



Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) Operation  
Ministry of Education  
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Ministry of Education

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

All Vice Chancellors  
All Rectors  
All Directors

### **Financial Assistance from AHEAD Operation to University Teachers for Doctoral Studies – Stage- 04 of Round 03**

World Bank Sponsored Accelerating Higher Education Expansion and Development (AHEAD) Project provides financial assistance to permanent teachers (probationary and senior lecturers) of the HEI's coming within its purview, enabling them to read for PhD Degree programmes. Accordingly, applications are called by the AHEAD Operation from eligible candidates (with IELTS qualification and available placement) for the 3<sup>rd</sup> round of scholarship program.

**Since some of our grantees of previous rounds have been awarded full scholarships by their proposed universities, a few more scholarships opportunities have been created. The OMST has decided call for fresh applications and select the best applicants who are able to leave the country or commence their studies online, on or before the end of February 2021. Interviews will be conducted for shortlisted applicants.**

The Criteria shall be as follows:

- Entitled only for Foreign Doctoral (PhD) studies in English Medium including split site PhDs.
- Maximum grant limit per year per candidate is Rs.3,000,000 up to a maximum period of three years, including a maximum living stipend of Rs.1,500,000 per year for the period spent abroad.
- Maximum age limit of the candidate to the closing date of applications shall be below 40 years.
- An IELTS overall score of 6.5 or more (minimum 6.0 for each band)

Application forms and guidelines for the funding scheme can be downloaded from the AHEAD website: <http://www.ahead.lk>. **The deadline for receiving applications is 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020.**

Further information or any clarification in this connection can be obtained from the AHEAD Operation (011-2432980).

Please bring this to the notice of relevant staff.

Senior Professor Janitha A. Liyanage  
Project Director – AHEAD Operation  
Vice Chairman, University Grants Commission

CC: Director OTS – Please copy to all Deans