

Eligibility: Most successful applicants will have institutional affiliations and faculty supervision from within these institutions. Some independent researchers will also be supported, with the possibility of them pursuing their own work or working in collaboration with faculty associated with this programme.

Types of fellowships :

Masters fellowships: A small stipend will be provided along with support for fieldwork, travel, field guides/research assistants, and any necessary equipment required for fieldwork. We expect Master's students to carry out research along with the research themes and in the three regions mentioned above. Students will be expected to base themselves at one of our collaboratively managed field stations while conducting their fieldwork. Support could be provided for up to a year, as long as the fellowship period is spent doing fieldwork. The total support will be up to Rs. 2 lakhs.

PhD fellowships: Support will be provided for travel, modest lodging, fieldwork, field assistants, and equipment. Preference will be given to research proposals linked to the above research themes, although proposals that ask innovative research questions will also be considered. Students will have the option of basing themselves at one of the three collaboratively managed field stations, should the regions be of interest to their research. The fellowship amount will be up to Rs. 4 lakh per year. Support will be provided for up to three years, as long as the fellowship period is spent doing fieldwork. The annual renewal of the fellowship will be subject to performance review and timely submission of progress reports.

Writing fellowships: A monthly stipend will be provided to PhD students who are working in the area of pastoralism and grassland studies in India. This fellowship is for those students who are in the writing stage of their thesis and have completed their fieldwork. The fellowship amount will be up to Rs. 3 lakh and support will be provided for up to one year. The student should not be receiving funding from any other agency during the period of this fellowship.

Civil society fellowships: Individuals who are located in civil society organisations and are interested in conducting short term independent research projects in the area of pastoralism and grassland studies would be eligible to apply. Applicants are encouraged to carry out research on one or more of the aforementioned themes. Partial salary support and expenses related to fieldwork will be provided for up to one year. Individuals should possess at least a Bachelor's degree, exceptions can be made for outstanding research proposals. The fellowship amount will be up to Rs. 3 lakhs for one year.

Selection Process:

Applications will be reviewed in quarterly meetings of the Scholarship Committee. All decisions of the committee will be final.

How to apply:

Applicants should submit:

Masters fellowship:

1. CV including name and contact details, current university affiliation, and date of admission.
2. A brief research proposal describing the research problems, methods, and relevance of the study. The proposal should not exceed two pages (not including a bibliography).
3. Budget proposal not exceeding one page. The budget covers expenses for a small stipend, fieldwork, return trip economy class air travel, field assistants/guides, and any necessary equipment required for the fieldwork. Support is available for up to Rs. 2 lakhs, for up to 1 year. The support awarded will be based on a review of the budget proposal.
4. Two recommendation letters

PhD fellowship:

1. CV including name and contact details, current university affiliation, and date of admission.
2. A brief research proposal describing the research problems, methods, and relevance of the study. The proposal should not exceed five pages (not including a bibliography).
3. Budget proposal not exceeding one page. The budget covers travel and modest lodging expenses for fieldwork (mention the expected monthly expenditure for both), field/research assistants (mention the purpose and duration for which field/research assistant is required, the expected number of such assistants needed and their wages), and any necessary basic equipment required for the fieldwork. Support is available for up to Rs. 4 lakh per year, for 3 years. The support awarded will be based on a review of the budget proposal.
4. Two recommendation letters, out of which one must be from the thesis supervisor

Writing fellowships:

1. CV including name and contact details, current university affiliation, and date of admission.
2. A copy of the institutionally approved research proposal of the doctoral project detailing the research problems, methods, and relevance of the study.
3. A status report of the fieldwork, signed by the thesis supervisor.
4. Budget proposal not exceeding one page. The budget should mention the expected monthly expenditure with a justification for each item. This provides monthly stipend support. The total amount of support available is up to Rs. 3 lakh for one year. The support awarded will be based on a review of the budget proposal.
5. Two recommendation letters, out of which one must be from the thesis supervisor

Civil society fellowship

1. CV including name and contact details, current university affiliation, and date of admission.
2. A brief research proposal describing the research problems, methods, and relevance of the study. The proposal should not exceed 2 pages (not including a bibliography).
3. Budget proposal not exceeding 1 page. The budget covers partial salary support, fieldwork expenses, and field assistants. Support of up to Rs. 3 lakhs is available for one year. The support awarded will be based on a review of the budget proposal.
4. Names of two referees.

Timeline: Applications will be accepted around the year and assessed at quarterly scholarship committee meetings.

Please contact Aniruddh Sheth (aniruddh@centreforpastoralism.org) for any queries.

Members of the FRGP's Advisory Board

Abi Tamim Vanak, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment

Anita Sharma, Shiv Nadar University

Ankila Hiremath, Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment

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