

Applications invited for KCHR Fellowships/ Internships/ Guideships/ Archaeology field-work/ History network: 2011-2012

Harnessing the power of social science knowledge



Kerala Council for Historical Research (KCHR) chaired by Professor K N Panikkar is an autonomous institution funded by the Higher Education Department, Government of Kerala. It is a research centre of the University of Kerala and has bilateral academic and exchange agreements with various universities and research institutes in India and abroad. KCHR strives to integrate advanced research and scholarship with historical and social consciousness through its projects and programs.



KCHR is located at Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum), the capital of Kerala State, India, in the multi-purpose cultural complex, Vythopilly Samskrithi Bhavan. It is housed in the blocks dedicated to the memory of the pioneer researchers on Kerala history, Sri K. P. Padmanabha Menon and Prof. Elamkulam Kunjan Pillai. Located between PMG junction and



Nanthancode, it is about 12 km from the Trivandrum airport and less than 5 km from the Trivandrum railway and bus stations.

KCHR has a well equipped library and research centre with a fairly large collection of books on Kerala history and society. Malayali family history, biography and local history collections are some segments of KCHR contemporary history archives. KCHR publications include 28 volumes of seminal significance to research on Kerala society.

This announcement pertains to various academic programs for the year 2011-2012.

1. Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship

KCHR offers three-month short term Residence Fellowships to scholars to work on article(s) or monograph(s) or for completing scholarly work in progress. The scholars will be provided residence facility and financial support (honorarium) of Rs. 1,00,000/-. As a reciprocal obligation, the scholars are expected to offer a seminar paper at KCHR, on the theme of their enquiry. KCHR reserves the right of first refusal for the publication of the research product funded under the fellowship.

Who can apply?

KCHR Scholar-in-Residence Fellowships aim to promote advanced research output in the broad spectrum of social sciences and therefore the fellowships are competitively open to well established scholars cutting across disciplinary boundaries and nationalities.

How to apply?

Scholars may submit their applications at any time during the academic year, with their curriculum vitae, testimonials from two referees, a comprehensive synopsis of the proposal and an action plan timeline pegged to completion within three months. There is no cutoff date for filing applications.

Terms and Conditions:

1. The tenure of the fellowship will be three months. This will not be extended under normal circumstances.
2. KCHR will arrange the accommodation of the scholars and release a monthly subsistence grant from the honorarium corpus during the tenure of the fellowship. The unused part of the honorarium will be released only after the timely and satisfactory fulfillment of the fellowship obligations.
3. The Scholar-in-Residence is expected to utilize the full tenure to complete the identified work in all details. If a fellowship grantee drops out, it will be mandatory on his/her part to repay all the expenses incurred by KCHR on his/her behalf.
4. Scholars employed in universities/research institutes/ government sector may negotiate with their parent bodies for the protection of salary/lien, and grant of study leave. KCHR will provide possible assistance, if required.
5. The fellowship period will be operative on the day of the joining KCHR and will be effective continuously for three months. Long leave of any kind (except during unavoidable contingencies) and extension of the period of Fellowship will not be entertained.
6. The selected Fellow will be an honorable guest of KCHR and will have the right to use the research facilities available at KCHR.
7. There is no age, qualification, or disciplinary restriction in the submission of fellowship proposals. But those with proven academic/literary credentials will hold distinctive advantage in the selection.
8. A prospective Scholar-in-Residence may submit his/her application via e-mail with attachments, or through normal post.
9. If the progress or the conduct of the Residence Fellow is not satisfactory, his/her fellowship may be suspended or terminated immediately without any notice whatsoever.
10. KCHR Research Committee will be the appellate body regarding the selection and other procedural formalities.

2. Fellowships to streamline Ph.D thesis

This fellowship supports scholars to revise/modify their Ph.D thesis for publication. The grant under this scheme will be a maximum of Rs. 50,000/- and the selected scholar will have to complete the work within one year. Applications should include curriculum vitae, the proposal in about 1500 words, time plan, and letters from two referees. They should also submit a copy of the Ph.D dissertation along with the application. The last date for submitting applications is 20th December 2011.

Selection Procedure:

The KCHR Academic Committee will shortlist the applicants. The short-listed proposals will be peer reviewed and the candidate will have to make a presentation. The selected fellow can join KCHR at anytime of the year.

Terms and Conditions:

1. The financial assistance may be utilized for fieldwork, travel or to meet contingency expenses.
2. The first installment of the fellowship will be Rs. 10,000/-, which the selected scholar can collect within 30 days of the acceptance of the fellowship.
3. The second installment of Rs. 15,000/- will be paid within 6 months of the first acceptance of the Fellowship, but only after a seminar presentation/ submission of the revised text and its evaluation.
4. The balance amount of the fellowship will be paid within 30 days of the submission of the revised dissertation for publication.
5. The selected Fellows can use the KCHR research resources and guidance from its academic staff.
6. The date of acceptance of the fellowship will be treated as the date of joining.
7. The fellowship tenure will be one year from the date of joining.
8. If the progress of work or the conduct of the Fellow is not satisfactory, his/her fellowship may be suspended or terminated with immediate effect.
9. KCHR reserves the right of first refusal for the publication of the revised/modified thesis.

3. Fellowships to design Post-Doctoral Research theme

This fellowship is meant to support Ph.D holders to pursue their research by helping them define and design an area/theme for Post-doctoral research. Scholars who have undertaken social science research at Ph.D level on any aspects of Kerala society/history or social science theory may apply. The grant under this scheme will be a maximum of Rs. 50,000/- and the selected scholar will have to complete the work within one year. Applications should include curriculum vitae, the proposal in about 1500 words, bibliography, time plan, and letters from two referees. The last date for submitting applications is 20th December 2011.

Selection Procedure

The KCHR Academic Committee will shortlist the applicants. The short-listed proposals will be peer reviewed and the candidate will have to make a presentation. The selected fellow can join KCHR at anytime of the year.

Terms and Conditions:

1. The financial assistance may be utilized for field work, travel or to meet contingency expenses.
2. The first installment of the fellowship will be Rs. 10,000/-, which the scholar can collect within 30 days of the acceptance of the fellowship.
3. The second installment of Rs. 15,000/- will be paid within 6 months of the first acceptance of the Fellowship, but only after a seminar presentation/ submission of the work done and its evaluation.
4. The balance amount of the fellowship will be paid within 30 days of the submission of the finalized post-doctoral research proposal.
5. The selected Fellows can use the KCHR research resources and guidance (if required) from its academic staff.
6. The date of acceptance of the fellowship will be treated as the date of joining.
7. The fellowship tenure will be one year from the date of joining.
8. If the progress of work or the conduct of the Fellow is not satisfactory, his/her fellowship may be suspended or terminated with immediate effect.

4. PhD Fellowships

KCHR Doctoral Fellowships are open to research scholars to pursue Ph.D programme in any of the Indian Universities or at KCHR on themes related to Kerala society and history or social science theories. The fellowship grant will be Rs. 10,000/- per month with a contingency grant of Rs. 25,000/- per annum. Students who have already enrolled themselves or qualified as per UGC norms to register for Ph.D programmes can apply. This fellowship is open to fulltime research scholars only. The last date for submitting applications is 20th December 2011.

Students from any of the social science disciplines with inter-disciplinary research orientation can apply with CV, letters from two referees, details of Ph.D registration or impending registration, synopsis of the proposed research and a time plan.

The fellowship tenure of one to three years is to be renewed every year based on a critical evaluation of the work done so far. Candidates who have qualified for Junior Research Fellowships (JRF) of the UGC will be offered financial support as per the UGC norms, if they register with KCHR.

Selection Procedure

The KCHR Academic Committee will shortlist the applicants. The short-listed proposals will be peer reviewed and the candidates will have to appear for an interview.

Terms and Conditions:

1. The scholar must be a full time researcher and should complete all the procedures of Ph.D registration before the release of the fellowship grants.
2. The maximum period of scholarship is three years or till the time of submission of thesis, whichever is earlier.
3. Those who are receiving financial support (in the form of salary, stipend or any such emoluments) from other agencies will not be eligible for this fellowship. But those who wish to shift to the KCHR Ph.D Research Fellowship and complete their research can apply.
4. Besides financial support the Ph.D fellows will have access to the research resources of KCHR
5. A copy of the final dissertation must be submitted to the KCHR.
6. If the research progress or the conduct of the scholar is found unsatisfactory, his/her fellowship will be suspended or terminated immediately without any notice whatsoever.
7. In advance the Fellow wishes to discontinue the fellowship, he/she must submit the resignation one month in advance to the KCHR specifying reasons. If the explanation is found inadequate or unsatisfactory, the scholar will be liable to refund 50% of the fellowship grant received till then.

5. Internship

KCHR offers internships to graduate, post-graduate and M.Phil students from any part of the world interested in undertaking short term assignments in social science disciplines. The internships are also meant to expose them to various projects and programmes of KCHR. Library assignments and field work are compulsory components of the internship.

The curriculum of the interns will be framed also taking into consideration the potential, inclination and aspiration of the applicant. Students can also utilize the period of internship to prepare their dissertation/assignment as part of their graduate or post-graduate courses.

Duration of the internship may vary from three weeks to six months and students from India and abroad can avail of this facility. The minimum fee for an individual intern will be Rs. 2000 and \$ 300 for a foreign intern. The fees may vary for group interns and others depending on the duration and course/assignment content.

Terms and Conditions:

1. Internship is meant for graduate or post-graduate (including M.Phil) students and there is no cutoff date for filing applications.
2. Students will be admitted irrespective of their nationalities and discipline. KCHR appreciates the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the parent institutions of the intern. The details can be had from KCHR office.
3. KCHR will not provide accommodation or transportation facilities and the interns are liable to pay expenses incurred to KCHR, if any, during their internship at KCHR.
4. KCHR will not be responsible for the security of the students outside its premises and the students will not be allowed to leave the premises without prior permission.
5. If the conduct of an intern is not satisfactory, his/her internship will be suspended or terminated immediately without any notice whatsoever and the loss incurred by KCHR will be levied from the student concerned.
6. Students/institutions can submit their application, through proper channel by e-mail, or through other postal channels.
7. Regular attendance at KCHR is compulsory and leave will be granted only in exceptional situations.

Read what students say on KCHR internship



Andrew Blair
Durham University, UK

"I was privileged to conduct research at KCHR's internationally renowned Pattanam excavations, an Early Historic trading emporia demonstrating cultural and economic connections between ancient Kerala and the West Asian and Mediterranean worlds. Working with Oxford University, I was responsible for a programme of archaeobotanical research which involved systematically collecting sediment samples from the excavations and subsequently retrieving ancient plant remains through bucket flotation. Visiting India for the first time was an awe-inspiring experience, and the opportunity to get involved in archaeological research only enhanced this. What's more, in addition to the daily excitement of illuminating Kerala's vibrant past, the evenings offered ample time to relax in a beautiful tropical environment or to soak up the local culture with the seemingly unending stream of festivals and celebrations. I am eternally grateful for the three months I spent living and working with KCHR, for the experiences I gained, and for the friendships I made. I hope to return soon."



Smriti Nathan
*Dept of Anthropology,
New York University, USA*

"As a first-generation American (USA), the interaction and exchanges amongst a diversity of cultures in my parent's home land, Kerala, fascinated me since an early age. In 2010, I got the opportunity to partake in Pattanam archaeological research in my motherland, in conjunction with the University of Oxford and University College London, to conduct and supervise the first-ever extensive archaeobotanical survey in Kerala. Flotation was conducted and samples were collected for artifact density, starch, phytolith and lipid analysis. In addition, I taught a seminar on Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to excavation team that included a general overview of GIS and possible applications of the software at Pattanam."

6. KCHR Research Guide/Supervisor

Persons with Ph.D degree, research experience and publications in peer reviewed journals shall apply for research supervisorship at KCHR. However, the persons with outstanding academic trail and research achievements may be exempted from fulfillment of some of these criteria as a special case by the Executive Council of KCHR on the recommendation of KCHR Research Committee.

Terms and conditions:

1. The scholar must have a Ph.D degree and two years research experience.
2. There should be at least two publications in peer reviewed journals.
3. The approved supervising teacher shall abide by the rules and regulations of KCHR

7. Archaeological Exploration/ Excavation -Field Researchers/ Volunteers/ Interns

Graduates/Post graduates with aptitude/training in archaeology/ history fieldwork can apply as Field Researchers/Volunteers/Interns to participate in KCHR led multi-disciplinary archaeology research at Pattanam or contemporary sites of Pattanam. Participants would get hands on training in explorations, field surveys, excavations and post-excavation research with the added advantage of exposure to advanced international scholarship.

Interested students can apply with a detailed curriculum vitae and a testimonial from one referee. Short listed candidates will have to appear for an interview. Selected field researchers/volunteers will be eligible for stipend. The last date for submitting applications is 20th December 2011.

8. History Network to explore Buddhist and Jain vestiges of Kerala.

History Network is a programme aimed to locate, collect and help preserve archaeological, archival, oral and other sources relevant to the study of Kerala history and society. Students or Kerala history enthusiasts are welcome to join KCHR in the exploration studies of the Buddhist and Jain vestiges of Kerala, on honorarium or voluntary basis. Interested persons may apply with CV. There is no cut off date.

Address for communication

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past for a positive future

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