

RESEARCH VISA

1. Conditions for grant of Research Visa

- (i) A Research Visa (specified as 'R' Visa) may be issued by the Missions/Posts after satisfying themselves about the eligibility of the applicant, except in the following cases:
 - (a) Scholars from Prior reference countries i.e. Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, Iraq, Sudan, foreigners of Pakistan origin and Stateless persons.
 - (b) Scholars whose research work involves visits to 'Restricted' or 'Protected' areas in India etc. or involves politically and socially sensitive subjects.
- (ii) For research scholars covered in the two categories mentioned at (a) & (b) in sub-para (i) above, grant of Research Visa will be subject to prior approval of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs.
- (iii) The foreigner who desires to undertake research in India should apply to the Indian Mission/Post concerned giving the subject of the research project, details of places to be visited, previous visits, whether the scholar has secured admission to a recognized or reputed institution and evidence of financial resources. Ministry of Human Resource Development maintains a list of approved Indian universities/institutions of higher learning centrally for granting student visa and the list is available on their website www.mhrd.gov.in. University Grants Commission and the Association of Indian Universities also maintain such lists on their websites. These lists can be used for granting research visa as well.
- (iv) In cases which involve research on subjects related to the foreigner's own country, the research scholar will be required to furnish a brief synopsis of the research proposal in about 150 words and giving full justification (including the benefit he/she would get) for doing the research in India. The said synopsis from the applicant should be furnished along with all other relevant documents to the Indian Mission/Post while submitting the application for grant of visa.
- (v) The applicant should produce the original letter of admission from the Indian institution (emails or photocopies of admission letters will not be accepted).

- (vi) If the applicant is sponsored by an NGO, the Mission/Post will scrutinize the background of the NGO. In case of any doubt, the case will be referred to MHA, MEA and the Ministry concerned.

2. Validity of Research Visa

- (i) The Missions/Posts may grant Research Visa for a period of 3 years or for the duration of the research project, whichever is earlier.
- (ii) Research Visa can be extended by the FRRO/ FRO concerned subject to production of (a) valid Research Visa (b) bonafide certificate from the University/Institution of affiliation about his / her pursuing the research project indicating the duration of the research project and (c) evidence of financial resources. The total period of the Visa may be restricted to the duration of the project as approved by the Institute of Affiliation or five years, whichever is less. Such foreign scholars may, if required, also be given extension for a period of not more than six months as the last and final extension even after completion of the project in order to enable the research scholar to complete the final formalities of the research project.
- (iii) Foreign Student Advisers, Administrative Officers or Registrars of educational institutions will report on the first working day of every quarter to the concerned FRRO/ FRO confirming that the foreign research scholars are studying in their institutions and indicating any changes of residence.

3. Conversion of Student Visa to Research Visa

Those foreign students who are already in India and who wish to pursue research programmes after completing their studies in India would also be dealt with in a similar manner. The FRRO/ FRO concerned is empowered to convert a Student Visa into a Research Visa if the student can furnish documentary proof of admission in a research programme and of adequate financial resources, except in respect of category of cases mentioned at (a) & (b) in para 1 (i) above. In respect of cases falling under the categories at (a) & (b) in para 1(i) above, FRRO/ FRO may refer the cases to MHA and MEA for prior approval.

4. Undertaking research work by OCI/PIO cardholders

OCI/PIO cardholders would require special permission to undertake research work in India. The permission to OCI/PIO cardholders for undertaking the research work may be granted by the Indian Missions/ Posts or FRROs/ FROs in accordance with the procedure mentioned in para 1 above.

5. Visas for foreign professors, other teachers and scholars

- (i) For professors, teachers and scholars who are invited as visiting faculty, the powers to issue visa are delegated to India Missions/Posts abroad on

the same lines as for the research scholars mentioned in para 1 above. The Indian Missions/Posts are authorized to issue visa based on an invitation from a Central educational institution or publicly funded State University, except in the following cases:-

- (a) Professors/other teachers and scholars from PRC countries i.e. Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, Iraq, Sudan, foreigners of Pakistan origin and Stateless persons.
 - (b) Professors/other teachers and scholars whose research work involves visits to 'Restricted' or 'Protected' areas in India etc. or involves politically and socially sensitive subjects.
- (ii) In respect of cases mentioned at (a) & (b) in sub-para (i) above, the grant of visa will be subject to prior clearance of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs. If a foreign teacher is sponsored by an NGO, the Mission/Post would scrutinize the background of the NGO and if they have any doubt, the case may be referred to MEA, MHA and the nodal Ministry.

6. Visa for dependents

- (1) Family members/dependents of a foreigner who is granted 'Research Visa' shall be granted 'X' visa. Its validity would be co-terminus with the validity of the visa of the latter or for such shorter period as may be considered necessary by the Indian Mission/Post. Such family members may also obtain Student/ Research Visa, if required, subject to their fulfilling the conditions laid down for the grant of such visa.
- (2) 'X' (Entry) Visa of dependents of foreign nationals coming on Employment, Business, Student, Research Visa etc. can be converted into Research Visa within the country by the FRRO/ FRO concerned except in respect of category of cases mentioned at (a) & (b) in para 1 (i) above provided such dependents fulfill the conditions laid down for the grant of Research Visa. In respect of cases falling under the categories at (a) & (b) in para 1(i) above, FRRO/ FRO may refer the cases to MHA and MEA for prior approval.
