MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AGRIM GRANT SELECTION COMMITTEE 2026-2027

The AGRIM Grant Selection Committee (2026-27) discussed on October 26, 2026, to consider the requests for AGRIM Grant.

AGRIM Grant Eligibility Criteria:

To be eligible for the IITK AGRIM Grant (up to ₹1,00,000), an applicant must satisfy all of the following conditions:

- Student Status: Regular, full-time registered Ph.D. scholar at IIT Kanpur. *(Note: Past or present PMRF scholars are not eligible).*
- Tenure & Thesis Window: Must apply before completing 5 years from first Ph.D. registration (excluding approved medical leave) OR before Ph.D. thesis submission, whichever is earlier.
- Coursework Timeline: Completed all prescribed coursework within 1 year (12 months) of initial registration without dropping any registered course.
- Academic Milestones: Successfully passed both the Comprehensive Examination and State-of-the-Art (SoTA) Seminar within PG Manual timelines, with no more than one approved extension granted for the two milestones combined.
- Prior Award: Must not have previously received the AGRIM Grant.
- Minimum Score Cut-Off (80/100): Must achieve a combined evaluation score of ≥ 80 marks:
    - Academic Score ($5 \times$ CPI): Max 50 marks.
    - Research Output Score (Non-Cumulative): Max 50 marks.
    - *Functional Eligibility Pathways:*
        1. Q1/Q2 Accepted/Published Research Paper (Preferably First-Author; 40 Marks) → Requires CPI ≥ 8.00.
        2. Granted Patent ($\geq 25\%$ personal contribution; 50 Marks) → Requires CPI ≥ 6.00.

Considerations:

- One applicant from the Department of Mechanical Engineering (ME) have applied for the AGRIM Grant.
- One applicant from the Department of Chemical Engineering (CHE) have applied for the AGRIM Grant.
- One applicant from the Department of Aerospace Engineering (AE) have applied for the AGRIM Grant.
- One applicant from the Department of Electrical Engineering (EE) have applied for the AGRIM Grant

- The Committee considered the need to review and update the existing AGRIM (Award for Graduate Research Impact and Merit) guidelines, particularly the mandatory eligibility criteria and provisions governing the prior award history of applicants. The proposed amendments aim to clarify the eligibility requirements for different categories of PhD scholars and to provide a clear procedure for scholars who have previously received AGRIM funding but have not utilized the entire admissible grant amount of ₹1,00,000

Details:

22205271 / Shobhit Kumar Gautam / ME

Findings:

- Date of PhD Registration: 03-01-2023
- Date of Comprehensive Exam: 18-11-2024
- Date of Delivery of SOTA Seminar: 09-04-2025
- Extension availed (both together): None
- Total Duration from PhD Registration to AGRIM Grant Application: 3 Years, 9 Months, 5 Days
- Title of the Paper: A sequential VOF-LPT and two-phases MMC-LES framework for dense spray flames.
- First Author: Yes
- Journal Name: Proceedings of the Combustion Institute
- Journal Level: Q1
- Published / Accepted: Accepted
- All Prescribed Coursework completed in 1 Year without dropping any registered course (Yes / No): Yes
- CPI (as on date of application): 8
- Academic Score: 40
- Research Output Score: 40
- Total Evaluation Score: 80

21102275 / Bhavesh Rameshwar Sarode / CHE

Findings:

- Date of PhD Registration: 28-07-2021
- Date of Comprehensive Exam: 04-10-2023
- Date of Delivery of SOTA Seminar: 09-11-2023
- Extension availed (both together): One
- Total Duration from PhD Registration to AGRIM Grant Application: 5 Years, 2 Months, 10 Days
- Title of the Paper: Free Energy and Diffusivity in the Fokker-Planck Theory of Polymer Translocation
- First Author: Yes
- Journal Name: Industrial and Engineering Chemistry Research
- Journal Level: Q1
- Published / Accepted: Accepted
- All Prescribed Coursework completed in 1 Year without dropping any registered course (Yes / No): Yes
- CPI (as on date of application): 8.2
- Academic Score: 41
- Research Output Score: 40
- Total Evaluation Score: 81

21201262 / Saiphaneendra Karuchola / AE

Findings:

- Date of PhD Registration: 03-01-2022
- Date of Comprehensive Exam: 14-03-2021
- Date of Delivery of SOTA Seminar: 24-11-2023
- Extension availed (both together): One
- Total Duration from PhD Registration to AGRIM Grant Application: 4 Years, 9 Months, 6 Days
- Title of the Paper: Some Acoustic Measurements on a Thrust Vectoring Jet
- Conference Proceedings Name: AIAA/CEAS Aeroacoustics Conference
- Conference Level: Q1
- All Prescribed Coursework completed in 1 Year without dropping any registered course (Yes / No): Yes
- CPI (as on date of application): 8.4
- Academic Score: 42
- Research Output Score: 50
- Total Evaluation Score: 82

21204270 / Sudeb Bhattacharya / EE

Findings:

- Date of PhD Registration: 03-01-2022
- Date of Comprehensive Exam: 19-09-2022
- Date of Delivery of SOTA Seminar: 13-03-2023
- Extension availed (both together):
- Total Duration from PhD Registration to AGRIM Grant Application: 4 Years, 9 Months, 9 Days
- Title of the Patent: Method for Selective Etching of Indium Tin Oxide from Dielectric Substrates for Industrial Scale Manufacturing
- Patent Contribution: 25%
- Patent Certificate Attached (Yes/No): Yes
- All Prescribed Coursework completed in 1 Year without dropping any registered course (Yes / No): Yes
- CPI (as on date of application): 7.03
- Academic Score: 35.15
- Research Output Score: 50
- Total Evaluation Score: 85.15

The proposed revision to the AGRIM guidelines comprises the following eligibility criteria:

(i) **Coursework Timeline:** Applicants must have completed all prescribed coursework in accordance with Clause 7.1 of the P.G. Manual, from the applicable initial registration date, without dropping any registered course during a regular semester. For regular PhD scholars, the initial PhD registration date shall be considered. For students converting from the MSR/MTech programme to the PhD programme, the initial registration date in the MSR/MTech programme shall be considered. The same coursework completion requirement shall apply to M.Sc.-Ph.D. (MSPD) and Integrated Ph.D. scholars, with reference to their initial registration date in the PhD programme.

(ii) **Tenure Window:** Applications for AGRIM must be submitted before the completion of five years from the date of first PhD registration or before thesis submission, whichever is earlier. This applies equally to scholars who have converted from other programmes to the PhD programme. Periods of approved medical leave, where applicable, shall be excluded from the five-year eligibility period.

(iii) **Prior Award History:** AGRIM is a one-time institutional grant of up to ₹1,00,000 per doctoral scholar. Scholars who have not fully utilized the admissible amount may apply in a subsequent cycle for the unutilized balance, subject to eligibility conditions and approval, by submitting an updated utilization plan and written endorsement from the thesis supervisor through the standard application procedure. Scholars who have fully utilized the grant shall not be eligible to reapply.

(iv) The following section of the existing AGRIM guidelines appears to be redundant and may therefore be removed:

Why Q3/Q4 Papers or Submitted Manuscripts Do Not Qualify at 80 Marks:

- **Q3/Q4 Paper (25 Marks):** Would require an Academic Score of 55 marks (CPI=11.0), which is mathematically impossible.
- **Submitted Manuscript (10 Marks):** Would require an Academic Score of 70 marks (CPI=14.0), which is mathematically impossible.

These lower tiers are preserved in the guidelines for potential future adjustments to the cut-off score by the Competent Authority.

Committee Decision:

- **Shobhit Kumar Gautam** (Roll No. 22205271), Department of Mechanical Engineering: After due deliberation, the Committee **recommended** the application for the AGRIM Grant.

- **Bhavesh Rameshwar Sarode** (Roll No. 21102275), Department of Chemical Engineering: After due deliberation, the Committee **did not recommend** the application for the AGRIM Grant. As per the AGRIM Guidelines, an application must be submitted before the completion of five years from the date of first Ph.D. registration, excluding any approved medical leave. The institute records show that the student had not availed any approved medical leave, and the application was submitted beyond the prescribed period.

- **Saiphaneendra Karuchola** (Roll No. 21201262), After due deliberation, the Committee **recommended** the application for the AGRIM Grant.

- **Sudeb Bhattacharya** (Roll No. 21204270), Department of Electrical Engineering: After due deliberation, the Committee **recommended** the application for the AGRIM Grant.

- The Committee considered the proposed amendments to the AGRIM guidelines and **approved the proposed revision**.



Mr. Utkarsh Tripathi
(Nominee to President Students' Gymkhana)



Prof. Abheejeet Mohapatra
(ADAA)



Prof. Arnab Samanta
(Chairperson, SPGC)



Prof. Sagar Chakraborty
(Chairperson, SUGC)



Prof. Ashoke De
(Convener)