



ASEAN-India Fellowship for Higher Education in Agriculture and Allied Sciences



Guidelines

1. Objectives

India and the member states of Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) have immense potential for agriculture cooperation as ASEAN and India share lots of similarities in terms of agro-climatic zones. In line with Medium-Term Plan of Action (2021-2025) for ASEAN-India Cooperation in Agriculture and Forestry, a fellowship programme *ASEAN-India Fellowship for Higher Education in Agriculture and Allied Sciences* for higher agricultural education and research has been initiated. This fellowship is particularly for Masters Programme in new and emerging areas of common interests for complimenting strengths and harnessing potential in different areas of Agriculture and Allied sciences. This will help students from ASEAN Member States in getting quality research-based education, thus bringing India and ASEAN community closer to one another and provide platform for cross-cultural and transnational sharing of knowledge amongst the students coming from ASEAN countries.

The proposed fellowship will benefit in following two ways:

- (i) Support students of ASEAN nationality to pursue Masters Degree in agriculture and allied sciences, in the identified priority areas as per need, in the best Indian Agricultural Universities under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Agriculture Universities (AU) systems, having strong research and teaching capabilities.
- (ii) Support ASEAN capacity building by familiarization visits of Indian faculty members from participating institutions to ASEAN member states. This will further boost creation of a pool of expert human resource in ASEAN for Agriculture and allied sciences sector development, ultimately help in upliftment of socio-economic status and livelihood of general population of ASEAN member states.

Masters Programme offered by top Indian agricultural universities shall give students an exposure to cutting-edge research and equip them for future innovations. Long-term degree course in India may help researchers from both regions stay connected for long and help ASEAN and India understand issues related to agriculture on a better way.

2. Tenure of Fellowship

- 2.1. The ASEAN-India Fellowship is available to the nationals of ASEAN countries only to pursue Masters Degree in agriculture and allied sciences in the Indian Agricultural Universities for a period of two (02) years.
- 2.2. The tenure of the fellowship will not be extended in any case, in so far as the financial support is concerned.
- 2.3. In case the candidate is not able to complete his/her degree during this period, he/she will use his/her own resources to complete the degree.

3. Number of Fellowships

Total 50 fellowships (10 per year) would be awarded to students of ASEAN member states for Masters Degree in Agriculture and Allied Sciences starting from the Academic Year 2024-25.

4. Eligibility

- 4.1. The fellowship would be available for both, fresh and in-service candidates.
- 4.2. For the Masters degree course, the agricultural universities have certain specific eligibility criteria which are available on the website of the respective universities. Applicants must verify their eligibility for the Masters degree program by referring to the information provided on the university's website.

5. Mode of Application

- 5.1. The candidate should submit an online application for the fellowship, in the prescribed format at <https://education.icar.gov.in/AseanNotification>. Applications will not be accepted physically in Indian Missions abroad/ICAR /Universities.
- 5.2. Candidates must ensure they meet the university's course requirements, including the necessary subject combinations at the undergraduate level, by reviewing the information on the universities' websites.

6. Mode of Selection

- 6.1. The selection will be made based on the evaluation score and interaction, if required, by a Selection Committee, constituted by the Agricultural Education Division ICAR and ASEAN Secretariat duly empowered to judge the suitability of the candidate about the importance of the area of study.
- 6.2. The candidate should have a clear record of good conduct all through, duly certified by the Competent Authority of the University last attended or the present employer in case of the in-service candidate.
- 6.3. The students must satisfy themselves about the course chosen and about the Universities. Admission is provisional till the time Universities satisfy themselves with the authenticity of requisite documents from the students. If on arrival, it is found that the student does not possess the required original documents based on which the admission has been finalized, the student will be responsible for the consequences including denial of admission by the University and the student will have to return to his/her country at own cost. The students while coming to India to join their respective University/Institute should invariably bring the following documents:
 - Original documents relating to their qualifications for verification by the respective University/Institute.
 - English translation of the documents in original.
 - Certified copy of the syllabus of the last qualifying examination.
 - Valid passport with appropriate visa. Student visa for Postgraduate studies.
 - Award of admission/ fellowship letter issued by the concerned Indian Mission abroad.
 - Undertaking from the student that the course and the University, as conveyed, is

acceptable and that he/she will not request for change at the time of admission.

- 6.4. Once selected, the candidates must register for the program within 15 days from the date of issue of the letter of the fellowship award. In case of delay, the offer will get terminated automatically and no separate communication towards cancellation will be issued by the ICAR.

7. Fellowship Amount and Contingencies

The fellow will be entitled for the following:

- 7.1. To-and-fro, economy class air ticket for international travel, by the shortest route, from the airport nearest to the candidate's residence or workplace to the airport closest to the destination university.
- 7.2. Amount payable

S. No.	Particular	Amount in USD
1	Travel Expenses (Airfare)	1,200.00 once in the entire duration
2	Local Transportation	60.00 once in the entire duration
3	Fellowship - Post Graduate (2 years duration per batch)	473.00 per month
4	Contingency and Preparatory Allowances	473.00 per year
5	Residence/Hostel Accommodation Charges (2 semesters)	850.00 per year

- 7.3. On arrival to India, the candidate is required to open an account in the government notified/ approved bank.
- 7.4. The fellowship amount for the first six months, as first installment, will be released by the ICAR to the candidate's bank account on receiving his/ her acceptance for the fellowship and admission/joining letter received from the host University.
- 7.5. Thereafter, the amount of fellowship will be released to the candidate, after receiving the academic progress report from the candidate duly certified by the concerned advisor/ supervisor/ head of the institution.
- 7.6. The candidate will meet all other costs including medical insurance etc. from the above fellowship or his/ her resources.
- 7.7. During the tenure of the fellowship, an in-service candidate may continue to receive his/her salary, types of leave and benefits etc. from the parent organization as per rules.

8. Continuance of the Fellowship

- 8.1. The candidate will submit his progress report to the ICAR, through his/her advisor/ supervisor/ head of the institution every six months.
- 8.2. During the tenure of fellowship, the candidate shall not change the place of work. The selected candidates shall be required to submit an Undertaking to this effect and also for adherence to the other conditions of the guidelines regulating the fellowship as prescribed by the ICAR, with the acceptance of the ASEAN-India Fellowship.

- 8.3. The candidate will devote his/ her full time for his/ her chosen area of studies/ research work during the tenure of his/ her fellowship.
- 8.4. Satisfactory progress in studies will be essential for the continuance of the fellowship during the period of study as reflected by the grades secured and certification by the advisor/ supervisor.
- 8.5. In case of unsatisfactory performance in studies, or conduct probation, the fellowship will be terminated with immediate effect and the candidate will be required to meet the expenditure on the remaining part of the program from his/her own resources.
- 8.6. This fellowship is not meant for the conduct of training or to carry out research of short duration.

9. Payment of Fees

All fees chargeable by the host institution where the candidate is enrolled will be paid by the candidate himself/herself out of the fellowship grant or from his/ her own resources.

10. General

- 10.1. For any clarification regarding the fellowship, the Assistant Director General (HRD), Agricultural Education Division, ICAR, New Delhi may be contacted.
- 10.2. In case of documents available in the local language, applicants are requested to upload certified copies of translations of these documents in English. In case of unavailability of English transcript, the application will not be considered.
- 10.3. Students who are already pursuing Undergraduate (UG) in India and intend to pursue further studies will have to apply afresh through the portal to process their applications, as the applications will not be entertained and processed physically.
- 10.4. ASEAN-India fellowship is meant for admissions only in Indian Agricultural Universities and the list of such Universities along with the list of courses is available on the Portal.
- 10.5. Student has the option of applying in 3 Universities of his/her choice in preferential order through ASEAN-India fellowship Portal.
- 10.6. In order to avoid rejection from Universities, applicants are advised to make their subject choices carefully (PG course eligibility is available on the portal), based on the subjects they have studied at UG level.
- 10.7. List of courses offered and the criteria/pre-requisites for admission in these Universities/Institutes may be referred to on the respective University website by the applicant. This is to avoid time delays in processing applications. The Portal has web links to each of the Universities and the courses offered by them.
- 10.8. Applicants are advised to read all the instructions on the portal for filling online application and leave no field blank.
- 10.9. Medium of instruction is English in all the Universities in India. Applicants should therefore have good knowledge of English to the extent that they are able to speak fluently in English and comprehend lessons in English without any difficulty.
- 10.10. Passport size photograph of applicant with white background and visibility of both ears should be uploaded.

- 10.11. Students are advised to carry with them atleast US\$700 or equivalent to Indian Rupees 50,000/- to meet immediate expenses. This is suggested since there may be a time period between the first arrival and receipt of the first stipend.
- 10.12. After completing the requisite formalities, the student should fill up the Joining Report (JR) in the prescribed proforma and get it duly counter-signed by the university authority.
- 10.13. The student should ensure that regular half yearly progress report/results of semester exams along with certificate of attendance issued by Head of Department/ University/Institute and the valid medical insurance policy are submitted to ICAR for smooth release of stipend etc.
- 10.14. After admission, the students are advised to stay in the University/college hostel. However, in case they choose to stay in private accommodation, they will have to give an undertaking that they themselves are responsible for their security. If they are staying in University/College hostel, they would have to adhere to hostel policies. Failing to observe hostel rules will lead to disciplinary action by University/College.
- 10.15. Residential address outside of the enrolled University/Institute should be informed to University and ICAR. In case of change of accommodation, the new address should also be conveyed immediately.
- 10.16. No student shall indulge in criminal/anti-social activities or political activities or Anti-India activities or in violation of the laws of India/relevant Indian State/UT. If found indulged in such activities, he/she shall be rusticated by the University/Institute, the fellowship will be terminated immediately.
- 10.17. Students should keep informed the respective University Authority about their movement within India. If leaving for their country/abroad, intimation or permission from ICAR may be obtained.
- 10.18. Fellowship shall be disbursed based on the regular progress of the student at his/her course. In case the student fails the prescribed examination and does not get promoted to the next level of study/program, the fellowship may be discontinued. No fellowship shall be paid for clearing the backlog.
- 10.19. It should be ensured that the local bank account is closed before leaving India. This will ensure security from misuse of the dormant bank account.