Short Term Studentship (STS) Program FAQs

Question 1: Who can be a guide for the STS research project?

Answer 1:

Only a regular full-time faculty member from the same medical/dental college where the student is enrolled can be as the guide. Part-time consultants, visiting faculty, residents, pool officers, or PG Students are not eligible to guide.

Question 2: How is the stipend for STS students is disbursed over the course of the time during the project?

Answer 2:

The total stipend of ₹60,000 is given in three instalments:

₹15,000 after selection and approval of the concept note (1st year).

₹15,000 after submission of the data collection report (2nd year).

₹30,000 after submission and approval of the final report by DHR (3rd year).

Question 3: Can a 3rd Professional year MBBS student apply for the STS program?

Answer 3:

No, students in 3rd and 4th Professional years, as well as interns and PG students, are not eligible to apply for the STS program. Only 1st and 2nd Professional year students are eligible to apply.

Question 4: Is the STS application process online or offline?

Answer 4:

The STS application process is completely online. Students must register and submit their applications and research documents online. No hard copies are accepted.

Question 5: What happens if a student fails to submit the interim or final report in time?

Answer 5:

If a student fails to submit the required interim or final report within the stipulated time, they will not be eligible to receive the subsequent instalments of the stipend or the final certification.

Question 6: Can students studying in foreign medical/dental colleges apply for the STS program?

Answer 6:

No, students studying in foreign medical or dental colleges are not eligible for the STS program. Only students enrolled in NMC/DCI-recognized colleges in India can apply.

Question 7: How many students are selected for the STS fellowship each year?

Answer 7:

About 2000 students annually, with 80% seats for MBBS and 20% for BDS students approximately.

Question 8: What activities are students expected to complete during each year of the STS project?

Answer 8:

First summer break: Conceptualization, development, and research work

Second summer break: To conduct key research activities or any other core components to achieve the objectives of project proposal.

Third summer break: Analysis of data and preparation of final report and its online submission.

Question 9: What happens if the final report submitted by the student is not approved?

Answer 9:

If DHR does not approve the final report after review due to deficiencies in it, the student will not receive the final instalment of the stipend and may also not receive the completion certificate.

Question 10: Is it mandatory for the student and the guide to be from the same institution?

Answer 10:

Yes, it is mandatory that both the student and the guide belong to the same medical/dental college recognized by NMC/DCI. Cross-institutional guides are not allowed.

Question 11: Are students pursuing paramedical or allied health sciences courses eligible for STS?

Answer 11:

No, students pursuing paramedical or non-medical courses are not eligible. Only MBBS and BDS undergraduate students are eligible.

Question 12: Will students get a certificate after completing the STS project?

Answer 12:

Yes, upon successful completion and approval of the final report by the reviewer, students will receive an e-certificate along with the full stipend.

Question 13: Format or template for submitting the research concept note?

Answer 13:

Yes, the research concept note must follow the guidelines and format provided by DHR, which is available on the official website. Students must ensure their submission aligns with the prescribed template to avoid rejection

Question 14: Can the research project be interdisciplinary or must it be focused solely on biomedical research?

Answer 14:

The research project should focus on biomedical research, and students are encouraged to explore various aspects of this field. However, interdisciplinary approaches within the biomedical domain

are acceptable.

Question 15: Are there any specific tools or software that students are expected to use during their research?

Answer 15:

There are no specific software tools required by DHR. However, students are expected to use appropriate research tools, data collection methods, and statistical analysis software as relevant

to their project. The choice of tools is based on the research requirements.

Question 16: Can a student change their research project or guide after the selection?

Answer 16:

No, once a student has been selected, they must adhere to their original project and guide. Changing the project or guide after selection is generally not permitted, except under exceptional circumstances that require approval.

Question 17: What happens if a student does not complete the project within the stipulated three-year period?

Answer 17:

Students who do not complete their project within the allotted period of three consecutive summer breaks may become ineligible for the fellowship. In such cases, they will not get both the final stipend instalment and the e-certificate.

Question 18: How are the research reports evaluated?

Answer 18:

The research reports are evaluated by a team of reviewers, who assess the quality, methodology, data analysis, and overall presentation of the report. Students must ensure their report adheres

to the guidelines to increase the chances of approval.

Question 19: Is there any penalty on late submission of concept note or final report?

Answer 19:

Yes, late submissions may lead to disqualification or non-approval of the report. To ensure timely submission, students must adhere strictly to the deadlines mentioned in the guidelines and make timely updates to their reports.

Question 20: Is it required to have ethics approval for the research project?

Answer 20:

Yes, if the project involves human participants or animal models, ethics approval from the institutional ethics committee (IEC) is required. Try to submit the IEC certificate with proposal and if due to some unavoidable circumstrances, it is not available then proper undertaking from guide can be submitted with proposal. It should be mentioned in undertaking that IEC approval will be submitted at the time of interim report submission.

Question 21: Can a student apply for the STS scheme, if they are in the first year of medical school?

Answer 21:

Yes, first-year MBBS/BDS students are eligible to apply for STS, and they are expected to conduct their research during the summer break between their first and second years of study.

Question 22: What happens if a student does not fulfil the research milestones during the STS program?

Answer 22:

Failure to meet research milestones, such as submitting the concept note or final report, or failure to collect data, may result in disqualification from the program and loss of the stipend.

Question 23: Are there any specific subject areas or themes that are preferred for research projects under the STS scheme?

Answer 23:

While there is no strict limitation on subject areas, projects should fall under biomedical research. Students are encouraged to choose topics that are innovative, relevant to public health, and aligned with current research trends in the medical/dental fields.

Question 24: Can a student apply for the STS fellowship more than once?

Answer 24:

Yes, a student can only apply for the STS fellowship once in every call for applications during his/her first and second year of MBBS/BDS course. Generally, call is advertised once a year, which means a student, can apply twice during two different calls (in subsequent years). However, if selected, he/she must complete the project within the prescribed time frame and cant apply for another year STS in life time.

Question 25: How many applications a guide can forward for single STS call?

Answer 25:

A guide can forward only one application in each call. If he forward more than one application in a single call then all applications will be rejected.