

Uttarakhand Open University

Directorate of Research and Innovation

Guidelines for Award of Minor Research Projects 2026-27

1. Introduction

1.1 The Uttarakhand Open University (UOU) serves as a center of excellence in Open and Distance Learning. It also promotes and coordinates research in different domains of Sciences, Humanities, Languages and Social Sciences, Human Sciences, Commerce, Management Studies and other disciplines. This effort aims to cultivate a dynamic ecosystem of advanced research in the State and Country. In line with its mission to enhance the quality of education and contribute to region specific knowledge development, the university strives the culture of research and also promotes among faculty members to undertake Minor Research Projects (MRPs) funded by the university as part of its internal research promotion strategy.

2. Eligibility

2.1 Regular Members of faculty of the Uttarakhand Open University are eligible to apply as Principal Investigator for the Minor Research Projects (MRPs). The applicant should have substantial research experience, demonstrated through publications of at least two quality research papers/articles in reputed National and International Journals during the last three years preceding the commencement of the scheme. Additionally, Faculty must have completed at least one year of service at the University before applying. The Principal Investigator must also hold a Ph.D Degree.

Further, those faculties who are contractual in university and have produced at least two research papers/ articles in peer review journals may also apply as Co-PI. In the event of their contract expiry, they may continue as Co-PI until the completion of the project. Only one project may be undertaken at a time. Individuals who have qualified NET/SLET or are pursuing Ph.D may also work on projects as research team members.

3. The Minor Research Projects for the financial year 2026-27 shall be awarded in the following research areas:

- a. Sustainable Development and Livelihood
- b. Agriculture, Rural Development and Livelihood
- c. Education, Open & Distance Learning and Digital Pedagogy
- d. Governance, Policy and Public Administration
- e. Health, Wellbeing and Social Sciences
- f. Tourism, Culture and Heritage Studies
- g. Entrepreneurship, Industry and Skill Development
- h. Science, Technology and Innovation
- i. Economics, Commerce and Management Studies
- j. Spirituality, ethics and Himalayan Studies
- k. Performing Art & Music

4. How to Apply

4.1 The applications shall be invited through an advertisement on UOU website and shall be called for proposal through mail by Google Form to among academic staff from Directorate of research and innovation.

4.2 The applicants are required to submit Google Form along with the Research Proposal, annexures, and other required documents in the prescribed format, duly forwarded by the Director of the respective school, If desired by Directorate of Research and Innovation, hard copies of the same must be submitted within the prescribed date.

4.3 Research proposals and final reports should either be in English or Hindi. Arial/Mangal Unicode(Devanagri) font should be used to fill Application form in Hindi.

4.4 Applicants can apply for only one project at a time, applying for multiple projects may result in the cancellation of the application.

5. Duration of the Project:

Project	Duration	Budget
Minor Project	6 to 12 months	Up to 1.00 lakh

6. Procedure for Award

6.1 The procedure for the award of the projects will be in multiple phases before the declaration of final results. All applications submitted by UOU's faculty members will be screened and evaluated by the expert committee following a review process. Shortlisted applicants shall be invited for interaction/presentation at UOU headquarters (in person or online).

6.2 The merit list of selected candidates of Projects will be published on the UOU website.

6.3 Only the selected candidates shall be informed individually through a provisional award letter clearly specifying the formalities and documents required for joining the Project.

7. Budget and Heads of Expenditure

7.1 The amount will be disbursed in a single installment upon sanction of the project. No expenditure will be incurred on purchase of capital goods such as laptop or computer, printer and laboratory equipment from the sanctioned project grant. The Directorate of Research and Innovation may monitor the progress of the project. In case the progress is not satisfactory, or in case of failure to complete the project, the project may be terminated on the recommendation of the expert committee and University may ask for the refund of the amount received as project grant.

7.2 The detailed budget estimates along with the proportionate Heads of Expenditure for these proposals are to be prepared by Principal Investigator of the project

7.3 Allocation of Heads of Expenditure

A. The proportionate allocation of expenditure for the budget heads such as Fieldwork, Minor Equipment and Study Material etc. shall be as per the UOU guidelines given below:

Detailed budget breakup for the proposed allocation		
S.NO..	Heads of Expenditure	Value(Rs.)
1.	Contingency (5%) Used for research related miscellaneous expenses Books, reference material, stationery and photocopy, Printing of questionnaires	2500 to 5000
2.	Field work/Travel (40%) Expenses related to data collection and surveys Travel for field work, Local transportation, visit to	20000 to 40000

	libraries	
3.	Data Collection and Analysis (25%) Expenses directly related to collecting and processing research data Survey Printing, Data Entry, Statistical analysis, Interview transcription	12500 to 25000
4.	Equipments (Minor) (15%) Small equipment required for research Voice recorder, external storage device, Minor research tools	7500 to 15000
5.	Printing and Binding (15%) For final report submission Printing of final project report, binding of copies	7500 to 15000
Total		50,000 to 1,00,000

- B. For all field work related expenses of Principal Investigator, Co- Principal Investigator, rules of university shall be applied.
- C. All study material and Journals purchased out of the project fund shall be the property of the university.

8. Research Ethics and Compliance

8.1 The research work must be original and adhere strictly to UGC norms on research quality standards. The Principal Investigator shall also be required to submit a certificate of Originality, duly signed confirming that the research is original and free for Plagiarism.

9. Submission of Final Project Report

9.1 Principal Investigator applying for MRP Grant will be required to publish at least one article/research paper on the topic of the sanctioned project in reputed/peer reviewed journals after the project is completed. However, all faculty members of Uttarakhand Open University, from any Department, must ensure that all future research outputs are published in reputed indexed journals. On completion of the research project, the Principal Investigator shall submit the final project report along with Utilization Certificate to the account section within one month of the date of completion of the project. **All the**

copyrights/IPR related to the research work shall be preserved by the Directorate of Research and Innovation, Uttarakhand Open University. The Principal Investigator should also submit two hard copies of the final research project report along with the published research paper and also a soft copy through mail to research@uou.ac.in to the Directorate of Research and Innovation by the last date of the submission of application. In case the concerned faculty leaves the University, the project will stand cancelled automatically and the Principal Investigator will have to return the sanctioned amount and obtain No Objection Certificate from Directorate of Research and Innovation before leaving.





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