

Delegation of powers to FRROs/State Governments for extension of Research Visa.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has recently issued guidelines delegating powers to the State Governments/FRROs to extend Research Visa of foreign research scholars, the highlights of which are as under:

1) FRROs/State Governments will be competent to extend the Research Visa of foreign research scholars staying in India subject to production of:

- i) Valid Research Visa.
- ii) Bona fide certificate from the University/Institute of affiliation about his/her pursuing the research project.

2) The total period of such visa will, however, be restricted to the duration of the project as approved by the nodal sponsoring Ministry/Institute of affiliation **OR** 5 years, whichever is less.

3) Foreign scholars may, if required, also be given extension for the **period not exceeding 6 months** as the last and final extension, even after completion of the project or the 5 years whichever is less, in order **to enable the research scholar to complete the final formalities of the research project.**

With respect to the places where there are no FRROs, State Governments have been requested to delegate the above powers to all FROs under them.

Foreign research scholars who qualify for extension in terms of above may kindly contact the concerned FRROs or FROs/State Governments concerned.
