

Studentship Programme for Unani Research (SPUR)



*Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine
Ministry of Ayush, Govt. of India*

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Background

1. The Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India. Since its establishment in 1978, the CCRUM as the apex government organization for research in Unani Medicine has been engaged in conducting scientific research on the applied as well as fundamental aspects of Unani system of medicine. Consequently, over the past four decades of its existence, the Council has made significant strides in clinical research, drug standardization, survey and cultivation of medicinal plants, and literary research. Besides, research-oriented health extension services, and information, education and communication (IEC) activities have also been part of the Council's programmes.

2. The Council has initiated the Studentship Programme in Unani Research for the first time. The sole objective of this programme is to promote and increase the research in the emerging field of Unani Medicine. Through this programme we aim to give an opportunity to the undergraduate BUMS students (Final Year/ Final Prof. students) to explore the research technologies and methods at an early stage which may serve as an incentive to choose career in research. 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 and CCRH.

3. This said programme is meant to be of two months where students will be associated with their seniors in ongoing research programmes or will be given independent projects. This programme is meant to be conducted in online mode so that the students from all over India can take benefit from this opportunity. A total of 25 studentships will be given to deserving students with 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. Research expenses must be borne by the Institution/Unani Medical College where research is being carried out.

Eligibility

1. This program is for undergraduate BUMS students (Final Year/ Final Prof. students) studying in Unani college recognized by NCISM, and therefore, interns/ PG students are not eligible to apply.

2. The student must carry out the research in his/ her own medical college under the guide who is employed in the medical college as a faculty. Only permanent full time faculty members working in any of the Department of the Medical College where the student is enrolled can act as the guide. Part time consultants/visiting faculty/ residents/ Tutors/ Pool officers/ PG students cannot be the 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 together. 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 Unani Medical Colleges of India can apply. NRI's & Students from foreign institutes are not eligible for this program.

Procedure (Tentative timelines)

1. SPUR 2024-25 shall be taken up in online mode and no hard copies shall be required to be submitted.

2. The student is required to register and submit application/proposal in September/October 2024. Names of shortlisted candidates will be announced in November 2024. If selected, the student is expected to complete the project between December 2024 to June 2025 and submit the report before the last date of submission. The student will be awarded stipend and certificate only if his/her report is approved.

3. The last date of registration & submission of proposal is **September/October 2024**.

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

5. 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. 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.

6. 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 before initiation of the research work. Informed consent is to be obtained for research on human participants. For more information please refer to ICMR “Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research on Human Participants 2017” available on

https://main.icmr.nic.in/sites/default/files/guidelines/ICMR_Ethical_Guidelines_2017.pdf,

National Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research Involving Children http://14.139.60.56:84/PDF2/National_Ethical_Guidelines_for_BioMedical_Research_Involving_Children.pdf and National guidelines for Ethics Committees reviewing Biomedical and

Health Research during COVID 19 pandemic available at https://www.icmr.gov.in/pdf/covid/techdoc/EC_Guidance_COVID19_06052020.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 SPUR application/proposal is a two-step process:

I: Registration of student details for SPUR—online form Part-A

II. Submission of application/proposal along with other details (Fill in Part B, C & D of Online form)

I: Registration of student details for SPUR (online form Part-A)

• Part-A :Student Details

- Interested students should register their e-mail address and other details
- Each SPUR application and research proposal should be submitted along with duly filled in and attested Application Attestation Form (AAF).
- 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.
- 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 (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 SPUR Program one guide may take only one student each session.

- **Part-C: SPUR 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)**

Part of Proposal

- **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. All references must be cited in the text at appropriate places.

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 SPUR 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.

- **Compulsory attachment:** Submission of '**Application Attestation Form**' as per format provided is compulsory with the application. The form can be downloaded from SPUR 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 Unani 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.
- **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 SPUR 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 RESULTS

- 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.
- The results will be displayed in November 2024 (tentative).

- 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.
- The decision of the Council regarding selection of students will be final.
- Requests for reconsideration will not be entertained and reasons for rejection of applications for award of studentship should not be asked for.

APPLICATION (SPUR 2024-25)

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SPUR 2024-25

1. On behalf of Dr. N. Zaheer Ahmed, Director General, Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM), applications are invited from interested undergraduate Unani students to participate in the Studentship Programme for Unani Research (SPUR 2024-25).
2. The Council has initiated the SPUR to promote interest and aptitude for research among medical undergraduates. The main objective of this program is to provide an opportunity to undergraduate medical 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 incentive for them to take up research as a career in the future. The Institution must provide the student with all facilities for carrying out research.
3. The student is required to register and submit the application form and proposal for SPUR 2024-25 by September/October 2024 (tentative) which will be evaluated by the Council. Results will be announced by November 2024 and list of selected students displayed on the website. If selected, the student is expected to complete the project between December 2024 to June 2025 and submit the report before the last date of submission. The student will be awarded stipend and certificate only if his/her report is approved.
5. The value of the studentship will be Rs. 25,000/- and is meant to be a stipend for the student. Cost of research must be borne by Medical College/ Institution where research is carried out.
6. For any queries, please contact preferably through email (spurccrum@gmail.com)

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