Studentship Program for Ayurveda Research Ken (SPARK)

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH IN AYURVEDIC SCIENCES
Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India

STUDENTSHIP PROGRAM FOR AYURVEDA RESEARCH KEN (SPARK)

Background

1. The Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS) has initiated the "**STUDENTSHIP PROGRAM FOR AYURVEDA RESEARCH KEN (SPARK)**" in order to promote interest and aptitude for research among Ayurveda undergraduates. The main objective of this program is to provide an opportunity to undergraduate Ayurveda students to familiarize themselves with research methodology and techniques by being associated for a short duration with their seniors on ongoing research program or by undertaking independent projects. This may serve as an incentive for them to take up research as a career in the future. The Guide/ Institution must provide the student with all facilities for carrying out research. A number of students are being benefitted by the similar program conducted by ICMR (http://14.139.60.56:84/) and CCRH (https://www.ccrhindia.nic.in//admnis/admin/showimg.aspx?ID=15931).

2. The value of the studentship will be **Rs.25,000/- per month for two months duration (Total Rs.50,000/- only)** and is meant to be a stipend for the student. The amount will be paid only after completion of research and approval of final report. Costs of research must be borne by Institution/Ayurveda Medical College where research is conducted. CCRAS institutes in respective region may be approached by the guide/student for any technical guidance in formulation and execution of research proposals. A certificate will be issued and posted to concerned Principal's office after decision on satisfactory completion of the project.

Eligibility

1. This program is only for interested Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) students [1st year to 4th year (before appearing in 4th year final exams)] studying in Ayurvedic college recognized by NCISM, before they appear in their final exams and therefore, interns/ PG students are not eligible to apply.

2. The student must carry out the research in their parent institution/college under the guide who is regular faculty of the same college. Only permanent full-time faculty members working in any of the Department of the College where the student is enrolled, can act as guide. Part-time consultants/visiting faculty/ residents/ Tutors/ PG students cannot be guide.

3. Only one student will be allowed to work under one guide. Two or more students are not permitted to work on the same topic or work in a group. Proposals submitted on the same topic by different students are liable to be rejected outrightly. The student may have only one guide who will be recognized for their efforts in this regard.

4. Only Indian National students who are studying in recognized Ayurvedic medical colleges of India can apply. NRIs and Students from foreign institutes are not eligible for this program.

5. One student can apply in any year of his undergraduate tenure but the studentship can be awarded only two times in different years to one student subject to selection of his application on merits.

Procedure

1. There is a fully online application for this programme. Hard copies shall neither be accepted nor entertained.

2. The applicant is required to register on CCRAS SPARK website (https://spark.ccras.nic.in/) in the month of **September** and then submit the application form and proposal online till **31st October** every year which will be evaluated by the Council. Results will be announced on **31st December** of the registration year and list of selected students will be displayed on the website. The selected student is expected to complete the project between **31st December** of the registration year and **30th April** of the next year and submit the report before the last date of submission **i.e. 31st May**. The student will be awarded stipend and certificate by **31st July** (in the year of report submission), subject to approval of his/her report.

3. Selection of the candidates for award of research studentship will be done on the basis of two criteria, first on the total marks index (30%) in the previous year exam or in 10+2 in case of 1st year student and second (70%) after technical evaluation of the research plan by a panel of experts in the CCRAS. The decision of the Council in regard to selection of students will be final. Requests for reconsideration will not be entertained and reasons for rejection of applications for award of studentship will not be provided.

4. The Guide must take overall responsibility for the conduct of the research project, preparation and submission of complete report and the required enclosures within the stipulated time period.

5. The Guide of the student should obtain a clearance from the Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) if the proposal involves research on human participants and from Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) if the work involves use of animals. The IEC/ IAEC approval should be obtained any time before beginning actual research work. The certificate may be submitted either along with proposal or with the report. Informed consent is to be obtained for research on human participants. For more information please refer to ICMR National Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical and Health Research on Human Participants, 2017 http://14.139.60.56:84/PDF2/ICMR_Ethical_Guidelines_2017.pdf and National Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research Involving Children http://14.139.60.56:84/PDF2/National_Ethical_Guidelines_for_BioMedical_Research_Involving_Children.pdf .

6. Clinical studies can be undertaken under the guidance/assistance of competent authority which will be responsible for clinical work. For such studies, the Guide will ensure for timely CTRI Registration.

Application Process

Submission of SPARK application/proposal is a two-step process:

I. REGISTRATION OF STUDENT DETAILS FOR SPARK–ONLINE FORM PART-A

- **Part-A :   Student Details**

1. Interested students should register their e-mail address and other details between **2nd September to 1st October.**

2. Each SPARK application and research proposal should be submitted along with duly filled in and attested Application Attestation Form (AAF).

3. The Application attestation form should be filled up, signed, attested, scanned and saved as a PDF file. ONLINE submissions of application/ research proposal will not be accepted unless accompanied by AAF.

4. A student can submit one application on selected topic. In case a student submits more than one proposal, all the proposals will be automatically rejected.

II. Submission of application/proposal along with other details between 2nd October to 31st October (Fill in Part B, C & D of ONLINE form).

- **Part-B: Particulars of Guide**

Complete details including Name, Designation, Department, College, Contact details including current email address to be provided. The guide should ensure that she/he selects a suitable brief topic for this studentship, which can be completed within stipulated time, as there is no provision for any extension. Under the SPARK Program one guide may take only one student each session.

- **Part-C: SPARK Application/Proposal**

The proposal should describe a brief work plan of proposed research and also clearly stating the methodology giving sample size with valid statistical basis and appropriate statistical methodology, which will be used along with implications of the research study. The student may include the case report form, informed consent form or any other questionnaire also as part of project proposal or can submit them as separate attachments.

The proposal should be prepared in brief with the following sections-

References ID – Provide only the reference ID for identification on the top of the proposal. Identifying information like name of the student/ guide, contact details like contact numbers/ email addresses should not be provided in the proposal for unbiased review. **(Generated upon registration)**

Title - Title should be novel, appropriate, short and relevant to research proposal. It should make the central objectives and variables of the study clear to the reviewer. **(upto 25 words)**

Introduction - The purpose of an introduction is to provide the rationale behind the work, so that the reviewer may understand and appreciate the objectives. Please describe the importance (significance) of the study. Defend the model- Provide a rationale and describe the reasoning that led you to selecting them. Briefly describe the experimental design and how it accomplished the stated objectives. Describe the situation and specify clearly the gaps in the existing knowledge and/ or controversy and inconclusive evidence. The introduction should be supported with appropriate references. **(upto 300 words)**

Objectives - Should specify what kind of knowledge the study is expected to explore. It should give a clear notion of what is to be described, determined, identified, compared or confirmed.

Hypothesis may be stated and objectives should be specific, to the point and achievable. **(upto 100 words)**

Methodology - Describes all the procedures that will be used to achieve the objectives and study design including any techniques and procedures to be used. This may include but not limited to: type of study and study design, study population, sample size and selection criteria, Proposed intervention (if applicable), Data collection procedures & instruments used, quality control, confidentiality, plan of analysis/ statistical tools, ethical considerations with relevant forms where applicable. **(upto 800 words)**

Implications and future scope- Describes what is expected to be achieved or gained from the proposed research. This could be given in terms of knowledge gained by the student or in terms of scientific advancement, and the future applicability, research scope of the results. **(upto 100 words)**

References - Provide appropriate references in Vancouver style from published journals/ literature supporting the proposed research. **(upto 300 words)**

Exclusions - The main proposal/ project document should not have any identifying information of the student or guide for unbiased review by reviewers. The following information should be removed from the SPARK proposal before online submission:

* Name of the student/ guide
* Address/ contact details
* Telephone no.
* E-mail ID's

- **Part-D: Enclosures/ Attachments**

The enclosures may be scanned and saved as PDF file for submission. Please ensure that the file size should not exceed 1 MB.

i. **Compulsory attachment**: Submission of **'Application Attestation Form'** as per format provided is compulsory with the application. The form can be downloaded from SPARK website and also available on the account dashboard. This form is required to be filled in offline and passport size photograph should be pasted by the student. Further, the form is to be duly certified by the Guide and attested by the Head of the Department and the Head of the Institution/ Principal/ Dean of the Ayurvedic Medical College (with stamp/ seal of the institution). Once the Attestation Form is signed by all, the student must scan it and save it as a PDF file. This must be uploaded at the time of ONLINE submission. Application will not be accepted unless accompanied with AAF.

ii. **Optional Enclosures**: Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) and Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) submission at the time of application submission is optional however mandatory along with the final report. Student is required to obtain clearance from IEC or an IAEC for the research. However, submission of ethics committee approval at this stage is optional. In case IEC approval is not obtained at the time of submission of application, kindly do not submit any other document instead as submission of wrong documents can lead to disqualification. In addition, if there are plans to use an Informed Consent Form or any Case Study Form or Questionnaire, the same may also be enclosed. Please note that

submission of IEC/ IAEC certificate is mandatory at the time of SPARK report submission (if not provided during submission of the proposal). Any research carried out without appropriate IEC/IAEC approval will be automatically rejected.

Declaration of Result

1. The selection of the candidates for award of research studentship will be done after technical evaluation of the research plan by a panel of experts.

2. The results will be displayed on CCRAS website by **31st December of the Registration Year** and the list of selected students will be displayed on Council's SPARK Website**.**

3. Sanction letters will not be issued individually to the student/ guide. The students should print out the results / list of selected students from the website for future reference.

4. The decision of the Council in regard to selection of students will be final.

5. Requests for reconsideration will not be entertained and reasons for rejection of applications for award of studentship should not be asked for.

General Instructions

1. Students are requested to visit CCRAS SPARK website (http://spark.ccras.nic.in/) and comply with instructions updated from time to time about SPARK program.

2. Students who were unable to complete their SPARK project can re-apply for next SPARK program with the same project. However, it will not be given any special preference and will be treated as a fresh/ new application. For SPARK program, the last date for receiving ONLINE completed applications with research proposal and other enclosures is **31st October**.

3. The student should have all documents ready before filling up online application form (Research proposal/ attestation form/ other enclosures like IEC approval, ICF, Case record forms etc).

4. Scanned documents i.e. Application/ Report Attestation Form, Ethics Committee Clearance or other files viz., Case record, Questionnaire etc. should be submitted as PDF file only.

5. Only PDF files can be uploaded on CCRAS website and other formats viz. MS Word, JPEG etc. will not be accepted.

6. Students/Guides are requested to submit SPARK applications well in advance and not to wait for the last date to avoid the last minute rush.

7. The Council will not be responsible in case the student is unable to submit the proposal/ project in time due to any reason whatsoever and request for extension of last date will not be considered.

8. After completion of the project under SPARK, CCRAS and Ministry of AYUSH shall not be responsible to provide / ensure any kind of paid or honorary, part or full-time employment to the student in the Council or Ministry.

9. Change of guide, in any case, must be intimated by email to CCRAS at: spark.ayu@ccras.nic.in within 15 days with the acceptance of new guide under approval of Head of Intuition/Principal.

10. All disputes pertaining to this programme shall fall within the jurisdiction of Delhi only.

11. All correspondence will be sent on e-mail and/or College address only.

12. For any further clarifications applicant may contact on given e-mail and the Reference ID in all the e-mail correspondence must be quoted for quick reference:

Director General
Central Council for Research in Ayurvedic Sciences (CCRAS),
Ministry of AYUSH, Govt. of India
JLNBCHA Bhawan
No.61-65, Institutional Area, Opp. 'D' Block
Janakpuri, New Delhi-110058
E-mail: spark.ayu@ccras.nic.in

STUDENTSHIP PROGRAM FOR AYURVEDA RESEARCH KEN (SPARK)
Salient points:

Introduction
- ▶ Initiating Agency: NCISM & CCRAS
- ▶ Aim: To promote interest and aptitude for research among Ayurveda undergraduates
- ▶ Objectives:
  - ▶ To provide an opportunity to BAMS students to familiarize themselves with research methodology and techniques
  - ▶ Motivate students to take up research as a career in the future
- ▶ Stipend for Student: Rs.25,000/- per month for two months duration paid after completion of research and approval of final report   (Total Rs.50,000/-)
- ▶ Stipend to the Student to be paid by CCRAS in Bank account in the name of Student after satisfactory completion of the project.

Eligibility for Students:
- ▶ BAMS students -1st year to 4th year (before appearing in 4th year final exams) studying in Ayurveda College recognized by NCISM.
- ▶ Only Indian National students
- ▶ Interns/ PG students are not eligible to apply
- ▶ One project per year only Selection criteria for the candidates :
  - ▶ On the total marks index (30%) in the previous year exam or in 10+2 in case of 1st year student and
  - ▶ Technical evaluation of the research plan by a panel of experts in the CCRAS (70% weightage)

Eligibility for Guides:
- ▶ Only permanent full-time faculty members working in any of the Department of the College where the student is enrolled can act as guide.
- ▶ Part-time consultants/visiting faculty/ residents/ Tutors/ PG students cannot be guide
- ▶ One Student- One Guide - Unique topic – No repetition of topic - No Group projects
- ▶ No provision for any extension
- ▶ Under the SPARK Program one guide may take only one student in each session

Procedure:
- ▶ Fully online application
- ▶ Register on CCRAS SPARK website (https://spark.ccras.nic.in/) and then submit the application form and proposal online
- ▶ **Crucial dates:**

Last date for Registration and submission of application and proposal	31st October 2022
Selection list display on website after evaluation	31st December 2022
Completion of project latest by	30th April 2023

Last date for Submission of Final Project Report	31st May 2023
Stipend release and Certificate award subject to approval of his/her report.	31st July 2023

- ➢ IEC/ IAEC approval, Written Informed Consent, Case record Form, CTRI registration etc. as per normal research process followed in NIA Jaipur.
- ➢ IEC/ IAEC certificate may be submitted either along with proposal or with the report.

Application process:

- ▶ Registration of student details for SPARK– Online form
- ▶ Step 1:
  - ▶ Part - A: Student details along with duly filled in and attested Application Attestation Form (AAF) in pdf format
- ▶ Step 2:
  - ▶ Part - B: Particulars of Guide

  - ▶ Part-C: SPARK Application/Proposal
    Parts of Proposal:
    - ▶ Reference ID generated on registration
    - ▶ Title (25 words)
    - ▶ Introduction (300 words)
    - ▶ Objectives (100 words)
    - ▶ Methodology (800 words)
    - ▶ Implications & future scope (100 words)
    - ▶ References (Vancouver style, 300 words)

    Exclusions: The main proposal/ project document should not have any identifying information of the student or guide.

  - ▶ Part-D: Enclosures/ Attachments
    In PDF format not exceeding 1MB
    - ▶ Compulsory Enclosures:
      - ▶ Duly filled Application attestation form (AAF)
    - ▶ Optional Enclosures:
      - ▶ IEC/IAEC certificate- but mandatory while submitting final report
      - ▶ Informed Consent Form
      - ▶ Case Study Form
      - ▶ Questionnaire etc.
- ▶ Application Attestation Form (AAF) is to be submitted with the research proposal and Report Attestation Form (RAF) is to be submitted along with the report.