PARLIAMENT OF INDIA

RAJYA SABHA RESEARCH AND STUDY (RSRS) SCHEME

RAJYA SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
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PREFACE

The Rajya Sabha instituted the Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Chair and two Rajya Sabha Fellowships Scheme in the year 2009 with the objective of promoting research on different aspects of parliamentary democracy in India. However, it was felt that the outcome of the said Scheme remained sub-optimal for the last one decade of its working. At the initiative of the Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, it was decided to revamp the existing Scheme in order to enhance its effectiveness and utility. The revised Scheme has three components, namely (a) Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Chair; (b) Rajya Sabha Fellowships and (c) Rajya Sabha Student Engagement Internships. The revamped scheme has been renamed as ‘Rajya Sabha Research and Study’ (RSRS) Scheme. The broad objective of the Scheme is ‘to promote research/empirical/ comparative study of the functioning of Parliament and other democratic institutions and analyse their contributions to the country’s socio-economic transformation; and to ensure the utility of the research study to the functioning of Parliament’.

Various aspects of the Scheme have been streamlined including eligibility criteria, selection of broad themes for study by the Chair and Fellows, monitoring of the research project, etc. The research grant for the Chair and Fellowships has been enhanced to attract the serious scholars/experts to undertake the study and ensure quality and relevant research. The number of Fellowships has also been increased from two to four.

A new Internship Scheme has also been introduced offering ten (10) Internships to the students pursuing graduation/ post-graduation courses in any discipline to acquaint them with the working of Parliament of India, especially the Rajya Sabha.

This booklet seeks to present the details of the revised Scheme, Application Form, Undertaking and Terms & Conditions for the Chair and Fellowships, broad themes for study by the Chair and Fellows, etc.

Desh Deepak Verma
Secretary-General,
Rajya Sabha

NEW DELHI;  
July, 2019
RAJYA SABHA RESEARCH AND STUDY (RSRS) SCHEME

Objective
1. The Rajya Sabha Research and Study (RSRS) Scheme has three components, namely the Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Chair, four Rajya Sabha Fellowships and ten Rajya Sabha Student Engagement Internships. Objective of the Scheme is to promote research/ empirical/comparative study of the functioning of Parliament and other democratic institutions and analyse their contributions to the country’s socio-economic transformation; to ensure the utility of the study to improve the functioning of Parliament; and to promote dynamic engagement with academic and research institutions in the field of parliamentary/constitutional studies, development studies, public governance, legal studies, etc.

PART A: RESEARCH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (RAC)

(i) Composition
2. A Research Advisory Committee shall be constituted to assist the Chairman, Rajya Sabha in the selection as well as operation of the Chair and Fellowships.
3. The RAC shall consist of five members to be nominated by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha, of which two would be from amongst the Members of Rajya Sabha and two prominent academics. Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha would be the Member Convener of the Committee.

(ii) Functions
4. The RAC shall draw up separate panels of names for the Chair and Fellows.
5. In addition, the RAC may be required to perform the following functions:
   • Identification of areas of research and study for Chair and Fellowships;
   • Monitoring and appraisal of the performance of the Chair and the Fellows; and
   • Any other matter that may be referred to the Committee by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha from time to time.

(iii) Tenure
6. The tenure of the RAC shall be two years. Chairman, Rajya Sabha may extend its tenure at his discretion.
7. An existing member of the RAC, upon its re-constitution, may be re-nominated on the RAC.

(iv) Admissibility of TA/DA to the Members of the Committee
8. Members of the Committee shall be paid TA/DA as per the rules applicable to Members of Parliament or the Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha, as the case may be, as and when they may be required to travel in connection with the work of the Committee. Members, except Members of Parliament during Session days and the Secretary-General, shall also be paid Rs. 1000/- as a token honorarium for each meeting of the Committee.

PART B: DR. S. RADHAKRISHNAN CHAIR

(i) Eligibility
9. The Chair is open to an eminent researcher/ academic of repute/ expert with proven record of research or scholarship and publications in the study of political system, democratic institutions and socio-economic challenges facing the nation. Former Members of
Parliament/State Legislatures and former officers of Parliament/State Legislature Secretariats are also eligible to apply.

10. Essential qualification of an applicant for the Chair is Ph.D. in the area relevant to the subject of study.

11. An applicant for the Chair shall not exceed 65 years of age at the time of application (to be relaxed by RAC in case of deserving applicant). Applicant’s academic assignments and other engagements will be taken into consideration at the time of selection so that she/he could devote requisite time and energy for undertaking the research work of the Chair.

(ii) Duration

12. The Chair will be for a period of two years (extendable upto one year) from the date of the award of the Chair.

(iii) Areas of Study

13. The Chair will undertake work on research themes as considered and recommended by RAC with the broad objectives of enabling research based study in pursuance of the objective of the Scheme.

14. RAC will finalise the broad themes which may be from the proposals received from the Members of the RAC or from the list of themes suggested by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat or even from the proposals received from the applicants.

(iv) Project Monitoring and Responsibilities of the Chair

15. The Chair is required to make a presentation to the RAC every six months for an interactive review of the progress of work. The Chair will be required to take into account the inputs and suggestions made by the RAC during the periodic review of the work of the Chair.

16. The Chair is required to submit a research report to the RAC at the end of the tenure. The RAC will consider the draft report submitted by the Chair for acceptance/further direction.

17. The Hon'ble Chairman, Rajya Sabha may also be apprised from time to time about the progress of the work of the Chair.

(v) Publication of the Report of the Chair

18. The RAC will accord approval for the publication of the research study on a case-to-case basis.

19. The Chair may get the research study published at his/her end after obtaining due approval from the RAC. If the Chair gets the Report published, in that case she/he will supply 15 copies of the publication to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat on complimentary basis.

20. Rajya Sabha Secretariat may, however, publish the Report if so requested by the Chair provided the RAC recommends the Report to be published by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

21. In case the research study is published by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, due credit will be given to the author and the copyright will rest with the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

22. In addition, the following disclaimer shall be prominently printed on the back of the inner title page of the Book, if published by the Chair:

"The publication of the Book has been sponsored by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat as a part of its support to the recipient of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Chair. The responsibility for the facts stated or opinions expressed is entirely of the author and not of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat"
Research Grant

23. The research grant for the Chair shall be Rs.20 lakh for the entire period of two years. The schedule of release of the grant will be as follows:

(a) 20% of the amount payable at the time of the selection;
(b) 30% of the amount after the submission of the first draft report;
(c) 30% of the amount after the submission of the final draft report. The final draft shall be submitted not later than three months before the end of the tenure of the Chair; and
(d) the remaining amount shall be paid after approval of report by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

24. Besides, Rs. 2.5 lakh shall be provided as contingency grant for the entire period of two years.

25. The release of research grant will be subject to the recommendations of the RAC based on the progress of the project.

26. The entire cost of the research project shall have to be met by the Chair out of Research and Contingency Grant mentioned above.

Mode of Selection

27. The advertisement inviting applications for the Chair shall be published in reputed academic journals and national newspapers. The advertisement will also be placed on the website of Rajya Sabha.

28. The applicants will be required to send their particulars in the prescribed format (ANNEXURE-I) duly filled in, along with a synopsis of the research proposal.

29. The applications shall be considered by the Research Advisory Committee which shall recommend a panel of the names to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha for selection of Chair. The Committee may also suggest on its own name(s) of eminent scholars for the Chair.

30. The person selected, if already employed, may be required to produce a ‘No Objection Certificate’ from the institution for taking up the assignment.

PART C: RAJYA SABHA FELLOWSHIPS

31. The Fellowship scheme focuses on various aspects of functioning of parliamentary institutions and the issues and challenges facing these institutions. There shall be four Fellowships.

Eligibility

32. The Fellowship is open to scholars who have relevant educational qualification/experience for undertaking the study in line with the objective of the Scheme. Former Members of Parliament/ State Legislatures and former officers of Parliament/State Legislature Secretariats are also eligible to apply.

33. An applicant for the Fellowship should be between 25-65 years of age at the time of application (to be relaxed by RAC in case of deserving applicants)

34. An applicant should have minimum Master’s degree in social science, law and other related disciplines relevant to the subject of study. Preference will be given to those who possess higher qualifications of M.Phil. and Ph.D.
(ii) **Duration**
35. The Fellowships will be for a period of 18 months (extendable up to six months) from the date of award of Fellowship.

(iii) **Areas of Study**
36. The Fellows shall, *inter alia*, undertake study of the impact assessment of major legislations, the functioning of parliamentary Committees, the efficacy of major parliamentary devices, institutional/procedural reforms in Indian Parliament *vis-à-vis* other Commonwealth Parliaments, etc.

37. The RAC will finalise the broad themes for research by the Fellows from the proposals received from the Members of the RAC or from the list of themes suggested by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat or even from the proposals received from the applicants.

(iv) **Project Monitoring and Responsibilities of the Fellows**
38. The Fellows are required to submit a six-monthly status report about the assigned research work to the RAC for its consideration.

39. The Fellows will make a presentation to the Committee once in a year for an interactive review of the progress of work. The Fellows will be required to take into account the inputs and suggestions made by the RAC during the periodic review of work.

40. The Fellows are required to submit a research report to RAC at the end of the tenure. The RAC will consider the draft report submitted by the Fellows for acceptance/further direction.

(v) **Publication of the Report of the Fellows**
41. The RAC will accord approval for the publication of the research study on a case-to-case basis.

42. The Fellows may get the research study published at their end after obtaining due approval from the RAC. If the Fellows get their Reports published, in that case they will supply 15 copies each of the publication to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat on complimentary basis.

43. Rajya Sabha Secretariat may, however, publish the Report if so requested by the Fellows provided the RAC recommends the Report to be published by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

44. In case the research study is published by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, due credit will be given to the author and the copyright will rest with the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

45. In addition, the following disclaimer shall be prominently printed on the back of the inner title page of the Book, if published by the Fellows:

> "The publication of the Book has been sponsored by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat as a part of its support to the recipient of Rajya Sabha Fellowship. The responsibility for the facts stated or opinions expressed is entirely of the author and not of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat"

(vi) **Research Grant**
46. The total amount of research grant for each Fellowship will be Rs.8 lakh for entire duration. The schedule of the release of the funds will be as follows:

(a) 20% of the amount payable at the time of the selection;

(b) 30% of the amount after the submission of the first draft report;
(c) 30% of the amount after the submission of the final draft report. The final draft shall be submitted not later than two months before the end of the tenure; and

(d) the remaining amount shall be paid after approval of report by the Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

47. Besides, there shall be a contingency grant of Rs.50,000 for the entire duration.

48. The release of Research Grant will be subject to the recommendations of the RAC.

49. The entire cost of the research project shall have to be met by the Fellows out of the Research Grant mentioned above.

(vi) Mode of Selection

50. The applications shall be considered by the RAC which shall recommend a panel of the names to the Chairman, Rajya Sabha for grant of Fellowships. The Committee may also suggest on its own name(s) of eminent scholars for the Fellowships.

51. The applicants will be required to send their particulars in the prescribed format (ANNEXURE-I) duly filled in, along with a synopsis of the research proposal.

PART D: GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR CHAIR/FELLOWSHIPS

(1) Guidelines for submission of proposals of research from Chair/Fellow

52. While submitting the proposal, the format may broadly conform to the following order of points and guidelines:

(i) Title of the Project

(ii) Statement of the Problem: In the opening paragraphs of the research proposal, the problem to be investigated should be stated clearly and briefly. The significance of the problem in the theoretical context of the concerned discipline should be specified.

(iii) Overview of Literature: Summarizing the current status of research in the area including major findings, the project proposal should clearly demonstrate the relevance or otherwise of the findings or approaches for the investigation of the problem at hand.

(iv) Conceptual Framework: Given the problem and the theoretical perspective for investigation of the problem, the proposal should clearly indicate the concepts to be used and demonstrate their relevance for the study. It should further specify the empirical dimension, if any, that needs to be explored for investigating the problem.

(v) Research Questions or Hypotheses: Given the conceptual framework and dimensions of the problem, specific questions to be answered and hypotheses to be tested through the proposed study should be explicitly formulated, compatible with the research design.

(vi) Coverage: In the light of the questions raised or the hypotheses proposed to be tested, if the sampling becomes necessary, full information on the following points should be given:

(a) Universe of the Study;
(b) Sampling Frame; and
(c) Units of Observation and Sampling size.

If the Study requires any control groups, they should be specifically mentioned. An explanation of the determination of size and type of the sample shall also be necessary. Proposals not requiring a sample selection should specify their strategy appropriately and describe the rationale.
(vii) **Methodology:** A suitable description of the methods of research for the study may be given.

(viii) **Data Collection:** The different types of data that are proposed to be gathered should be specifically mentioned. The sources for each type and the tools and techniques that will be used for collecting different types of data should be specified.

(ix) **Time Budgeting:** The project should be broken up in suitable stages and the time required for the completion of each stage of work should be specified.

(x) **Bibliography.**

(2) **Broad themes of research for the Chair and Fellowships**

53. The Chair and Fellows will be required to undertake research on the broad themes as indicated in ANNEXURE-II

(3) **Undertaking for Chair/Fellowships**

54. An applicant selected for the Chair/Fellowship will have to sign an Undertaking and Conditions attached thereto separately. (ANNEXURE-III/ANNEXURE-IV).

(4) **Library Facility**

55. The Chair/Fellow may be provided the facility to have access to Parliament Library for consultation.

(5) **Decision of the Chairman**

56. The decision of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha will be final in all matters concerning the Chair/Fellowships.

**PART E: RAJYA SABHA STUDENT ENGAGEMENT INTERNSHIPS**

(i) **Objective**

57. The objective of the Internships scheme is to help acquaint the students with the different procedural aspects of the working of Indian Parliament, especially the Rajya Sabha.

(ii) **Eligibility**

58. Students pursuing graduation and post-graduation courses in any discipline would be eligible for internship programme during summer vacation. There would be ten Internships, five each for the Graduate and Post-Graduate applicants. The Internship positions among the Graduate and Post-Graduate applicants will, however, vary depending on the applications received and the suitability of applicants. The applicants will be required to send their particulars duly filled in the prescribed format (ANNEXURE-V).

(iii) **Selection of Interns**

59. Interns shall be selected by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat as per the direction of the Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha.

(iv) **Deployment of Interns**

60. Interns would be deployed in the key sections of the Secretariat, i.e., the Legislative Section, Bill Office, Table Office, Committee Sections, etc. under the supervision/mentoring of the concerned Head of the Branch for acquainting them with the functioning of the Secretariat.

(v) **Duration**

61. The Internship will be for a period of two months from the date of the award of the Internship.
(vi) **Stipend**
62. An intern would be paid a consolidated amount of Rs.10,000/- per month as stipend.

(vii) **Orientation and Reporting**
63. Interns would be given briefing at the beginning of their Internship programme. Interns are required to submit a report about their work and learning experience to the concerned supervisor/mentor, with relevant feedback, if any, at the end of their term.

(viii) **Award of Certificate**
64. On successful completion of the Internship, a certificate would be presented to each of the Interns.
ANNEXURE I

*APPLICATION FORM FOR GRANT OF DR. S. RADHAKRISHNAN CHAIR/RAJYA SABHA FELLOWSHIPS

1. Name (in block letters)
   ____________________________________________

2. Father's Name (in block letters)
   ____________________________________________

3. Date of Birth ________________________________

4. Address for Correspondence
   ____________________________________________
   Tel./Mobile No.: ______________________________
   Email: ________________________________________

5. Permanent Address
   ____________________________________________

6. Institution with which currently working (with address)
   ____________________________________________
   Telephone No.__________ Fax No.__________

7. Educational Qualifications: (Please specify only three major degrees) (Start with the most advanced degree)

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8. Teaching/Research Experience, if any (Attach a separate sheet, if necessary)

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9. **Publications**: (Attach a separate sheet, if necessary)

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10. **Experience in the field of Parliamentary Studies, if any**: (Attach a separate sheet, if necessary)

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________

**Research Proposal**

Please attach with this application the synopsis of the proposed research project to enable an informed assessment by the Research Advisory Committee. The research proposal should *inter-alia* include the following: (Refer to Part D of the SCHEME for Guidelines)

- Abstract
- Title, Background and Statement of the research problem
- Overview of Literature
- Conceptual Framework
- Research Questions or Hypotheses
- Coverage
- Methodology
- Data Collection
- Time Budgeting
- Bibliography
- Schedule of Progress (6 monthly)

I certify that the statements made in this application are true to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Signature ___________________________ Date ___________

Name and Address __________________________________________

___________________________________________

___________________________________________

*The application may be forwarded through the Head of the Department/Organisation where the applicant is working.*
ANNEXURE II

I. Broad themes of Research for the Chair

(i) India's economic growth story: Contribution of Indian Parliament

- The role and contribution of the Parliament as catalyst in India’s economic growth;
- Focus on the shift in emphasis from the social issues to economic issues in the 80’s and 90’s;
- Transition from regulated economy to globalized economy and associated challenges; impact of global trade regimes; legislative initiatives taken; etc.

(ii) Legislative Impact Assessment: A framework for India

- The practice of pre-legislative impact assessment does not exist in India;
- Study should focus on impact assessment of legislations in the present scenario in India, cost of implementation and outcome, best practices in developed countries, legislative framework for India, etc.

(iii) Administration and Management of Parliament: India and International Experience

- System of independent Secretariat under the control of Presiding Officer of Parliament/Legislature for effective functioning of Parliament
- Constitutional provisions and practices
- Recruitment and staffing pattern
- Best practices of the Commonwealth Parliaments such as UK, Canada, Australia, etc.

II. Broad themes of Research for the Fellowships:

(i) India’s federal system: Role of Rajya Sabha in protecting the rights and interests of the States

The topics selected by the researcher should be specific, limiting to issues, region, time period, etc.

(ii) Parliamentary Committee System: Objective and effectiveness

The research work instead of being general should confine to the study of a select one or two committees for specific conclusions/recommendations.

(iii) Private Members’ Bill: Intention, Effectiveness and the Future

The focus should be on the limitations and the factors that impinge on the successful application of the provisions of Private Members’ Bill.

(iv) Parliament and Media: Inter-Institutional relation

The researcher should focus on relevant aspects of the relations between Parliament and Media.

(v) Accountability of the Executive in a Parliamentary democracy: Role and effectiveness of procedural devices

The research study should focus on any one or a combination of procedural devices such as Questions, Calling Attention, Short Duration Discussion, etc. to assess their effectiveness in ensuring accountability of the Executive to the Parliament.
1. I hereby accept the Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Chair offered by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat amounting to Rs.______ (Rupees ________________________) to be disbursed in the prescribed manner on the subject entitled,“________________________ _________________________” and agree to fulfil all the requirements and conditions as contained in the Appendix. I will also abide by the existing rules as well as those likely to be framed in future.

2. I agree to refund the amount of all the expenditure incurred with stipulated interest in connection with the above project by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, if the work for which the grant has been awarded is either not properly carried out or is discontinued by me or the draft reports submitted by me are not upto the satisfaction of the Research Advisory Committee/Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

3. I will not accept financial assistance from any other source for undertaking research on the same subject/project.

4. I agree that the Rajya Sabha Secretariat has the right to suspend the award if I violate/modify/ignore any of the conditions attached to it.

5. I do agree that any recovery from me as provided under para 2 above may be effected either from me under the Public Debt Act, 1944 (as amended from time to time) or through my institution at the discretion of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

Signature of the Chair

Signature of the Head of the Department/Institution
UNDERTAKING FOR FELLOWSHIP

1. I hereby accept the Rajya Sabha Fellowship offered by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat amounting to Rs.__________ (Rupees______________________) to be disbursed in the prescribed manner on the subject entitled,“________________________” and agree to fulfil all the requirements and conditions as contained in the Appendix. I will also abide by the existing rules as well as those likely to be framed in future.

2. I agree to refund the amount of all the expenditure incurred with stipulated interest in connection with the above project by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat, if the work for which the grant has been awarded is either not properly carried out or is discontinued by me or the draft reports submitted by me are not upto the satisfaction of the Research Advisory Committee/Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

3. I will not accept financial assistance from any other source for undertaking research on the same subject/project.

4. I agree that the Rajya Sabha Secretariat has the right to suspend the award if I violate/modify/ignore any of the conditions attached to it.

5. I do agree that any recovery from me as provided under para 2 above may be effected either from me under the Public Debt Act, 1944 (as amended from time to time) or through my institution at the discretion of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

Signature of the Fellow

Signature of the Head of the Department/Institution
APPENDIX

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR CHAIR/FELLOWSHIPS

1. The completed research report shall be submitted to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat within the stipulated time as mentioned in the Scheme.

2. Non-submission of reports at specified intervals may lead to suspension/cancellation of the grant without notice.

3. The Rajya Sabha Secretariat has the right to terminate the award at any time, without prior intimation, if the progress is found to be unsatisfactory, for any reasons whatsoever, by the Research Advisory Committee.

4. No extension of time to complete the research project will be given beyond the stipulated period, except under exceptional circumstances, with the permission of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha.

5. In the event of discontinuation of the project for the above-mentioned reasons or for any other reason whatsoever (including personal reasons) by the scholar, he/she will be required to pay back to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat the amount already paid to him/her along with interest thereon @10% per annum and shall also hand over all the data/material collected in connection with the Chair/Fellowship project to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

6. After the completion of the study, a declaration to the effect that the project being basically the work of the Chair/Fellows, the Rajya Sabha Secretariat is not responsible for factual errors, inaccuracies, inferences, if any, shall be suitably incorporated in the research report by the Chair/Fellow. The name of the Chair/Fellow shall be prominently displayed on the cover page of the research report if it is published.

7. The person selected, if already employed, may be required to produce a ‘No Objection Certificate’ from the institution for taking up the assignment.

8. Copyright of the Publication shall be vested with the Rajya Sabha Secretariat.

9. The decision of the Chairman, Rajya Sabha shall be final in all matters.
ANNEXURE V

APPLICATION FORM FOR GRANT OF
RAJYA SABHA STUDENT ENGAGEMENT INTERNSHIPS

1. Name (in block letters)
   
2. Father's Name (in block letters)
   
3. Date of Birth
   
4. Address for Correspondence
   
   Tel./Mobile No.
   Email:

5. Permanent Address
   
6. Name of the Institution where currently studying (with address)
   
   Telephone Fax

7. Educational Qualifications:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Certificate/Degree/Experience</th>
<th>Percentage of Marks/Grades</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Year</th>
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I certify that the statements made in this application are true to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Signature ___________________________ Date __________
Name and Address ___________________________________________
__________________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________