TCS Research Scholar Program

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Frequently Asked Questions

January 2013

Q1) What is the Aim of the scheme?
The scheme is primarily aimed to help enhance our nation's talent base in doing research in Computing Sciences.

Q2) What is the Focus and Scope of the scheme?
1. Encourage researching in areas of Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Information Systems, Information Technology and Software Engineering..

2. Encourage Institutes to find and admit more good students

3. Provide an attractive environment for both the student and Institute to do research in Computing Sciences.

Q3) How many years is the scheme open?
The scheme is open for five years starting from the academic year 2010 – 2011.

Q4) What are the areas of study for which the scheme is open?
The scheme is open in the following broad areas of study only.
a. Computer Engineering
b. Computer Science
c. Information Systems
d. Information Technology
e. Software Engineering

Q5) What are the eligibility criteria for a student for the scheme?
1. The scheme is open for the students who have been found to be eligible for admission to PhD in the Institute.

2. The scheme is open only for fresh PhD student admissions and not for students who are already admitted.

3. Students have to be registered as full-time students in the institute/ college where the PhD registration is sought.

Q6) What are the basic education qualifications required for a candidate?

The candidate should have a Master's degree and first class education career right from SSC. Outstanding candidates with only a bachelor's degree may be considered in exceptional situations.

Q7) Is there any age limit for a student to apply for the scheme?

A student should not be more than 28 years of age as on admission into the scholarship scheme.

Q8) What are the key elements for selection of a candidate?

Broadly the key elements for selection are:

1. Candidate's credentials

2. Institute's credentials for the selected field of study.

3. TCS' interest in the selected field of study.

4. Academic Research Guide's credentials

Q9) Is there an interview for the selection?

While the institute should select the students for this programme, TCS reserves the right to admit some or none of the students recommended by the institute. Further, TCS reserves the right to conduct an interview of a student(s), if it deems necessary for the selection for the scheme. In such cases, interviews will be conducted in one of the Innovation Labs of TCS and candidates should travel to the designated Lab for the interview. To-and-fro 2nd AC rail fare from the Institute to the place of interview will be paid to each candidate called for the interview.

Q10) What are the benefits of the TCS Research Scholarship Scheme?

Stipend

A stipend of Rs. 23,000/- per month will be paid by TCS for the first two years and Rs.25,000/- per month for the next two years of the scholarship.

Period:

For a maximum of four years or submission of thesis for PhD, whichever is earlier.

TCS may accept extension of fellowship to fifth year, under exceptional conditions, under its discretion.

Other Incentives:

1. Support for the TCS Research Scholar to participate in one International refereed Conference, held outside India, during the period of four years, where he/she has a paper to present, provided that the scholar is one of the authors of the paper. The support would cover travel, conference registration, accommodation and living allowance as per the norms of TCS.

2. Support for the guide of the TCS Research Scholar to participate in one International Refereed Conference, held outside India, during the period of four years, where the guide has a paper to present, TCS Research scholar being a coauthor, but not

participating in the conference. The support would cover travel, conference registration, accommodation and living allowance as per the norms of TCS.

3. Support for the TCS Research Scholar to participate in two International / National refereed Conferences, held in India, during the period of four years, where he/she has a paper to present, provided that the scholar is one of the authors of the paper. The support would cover travel, conference registration, accommodation and living allowance as per the norms of TCS.

4. One time contingency grant of Rs. 1 Lakh to the Institute for every student enrolled as TCS Research Scholar to meet any incidental expenses related to the project by the student, as approved by his/her research guide.

5. Visit(s) & Interaction(s) of TCS Research Scholar to TCS Innovation Laboratories based on projects needs, as judged by TCS Innovation Laboratory concerned.

Q11) Can the scholarship be taken in addition to other scholarships that the student is receiving?
The fellowship may be taken in addition to the PhD scholarship that the student receives from other sources, provided that there is no violation of rules of that scholarship, and there is no violation of any of the conditions of the TCS Research Scholarship scheme.

Q12) Can the scholarship be terminated?
Yes, the scholarship can be terminated by TCS, with one month notice, based on performance review report and also for any violation of any operational rules applicable to all the research students of the institute.

Q13) What are the Intellectual Property rights of the research work carried out under the scheme?
The Institute should intimate TCS on the date of filling of any patent related to any invention by the TCS Research Scholar under this programme. TCS would be given a license on reasonable and non-discriminatory terms for any such patent which has been granted, on mutually agreed terms. The Institute and student are free to publish any work developed under this scholarship provided they send TCS a written intimation along with the work that will be published 30 days prior to such publication.

Q14) What is the format for the application?
Applications will be submitted in the following format:

1. Letter of application from the student (*you may see the sample format that is available*)

2. Letter of support from the institute (*you may see the sample format that is available*)

3. Research area write-up – should include a short review, broad problem statement, proposed scope and focus

4. CV of the student – education, grades obtained, honors, publication list, work experience (if any)

5. CV of the proposed guide

Q15) How should applications for the scheme be sent?
Applications for the scheme should be routed through the institute in the format mentioned below via email (preferred) or via hard-copy.

Q16) When will the applications be entertained?
Applications for the scheme are entertained twice a year – once in August and again in January of that academic year.

Q17) When will the results of application be announced?
The results of selection of students for the scheme will be announced by end of August/ end of January as the case maybe.

Q18) What are the terms and conditions of the Scheme?
All candidates are requested to go through the Terms and Conditions of the TCS Research Scholar Program that is available with the Institute.

Q19) Will the research involves collaboration with TCS Innovation Laboratories?
TCS Innovation Laboratories may look for opportunities of collaborations with the TCS Research scholar and the Institute, even beyond the period of scholarship.

Q20) Where should the applications be sent?
Applications should be sent by email to tcs.rsp@tcs.com

Q21) The Research Area and Research Guide are not decided. What should be done in such cases?
TCS strongly encourages that a broad write-up of the area that the candidate would like to conduct his/her research in be created, so that the selection process becomes more meaningful. This area can be refined further over the years or even the focus can be changed if there are strong reasons for the same. However, TCS would like both the Institute and the Candidate to put in that extra effort to identify the area up-front so that it makes the selection a strong case. Similarly, TCS encourages the Institute to take the effort to identify a provisional guide for the student to make the case stronger.

Q22) Can we change the Research Area and Guide at a later date?

Yes the Research Area and Research Guide can be changed at a later date, provided there are strong reasons. There will be a yearly performance review report based on which the scholarship is continued or not for the subsequent period. If the reasons for change are not strong enough the subsequent continuation of the scholarship may be under review.

Q23) Are participation in conferences and publication of the research work encouraged?
Yes, TCS encourages participation of the student in conferences and publication of the research work. There are no restrictions on this aspect as far as the rules of the institute are no violated.

Q24) Does the scholarship guarantee a job in TCS?
No, the TCS Research Scholar scheme does not guarantee a job in TCS or its associated companies.