Guidelines

National and International Seminar (NIS)

Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)
Ministry of Education (MoE)

JNU Institutional Area, Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi - 110067 (INDIA)

1. INTRODUCTION

The ICSSR provides grants to academicians and researchers to organise seminars and conferences in India as a prominent strategy to advance research in various social science disciplines. Seminars enable researchers, academicians, policy-makers, industry partners and other stakeholders with an opportunity to exchange research findings as well as domain-specific ideas. Seminars and conferences also generate significant academic output and research literature on contemporary issues while anticipating the challenges of the future.

ICSSR considers three separate categories of seminar proposals for funding, namely, National, International and Collaborative seminars. Through its seminar programmes, the ICSSR encourages evidence-based and solution-oriented research that addresses the concerns and questions on policy-relevant issues. Seminars and conferences in thrust areas identified by ICSSR help in developing research deliverables which may be translatable as baseline policies or policy recommendations.

Though the Council itself organises a few seminars, most of its assistance is responsive in nature, with educational institutions receiving partial financial support to organize national, international and collaborative seminars in all social science disciplines.

1.1 National, International and Collaborative Seminar grants will be awarded in the following areas of Social and Human Sciences which shall be updated periodically by the ICSSR:

Sr. no	Broad Domains	Priority Areas
1.	**Economics / Development Studies**	a. Innovations in Agriculture and Rural Development b. Entrepreneurship and Start-ups c. Blue Economy d. Natural Resources and Regional Development e. Sustainable Livelihood f. Green Economy Transition g. Fintech and Fintech-based Solutions for Economic Development h. Cooperatives and Rural Transformation i. Emerging Technologies and Socio-economic Development
2.	**Management**	a. Financial Management b. Human Resource Management c. Supply Chain Management

Sr. no	Broad Domains	Priority Areas
3.	**Commerce**	a. Trade and Commerce b. Rural and Urban Tourism c. Fintech and Fintech-based Trade and Commerce
4.	**Sociology/Social Work**	a. Artificial Intelligence: Social Impact b. Development and Empowerment of Vulnerable Sections of Society c. Sociology of Family in India d. Urban Sociology e. *Janjatiya* Studies
5.	**Social Anthropology**	a. Linguistic Anthropology b. Cultural Anthropology c. Ethnographic Studies d. Food, Culture and Society
6.	**Culture Studies**	a. Digital Humanities b. Life, Literature and Thought in India c. Literature and Globalization d. Art Practices and Folk/Oral Forms e. Regional Cinema
7.	**Sanskrit Studies**	a. Grammatical Tradition b. Manuscript Studies c. Poetics d. Literary Traditions
8.	**Socio-Philosophical Studies**	a. Indian Philosophical Systems

Sr. no	Broad Domains	Priority Areas
		b. Comparative Ethics c. Artificial Intelligence and Ethics
9.	**Sociolinguistics**	a. Language, Culture and Society b. Social Concepts and Theories in Indian Languages
10.	**Gender Studies**	a. Women-Led Development b. Gender and Society c. Women and Democracy
11.	**Health Studies**	a. AYUSH and Community Medicine b. Indigenous Healing Methods and Practices c. Health of Women d. Food and Nutrition of Children e. Sports and Fitness
12.	**Political Science**	a. E-Governance b. G20 Declaration and Global Sustainability c. Human Rights and Legislation d. Contemporary Electoral System e. People's Participation in Politics f. Politics and Technology g. Indian Political Thought h. Indigenous Polity i. Rural and Urban Governance j. Indian Constitutionalism

Sr. no	Broad Domains	Priority Areas
13.	**International Relations/ Geopolitics**	a. Geo Politics b. Indo-Pacific Strategic Relations c. India's Cultural Diplomacy and Soft Power
14.	**Public Administration**	a. Public Policy b. Ethical Governance c. Tribunals, Commissions and Bureaucratic System
15.	**Diaspora Studies**	a. Role of Indian Diaspora in the Development of Bharat b. Multiculturalism c. Migration and Cultural Identity
16.	**National Security and Strategic Studies**	a. Defence and National Security b. Defence Manufacturing c. Peace and Conflict Studies d. Internal Security
17.	**Education and Skilling**	a. Digital Learning Technology b. Implement of National Education Policy 2020 c. Ethics, Values and Innovation in Education d. Artificial Intelligence and Education e. Skill Education in HEIs f. Skilling Youth for Future Jobs
18.	**Social Psychology**	a. Mental Health and Social Inclusion b. Social Dimensions of Psychology
19.	**Legal Studies**	a. Legal and Para-legal Studies

Sr. no	Broad Domains	Priority Areas
		b. Legal History of India
20.	**Social and Human Geography**	a. Demography b. Migration c. Human Resources and Holistic Growth d. Regional Geography e. Rural and Urban Landscape
21.	**Environmental Studies**	a. Human-Environment Relationship b. Climate Change c. Sustainable Development Goals in Indian Context d. Renewable Energy Resources
22.	**Modern Social History**	a. History and Heritage b. Memory and History c. Maritime History
23.	**Media Studies**	a. Mass Media and its Socio-Cultural Impact b. Mass Media and Society in India
24.	**Library Science**	a. Bibliometric/ Scientometric/ Webometric Studies b. E-Resources and IT Application c. Metadata Harvesting Techniques and Digital Repository
25.	**Language Studies**	a. Knowledge Traditions in Indian Languages b. Application of Knowledge Contained in the Vernacular Texts

Sr. no	Broad Domains	Priority Areas
26.	**Indian Knowledge Systems**	a. Indian Textual and Oral Traditions b. Indigenous Innovation, Technology and Development c. Development of Pedagogical Materials in Diverse Disciplinary/Inter-disciplinary Areas Based on Indian Intellectual Texts
27.	**Rural and Urban Studies**	a. Rural Economy b. Rural Society c. Rural-Urban Migration d. Rural Culture and its Signifiers e. Urban Planning and Policy f. Urbanisation and Urban Environment
28.	***Divyangjan* Studies**	a. Intersectional /Multidisciplinary Studies on *Divyangjan* b. Policy Research for *Divyangjan* c. Rehabilitation, Innovation Technology for *Divyangjan* d. Financial Empowerment of *Divyangjan*

1.2 Categories

Seminar proposals may fall under the following three categories:

1.2.1 National Seminar: The proposals should be well-conceived on themes of significant social science concerns inviting broad, interdisciplinary and national-level participation. National seminars should involve the participation of scholars from within India. Preference will be given to the proposals falling in the priority areas of the ICSSR on themes having policy implications.

1.2.2 International Conference: The proposal should be well-planned and must justify the need for an international conference on research priorities and issues with an international perspective. It should involve the confirmed participation of a significant number of foreign scholars (minimum 5) as resource persons and/or paper contributors.

1.2.3 Collaborative Seminar: ICSSR also considers proposals that proactively seek collaborations with government departments or reputed research organisations with a social science research orientation for joint seminars on policy-oriented and socially relevant issues.

2. ELIGIBILITY

2.1 Seminar grants shall be given to the organizing institutions that may be ICSSR Research Institutes, ICSSR Recognised Institutes, Government Institutes engaged in research work of strategic importance, Institutes of National Importance as defined by the Ministry of Education (MoE), UGC Recognized Indian Universities/Deemed Universities/Institutions/Colleges under (2) F / 12(B) etc. and Social Science Associations that fulfil the conditions such as (a) proper registration, (b) audited statement of accounts for last three years, and (c) life membership of minimum 100.

2.2 Regular faculty members of the institutions mentioned in para 2.1 having a Ph.D. degree can apply as the Convener/Co-convener of the seminar/conference. Ph.D/PDF scholars are not eligible to apply as Convener/Co-Convener. However, they can be permitted to be part of the organizing committee.

2.3 An individual applicant who has been given a grant to organize National/International Seminars can apply only after a gap of one financial year.

3. HOW TO APPLY

Link - https://app.icssr.org/

3.1 Applications are received online **throughout the year**. Additionally, Special Call seminars dealing with specific themes and issues as decided by the ICSSR will also be invited from time to time through an advertisement which shall be published on the ICSSR website, social media platforms of ICSSR and if required, in print media.

3.2 The applications should be submitted **at least three months** before the due date of the Seminar/Conference.

3.3 The applicants need to submit **an online application** along with the seminar proposal, annexures, and other required documents in the prescribed format, duly forwarded by the Competent Authorities of the affiliating university/college/institute. After submitting the online application, a **hard copy** of the same, along with all enclosures **listed in 3.4**, must be sent to:

The Deputy Director,

NIS Division,

Indian Council of Social Science Research,

Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, New Delhi 110067

3.4 **Annexure/Checklists (in the given order)**

      a. Brief CV of the Seminar Convener (2-3 pages) as Annexure   - I

      b. Abstract of Seminar Proposal (about 300 words) as Annexure   - II

      c. Concept Note with Sub-themes (up to 1000 words) as Annexure - III

      d. Tentative session-wise programme including national and international paper presenters and speakers with their respective affiliations as Annexure - IV

e. Confirmation letters/emails from the international speakers and paper presenters (not more than 20) as Annexure   - V

f. Plan for coverage/publicity (200 words) as Annexure   - VI

g. Duly attested SC/ST/PWD certificate as Annexure   - VII

h. Forwarding letter from the Head of the Affiliating Institution duly stamped and signed on the letterhead as Annexure   - VIII

i. Self-attested copy of the PhD Certificate   - IX

3.5 Seminar proposals and the final proceedings should be either in English or Hindi.

4. PROCEDURE FOR AWARD

4.1 All applications submitted to the ICSSR will be screened by the division regarding the submission of complete documents by the applicants.

4.2 The proposals shall be evaluated by the Expert Committee and seminar grants will be awarded on the basis of recommendations of the committee.

4.3 The recommendations of the Expert Committee are then placed before the Research Committee and the Council for final approval.

4.4 The list of recommended proposals shall be published on the ICSSR website.

5. VALUE

5.1 **National Seminar**: Maximum up to Rs. 8 lakhs

5.2 **International Seminar**: Up to Rs.12 Lakhs

5.3 **Collaborative Seminar**: Rs. 5 to 10 Lakhs

5.4 The actual sanctioned amount will, however, depend on the quality of the proposal, importance of the theme, potential to generate academic discussion**,** seminar location and number of participants as decided by the Expert Committee.

5.5 **Financial Allocation**

The seminar organizers should send budget estimates under the following permissible heads:

S.No.	Heads	Amount (in Rs.)
1.	Domestic Travel	
2.	International Travel (not more than 25% of the total budget)	
3.	Accommodation	
4.	Food Expenses	
5.	Honorarium	
6.	Organizational Expenses (including Stationery, Xeroxing, Secretarial Assistance, Contingency and miscellaneous expenses)	
7.	Publication (not more than 10% of the total budget)	
	Total	

6. RELEASE OF GRANT

The grant will be released in two instalments. The 1st Instalment of 75 per cent will be released after the award of the proposal and receipt of the Grant-in-Aid Bill. The 2nd and final instalment of 25 per cent will be released upon receipt of seminar/conference proceedings (2 hardbound copies and soft copies), audited Statement of Accounts and Utilization Certificate in GFR 12 A form and with mandatory documents as mentioned in **9.1 below.**

7. MONITORING

The ICSSR may depute an Officer/Observer to oversee the quality of the seminar/conference.

8. CONDITIONS

8.1 The organizer should exhibit clear interest that they intend to publish proceedings of the seminar/conference in the form of a book/edited volume papers in journals with due acknowledgement to ICSSR.

8.2 The theme of the seminar/conference must be within the purview of broad domains of social sciences as defined in 1.1 above and should be focused, coherent and realistic in their coverage and scope.

8.3 The academic background of the convener and paper presenters must be in conformity with the theme of the proposed seminar/conference.

8.4 The names of the resource persons and the topics of the presentation to be made in the seminar should be clearly defined.

8.5 The Concept Note must specify (a) the sub-themes (b) the research questions being addressed, and (c) the possible contribution/outcome of the seminar/conference to the existing body of social science research.

8.6 The application should highlight the impact of the seminar on the society and seminar's contribution to policy-making in 500 words each.

8.7 The ICSSR may send an observer/Resource Person to the seminar/conference to get an impression report about the event. The travel, lodging and boarding expenses of the ICSSR Observer, if any, will be borne from the Travel and Food Expenses budget heads.

8.8 The seminar requests for financial assistance up to Rs.1 Lakh should be sent to the ICSSR Regional Centres of respective regions.

8.9 The applicant/institution should inform the Council about any other financial assistance received for the seminar.

8.10 Any request for an additional grant in excess of the sanctioned budget will not be considered.

8.11 The grantee organization shall be liable to refund the entire grant amount together with the penal interest @ 10% from the date of encashment of the cheque in case the event did not take place within the stipulated period or the financial year for which the grant had been released.

8.12 The institute may appropriate expenditure from one sanctioned sub-head to another subject to a maximum of ten per cent in either case at the time of submission of audited statement of accounts. Any re-appropriation beyond ten per cent shall require the prior approval of the ICSSR.

8.13 The Council reserves the right to reject any application without assigning any reason. It is also not responsible for any postal delays/loss.

8.14 Incomplete applications in any respect shall not be considered.

8.15 The seminar/conference coordinator who does not submit the statement of accounts and utilization certificate in the proper format along with the proceedings will be debarred from applying for the grant.

8.16 The final authority related to the interpretation of the guidelines or any issue left is vested with the ICSSR.

8.17 ICSSR follows Government of India Rules & Directives concerning SC, ST and Persons with Benchmark Disability categories.

9. COMPLETION OF THE EVENT

9.1 On completion of the event, the scholar should submit the following:

a) Two complete sets of reports (soft & hardbound copies)

b) Full proceedings as presented in the seminar along with Abstracts and Full papers (both in soft & hard copies)

c) Participants list along with their signatures.

d) Contribution of the seminar to the existing body of research (write-up of 500 words)

e) Policy recommendations of the seminar/conference and Contribution of the seminar/conference to the academic space and public space. (write-up of 500 words)

g) Audited Statement of Accounts and Utilization Certificate in GFR 12 A form. In the case of central universities, AC/UC signed by the finance officer is acceptable. For all other institutions/universities, the AC/UC should be countersigned by a chartered accountant.

h) The seminar/conference convenor will be responsible for collecting and compiling revised papers/transcription of speeches within two months of completion of the seminar/conference and sending it to ICSSR in publishable format along with group photographs and a copy of the banner and certificate.

10. OBLIGATION OF THE AFFILIATING INSTITUTION

10.1 The forwarding institution, through which the ICSSR grant will be administered, has to provide, an undertaking to administer and manage the grant, as per the ICSSR terms and conditions and provide logistical support for the execution of the grant under the format given in the approval/sanction letter.

10.2 The institution should ensure that the convener of the seminar submits a detailed report within sixty days (60 days) after the Seminar/Conference.

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