

Mukherjee Fellowship 2026-27: Instructions for Selection Process

General Instructions

1. Please **read the instructions in this document carefully** before beginning the registration process and attempting the proctored online entrance test.
2. **Failure to follow these instructions may result in the cancellation of your registration.**
3. The instructions provided in this document are not subject to revision at the request of candidates.
4. **The decision of PPGF-Mukherjee Fellowship Management regarding any issues, concerns and grievances will be final and binding upon the candidates.**

I. General Overview

The Mukherjee Fellowship selection process for Cohort 2026-27 consists of three stages. A detailed set of instructions is provided in the next section for all three stages. The candidates are requested to note the following points regarding the selection process:

1. **The selection process, beginning on 1 January 2026, will conclude in the month of March 2026.** Candidates participating in the selection process are expected to stick to the specified timeline.
2. The **application window** for the selection process of the upcoming cohort shall be from **01 January 2026 to 01 February 2026.**
3. Candidates opting to participate in the selection process will be notified about the outcome of their performance at every stage.
4. Candidates using references, directly or indirectly, from high political offices, bureaucratic references, and other similarly placed individuals to exercise undue influence over the selection process will be disqualified immediately.
5. **Candidates opting to participate in the selection process shall adhere to the instructions contained herein, without any exception whatsoever.**

II. Selection Process

A. Registration And Entrance Test

1. Registration on the portal provided under the 'Apply Now' section of the website shall be considered as the initiation of the process.
2. Upon the successful completion of the registration process, the candidate will receive an email notification confirming their registration details.
3. **Upon successful completion of the registration process, the candidate will be required to take the entrance test on the portal within seven (7) calendar days of completing the registration.** Failing to take the entrance test within the stipulated timeline will result in rejection of the candidature.
4. **Application submission will be considered valid under the following conditions:**
 - a. The details provided by the candidate are complete;
 - b. The candidate has completed the entrance test within the stipulated timeline; and
 - c. The candidate has answered all the questions asked in the entrance test. An incomplete submission of the test will result in rejection of the candidature.

5. **Passport photo/CV submission during registration: Please ensure that the names of the submitted files do not contain any special characters or spaces [for example: your files should be named as Name.jpeg/CV.pdf].**
6. The entrance test will consist of five (5) compulsory subjective questions. A total time of 1 hour (60 minutes) will be allotted to attempt the questions. The candidate must answer all the questions in a minimum of 150 words.
7. **Mandatory Browser Instruction: The latest version of Google Chrome.**
8. **The entrance test will be proctored, and can be attempted only on a laptop or personal computer with an active internet connection, webcam and microphone. Candidates will be required to share their webcam and microphone access, along with a live feed of their entire screen, while taking the proctored test.**
9. As the test is limited to 1 hour (60 minutes), there will be **no provision of bio-breaks during the examination.** As candidates are free to choose their own suitable time slots for attempting the examination within the permitted timeline after registration, they are expected to be mentally and physically prepared to take the test.
10. **The use of Unfair Means, including but not limited to cheating by any means, substituted candidature, illegitimate assistance from a guide or the use of AI tools or online research platforms, and any means to circumvent proctoring, will result in the disqualification of the candidate from the selection process.**
11. **Switching tabs/switching windows/using split screen during an active test is prohibited. Switching tabs/windows might lead to the automatic submission of an active test. Candidates circumventing the proctoring in this regard will be disqualified.**
12. **The following will result in an automatic submission of your test, even if your test is incomplete:**
 - a. **Using any spell-check tool like Grammarly over the proctoring window (candidates must disable assistive tools on their browsers before starting the test).**
 - b. **Hiding/minimising the window of the proctored test while the test is ongoing.**
 - c. **Clicking on the 'Hide' button that pops up once the test starts.**
 - d. **Not adhering to the proctoring instructions.**
13. To accommodate any technical failures that might occur during the examination, a candidate will be allowed to take 3 attempts for an ongoing test.

B. Online Interview

1. The candidates qualifying the first stage will be required to take an **online interview in a 1-v-1 format.**
2. The interview as a part of this round will be for half an hour (30 minutes), however, the interviewer may extend the interview by a reasonable duration if there is a need to assess the candidate further.
3. **The online interview shall focus on the assessment of the following:**
 - a. General Aptitude;
 - b. General Awareness;
 - c. Verbal Abilities; and
 - d. Domain-specific inquiry with respect to policy, politics and governance.
4. Candidates will be required to take their online interview on the day the interview is scheduled by the PPGF-Mukherjee Fellowship Management. However, the

candidates will be able to choose their slots on the day of the scheduled interview on a first-come, first-served basis by selecting their slots on 'Calendly'.

5. **Once scheduled, the interview will not be rescheduled except in exceptional circumstances.** The determination of whether a particular set of facts constitutes 'exceptional circumstances' will be the prerogative of the PPGF-Mukherjee Fellowship Management.
6. **If a candidate fails to attend the scheduled online interview, they will forfeit their right to participate in the selection process, and their candidature shall stand cancelled.**

C. Offline Panel Interview

1. The candidates qualifying the second stage will be required to take an **offline, panel interview**. There shall be **no provision for an online interview for the final stage** of the selection process.
2. The venue for the offline interview will be decided on the basis of the preferences opted for by the candidates during the registration process. Whereas the PPGF-Mukherjee Fellowship Team will endeavour to offer the 1st preference offline interview venue to candidates, 2nd and 3rd preference venues might be offered depending upon evolving circumstances.
3. **If a candidate fails to attend the scheduled offline interview at the designated venue and the designated time, they will forfeit their right to participate in the selection process, and their candidature shall stand cancelled.**
4. The candidates appearing for the final round of interviews are **required to carry a laptop with them to the venue of the offline interview.**
5. The candidates appearing for the final round of interviews are **required to carry a copy of their academic certification/degree/matriculation marksheet and an original identity proof to the venue of the offline interview.**
6. Dress code for all candidates attending offline interviews will be formal.

For any clarification regarding the instructions contained herein or for more information regarding the selection process, email us at grievance@ppgf.in.