



TIB Fellowships
for research on
CORRUPTION AND GOVERNANCE
2010-14



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Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), the national chapter in Bangladesh of the Berlin-based Transparency International, is an independent, non-government, non-partisan and non-profit organization with a *vision* of Bangladesh in which government, politics, business, civil society and the daily lives of the people shall be free from corruption.

TIB is committed to *values* of democracy, justice, rule of law, transparency, accountability, integrity and impartiality.

TIB's *mission* is to catalyze and strengthen a participatory social movement to promote and develop institutions, laws and practices for combating corruption in Bangladesh and establishing an efficient and transparent system of governance, politics and business.

The TIB Fellowships: Objectives

TIB is offering fellowships to undertake policy and action-oriented research on specific themes and issues related to fighting corruption and promoting accountability, transparency and good governance in Bangladesh. Overall objective of the fellowships is to facilitate new thinking and strategies on strengthening TIB's social movement against corruption, especially greater public awareness and participation as well as collaboration and advocacy with all stakeholders including the Government. Specific objectives of the fellowships are to:

- Advance conceptual and practical understanding of issues related to corruption, governance, accountability and transparency;
- Explore and design strategies, policies, tools and actions for effective control of corruption, and promotion of accountability, transparency and good governance in Bangladesh;
- Promote new thinking and approaches to reducing corruption as means of creating a conducive environment for poverty reduction and human security;
- Generate new literature, information and understanding of gender-sensitive implications and strategies of fighting corruption, and promoting transparency, accountability and good governance;
- Promote in-depth research on the nature, dimensions and implications of corruption, and strategic options in fighting corruption in various types of institutions – public, private and non-governmental, at various levels – national, local and grassroots; and

- Design and develop innovative and effective advocacy strategies and tools for fighting corruption for policy and institutional change.

Keeping in view the above objectives, applicants may choose to work on any specific component of the National Integrity System (such as legislature, executive, judiciary, Ombudsman, public service, media, watchdog bodies, political parties, business, civil society and NGOs, and international actors), or other institutions/areas of relevance to good governance and addressing corruption. Proposals with clear indications of expected outcome in terms of innovative, appropriate and effective tools of combating corruption including policy and institutional reforms will have advantage.

Fellowship Categories, Eligibility and Duration

The program offers fellowships in two categories:

- I. ***Research Fellowships*** for candidates within the age-limit of 40 years, and
- II. ***Senior Research Fellowships*** for those above 40 years.

Fellowships under both categories are available for a period of 6-9 months. Exact duration would depend on the research proposal submitted by the candidate and evaluation of the same by the fellowship authority. Depending on the availability of proposals of the expected standard, upto 4 fellowships are available per year in the two categories taken together.

Who should apply?

The fellowships are open to professionals including academics, researchers, lawyers, journalists and professionals of non-governmental organizations. Candidates having at least Masters or equivalent degree in a relevant subject with proven skills and experiences of research are eligible to apply. Anyone with third division or equivalent grades at any stage of academic career and/or having no research experience are discouraged.

Applicants for the category-I (Research Fellows) should have 3-5 years professional experience in a related field, and must have demonstrated the capacity to undertake independent research. They will be required to conduct the research under the guidance of a supervisor to be designated by the fellowships authority in consultation with the selected fellows. Joint research by two or more applicants is welcome.

Applicants for category-II (Senior Research Fellowships) must have at least 6-10 years professional experience in a related field, and proven excellence in independent research.

Bangladeshi nationals living both at home and abroad are eligible to apply. Non-resident Bangladeshis will however take the responsibility on their own to raise funds for international travel, if needed.

How to Apply?

Eligible candidates should apply with the following:

- i. A research proposal, in Bangla or English, within 750-1200 words stating:
 - a. the rationale, objectives, scope and significance of the proposed research,
 - b. methodology including justification of field work if planned, and schedule of work, and
 - c. expected results of the research with particular emphasis on practical implications for key objectives of the fellowship programme;
- ii. Detailed curriculum vitae including all relevant personal, academic and professional information, copies of upto two samples of recent publication/writing, if available, preferably on a subject related to the fellowship theme; and
- ii. Two letters of reference commenting on the candidate's professional expertise, research and analytical skills.

Selection process

Proposals for the TIB Fellowships are received throughout the year. Decisions are normally communicated within three months of receipt of the proposal. Selection is made on the basis of evaluation of the proposal keeping in view the relevance of the proposed research to the work of TIB, its vision and mission. Evaluation of the proposal may also require face to face interview of the applicant. Academic record and research competence, referees' reports are also considered.

TIB strongly upholds the principle of equal opportunity to all eligible candidates irrespective of sex, religion or any other marker of identity. Any attempt to seek favours or to influence the decision making process is treated as disqualification. Individuals with a status of employment with TIB and their immediate family members are not entitled.

Grants and payments

Fellows will be paid stipends at the rate of Taka 50,000 and 75,000 per month under category I and II respectively. An additional lump sum allowance of no more than Taka 75,000-150,000 per fellowship will be available for fieldwork, depending on the research methodology and work plan. Candidates willing to avail of the allowance for fieldwork are required to provide detailed justification for the same and an estimated budget thereof. The stipends, payable in Bangladesh Taka, will be disbursed in four installments depending on evidence/report on progress of work while the field allowance will be paid in two parts. All payments are subject to deduction of tax at source as applicable under the relevant government rules. The duration in which the proposed research should be completed can be 6-9 months. However, the net grant period in each case and the number of person-months for

which the stipend will be payable shall be determined by the fellowship authority's assessment of the proposal.

Once selected, a deed of agreement will be signed between the fellow and TIB laying down the terms and conditions reflecting provisions contained in this document.

Status & Logistics

TIB fellowships are not to be treated as a status of employment with TIB. The fellows are not required to attend TIB office unless it is necessary in connection with the research work. To the extent possible logistic support such as use of TIB resources including library will be provided. However, fellows are expected to make other necessary arrangements such as data collection, field visits and approval of relevant authority, if required, on their own.

While fellows will not be under obligation to take full-fledged leave from their place of work, they are expected to be fully committed to devote sufficient time and effort to complete the work in time. Fellows are expected to observe and uphold TIB Code of Ethics, which may be viewed on TIB website.

Reports and Publications

Each fellow will be under obligation to submit an original research paper of 20-30,000 words. The paper may be written in English or Bangla. Responsibility of fellows include revision of the research paper until the report has been accepted for publication. The publications will be in the language in which it has been prepared (Bangla or English). However, in case it is published in English, the monograph should include a substantive Bangla abstract of at least five pages, and an English abstract if the main text is in Bangla. TIB will retain the copyright.

Once published by TIB, the research paper or any part thereof can be subsequently published elsewhere with due acknowledgement of TIB. If any fellow fails to submit the report and/or to complete it meeting the requisite standard, s/he will be under obligation to refund any amount received under this fellowship. Extension of fellowship period may be made only in exceptional and unavoidable circumstances.

Applications and further queries may be addressed to

Transparency International Bangladesh

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Banani, Dhaka 1213.

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www.ti-bangladesh.org