FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) FOR SPARK-04 (2025-26)

1. What is CCRAS-SPARK?

CCRAS has initiated the "STUDENTSHIP PROGRAM FOR AYURVEDA RESEARCH KEN (SPARK) in order to promote interest and aptitude for research among Ayurveda undergraduates.

2. What is the objective of CCRAS- SPARK?

The main objective of this program is to provide an opportunity to undergraduate Ayurveda students to familiarize themselves with research methodology and techniques by being associated for a short duration by undertaking independent projects.

3. What are Eligibility Criteria for applying for CCRAS-SPARK?

This program is only for interested Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) students [1st year to 4th year (before appearing in 4th year final exams)] of Indian nationality studying in Ayurvedic Medical Colleges recognized by NCISM, before they appear in their final exams and therefore, interns/ PG students are not eligible to apply.

4. Where can I register for CCRAS-SPARK?

The dedicated web portal, i.e., Login (spark.ccras.org.in) may be visited for registration and detailed information regarding CCRAS SPARK program. The portal may be used to register as a guide or as a student.

5. How to add Guide at the time of Proposal submission through CCRAS-SPARK Portal?

The respective guide must be registered as Guide on the portal. At the time of proposal submission, the candidate shall be prompted to choose guide from the list available as dropdown.

PS: Some users may face some technical issues, as the portal is still in development phase, the concerned technical team is working diligently to resolve the issue, if any.

6. Can I have a Co-guide for Project Proposal?

This is a short-term research program where a guide of the subjects of the pursuing year are to be taken. However, the help in the Research Work may be taken from other departments/organisations as per need and their consent, but for any correspondence, responsibility/recognition/certification only the name of the Guide will be taken into consideration.

7. What are the priority research areas for CCRAS-SPARK?

The SPARK program is for the students of all subjects of BAMS, hence, no priority for Research areas can be made. However, the innovative ideas in the fields of Fundamental Research, Literary Research, Drug Research and Clinical Research may be taken.

8. My College Name is not showing in the Portal. What should I do?

As the SPARK program is extended only to the NCISM/GoI recognized colleges, please confirm whether your college is recognized by NCISM/GoI or not, then proceed accordingly.

At the time of Registration, the candidate shall be prompted to choose College from the list available as dropdown.

9. I am about to complete my final year, but not have attended the final exam yet. Can I apply? (Eligibility)

The eligibility criteria may be referred on SPARK website also. Please refer to Answer No.3 mentioned above.

10. Where can I find the option to upload my last year mark sheet?

The mark sheet can be uploaded in the first part of registration process.

11. Where should I get the Application Attestation Form (AAF)?

AAF can be downloaded from the SPARK website in Essential Downloads of Registration Process. Application Attestation Form is mandatory document to be uploaded with the application. This form is required to be filled in offline and passport size photograph should be pasted by the student. Further, the form is to be duly certified by the Guide and attested by Head of the Department and the Head of the institution/Principal/Dean of Ayurvedic Medical College. Once attestation form is signed by all concerned as above, the student should scan it and save it as a PDF file. Application will not be accepted unless accompanied with AAF.

12. Where may I get my CCRAS SPARK ID?

The CCRAS SPARK ID is generated after successful registration. This ID should be used for further proposal submission or for any query related communication via email.

13. How many Proposals can a student submit?

A student can submit only one proposal on selected topic. In case a student submits more than one proposal, all the proposals will be automatically rejected.

14. Head of the Institute can recommend how many Research plan/approved synopsis?

The Head of the institute may recommend after duly abiding by the 10% annual UG sanctioned strength clause, for example- *if a college has 100 UG seats annual intake, they can send only 10 proposals for SPARK-03 (2024-2025)*.

This has to be duly sent as per the Forwarding Letter available under the heading of *Essential Download* in the SPARK Portal.

15. What is the IEC/IAEC CERTIFICATE required to be submitted in the SPARK Portal?

The Guide of the student should obtain a clearance from the Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) if the proposal involves research on human participants and from Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) if the work involves use of animals. The IEC/ IAEC approval should be obtained any time before beginning of actual research work (even before the registration) so that final report may be submitted within stipulated time. The certificate may be submitted either along with proposal or with the report. Informed consent is to be obtained for research on human participants. For more information, please refer to the Handbook on ICMR Ethical Guidelines 2018 and National Ethical Guidelines for Biomedical Research Involving Children, ICMR 2017.

16. Is it mandatory to submit IEC/IAEC Certificates at the time of application submission?

Submission of IEC and/or IAEC clearance at the time of application submission is **optional, however, mandatory along with the Final report**. Student is required to obtain clearance from Institutional Ethics Committee (IEC) or an Institutional Animal Ethics Committee (IAEC) for the research. However, submission of Ethics Committee approval at this stage is optional. In case IEC approval is not obtained at the time of submission of application, please do not submit any other misleading document instead, as submission of wrong documents can lead to disqualification.

Please note that submission of IEC/ IAEC certificate is mandatory at the time of Final Report Submission. Any clinical/experimental research carried out without appropriate IEC/IAEC approval will be automatically rejected.

17. What are the Criteria for Internal Screening by Head of Institute?

The selected students by the College/ Institution Screening Committee will submit the proposal along with the Forwarding Letter of The College/ Institution Authority duly signed & stamped by the Principal/ Director/ Dean of the College/ Institution on the letter head addressed to DG, CCRAS, New Delhi in the prescribed format as available on SPARK PORTAL.

18. What is the ideal manner to prepare a Proposal?

The Proposal should be prepared in brief with the following sections -

References ID – Provide only the reference SPARK ID (Generated upon registration) for identification on the top of the proposal.

Identifying information like name of the student/ guide, CCRAS SPARK 4 contact details like contact numbers/ email addresses should not be provided in the proposal for unbiased review.

Title - Title should be appropriate, short and relevant to research proposal. It should make the central objectives and variables of the study clear to the reviewer. (Up to 25 words)

Introduction - The purpose of an introduction is to provide the rationale behind the work, so that the reviewer may understand and appreciate the objectives. Please describe the importance (significance) of the study. Defend the model- Provide a rationale and describe the reasoning that led you to selecting them. Briefly describe the experimental design and how it accomplished the stated objectives. Describe the situation and specify clearly the gaps in the existing knowledge and/ or controversy and inconclusive evidence. The discussion should be supported with appropriate references. (Up to 300 words)

Objectives - Should specify what kind of knowledge the study is expected to obtain. It should give a clear notion of what is to be described, determined, identified, compared or confirmed. Hypothesis may be stated and objectives should be specific, to the point and achievable. (Up to 100 words)

Methodology - Describes all the procedures that will be used to achieve the objectives and justify the study design including any techniques and procedures to be used. This may include:

type of study and study design, study population, sample size and selection criteria, Proposed intervention (if applicable), Data collection procedures & instruments used, quality control, confidentiality, plan of analysis/ statistical tools, ethical considerations with all required forms. (Up to 800 words)

Implications - Describes what is expected to be achieved or gained from the proposed research. This could be given in terms of knowledge gained by the student or in terms of scientific advancement. (Up to 100 words)

References - Provide appropriate references from published journals/ literature supporting the proposed research. (Up to 300 words)

19. What is the Basis of selection of a student for the Award of Research Studentship?

Selection of the students for award of research studentship will be done on the basis of two criteria, first on the total marks index (30%) in the previous year exam or in 10+2 in case of 1st year student and second (70%) after technical evaluation of the Research Plan on merits by a panel of experts in the CCRAS. The decision of the Council in regard to selection of students will be final. Requests for reconsideration will not be entertained and reasons for rejection of applications for award of studentship will not be provided.

20. Can a student send a Physical copy of his/her Proposal if they unable to submit their Proposal Online successfully?

No, only Online proposal will be entertained which has to be submitted on the SPARK portal itself. Neither physical form nor proposal forwarded via the email will be accepted. Still, if received, it will be deemed cancelled.

The student should have all documents ready before filling up online application form (Research proposal/ attestation form/ other enclosures like College Approval Letter, IEC approval, CTRI, ICF, Case record forms etc.).

Scanned documents i.e., Application/ Report Attestation Form, Ethics Committee Clearance or other files viz., Case record, Questionnaire etc. should be submitted in readable PDF file (Text PDF not converted from image) only and other formats viz. MS Word, JPEG etc. will not be accepted.

21. Can Guide be changed?

Yes, Guide may be changed if required due to any unavoidable circumstances. Change of guide, in any case, must be intimated by email to CCRAS at: ccras.spark@gmail.com within 15 days with the acceptance of new guide under approval of Head of Intuition/Principal.

22. What if the identity of a student is revealed at any step while Online submission of the SPARK proposal?

Exclusions of Identity - The proposal/ project should not have any identifying information of the student or guide or college for unbiased review by reviewers.

The following information should be removed from the SPARK proposal before online submission

✘ Name of the Student/ Guide/ College.

✘ Address.

✘ Contact details.

✘ Telephone No.

✘ E-mail IDs.

✘ Or any other identity.

If the submitted Report or any enclosures (except the IAEC and IEC) contains the Name/contact details of the student and guide then the report will be rejected by the CCRAS.

23. What will happen in case of any technical glitch in proposal submission/ communication?

CCRAS will not be responsible for any delay in proposal submission due to technical glitch or delayed communication.

The Council will not be responsible in case the student is unable to submit the proposal/ project in time due to any reason whatsoever and request for extension of last date will not be considered at all under any circumstances.

24. Does a student still need to submit their Final Report even if they are chosen to be awarded a studentship?

Yes, it is mandatory for a student to submit his/her final report after completion of research project under SPARK even if they are selected for the studentship.

Also, any incomplete/unapproved/late submissions of Final Reports will NOT be considered further for review process or for payment of studentship amount and E-Certificate. CCRAS reserves the rights to approve/ reject a report or ask for a revised report.

25. When will I get my Studentship Award?

Stipend and certificate shall be awarded by 14th August (in the year of report submission), subject to due approvals. The results will be displayed on CCRAS website by 15th January and the list of selected students will be displayed on Council's Website.

26. Is the student's Guide eligible to receive any kind of payment or prize under the SPARK Program?

The Guides will neither be paid any amount nor given any separate Certificate under SPARK Program. However, the Guide's name is printed on the E-Certificate as well as on Physical Certificate Copy (if given) issued to the student.

27. Where to contact for any query?

Write to the Address: SPARK, CCRAS, No.61-65, Institutional Area, Opp. 'D' Block, Janakpuri, New Delhi – 110058
For Email: ccras.spark@gmail.com
Telephone: 01128525031 (in office hours)