

ON THE ROAD TO EXCELLENCE

Funding opportunities for
Life Science Researchers in India

VOLUME II

On the Road to Excellence

Funding opportunities for Life Science Researchers in India

March 2022

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS (in order of appearance)

1.	DAE	Department of Atomic Energy
2.	DBT	Department of Biotechnology
3.	INSPIRE	Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research
4.	DST	Department of Science and Technology
5.	SERB	Science and Engineering Research Board
6.	IBRO	International Brain Research Organization
7.	POWER	Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research
8.	CSIR	Council of Scientific & Industrial Research
9.	DHR	Department of Health Research
10.	DRDO	Defence Research & Development Organisation
11.	HFSP	Human Frontier Science Program
12.	BIRAC	Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council
13.	DFG	German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft)
14.	DIIS	Department of Industry, Innovation and Science
15.	NEI-NIH	National Eye Institute-National Institutes of Health
16.	ASEAN	Association of SouthEast Asian Nations
17.	JSPS	Japan Society for the Promotion of Science
18.	RSF	Russian Science Foundation
19.	ICGEB	International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
20.	IFCPAR	Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research
21.	CEFIPRA	Centre Franco-Indien pour la Promotion de la Recherche Avancée
22.	SICI	Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute
23.	ASM-IUSSTF	American Society for Microbiology-Indo-US Science & Technology Forum
24.	BBSRC	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS (in order of appearance)

25.	DAAD	German Academic Exchange Service
26.	APRC	Asia-Pacific Regional Committee
27.	INSA	Indian National Science Academy
28.	MIF	Matsumae International Foundation
29.	USIEF	United States-India Educational Foundation
30.	EMBO	European Molecular Biology Organization
31.	ASH	American Society of Hematology
32.	LTMT	Lady Tata Memorial Trust
33.	TWAS	The World Academy of Sciences
34.	BELSP0	Belgian Federal Science Policy Office
35.	IMC	Indian Medical Council
36.	AICTE	All India Council for Technical Education
37.	DSIR	Department of Scientific and Industrial Research
38.	LSRB	Life Sciences Research Board
39.	UGC	University Grants Commission
40.	MoE	Ministry of Education
41.	IIT	Indian Institute of Technology
42.	IISER	Indian Institute of Science Education and Research
43.	IISc	Indian Institute of Science
44.	NIT	National Institute of Technology
45.	PCI	Pharmacy Council of India
46.	SIRO	Scientific and Industrial Research Organization
47.	NITI	National Institution for Transforming India
48.	BioNEST	Bioincubators Nurturing Entrepreneurship for Scaling Technologies

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Introduction

Introduction

The life science ecosystem of India contributes greatly in pushing the frontiers of knowledge and tackling global challenges. Empowering this ecosystem is crucial to foster world-leading research that involves building collaborations and partnerships, creating new scientific paradigms, and developing transformative technologies with societal impact.

Funding agencies stand as essential pillars in this scientific endeavour. They orchestrate research funds that are crucial to nurture the careers of scientists and encourage them to take risks in pursuing new discoveries. A number of national and international research funding schemes are available for the biologists of India. This booklet focuses on the funding opportunities available for independent scientists—young, mid-career, and senior—and includes fellowships and awards in addition to grants for research, entrepreneurship and innovation, collaboration and partnerships, and travel.


In this booklet, we have collated relevant information from multiple reliable sources. It highlights the requirements, benefits, and timelines of fellowships, awards, and grants and provides relevant links for easy access to up-to-date information. To learn more about any of the fellowships/awards covered here, visit the relevant links listed under each entry. In case of any uncertainty, we urge you to contact the funding agency directly.

The information provided in this booklet has been verified in November 2021. This is subject to change by the funding agencies; please visit their website for the latest updates pertaining to deadlines, support and other terms and conditions. This booklet will be updated periodically. If you find that any information has changed since the publication of this resource, we request you to intimate us via email. This will help us keep this resource up-to-date.

We hope that you find this resource useful in your quest for strengthening your research career. If you wish to share any feedback with us, please write an email to [hello\[at\]indiabioscience\[dot\]org](mailto:hello@indiabioscience.org).

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Fellowships



“In questions of science, the authority of a thousand is not worth the humble reasoning of a single individual.”

– Galileo Galilei

Gaining scientific independence is an important milestone in a research career. Independence, in the context of research, marks a stage where researchers are capable of thinking or acting for themselves—developing new research ideas and new ways of looking at research questions while mentoring, leading, and sustaining a research group.

This section is a compilation of national and international fellowships that recognise individual excellence and provide independent researchers the much-needed means to both establish and expand an independent research career in India.

2.1. Raja Ramanna Fellowship (DAE)

The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) sponsors the Raja Ramanna Fellowship to utilize services of active **retired scientists, engineers, and technologists**. Those who have been involved in high quality research in their specialized disciplines and wish to contribute further post-retirement may be nominated by their respective host institutes for this fellowship.

The host institute of the Raja Ramanna Fellow may be a unit of DAE (including aided institutions) or a university/institute/national laboratory in India.

Eligibility

- One of the objectives of the scheme is to support researchers in carrying out R&D in the field of their choice and of interest to DAE, with a view to strengthen or nucleate programmes of interest to DAE in non-DAE units. For this, scientists, engineers, and technologists who have retired from units of DAE including DAE-aided institutions are eligible. Preference will be given to those who were involved in the development of sensitive and/or critical technologies in the units of DAE or are fellows of any of the major science or engineering academies.
- Scientists, engineers, and technologists of high caliber, who have retired from non-DAE institutions, can also be considered provided their area of research is related to the programmes of DAE. Preference will be given to fellows of any of the major science or engineering academies.
- The second objective of the scheme is to enable studies on policy issues in the nuclear arena, with the objective of providing the Government with detailed analysis as well as feedback based on informal discussions with experts at the national and international levels. For this, scientists, engineers, and technologists who have retired from units of DAE including DAE-aided institutions are eligible. Preference will be given to those who were involved in the development of sensitive and/or critical technologies or have expertise in the analysis of issues related to nuclear policies.

Support

- An honorarium of ₹ 1,00,000 per month is provided. This is subject to the condition that the honorarium plus pension and dearness relief do not exceed the emoluments drawn by the fellow at the time of retirement.
- A research support grant of ₹ 1,50,000 per year is available to fellows working on the first objective of the scheme.

Duration

The duration of the fellowship is **three years**.

Deadline

Please contact the funding agency or visit their website for details.

Website

<https://rrf.dae.gov.in/RRF/pc.php>

2.2. Tata Innovation Fellowship (DBT)

The Tata Innovation Fellowship is a highly competitive scheme of the Department of Biotechnology (DBT) that recognises and rewards scientists with outstanding track records in **biological sciences**. The focus of the fellowship is translational investigations with the potential for application to major problems in **healthcare, agriculture, environmental sciences**, and other areas related to **life sciences** and **biotechnology**.

Eligibility

- The fellowship is open to Indian nationals residing in India who are below the age of **55 years** as on the closing date of application submission.
- The applicant should have spent at least 5 years in India before applying for the fellowship.
- The applicant should possess a PhD degree in life sciences, agriculture, or veterinary science. Applicants with a Master's degree in medical sciences, engineering, or an equivalent degree in biotechnology and other related areas are also eligible.
- The applicant must hold a regular permanent position in a university/institute/organisation and should be engaged in research and development.

Support

- The amount of the fellowship is **₹ 25,000** per month in addition to regular salary from the host institute. If an awardee is receiving salary from an international organisation, he/she will be entitled for research grant—contingency only.
- In addition to the fellowship, each fellow will receive a contingency grant of **₹ 6 lakhs** per annum for implementation expenses of the fellowship research project (including consumables, equipment, international and domestic travel, staff, and other contingent expenditure).
- The Tata Innovation Fellows are eligible for other regular research grant(s) through extramural and other research schemes of various S&T agencies of the Government of India.

Duration

The duration of the fellowship is **three years**, which is further extendable by two years based on a fresh appraisal.

Deadline

There is a call for applications **once a year**. Please visit the funding agency website for latest information on application deadline.

Website

<https://dbtindia.gov.in/schemes-programmes/building-capacities/awards/tata-innovation-fellowships>

2.3. Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship (DBT)

The Department of Biotechnology launched the Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship in 2006–07 with an aim to reverse brain drain, by providing high-quality Indian researchers who are working abroad with attractive avenues to return and pursue their research interests in **life sciences, biotechnology**, and other **related areas** at Indian institutions.

Eligibility

- The applicant should possess a PhD/MD or an equivalent degree with an outstanding record of accomplishments as reflected in publications and other recognitions. Additionally, at least three years of postdoctoral research experience are required, of which the last two years are from an overseas laboratory.
- Only Indian nationals working overseas can apply. Researchers who have returned to India without a job are also eligible within one year of the closing date of the call for applications.
- The fellowship is open to researchers up to the age of **45 years** as determined on the closing date of application.

Support

- The scheme provides a consolidated monthly remuneration of **₹ 1,00,000**.
- A house rent allowance (HRA) of **₹ 18,500** per month is given in case the host institute does not provide accommodation.
- The fellowship provides a research/contingency grant of **₹ 10 lakhs** for the 1st and 2nd years, **₹ 7.5 lakhs** for the 3rd and 4th years, and **₹ 5 lakhs** for the 5th year. This grant can be used for purchase of consumables, minor equipment, international and domestic travel, staff, and other contingent expenditure incurred for implementation of the fellowship research proposal. Additionally, an institutional overhead of **₹ 50,000** per year is available.

Duration

The duration of the fellowship is **five years**.

Deadline

Applications are sought **once a year**. Please visit the funding agency website for latest information on application deadline.

Website

<https://dbtindia.gov.in/schemes-programmes/building-capacities/building-critical-mass-science-leaders/ramalingaswami-re>

2.4. Har Gobind Khorana-Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award (DBT)

The Har Gobind Khorana-Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award (previously called Innovative Young Biotechnologist Award), initiated in 2005 by DBT, is a career-oriented award to empower outstanding young scientists with innovative ideas and with a desire for pursuing research in frontier areas of **biotechnology**.

Eligibility

- The applicant should be an Indian citizen and not more than **35 years** of age on the application submission deadline. An age relaxation of 5 years is available for women, people with disability, and applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC categories.
- The applicant should have secured first class in all academic degrees starting from the graduate level.
- The applicant must have a PhD in any branch of life sciences, computational sciences (applied to biotechnology, medicine, or biological sciences), veterinary sciences, pharmaceutical sciences, or agricultural sciences. Master's degree holders in medicine or dentistry (MD/MS/MDS or IMC-designated equivalent) and engineering/technology (MTech or AICTE-designated equivalent) are also eligible to apply.
- Researchers without regular employment can apply; fresh PhDs are strongly encouraged to apply if they meet the mandatory requirements.

Support

- The award will cover both non-recurring and recurring financial grants required to execute the proposed research plan; this includes equipment, computational and communication facilities, consumables, contingencies, and travel as required for the research project.
- A fellowship of **₹ 75,000** per month will be provided to awardees who do not have regular employment, or are not drawing any other fellowship.
- Awardees with regular employment or availing another fellowship will receive a cash award of **₹ 1,00,000** per year and not the monthly fellowship.

Duration

The duration of the project is normally **three years**, subject to satisfactory progress. An extension of two years can be sought in cases where very significant results have been obtained that require further enquiry.

Deadline

Applications are sought **once a year**. Please visit the funding agency website for latest information on application deadline.

Website

<https://dbtindia.gov.in/schemes-programmes/building-capacities/awards/innovative-young-bio-technologist-award-iyba>

2.5. Senior and Intermediate Fellowships in Basic Biomedical Research (DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance)

This funding programme of DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance (India Alliance) supports excellent scientists who wish to undertake high-quality research and to establish themselves as independent researchers in an academic institution in India. The fellowships fund projects within India Alliance's remit, which is to support **biomedical research** that is relevant to **human and animal health**. The fellowships also encourage interdisciplinary research within this remit.

Eligibility

- This competition is open for basic science/veterinary researchers with 4–15 years of post-PhD research experience.
- Applicants can have a PhD in any discipline of science.
- There are **no age** or nationality **restrictions**; the applicant need not be a resident of India while applying but should be willing to relocate to and work in India.
- Intermediate fellowships are considered suitable for applicants with 4–7 years of post-PhD research experience, who have an accomplished record of pursuing cutting-edge research and wish to establish their own independent research.
- Typically, senior fellowships are considered suitable for applicants with 7–15 years of post-PhD research experience, who have demonstrated a potential for leading an independent research program and want to expand their work to undertake pioneering research.

Support

Provisions	Intermediate Fellowship	Senior Fellowship
Total project budget	₹ 3.6 crores	₹ 4.5 crores
Salary per annum	Up to ₹ 13.8 lakhs	Up to ₹ 16.1 lakhs
Support staff	Up to 2, including postdocs	Up to 4, including postdocs
Work outside host institution	Up to 12 months (\$ 3000 per month subsistence in addition to personal support)	As per need
Travel to meetings support (per annum)	₹ 1.5 lakhs for the fellow ₹ 1 lakh for research staff	₹ 1.5 lakhs for the fellow ₹ 1 lakh for research staff
Contingency per year	₹ 7.5 lakhs	₹ 10 lakhs

Duration

The duration of the fellowship is **five years**.

Deadline

The call for applications opens **twice a year**. Please visit the funding agency website for latest information on application deadline.

Website

<https://www.indiaalliance.org/fellowshiptype/basic-biomedical-research-fellowships>

2.6. Senior and Intermediate Fellowships in Clinical and Public Health Research (DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance)

This programme of India Alliance supports excellent **clinical** and **public health** researchers who wish to undertake high-quality research and to establish themselves as independent researchers in India. The fellowship remit includes the full spectrum of **biomedical sciences** involving clinical and public health research.

Eligibility

- This fellowship is open for clinicians and public health researchers with up to 15 years of post MD/MS/MPH/PhD or equivalent clinical/public health research experience.
- Clinicians and public health researchers do not require a PhD to apply.
- There are **no age** or nationality **restrictions**.
- The candidates need not be residents of India while applying but should be willing to establish an independent research career in India.
- Typically, the intermediate fellowship is suitable for applicants with 4–7 years of relevant experience, a record of accomplishment in cutting-edge research, and who wish to establish their own independent clinical/public health research program in India.
- Senior fellowships are considered suitable for applicants with 7–15 years of relevant research experience, who have demonstrated a potential for leading an independent research program and want to expand their work to undertake pioneering research.

Support

Provisions	Intermediate Fellowship	Senior Fellowship
Total project budget	₹ 3.8 crores	₹ 4.7 crores
Salary per annum	Up to ₹ 16.8 lakhs	Up to ₹ 19.5 lakhs
Support staff	Up to 2	Up to 4
Work outside host institution	Up to 12 months (\$ 3000 per month subsistence in addition to personal support)	As per need
Travel to meetings support (per annum)	₹ 1.5 lakhs for the fellow ₹ 1 lakh for research staff	₹ 1.5 lakhs for the fellow ₹ 1 lakh for research staff
Contingency per year	₹ 7.5 lakhs	₹ 10 lakhs

Duration

The duration of the fellowship is **five years**.

Deadline

The call for applications opens **once a year**. Please visit the funding agency website for latest information on application deadline.

Website

<https://www.indiaalliance.org/fellowshiptype/clinical-and-public-health-research-fellowships>

2.7. Swarnajayanti Fellowships Scheme (DST)

To commemorate India's fiftieth year of Independence, the Government of India instituted the Swarnajayanti Fellowships. This fellowship is awarded to a selected number of young scientists, with an excellent record of accomplishments, to enable them to pursue impactful research in frontier areas of **science** and **technology**. The fellowship is scientist-specific and not institution-specific.

Eligibility

- The fellowship is open to Indian nationals having a regular position in a recognised Indian academic/research organisation.
- The applicant should possess a PhD in science/engineering/medicine and should not be drawing a fellowship from any other scheme of the Government of India.
- The fellowship is open to scientists between **30 to 40 years** of age as on the prescribed date in the call for application.

Support

The award consists of a fellowship of **₹ 25,000** per month in addition to the salary drawn from the parent institute, along with a research grant of **₹ 5 lakhs** per annum by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Duration

The duration of the fellowship is for a period not exceeding **five years**.

Deadline

A call for applications is advertised **once a year**. Please visit the funding agency website for latest information on application deadline.

Website

<https://dst.gov.in/scientific-programmes/scientific-engineering-research/human-resource-development-and-nurturing-young-talent-swarnajayanti-fellowships-scheme>

2.8. INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship Scheme (DST)

The Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, launched the Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) programme in 2008 with the aim to inspire young (aged 15–37 years) Indian talent to study science and take up careers in research.

INSPIRE includes multiple components, out of which the 'INSPIRE Faculty Fellowship Scheme' offers postdoctoral fellowships to young achievers, with an opportunity for independent research in the near term to emerge as future research leaders in the long term.

Eligibility

- Indian citizens and people of Indian origin with PIO status having a PhD (in **science, mathematics, engineering, pharmacy, medicine** and **agriculture-related subjects**) from any recognised university in the world are eligible.
- Candidates should possess a minimum of 60% (or equivalent CGPA) marks throughout their academic career starting from the Higher Secondary Examination (Class 12 onwards).
- Those who have submitted their PhD theses and are awaiting the award of degree are also eligible. However, selection for the fellowship will be confirmed only after the PhD is awarded.
- The upper age limit for this fellowship is **32 years** (as on 1 January 2021 for the 2021 call for applications) for the general and OBC categories of applicants. However, for SC/ST/women candidates, the upper age limit is **37 years**. For persons with benchmark disabilities (Divyangjan with not less than 40% of a specified disability), the upper age limit is **42 years**.
- Publication(s) in highly-reputed journals, demonstrating outstanding research potential of the candidate, are considered for the award.
- Candidates who are employed in regular/contractual positions within India may also apply for this fellowship for improvement and enhancement of their career prospects; however, upon selection, the candidates will need to resign from their current jobs and organisations before taking up the fellowship. The candidates, who get selected for a regular position in any institute/university after submission of the fellowship application, will be entitled to receive the research grant only as INSPIRE faculty fellows.

Support

- Each selected fellow is eligible to receive a consolidated fellowship of **₹ 1,25,000** per month. This consolidated amount is an all-inclusive fellowship and taxable as per the Indian IT Act.
- A research grant of **₹ 7 lakhs** every year for five years is also provided to each successful candidate including the carry-forward amount, if any, from the previous year.

Duration

The INSPIRE faculty fellowship is for a maximum period of **five years**.

Deadline

Please visit the funding agency website for information on call for application and timelines.

Website

<https://www.online-inspire.gov.in/>

2.9. Ramanujan Fellowship (DST-SERB)

The Ramanujan Fellowship of the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) was instituted to support brilliant, active Indian **scientists** and **engineers** to return from abroad and take up research positions at Indian institutions and universities. **All areas of science** are covered under this fellowship.

Eligibility

- The fellowship is open to Indian scientists and engineers who are working abroad and are below the age of **40 years**.
- The fellowship is only for those scientists who do not hold any permanent/tenure track/contractual positions at any Indian research institute or university.
- Nominations for the fellowship are to be sent through the Indian university/institute/organisation chosen by the candidate and that are willing to host the candidate. The nominee should be working abroad at the time of nomination.
- The nominee should possess a higher degree or equivalent such as PhD in science/engineering, Master's degree in engineering/technology, or MD in medicine. He/she should have adequate professional experience.
- These fellowships are very competitive and only those who have a proven/outstanding record of accomplishment, as evident from their research publications and recognitions, are eligible.
- In case of selection of the candidate for a regular position at a university or institute, he/she will not be eligible to receive the grant under Ramanujan Fellowship.

Support

- The consolidated amount of the fellowship is **₹ 1,35,000** per month (including HRA).
- Each fellow will, in addition, receive a research grant of **₹ 7 lakhs** per annum and **₹ 60,000** per annum as overhead charges.

Duration

The duration of the fellowship is for **five years** and is not extendable.

Deadline

Ramanujan Fellowship nominations are accepted **throughout the year**.

Website

<http://www.serb.gov.in/rnf.php>

2.10. IBRO Return Home Fellowships

The International Brain Research Organization (IBRO) provides a wide range of funding opportunities to support **neuroscience** worldwide. The Return Home Program of IBRO supports young researchers from less-developed countries, who have studied neurosciences at advanced research centres, to return to their home countries and continue **brain research**.

Eligibility

- The following scientists can avail the fellowship:
 - Postdoctoral fellows who have finished research training in neurosciences (including clinical research) at a centre of excellence in a developed country.
 - Those willing to start their own laboratory and/or work independently.
 - Scientists who are developing a successful basic/clinical research career in a developed country and wish to return to their country of origin or to a less-developed country for personal or cultural reasons.
- At least one 'letter of reference' and a 'return home acceptance letter' are required in order to be considered for this grant.

Support

A fellowship of up to **€ 20,000** is provided.

Duration

Please contact the funding agency or visit their website for this information.

Deadline

Applications are sought **once a year**. Please visit the funding agency website for latest information on application deadline.

Website

<http://ibro.org/international/>

2.11. J C Bose National Fellowship (SERB)

The JC Bose National Fellowship is awarded to active scientists serving at institutions in India, in recognition of their outstanding performance. This is a scientist-specific, competitive fellowship. **All areas of science** (in the broadest terms) are considered under the fellowship.

Eligibility

- The scientist should be active and in service during nomination with a record of outstanding performance, apparent from the award of the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize and/or fellowship of the science academies (including engineering, agriculture, and medicine).
- The nominee should be an Indian national working at an institution in India.
- The nominee should not be receiving any other fellowship from any other Government sources.

Support

- The fellowship amount is **₹ 25,000** per month in addition to regular income.
- The fellowship additionally provides a research grant of **₹ 15 lakhs** per annum and an overhead of **₹ 1 lakh** per annum to the host institute.

Duration

The duration of the fellowship is initially for **five years**. An extension can be sought for a subsequent term of five years; however, the fellowship can be held up to the age of 68 years.

Deadline

Nominations are received **throughout the year**.

Website

<http://www.serb.gov.in/jcfn.php>

2.12. POWER Fellowship (SERB)

The POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research) programme of SERB aims to create a funding framework that empowers women researchers in **Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI)**. SERB-POWER is a structured effort toward enhancing diversity in research by ensuring equal access and weighted opportunities for Indian women scientists engaged in research and development activities at Indian academic institutions and R&D laboratories.

Eligibility

- The nominee should be an active scientist with an excellent record of research performance as an independent investigator or innovator.
- The nominee should be an Indian citizen aged **35–55 years** and working at an institution in India.
- The nominee should not receive any other fellowship from the Government of India during the tenure.

Support

- A fellowship of ₹ **15,000** per month is provided in addition to regular income.
- A research grant of ₹ **10 lakhs** per annum is available. The research grant can be used for minor equipment, staff, consumables, contingencies, and domestic travel.
- Overheads for the host institute are also available.

Duration

The fellowship is for **three years**, without the possibility of extension.

Deadline

The nominations for the SERB-POWER Fellowship are accepted **throughout the year**.

Website

<https://www.serbonline.in/SERB/serbPowerInstructions?HomePage=New>

2.13. National Science Chair (SERB)

The National Science Chair (NSC) scheme of SERB recognises and supports active eminent senior scientists with outstanding contributions, both nationally and internationally, in **science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) and medicine**. SERB acknowledges the need to utilize the expertise of exceptionally meritorious senior scientists. This scheme is a step towards promoting excellence and growth in R&D by empowering **superannuated yet active academicians** and **scientists** to continue their research.

Eligibility

Model 1: Scientific excellence

Senior scientists who have made outstanding contributions to research, as evidenced by S&T output indicators (such as publications, patents, technology transfer, software development, or an impact on policy), and who wish to continue their work in R&D after superannuation will be recognised through this mode.

- The nominee should be an active resident Indian scientist/academician, with an outstanding research career in one or more areas of STEM and medicine, particularly during the last five years.
- The nominee must have received recognition for their work from national/international scientific bodies such as fellowships of prestigious academies and S&T awards.
- The nominee could be affiliated to an academic institution/R&D lab or should have consent on the subject from the future host institution.
- The nominee should not currently hold any administrative role/function and should not be in receipt of any other honorarium/fellowship/salary from any other institute.

Model 2: Science leadership

This mode takes into account the leadership of scientists/academicians during the most active part of their professional life and also recently.

- The nominee should be a distinguished resident Indian scientist/ academician in any one or more areas of expertise in STEM and medicine, particularly during the last ten years.
- The nominee must be a science leader and his/her work must be recognised by national/ international scientific bodies in the form of fellowships and awards.
- The nominee could be affiliated to an academic institution/R&D lab or should have consent on the subject from the future host institution.
- The nominee should not currently hold any administrative role/function and should not be in receipt of any other honorarium/fellowship/salary from any other institute.

Support

- A fellowship of **₹ 1.5 lakhs** per month is available to awardees under both modes of the scheme.
- The research grant in case of Model 1 and Model 2 will be **₹ 25 lakhs** per annum and **₹ 5 lakhs** per annum, respectively. This grant can be used for staff, equipment, travel (including international), and contingency.
- For overhead expenses, **₹ 1 lakh** per annum will be given to the host institution.

Duration

The duration of the award is **three years** and is extendable for a maximum of another two years, subject to recommendations of the NSC advisory committee.

Deadline

Call for NSC nominations is **not periodic**; nominations are sought depending on vacancies available every year. Please visit the SERB website for details.

Website

- <http://serb.gov.in/nsc.php>
- <https://prism.serbonline.in/RS-NSC>

3

Research Grants



*“If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.”
– Sir Isaac Newton*

Every independent adventure in science is based on the foundation laid down by predecessors of the research enterprise. One of the crucial pillars of this foundation is the support for implementation of research ideas in the form of research grants provided by funding agencies.

This section provides information on research grants by national and international funding agencies, which are available for young, mid-career, and senior life science researchers in India.

3.1. Research Grants (CSIR)

The Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) provides financial assistance in the form of research grants to promote research in the fields of **science** and **technology**, including **agriculture**, **engineering**, and **medicine**.

The CSIR research grants support research proposals in both **applied** and **basic sciences**—especially research questions that aim to solve specific problems that are being pursued by CSIR laboratories. Priority is given to multi-disciplinary projects that involve inter-organisational cooperation (including that of CSIR laboratories).

Eligibility

- Professors/experts (with a PhD) in regular employment at universities, post-graduate institutions, and recognised R&D laboratories in both public and private sectors can apply.
- A research proposal may have more than one investigator. In collaborative projects, the consent of all participating institutions is a mandatory requirement, which has to be furnished with the proposal.

Support

- Research grants of CSIR are intended mainly to supplement the research facilities available in sponsoring institutions. The funds are for one or more junior research fellows (JRFs), senior research fellows (SRFs) and research associates (RAs), contingencies, and equipment.
- Usually the amounts sanctioned for equipment are small.
- No graded posts are sanctioned nor are funds provided for other kinds of expenditure.

Duration

The tenure of a scheme is **three years**.

Deadline

Applications for research grants can be submitted at **any time** during the year.

Website

<https://www.csirhrdg.res.in/Home/Index/1/Default/2226/62>

3.2. Competitive Research Grant (DBT)

Competitive Research Grant project proposals under the various R&D programs of DBT can be submitted by Indian researchers throughout the year, without waiting for specific calls for proposals. The R&D programs of DBT include the following—**medical biotechnology; agriculture, animal & allied sciences; knowledge generation, discovery research, new tools and technologies; and energy, environment and bioresource-based applications** (Please visit the [DBT website](#) for details on each of these programs).

DBT also encourages submission of scientific lead-based Innovative Translation Research and Demonstration projects in all these areas in collaboration with relevant stakeholders.

Eligibility

The applicant should be employed at an academic/research institution/university.

Support

The support depends on the requirement of the proposed project.

Duration

The duration depends on the requirement of the proposed project.

Deadline

The scheme is open **throughout the year**.

Website

<https://dbtpromis.nic.in/Login.aspx>

3.3. Team Science Grants (DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance)

DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance instituted its Team Science Grants (TSG) to enable collaboration of high-quality scientists with complementary skills, knowledge, and resources from multiple institutions to address **an important health challenge for India**. **High risk, high reward** proposals can also be funded under this programme.

The programme seeks to fund multi-institutional and inter-disciplinary research projects, with a suitable research management plan and structure. International collaborations are encouraged.

Eligibility

- The principal investigator should have a PhD/MD/MBBS-MS/MPH or equivalent, with at least five years of experience in running an independent research group or lab.
- Co-principal investigators should have a PhD/MD/MBBS-MS/MPH or equivalent, with at least three years of experience in running an independent research group or lab.
- A minimum of three investigators should participate, including one as the principal investigator. Applicants must demonstrate their complementarity—the added value that the collaboration would ensure and advances that would otherwise not be possible with investigators working alone.
- All investigators should:
 - demonstrate a record of achievements appropriate for their career stage;
 - have obtained competitive grant/fellowship(s);
 - have tenure at their respective host institutions for the entire duration of the grant.
- There is **no age** or nationality **bar**.

Support

Up to **₹ 10 crores** (including 10% overheads) can be requested.

Duration

The duration of the projects funded under TSG is **five years**.

Deadline

Applications are sought **once a year**. Please visit the website of India Alliance for information on the latest deadlines.

Website

<https://www.indiaalliance.org/team-science-grants>

3.4. Grant-in-Aid Scheme (DHR)

The Grant-in-Aid (GIA) scheme for inter-sectoral convergence and coordination for promotion and guidance on health research is a flagship programme of the Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. Under this scheme, financial support is provided in the form of grant-in-aid to carry out research studies and innovations related to **diagnostic, treatment methods** and **vaccines** for prevention; to **translate them into products and processes**; and in synergy with concerned organisations to introduce these innovations into **public health** service.

Following kinds of projects are eligible for funding:

- Research studies with emphasis on public health.
- Translational research projects.
- Inter-sectoral coordination including funding of joint projects.
- Cost effectiveness analysis of health technologies through a health technology-assessment system.

Eligibility

- Government medical colleges/institutes/universities can avail this scheme.
- Private institutions and NGOs registered with DSIR/DHR are also eligible.
- Individuals holding regular faculty positions in universities, medical colleges, post-graduate institutions, recognised R&D laboratories, and NGOs are eligible.
- Professional bodies, scientific societies and associations can also apply.

Support

The funding range can vary from **₹ 50 lakhs** to **₹ 10 crores** according to the project type. Details are available [here](#).

Duration

The project duration can vary according to the project type. Details are available [here](#).

Deadline

The call for applications opens **once a year**. Please visit the funding agency website for the latest information on application deadline.

Website

<https://dhr.gov.in/schemes/grant-aid-scheme-inter-sectoral-convergence-coordination-promotion-and-guidance-health>

3.5. Life Sciences Research Board (DRDO)

The Life Sciences Research Board (LSRB) of Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) was set up to support and strengthen research in the field of **life sciences** by funding projects, which meet the **national needs of Indian defence services**, under the Grant-in-Aid scheme of DRDO.

The scheme is coordinated through five specialist panels:

- Life support and biomedical devices
- Soldier health and drug development
- Physiology of extreme environment and behavioural sciences
- Biotechnology and bioremediation
- Food science, hill agriculture, bio-fuels, and bio resources

Eligibility

- These grants are offered to Indian academic institutions of national repute, national science and technology centres, research institutions, non-profit professional societies performing advance research, acclaimed scientists attached to approved research institutions, and UGC/AICTE/MoE recognised self financing/private institutions
- This scheme does not encourage applications for assistance to build up basic facilities at the research institute except for special facilities required to execute the projects.
- Projects may be granted to permanent faculty members/researchers as principal investigators of grantee institutes.
- Each principal investigator will be able to take only one research project at a time from DRDO funding.
- Projects may be handled by more than one principal investigator and/or multiple institutions.

Support

- A grant amount per the requirements of the proposed project can be sought under the scheme; cost breaks with justifications are to be provided in the application.
- The scheme allows hiring of staff/JRF/SRF/research scientists.

Duration

The duration depends on the requirement of the proposed project; please check with the funding agency for more details.

Deadline

Please get in touch with the funding agency for details on the grant timelines.

Website

- <https://www.drdo.gov.in/life-sciences-research-board/about-us>
- <https://www.drdo.gov.in/sites/default/files/inline-files/Guidelines-For-DRDO-Grants-in-Aid-Scheme.pdf>

3.6. Woman Scientist Scheme-A (DST)

The Women Scientists Scheme-A (WOS-A) of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) provides a platform for **women scientists** and **technologists** with a **career break** to pursue research in **basic or applied sciences in frontier areas of science and engineering**.

In line with DST's efforts for gender advancement in STEMM at the institutional level, the scheme plays a pivotal role in gender mainstreaming by preventing brain drain from the S&T system. The scheme, at the onset, offers an opportunity for women researchers to work as bench-level scientists and ultimately opens new avenues for permanent positions.

WOS-A supports projects under these five disciplines: **physical & mathematical sciences, chemical sciences, life sciences, earth & atmospheric sciences, and engineering & technology**.

Eligibility

- The applicant must have a PhD in basic or applied sciences. (Note that applicants with an MPhil/MTech/MPharm/MVSc or equivalent degree or an MSc in basic or applied sciences/MBBS/BTech or equivalent degree are also eligible.)
- Applicants in the age group of **27–57 years** are eligible; age relaxation of five years is provided for candidates with disabilities and those belonging to SC/ST/OBC categories.
- A minimum **two years of break in career** is required.

Support

- This scheme will provide a research grant for a well-defined project proposal.
- A fellowship of **₹ 55,000** + HRA as per norms is provided monthly to awardees with a PhD. (Awardees with an MPhil/MTech/MPharm/MVSc or equivalent degree receive **₹ 40,000** + HRA and those with an MSc in basic or applied sciences/MBBS/BTech or equivalent degree receive **₹ 31,000** + HRA as their monthly fellowship.)
- A total project cost (excluding HRA and overhead) of **₹ 30 lakhs** is available for applicants with a PhD. (This amount is **₹ 25 lakhs** for applicants with an MPhil/MTech/MPharm/MVSc or equivalent degree and **₹ 20 lakhs** for those with an MSc in basic or applied sciences/MBBS/BTech or equivalent degree.)
- Note that the total project cost includes fellowship of the grant awardee, consumables, travel, contingencies, and minor equipment.

Duration

This scheme provides a research grant for a maximum period of **three years**.

Deadline

The scheme is open **throughout the year**.

Website

- <https://dst.gov.in/scientific-programmes/scientific-engineering-research/women-scientists-programs>
- <https://online-wosa.gov.in/wos/>

3.7. Woman Scientist Scheme-B (DST)

The Women Scientist Scheme-B (WOS-B) is aimed at providing opportunities to **women scientists** and **technologists** who want to return to the mainstream after a **career break**, with a focus on projects related to **science and technology interventions for societal benefit**. The project proposals submitted under WOS-B should address a well-identified societal challenge and deliver possible solution(s); this may include development of viable technology/technique and/or lab-to-land technology transfer, its adaptation, and scaling up.

Eligibility

- The applicant must have a PhD in basic or applied sciences. (Note that applicants with an MPhil/MTech/MPharm/MVSc or equivalent degree or an MSc in basic or applied sciences/MBBS/BTech or equivalent degree are also eligible.)
- Applicants in the age group of **27–57 years** with a **career break of minimum two years** are eligible.
- Women working as permanent employees are not eligible.

Support

- A fellowship of **₹ 55,000** + HRA as per norms is provided monthly to awardees with a PhD. (Awardees with an MPhil/MTech/MPharm/MVSc or equivalent degree receive **₹ 40,000** + HRA and those with an MSc in basic or applied sciences/MBBS/BTech or equivalent degree receive **₹ 31,000** + HRA as their monthly fellowship.)
- A total project cost (excluding HRA and overheads) of **₹ 30 lakhs** is available for applicants with a PhD. (This amount is **₹ 25 lakhs** for applicants with an MPhil/MTech/MPharm/MVSc or equivalent degree and **₹ 20 lakhs** for those with an MSc in basic or applied sciences/MBBS/BTech or equivalent degree.)
- Total project cost includes fellowship of the awardee, consumables, travel, contingencies, and minor equipment but excludes HRA and overheads.

Duration

The project is tenable for a maximum period of **three years**.

Deadline

The application opens **once a year**. Please visit the funding agency website for the latest information on application deadline.

Website

- <https://dst.gov.in/scientific-programmes/scientific-engineering-research/women-scientists-programs>
- <https://online-wosa.gov.in/wos/>

3.8. Research Grants (HFSP)

The Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP) Research Grants support **innovative basic research in fundamental biological problems**. Collaboration of scientists from disciplines outside traditional life sciences such as **biophysics, chemistry, computational biology, computer science, engineering, mathematics, nanoscience, or physics** is recommended. Emphasis is on novel and interdisciplinary approaches that involve scientific exchanges across national and disciplinary boundaries.

Research grants are available for teams of scientists from different countries who wish to combine their expertise, use innovative approaches, and develop new lines of research to address questions that could not be answered by individual laboratories. It is understood that such research inherently contains risks. HFSP expects that teams of applicants address the risks and outline mitigation strategies for their research in case of failure and how they intend to achieve their goals.

Applications for applied research including medical research, typically funded by national medical research bodies, will be deemed ineligible (see [guidelines](#)).

Two types of grants are available under this program:

Research Grants – Early Career

Under this HFSP grant, all team members are expected to direct a research group (however small) and must have a doctoral degree (PhD, MD or equivalent). The applicants must be in a position to initiate and direct their own independent lines of research. The grant is not intended to create scientific independence—this is a decision of the research institute prior to application.

Research Grants – Program

This HFSP grant is awarded to teams of independent researchers at any stage of their careers. The research team is expected to develop new lines of research through the collaboration. Applications from early-career independent investigators are also encouraged.

Eligibility

HFSP Research Grants support teams of independent leaders of research groups; therefore, applications from individual scientists or early-career researchers carrying out their postdoctoral or PhD-level projects are not eligible.

- The principal applicant of a research grant must have a laboratory in a member country (with the exception of HFSP career development awardees). The other team members and their laboratories may be situated anywhere in the world.
- All team members are expected to direct a research group (however small) and must have a doctoral degree (PhD, MD or equivalent). They must be in a position to initiate and direct

their own independent lines of research. The HFSP award is not intended to create scientific independence—this is a decision of the research institute prior to the application.

- All team members must be able to determine the course of the HFSP-funded project and have freedom to administer the grant, if awarded.
- The research teams must be international (preferably intercontinental). Normally, there is only one team member with a laboratory in each country; teams with two members at the same institution are not eligible.
- Team members should not have collaborated before and normally not have published original research together. The project must be significantly different from their ongoing research.

Research Grants – Early Career

- All members of an early career grant team must be within five years of obtaining an independent position and must have obtained their first doctoral degree (PhD, MD or equivalent) not longer than ten years before the deadline for submission of the letter of intent.
- All applicants for an early career grant must be project leaders directing a research group (however small) and must be fully responsible for the day-to-day running of their laboratories. They will have full control of the HFSP funds.
- Written confirmation may be requested from the Head of Department in the case of an applicant who independently oversees a research theme.

Research Grants – Program

- While researchers can be at any stage in their independent career, participation of early-career researchers is also encouraged in the HFSP program grants.
- Additional conditions regarding institutional affiliations, number of team members, country of affiliation, internationality of the team, concurrent applications, and new applications from previous grant awardees are enlisted in the [guidelines](#).

Support

These team grants provide financial support to the team for three years; the amount paid depends only on team composition.

- The current mode of funding is as follows but may be subject to revision to take into account HFSP's budget: **\$ 265,000** for a team of two; **\$ 365,000** for a team of three; and **\$ 465,000** for a team of four or more. These figures represent the amount awarded per year to the whole team for a period of three years.
- Two members from the same country should constitute an interdisciplinary collaboration. They will be awarded an amount equivalent to 1.5 team members (currently, \$ 315,000 for a team of 2.5 and \$ 415,000 for a team of 3.5).
- In the case of a two-member team with one member in a for-profit institution, the total annual award will be reduced to \$130,000. In other cases, the for-profit member will not be included when calculating the amount of the award.

Duration

Each grant is awarded for a period of **three years**.

Deadline

Applications are sought **once a year**. The deadline for submission of the 'letter of intent' is around the end of **March**/beginning of **April**. After review, invitations for full application are sent out.

Website

- <https://www.hfsp.org/funding/hfsp-funding/research-grants>
- <https://www.hfsp.org/sites/default/files/Sciences/Grants/LI%20Guidelines.pdf>

3.9. Core Research Grant (SERB)

The Core Research Grant (CRG; previously called Extramural Research Funding) scheme of SERB provides core research support to active researchers to undertake research and development in frontier areas of **science** and **engineering**.

Eligibility

- Applicants (principal investigator and co-principal investigator(s)) should be Indian citizens; foreign nationals fulfilling the [eligibility criteria](#) notified by SERB can also apply.
- The applicant(s) must hold a regular academic/research position in a recognised academic institution or national laboratory or in any other recognised R&D institution in India.
- The term 'regular' in the context of CRG refers to applicants who are appointed against the sanctioned post or in a tenure post, which are likely to be renewed after the end of tenure.
- The applicant(s) should hold a PhD in science, mathematics, engineering or an MD/MS/MDS/MVSc at the time of applying for the grant.
- Faculties recruited through UGC-Faculty Recharge Program are eligible to apply. INSPIRE Faculty, and Ramanujan and Ramalingaswamy Fellows are also eligible to apply provided they have at least three and a half years of tenure remaining at the time of submission of application.
- Investigators who will be superannuating during the duration of the project or have already superannuated are also eligible to apply. In such cases, a faculty/scientist from the host institute who has at least five years of service remaining should be associated as a co-principal investigator. The host institution should allow the investigator to continue after superannuation and provide required support towards implementation of the project.

Support

- The CRG scheme provides research support to an individual researcher or a group of researchers working in a recognised academic institution or national laboratory or in any other recognised R&D institution in India.
- The research grant is provided for equipment, staff, consumables, travel, and contingency. Overheads are also provided to the host institution as per the prevailing norms of SERB.
- The average cost of a CRG project is **₹ 35 lakhs**; however, there is no upper limit and a justifiable budget should be proposed.

Duration

The funding is provided normally for a period of **three years**.

Deadline

The application opens **once a year**. Please visit the funding agency website for the latest information on application deadline.

Website

- <http://serb.gov.in/emr.php>
- <https://www.serbonline.in/SERB/emr?HomePage=New>

3.10. POWER Research Grants (SERB)

The POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research) programme of SERB aims to create a funding framework that empowers **women researchers** in **Science, Technology, and Innovation** (STI). SERB-POWER is a structured effort towards enhancing diversity in research by ensuring equal access and weighted opportunities for Indian women scientists engaged in research and development activities at Indian academic institutions and R&D laboratories.

SERB-POWER Research Grants are individual-centric, competitive research funding awarded to emerging and eminent women scientists under two categories: Level I and Level II.

Eligibility

- Applicants (principal investigator and co-principal investigator(s)) should be Indian citizens.
- The applicant(s) must hold a regular academic/research position in a recognised academic institution or national laboratory or in any other recognised R&D institution in India.
- Applicants from IITs, IISERs, IISc, NITs, central universities, and national labs of central government institutions will be considered for funding under Level I category, whereas applicants from state universities/colleges and private academic institutions should apply under Level II category.
- POWER Grants will be regulated through terms of reference confirming to [SERB-CRG](#) guidelines (except sharing of 50% non-recurring cost by national laboratories and research institutions).
- The selection will be based on the recommendations of the Program Advisory Committee (PAC) constituted by SERB. If required, the applicants may be called for a discussion/presentation.
- Women scientists cannot hold both POWER Fellowship and POWER Grant at the same time.
- Faculties recruited through the UGC-Faculty Recharge Program are eligible to apply. INSPIRE Faculty, and Ramanujan and Ramalingaswamy Fellows are also eligible to apply provided they have at least three and a half years of tenure remaining at the time of submission of application.
- Investigators who will be superannuating during the duration of the project or have already superannuated are also eligible to apply. In such cases, a woman faculty/scientist from the host institute who has at least five years of service remaining should be associated as a co-principal investigator. The host institution should allow the investigator to continue after superannuation and provide the required support towards implementation of the project.

Support

- Level I: The scale of funding is up to **₹ 60 lakhs**.
- Level II: The scale of funding is up to **₹ 30 lakhs**.

Duration

The grant tenure is for **three years**.

Deadline

Applications for the SERB Power Grants are accepted **throughout the year**.

Website

- http://serb.gov.in/power_research_grant.php
- <https://www.serbonline.in/SERB/serbPowerInstructions>

3.11. Start-up Research Grant (SERB)

The Start-up Research Grant (SRG) of SERB empowers researchers to initiate their research career in a new institution in India. It is a two-year grant meant to enable researchers working in frontier areas of **science** and **engineering** to establish themselves and move on to the mainstream core research grant of SERB.

Eligibility

- The applicant should be an Indian citizen; foreign nationals working as regular employees in any of the public-funded and recognised R&D laboratories/institutions in India are eligible to apply as principal investigators in collaboration with an Indian co-principal investigator, provided they fulfill the [eligibility criteria](#) of SERB for foreign nationals.
- The applicant should hold a PhD degree in science/engineering or an MD/MS/MDS/MVSc degree.
- The applicant must hold a regular academic/research position in a recognised academic institution, national laboratory or any other recognised R&D institution.
- An applicant is eligible to apply for this grant within two years of joining an institution.
- The upper age limit for SRG is **42 years**, with a relaxation of three years for women, people with disabilities, and applicants in SC/ST/OBC categories.
- INSPIRE Faculty, Ramanujan and Ramalingaswamy Fellows, and faculty members recruited through the UGC Faculty Recharge Program are not eligible under SRG.
- Research associates, postdoctoral fellows, ad-hoc faculty, guest faculty, visiting scientists, consultants, project fellows, and faculty members whose contract is renewed every year are not eligible under SRG. With respect to cases that are not mentioned above, SERB reserves the right to determine the eligibility.
- Co-principal investigators are not allowed under SRG except in the case of foreign nationals.
- The applicant should not have received Start-up Research Grant for Young Scientists (YSS), Early Career Research Award (ECR), CRG (erstwhile EMR), or any other grant of SERB.

Support

- Research grant of **₹ 30 lakhs** plus overheads is available for a period of two years.
- The research grant will cover equipment, staff, consumables, travel, and contingency apart from overheads. There is a standard cap for travel, contingency, and overheads. Applicants have the flexibility to propose budgets under various heads as per requirement.
- SRG is a one-time career grant.

Duration

SRG project period is **two years**.

Deadline

Applications are invited **once a year**; please visit the funding agency website for more details.

Website

- <http://serb.gov.in/srgg.php>
- https://www.serbonline.in/SERB/srg_Instructions?HomePage=New

3.12. Scientific and Useful Profound Research Advancement (SERB)

SERB-SUPRA (Scientific and Useful Profound Research Advancement) is a scheme beyond normal core grants designed to support high-quality research projects that propose **new hypotheses or challenge existing ones** and **provide ‘out-of-the-box’ solutions. Transformative and disruptive research concepts** based on innovative and unproven hypotheses, possessing a high degree of uncertainty, yet having the conviction to produce a lasting impact across discipline boundaries qualify for support under SERB-SUPRA.

Some of the important measures of this scheme are:

- quantum of advances (incremental and short-term gains are strongly discouraged).
- extent of disruption in fundamental understanding or impact on research grand challenges: new areas, new concepts, new products, and new disruptive technologies.
- ability of research outcomes to contribute to cutting-edge scientific knowledge at the international level and/or to emergence of critical technologies.
- global impact, outstanding publications, and overall advancement of science.

Eligibility

- Applicants (principal investigator and co-principal investigator(s)) should be Indian citizens; foreign nationals fulfilling the [eligibility criteria](#) notified by SERB can also apply.
- The applicant(s) must hold a regular academic/research position in a recognised academic institution, national laboratory or in any other recognised R&D institution in India with at least five years of service remaining. The term ‘regular’ refers to applicants who are appointed against the sanctioned post or in a tenure post, which are likely to be renewed after the end of tenure.
- Private academic institutions with valid UGC/AICTE/PCI approval, private R&D institutions with valid DSIR-SIRO recognition, voluntary organisations and NGOs registered under the NITI-AAYOG Darpan portal are eligible to host a project.
- Faculties recruited through the UGC-Faculty Recharge Program are eligible to apply. INSPIRE Faculty, Ramanujan and Ramalingaswamy Fellows, research associates, ad-hoc faculty, guest faculty, visiting scientists, consultants, project fellows, and faculty members whose contract is renewed every year are not eligible. In respect of cases that are not mentioned here, SERB reserves the right to determine the eligibility.
- The principal and co-investigators should hold a PhD in science, mathematics, engineering or an MD/MS/MDS/MVSc at the time of applying for the grant.

Support

- The SUPRA scheme provides research support to an individual researcher or a group of researchers working in a recognised academic institution, national laboratory or other recognised R&D institution in India.
- The research grant is provided for equipment, staff, consumables, travel, and contingency. Overheads are also provided to the implementing institution as per the prevailing norms of SERB.

Duration

Funding is for a period of **three years**; an extension of two years can be given subject to performance evaluation.

Deadline

Applications can be submitted against a call for proposal, which is announced on the SERB online portal and social media.

Website

<https://www.serbonline.in/SERB/Supra>



Entrepreneurship and Innovation Grants



“Knowledge without action is meaningless”

– Abu Bakr

Entrepreneurship and innovation are essential for building a resilient society. The inventions and technology that improve our world today rely on knowledge gained through research and experimentation. Addressing global challenges hinges on collaborations of scientists, engineers, innovators, entrepreneurs and funders.

The following section lists out grants that nurture entrepreneurship and innovation in the Indian research ecosystem. This includes opportunities for both academic and research institutes and industry partners.

4.1. Bioincubators Nurturing Entrepreneurship for Scaling Technologies (BIRAC)

The BioNEST (Bioincubators Nurturing Entrepreneurship for Scaling Technologies) scheme of the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) aims to scale up the **biotech start-up ecosystem** in India by creating globally-competent **bio-incubation facilities**. Bio-incubators harness the entrepreneurial potential of start-ups by providing access to infrastructure as well as mentoring and networking platforms.

Under BioNEST, bio-incubators are mandated to:

- provide incubation space for start-ups and entrepreneurs;
- connect industry and academia, and enable interactions for efficient exchange of knowledge;
- provide technical and business mentorship;
- provide enabling services and required mentorship for IP, legal, and technology management;
- provide investment opportunities, resource mobilization, and networking platforms.

Eligibility

- Indian institutions including universities, research institutes, colleges, management institutes, business schools, business incubators, biotech parks, S&T bodies of state governments, biotech state councils and research hospitals are eligible.
- Incorporation of an Indian legal entity is recommended for bio-incubators; however, it is not a must for new applicants especially from Indian institutions.
- Applicants can select and apply under the relevant categories mentioned below:
 - o Supporting new BioNEST incubators at academic institutes, research institutes, research hospitals and organisations fostering innovation and entrepreneurship.
 - o Establishing new BioNEST incubators in various State Government Biotech Councils or S&T Councils.
 - o Establishing new BioNEST bio-incubation facilities to strengthen existing incubators attached to academic institutes, research institutes, research hospitals, and stand-alone incubators.
 - o Supporting scale-up of already-funded BioNEST incubators.

Support

- The funding support is provided as grant-in-aid for both capital and operational expenses. It is based on the need and scope of the project as judged by the BioNEST committee.
- The funding can be used for refurbishment/renovation of space, equipment, furniture, and operational costs.
- Private institutions/entities including private academic institutes, research institutes, research hospitals and incubators have to contribute a minimum 20% towards the total capex of the project cost.
- It is recommended to allocate about 10,000 sq. ft or more for the bio-incubation facility under BioNEST.

Duration

The duration of support for bio-incubation under BioNEST is up to a maximum of **five years**. After successful execution in the initially-approved period, applicants seek extension for the scaling up of activities.

Deadline

The call is open **throughout the year**.

Website

<https://birac.nic.in/bionest.php>

4.2. Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIRAC)

The Biotechnology Ignition Grant (BIG) is a flagship scheme of BIRAC, set up to empower young start-ups and entrepreneurs. The scheme enables technology innovators and entrepreneurs to pursue a **promising technology idea in biotechnology**, and establish and validate its proof of concept.

Eligibility

- Applications for BIG are invited from **biotech start-ups** and **individual entrepreneurs** with innovative ideas that have potential for commercialization.
- With effect from 1 August 2021, the start-up age allowed for a registered company/limited liability partnership (LLP) incorporated under BIG is five years.
- **Scientists, faculty, research scholars, and graduates** in any discipline who are incubating/ intending to incubate at a bioincubator are eligible.
- BIG is available only for high-level innovation in the biotech sector and is not meant for basic research projects.

Support

- Grant-in-aid of up to **₹ 50 lakhs** is provided.
- BIG partners and BIRAC provide continuous mentoring and implementation support to the grantees.

Duration

The funding is provided for a period of up to **18 months**.

Deadline

The call for proposals is announced **twice a year**—on 1 January and 1 July. Please visit the funding agency website for the latest information on application deadline.

Website

- <https://birac.nic.in/big.php>
- https://birac.nic.in/cfp_view.php?id=25&scheme_type=5

4.3. Promoting Academic Research Conversion to Enterprise (BIRAC)

Biotechnological research and development in India are largely carried out by academic institutions (universities/research organisations) and to some extent by industries (mostly large companies). Owing to their strong infrastructure and technical capabilities, academic/research establishments are mandated to drive research that address **challenges of national importance and societal relevance**. As research by academia is not governed by commercial gains alone, **high-risk problems** are also addressed.

BIRAC encourages academia to develop technologies/products (up to proof-of-concept stage) of societal and national importance, and supports its subsequent validation by an industrial partner through its flagship scheme called PACE (Promoting Academic Research Conversion to Enterprise). The scheme has two components, as detailed below:

4.3.1. Academic Innovation Research (BIRAC)

Under the Academic Innovation Research (AIR) component of PACE, **development of proof-of-concept for a process/product by academia** (with or without the involvement of industry/LLP) is promoted.

Eligibility

- Applicants must have completed at least one extramural funded project in India (with a minimum project duration of three years and in the same research area as that of the project proposed); the project must have been funded by government funding agencies or industry. The related sanction order or funding note is to be uploaded with the application, as a proof.
- Applicants must have authored one publication (indexed in Scopus/Web of Science) as first or lead author or filed patents in the same research area as that of the project proposed for AIR. Applicants must upload the published paper or filing documents related to the patent at the time of submission of application.
- Evidence of proof of principle and preliminary data that are already gathered by the applicant, supporting the proposal, is compulsory and must be submitted in the AIR application. Absence of this can result in disqualification of the proposal.
- Proposals involving agriculture should have a viable product/technology as an outcome, which can be considered for advanced trials by the industry/authorized national agencies.
- The final technical milestone of the AIR proposal should reflect technology/result that is near to industry-readiness.

Support

Under the AIR category, a grant not exceeding **₹ 50 lakhs** is available. (Non-recurring costs must not exceed 10% of the total cost).

Duration

The duration of an AIR project is up to **24 months**.

4.3.2. Contract Research Scheme (BIRAC)

The aim of the Contract Research Scheme (CRS), the second component of PACE, is to facilitate **validation of a process or prototype** (developed by academia) by the industrial partner/LLP.

Eligibility

- Under CRS, academia (public or private institute, university, NGO, or research foundation) with a well-established support system for research shall be the primary applicant. For a public or private institute, university, NGO, or research foundation, the submission of proper registration/accreditation from a government body (such as UGC or AICTE affiliation certification, CSIR/DSIR/SIRO certificate, bylaws of society, and trust deed) is mandatory.
- Involvement of industry/LLP is optional for the AIR component; however, it is mandatory to have an industrial partner/LLP under CRS.
- The industry partner/LLP should abide by the following eligibility criteria:
 - o Minimum 51% shares of the company should be held by Indian citizens holding Indian passports [Note that Indian citizens do not include Person of Indian Origin (PIO) and Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) holders].
 - o Minimum half of the persons who have subscribed their names to the LLP document as its partners should be Indian citizens.
 - o The collaborating company/LLP should have adequate in-house facility to facilitate project implementation or be incubated with any of the recognised incubation facilities.

Support

Funding in the form of grants is provided to both the academic as well as industrial partner. While funding is provided to the academic partner for in-house research that addresses validation of the proof-of-concept partly, funds are provided to the industrial partner for validation. There is **no ceiling** to the funding under CRS.

Duration

No time limit is defined for CRS.

Deadline

Under PACE, there are **three calls** for AIR and CRS proposals **in a year**. The timelines are below:

- 15 February–31 March
- 15 June–31 July
- 15 October–30 November

Website

https://birac.nic.in/desc_new.php?id=286

4.4. Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme (BIRAC)

The Biotechnology Industry Partnership Programme (BIPP) is a government cost-sharing partnership with industries to support **path-breaking research with economic potential** in frontier futuristic technology areas. The focus of this programme is on IP creation such that ownership is retained by Indian industry and wherever relevant, by collaborating scientists. The overarching goal of BIPP is to make the Indian industry ecosystem globally competitive.

BIPP supports the development of appropriate technologies in the context of recognised national priorities. Proposals are invited under seven broad themes:

- **drugs** including **drug delivery**,
- **vaccines** and **clinical trials**,
- **biosimilars** and **stem cells**,
- **devices** and **diagnostics**,
- **agriculture**,
- **industrial biotechnology** including **secondary agriculture**, and
- **bioinformatics** and facilities that cover every aspect of biotechnology.

BIPP is an advanced technology scheme only for **high risk, transformational technology/process development**. This viability gap funding scheme is designed to support high-risk futuristic technologies and **breakthrough research** that enables product and process development and is patentable, with the IP ownership rights resting with industry.

Four categories have been identified for implementing BIPP:

- Category I: Areas with major social relevance but uncertain market-driven demand.
- Category II: High risk, discovery and innovation research with relevance for making India globally competitive.
- Category III A: Evaluation and validation of already-existing products of high national importance, promoting local innovation (clinical trials).
- Category III B: Evaluation and validation of already-existing products of high national importance, promoting local innovation (agriculture field trials).
- Category IV: Shared-cost, major facilities that are critical for enabling innovation.

Eligibility

The proposals can be submitted by a single company or consortium of companies incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 or LLP incorporated under the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008. This can be with or without public/private university/colleges in India, national research laboratories, or not-for-profit private research labs/societies/foundations/NGOs.

In the case of company/LLP, the following eligibility criteria should be fulfilled:

- Minimum 51% of the shares of the company should be held by Indian citizens holding Indian passports (Indian citizens do not include PIO and OCI holders).
- Minimum half of the persons who have subscribed their names to the LLP document as its partners should be Indian citizens.
- The applicant company/LLP should have adequate in-house facility to drive project implementation (which shall be evaluated during the site visit) or should be incubated at any well-recognised incubation facility.

An academic collaborator should have proper establishment documents. For a public or private institute, university, NGO, or research foundation, the submission of proper registration/ accreditation from a government body (such as UGC or AICTE affiliation certification, CSIR/DSIR/SIRO certificate) is mandatory.

Support

Under this scheme, BIRAC provides up to **50% of project cost as grant-in-aid**; the remaining cost is to be met through the company/LLP's contribution. Details on funding and cost sharing can be found [here](#).

Duration

Please get in touch with the funding agency to learn about the project duration.

Deadline

There are **three** calls for proposals launched **in a year** with the following timelines:

- 15 February–31 March
- 15 June–31 July
- 15 October–30 November

Website

https://birac.nic.in/desc_new.php?id=216

4.5. Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (BIRAC)

The Small Business Innovation Research Initiative (SBIRI) is a first-of-its-kind early-stage, innovation-focused initiative in the area of **biotechnology** that aims to boost public-private partnership (PPP) efforts in the country.

SBIRI enables target organisations to realise their potential in terms of product and process development, and their subsequent commercialization. It has facilitated innovation, risk-taking by small and medium companies, and collaboration of private industries, public institutions and the government to promote research and innovation in the Indian biotech sector.

Some of the projects supported by SBIRI have resulted in prominent outcomes in the form of products already in the market and promising research leads in the path of commercialization.

The major objectives of SBIRI are:

- to provide support for early-stage, pre-proof-of-concept research in biotechnology by industry;
- to support new indigenous technologies particularly those related to societal needs in healthcare, food and nutrition, agriculture, and other sectors;
- to nurture and mentor innovative and emerging technologies/entrepreneurs;
- to assist new enterprises to forge appropriate linkages with academia and the government.

Eligibility

- Proposals can be submitted by a single company or consortium of companies incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013 or LLP incorporated under the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 jointly with or without public/private universities/colleges in India, national research laboratories, or not-for-profit private research labs/societies/foundations/NGOs.
- Eligible academic collaborators include public/private universities/colleges in India, national research laboratories, and not-for-profit private research laboratories/societies/foundations.
- In the case of company/LLP, the following eligibility criteria should be fulfilled:
 - o Minimum 51% shares of the company should be held by Indian citizens holding Indian passports (Indian citizens do not include PIO and OCI holders).
 - o Minimum half of the persons who have subscribed their names to the LLP document as its partners should be Indian citizens.
 - o The applicant company/LLP should have adequate in-house facilities to drive project implementation (which shall be evaluated during the site visit) or should be incubated at any well-recognised incubation facility.

Support

There is **no cap on funding** under SBIRI.

Project cost	Support from BIRAC to the company as grant-in-aid.
Up to ₹ 50 lakhs	BIRAC will provide 100% grant to the primary applicant and collaborating company, if any.
More than ₹ 50 lakhs	BIRAC will provide ₹ 50 lakhs and 50% of the cost over and above ₹ 50 lakhs. Remaining cost of the project will be borne by the company.

Duration

Please contact the funding agency to learn about project duration.

Deadline

There are **three** calls for proposals launched **in a year** with the following timelines:

- 15 February–31 March
- 15 June–31 July
- 15 October–30 November

Website

https://birac.nic.in/desc_new.php?id=217

4.6. Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development Fund (BIRAC)

Bio-incubation allows harnessing of the entrepreneurial potential of start-ups by providing them specialised support services such as access to infrastructure, mentoring, and networking platforms, which the start-ups can use to ensure survival during their fledgling days.

While bio-incubators are capable of supporting the space, services, and knowledge requirements of start-ups, not many financial support avenues are available to technology-driven start-ups in the initial phase. BIRAC's initiative—the Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Enterprise Development (SEED) Fund—primarily aims to address this need through incubators.

The SEED Fund provides capital assistance to start-ups that are based on new and meritorious ideas, innovations, and technologies. This fund aims to facilitate graduation of some of these start-ups to a level where they are able to raise investments from angel/venture capitalists or they are able to seek loans from commercial banks/financial institutions. Thus, the seed support is positioned to act as a bridge between promoters' investment and venture/angel investment. This is not an investment scheme, but rather a support scheme to enable start-ups and incubators to attain sustainability.

Eligibility

- The incubator should have been supported through [BIRAC's BioNEST scheme](#).
- The incubator should have been operational for the last three years, with at least five resident start-ups in biotech or life sciences.
- The incubator should have established IP & TT facilitation services for start-ups.
- The incubator must have prior experience in the management of early-stage funding schemes or other grants.

Support

Under the SEED Fund, BIRAC will provide grant-in-aid assistance to selected BIRAC-funded incubators based on certain establishment and operational criteria. Initially, BIRAC will identify up to five incubators and expand further in due course. Each selected incubator will be granted up to **₹ 100–200 lakhs** for implementation of the SEED Fund. Each incubator can design a selection process to screen and select start-ups for equity and operational funding through the SEED Fund (e.g. accelerator program or direct investment). The incubator can provide funding as equity and equity-linked instruments of up to **₹ 30 lakhs** per start-up.

Duration

Please contact the funding agency for details on the duration of funding.

Deadline

Please contact the funding agency or visit their website for information on the application process and timelines.

Website

<https://birac.nic.in/seedFund.php>

5

Collaborative Grants



*“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.”
– Helen Keller*

Finding effective and timely solutions for complex problems and global challenges, such as a pandemic or climate change, calls for collaborations across organisations, international borders, and disciplines of study. Collaborations seed new ideas and make science work at a much faster pace for societal impacts. Further, exchanges and collaborations greatly benefit the career of scientists.

This section includes international collaborative grants (Section 5.1) that facilitate international collaborations in life science research. Additionally, some important international exchange programs (Section 5.2) have been listed.

5.1. International Collaborative Grants

5.1.1. Indo-German Fundamental Research Projects in the Life Sciences (DBT-DFG)

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG) offer synchronized funding for Indo-German **fundamental research projects** in all fields of the **life sciences**. DBT and DFG expect that proposals submitted under this funding initiative describe ambitious projects of curiosity-driven research, which do not just benefit from but essentially require international collaboration to achieve the defined objectives. This funding initiative is in line with the 'Programme of Cooperation' signed by the two agencies on 25 October 2012.

Eligibility

- The participating entities/organisations have to be legal entities as per Indian law (for Indian applicants). The following entities are eligible:
 - Government of India-supported or recognised (public or private) academia, research organisations, and urban or other local bodies.
 - Government of India-recognised not-for-profit organisations, NGO(s), voluntary organisation(s), trust(s), and research foundations with research as one of their imperative mandates.
- Public and/or private universities and research organisations must have a well-established research support system for basic or applied research. Submission of proof of establishment under Indian statute, recognition documents and registration in the Government of India's Public Finance Management System (PFMS, <https://pfms.nic.in>) are obligatory.
- The Indian private R&D performing institutions and not-for-profits, NGO(s), voluntary organisation(s), trust(s), and research foundations should have experience of at least three years in scientific research, teaching, training and extension activities. Proof of registration at 'NGO DARPAN' of NITI Aayog (<http://ngodarpan.gov.in/>), certificate of registration under Society Registration Act, certificate of DSIR in-house R&D recognition, and registration at the Government of India's PFMS are obligatory.
- Research centres and academic organisations headquartered and owned outside India with their subsidiaries in India, or vice versa, are not eligible to receive funding from DBT under this programme.

Support

- DBT will provide (grant-in-aid) 100% of the approved budget cost to eligible organisations.
- Budget should be commensurate with the workload, objectives of the project, and cost of participation.
- Eligible costs for funding include capital expenditure (equipment), staff, consumables, travel (domestic and international travel with local hospitality), contingency, overheads, outsourcing, and others.

- Academia can factor in additional sub-heads (under 'others' category) such as training and awareness, workshops, publications, and review meetings under expenditure towards requirements of the project.

Duration

DBT will fund Indian investigators as per requirement of the project. The prescribed project duration is up to **three years**.

Deadline

Proposals are accepted **throughout the year**.

Website

- <https://dbtindia.gov.in/latest-announcement/call-proposal-fundamental-research-under-bilateral-program-germany-dbt-dfg>
- https://dbtindia.gov.in/sites/default/files/Funding_opportunities_DBT-DFG.pdf

5.1.2. Indo-Australian Biotechnology Fund Collaborative Research Projects (DBT/DIIS)

The Indo-Australian Biotechnology Fund (IABF) is managed jointly by the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India and Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (DIIS), Government of Australia. Since its establishment in 2006, IABF has supported collaborative, leading-edge research between scientists in Australia and India across a range of jointly agreed upon priority areas. It has also helped to build linkages between premier research and educational institutions in both countries.

In Round 14, DBT participated along with BIRAC for funding academia as well as industry.

Eligibility

- Indian and Australian consortium partners of differing expertise can apply. The project parties should be legal entities and independent of each other, with base operations in their respective countries.
- Applicants may include institutes, public/private companies, universities and/or state/territory-funded research organisations.
- Joint applications involving more than one Indian partner are acceptable, provided the lead applicant is the main driver of the project and is eligible to apply.
- Every application must have at least one Australian partner.

Support

Applicants from research institutes, academia, or not-for-profit research organisations will be funded by DBT subject to fulfilment of their eligibility conditions and verifiable documents. Companies or start-ups will be funded by BIRAC (on a matching grant for costs above ₹ 50 lakhs). Australian partners will be funded by DIIS.

Duration

The project duration is for a maximum of **three years**.

Deadline

The call for applications with details is advertised on the website of DBT.

Website

- <https://dbtindia.gov.in/latest-announcement/indo-australian-biotechnology-fund-collaborative-research-projects-round-14>
- <https://dbtindia.gov.in/sites/default/files/Indo-US%2520Vision%2520FOA%25202021.pdf>

5.1.3. India-U.S. Collaborative Vision Research Program (DBT & NEI-NIH)

The India-U.S. Collaborative Vision Research Program driven by DBT and the National Eye Institute-National Institutes of Health (NEI-NIH) has been instituted to encourage bilateral collaborations between institutions in the United States and India. The aim is to advance science and technology that is important in understanding, preventing, and treating blinding **eye diseases, visual disorders**, and their complications.

This program seeks multiple principal investigator applications from institutions of both countries to collaboratively conduct research on the basic biology and/or genetics of **ophthalmic diseases**. Basic, translational, or epidemiological research may be proposed.

Eligibility

Indian entities eligible to participate:

- Government of India-supported or recognised (public/private) academia and research organisations.
- Government of India-recognised not-for-profit organizations, NGO(s), voluntary organisation(s), trust(s), or research foundations with research as one of their imperative mandates.

U.S. entities eligible to participate:

- Any natural or legal person/entity (e.g. companies (big or small), research organisations, universities, NGO(s)) regardless of their place of residence or establishment in the U.S..
- These organisations must possess the operational and financial viability to carry out the research tasks that they propose.

Details of the eligibility conditions (including those of program directors/principal investigators) and other registration requirements can be found [here](#).

Support

- Budget of the proposed project should be commensurate with the work, objectives, and cost of participation; however, application budgets are limited to **\$ 250,000** annual direct cost.
- For Indian collaborators, funding is available for capital expenditure (equipment), staff, consumables, travel (both domestic and international), contingency, and overheads as per DBT format.

Duration

The project duration is limited to **three years**.

Deadline

Applications are sought **once a year**. For the latest timelines, please visit the funding agency website.

Website

- <https://dbtindia.gov.in/latest-announcement/funding-opportunity-announcementfoa-2021-under-indo-us-collaborative-vision>
- <https://dbtindia.gov.in/sites/default/files/Indo-US%20Vision%20FOA%202021.pdf>
- <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PAR-21-249.html>

5.1.4. India Collaborative R&D Program (DST & ASEAN)

India has been the dialogue partner for ASEAN (Association of SouthEast Asian Nations) since 1992 and in 2012, the relations were declared to be enhanced to a strategic level. Under a plan of action, both sides agreed to cooperate in addressing common and emerging challenges to contribute to overall peace, stability and prosperity. To this end, the objectives of ASEAN-India Science, Technology and Innovation cooperation are based on following principles:

- To encourage and promote **cooperation in science, technology and innovation** through joint research activity and development in cross-sectoral areas such as health, communicable and emerging infectious diseases, environmental management, climate change adaptation and mitigation measures, agricultural technologies, alternative energy, biodiversity, food processing, advanced materials for development of value-added products, and space technology and applications.
- To encourage and promote **cooperation in biotechnology** through capacity building and joint research and development for mutual benefit.
- To undertake activities and develop programs/projects under the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund.

In order to support collaborative R&D and to facilitate sharing of advanced research facilities among researchers of ASEAN member states and India, India and ASEAN instituted the ASEAN-India Collaborative R&D Program. The following are the major goals of this program:

- To intensify the interaction and scientific cooperation between Indian and ASEAN member states.
- To connect the existing but separately-funded research projects in India and ASEAN member states.
- To enhance the academic training and development of young scholars.

Eligibility

- Scientists with an appointment as a faculty member at an eligible Indian/ASEAN member state institution can apply as principal investigator. The appointment of the principal investigator must last at least until the end of the proposed project.
- Additionally, the project may include at least one PhD student or postdoctoral scientist on each side. The total number of participants on each side should not exceed two.
- Eligible institutions in India are universities, public-funded research institutes and laboratories, and educational/academic research institutes.
- Eligible institutions in ASEAN member states are research institutions, universities, and other research and academic institutions that are eligible to receive funding through the ASEAN Secretariat.

Support

- Funds are provided to support the mobility of researchers from India to the partnering ASEAN member state and vice versa.
- Some incremental funding is provided to the Indian principal investigator towards salary for scientific staff (one JRF/SRF/RA/post-doc), accessories and minor components, add-ons to existing equipment (up to **₹ 0.5 million**), and chemicals and consumables (up to **₹ 0.3 million** per year).
- General financial norms to support the mobility of project participants are as follows:
 - o International airfare by lowest economy class from the place of work in the sending country to the place of work in the receiving country will be provided. This includes visa fees, overseas medical insurance, and domestic travel related to international travel.
 - o Living expenses (local hospitality) for staying in the respective visiting countries will be supported—**₹ 6,000** per day (all inclusive) for senior researchers (PhD degree holders and those in regular positions at the respective institute/university) and **₹ 5,000** per day (all inclusive) for junior researchers (PhD students and postdocs).

Duration

The duration of the proposed project can be up to a period of **24 months**. No extension with or without additional cost beyond 24 months will be considered. Only no-cost extension for a maximum period of 6 months can be considered, based on the technical progress of the project.

Deadline

There is no specific deadline for submitting project proposals. The completed joint applications can be submitted to the ASEAN Secretariat and DST during **any time of the year**.

Website

<https://aistic.gov.in/ASEAN/aistdfCollaborative>

5.1.5. India-Japan Cooperative Science Programme (DST & JSPS)

The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, New Delhi and the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) conduct the India-Japan Cooperative Science Programme (IJCSPP) to promote **bilateral scientific collaboration** between Indian and Japanese scientists. Under this programme, applications are invited for joint research projects and joint workshops/seminars.

Eligibility

- The joint application must include one Indian and one Japanese principal investigator, who will be responsible for the technical as well as administrative coordination of the project, and its periodic scientific and financial reporting to DST and JSPS, respectively.
- The principal investigator and other investigators in India should be scientists/faculty members working in regular capacity at universities/deemed universities/academic institutes, national R&D laboratories/institutes, or private non-profit institutions that carry out R&D activities. It is preferred that a member of the project team may be designated as co-principal investigator. The Indian principal investigator should not retire or leave the parent institute during the proposed duration of the project.
- The Japanese principal investigators must be full time researchers employed at universities or other research institutions recognized by JSPS. Further details with respect to Japanese participants are available at the JSPS website (<https://www.jsps.go.jp/english/>).
- The Indian and Japanese principal investigators must submit the same project proposal to the respective authorities responsible for implementation of the executive programme. Proposals submitted in only one country will not be considered for evaluation.
- The projects must refer to activities to be completed within the period of validity of the executive programme and must be drafted in English.
- Each principal investigator must submit one proposal only. All the applicants must fulfil national eligibility rules to apply for mobility grants. Proposed collaborations should build on and reinforce the already existing research activities between the teams in both countries and should contribute with significant added value to these activities. Funding will be granted within the limits of available annual resources of each party.

Support

- The sending side will provide the international travel cost and the receiving side will provide local hospitality including accommodation charges, per diem, and local travel.
- DST provides support in terms of costs for the exchange of researchers. The contingency finance is **₹ 25,000** per year. No other support such as consumables, staff, or equipment should be expected or proposed under the mobility programme.
- For Indian researchers, the cost of international airfare to and from the designated research location, visa fees, airport taxes, overseas medical insurance premium for the approved visit duration, and airport transfers in India will be provided.

- For joint workshops/seminars to be organised in India, the local travel cost of selected Indian participants and organising expenses may also be considered for support as per DST norms. Due to the ongoing pandemic, virtual workshops/seminars are encouraged.
- For Japanese researchers, the cost of accommodation in a guest house, per diem, and domestic travel expenses in India including airport transfers as per DST norms will be provided.

Duration

The duration of the project is up to **two years**.

Deadline

Applications are accepted **once a year**. For the latest timelines, please visit the website of the funding agency.

Website

<https://dst.gov.in/prize/result-dst-jsps-joint-research-project-2021>

5.1.6. Indo-Russian Joint Research Call for Proposals (DST-RSF)

The Department of Science & Technology (DST), Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India and the Russian Science Foundation (RSF) have concluded a Programme of Cooperation (POC) for funding joint research proposals in India and Russia in the domain of **basic sciences**.

DST and RSF invite active Indian and Russian scientists/researchers to submit proposals for joint research projects in the following areas under DST-RSF cooperation: smart transport and telecommunications, smart healthcare and medicine, new materials, plant and animal biotechnology, clean energy, artificial intelligence, and safe food.

Eligibility

- The project, on each side, is to be implemented by a project team consisting of at least four members and a maximum of up to 10 members. The team should consist of minimum 50% of young scientists/faculty (below **39 years** of age).
- Indian principal investigators should be scientists/faculty members working in regular capacity in universities, academic institutes, and national R&D laboratories/institutes. The Indian principal investigator should not retire or leave the parent institute during the proposed duration of the project.
- The project coordinators on both sides must have published at least 10 research articles in SCI indexed journals in the last five years.
- It is expected that each supported project will result in at least 10 research publications in SCI indexed journals.
- The Indian and Russian team leaders should submit identical applications to their respective nodal agencies, upon consultations, using the respective forms prescribed by DST and RSF. Applications submitted by one side only, not in the prescribed format, and those received after the due date will not be accepted.

Support

- Each project will receive an annual funding of up to **₹ 70,00,000** from DST and up to **₽ 70,00,000** from RSF. This funding will cover the following expenses in connection with a project:
- Consumables, accessories, fellowships and other research expenses: Expenditure by the project team in their country will be borne by the respective country.
- Exchange visit: The sending side will provide return international airfare, accommodation, and per diem. Presently, for an approved visit of Indian scientists to Russia, the agreed expenditure is international fare (from nearest airport to destination city by economy excursion class), cash allowance of \$ 50 per day for visit of less than a week and \$ 40 per day for longer visits, accommodation costs of up to \$ 100 per night (subject to receipt; \$ 125 in case of Moscow/St Petersburg), local transport costs of up to \$ 25 (subject to receipt), and overseas medical insurance by silver class for the visit duration.
- A maximum of 40% of the Indian side's budget may be allowed for consumables.
- Institutional overheads will be provided as per DST norms.

Duration

The duration of each project is **three years**.

Deadline

Call for applications will be notified on the official website of the funding agency.

Website

<https://dst.gov.in/callforproposals/indo-russia-joint-research-call-2021>

5.1.7. IBRO Collaborative Research Grants

The IBRO Collaborative Research Grant program seeks to foster international scientific collaboration and development of human resources within and between the [IBRO regions](#). The main goal of the award is to facilitate **collaboration** between a) two emerging research groups or b) one emerging and one established research group.

The exchange proposed in this program must include bi-directional travel of principal investigators, postdocs, and/or students who plan to work on the scientific collaboration defined in the project application. The exchange must occur within a two-year period. Awards will cover the costs of travel, accommodation, subsistence, and research between the two groups.

Applications from collaborators from two different IBRO regions are open to scientists from all IBRO regions (Asia/Pacific, Africa, Latin America, Pan-Europe and US/Canada).

Eligibility

- Applicants must have been principal investigators for seven years or less. Any extended breaks from research (e.g. maternity, paternity, or adoption leave) is accepted and should be justified in the application.
- At least one research group should be an emerging laboratory.

Support

A funding support of up to **€ 6,000** is available.

Duration

The exchange must occur within a **two-year period**.

Deadline

Call for applications opens in the month of **May**. Please visit the funding agency website for the latest information on application timelines.

Website

<https://ibro.org/ibro-collaborative-research-grants-2021/>

5.1.8. Collaborative Research Programme (ICGEB)

Established in 1988, the Collaborative Research Programme of the International Centre for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (ICGEB) aims to stimulate collaborative research in the [Member States](#) and with the ICGEB component laboratories, to promote the training of young scientists and to facilitate the creation of appropriate research facilities. The ICGEB research grants are a dedicated source of funding to finance projects addressing original scientific problems of particular relevance to the host country and of regional interest.

The programme provides support for research projects in **basic sciences, human healthcare, industrial and agricultural biotechnology, and bioenergy.**

Eligibility

- Applicants for research grant proposals (identified as 'CRPs') should hold positions at universities or research institutes in any of the [ICGEB Member States](#).
- Active collaboration with ICGEB research groups is welcome but is not mandatory. Particular attention will be given to projects addressing issues of interest to specific geographic regions and presented by groups collaborating across more than one country.
- Investigating groups do not qualify for submission of applications if:
 - previously-awarded projects have not been evaluated and satisfactorily concluded;
 - the university or research institute of the principal investigator is based in Italy.
- A special category of **CRP-ICGEB Early Career Return Grants** is intended to fund young researchers with an outstanding career record, who have spent a minimum of two years abroad and have recently returned to an ICGEB Member State, to establish their own independent laboratories.
 - Applicants for Early Career Return Grants should be no more than 40 years of age at the time of application.
 - Applicants should have returned to an ICGEB Member State (except Italy) no more than two years prior to submitting the application.

Support

- Grants are awarded to contribute to the implementation of outstanding scientific research projects. The maximum annual contribution from ICGEB is **€ 25,000**.
- Funds can only be used to cover expenditures that are directly relevant to the project. This may include purchasing consumable items, scientific literature, and basic standard laboratory equipment. Travel and training costs can also be covered.
- Salaries of the principal investigators and infrastructural support (e.g. normal administrative and overhead expenses of the institution, maintenance and rental of capital equipment and building) are not admissible and cannot be funded.

Duration

The maximum duration allowed for the proposed project is **36 months**.

Deadline

A call for applications is launched **yearly**; visit the ICGEB website for more details.

Website

<https://www.icgeb.org/activities/grants/>

5.1.9. Collaborative Scientific Research Programme (IFCPAR/CEFIPRA)

The Indo-French Centre for the Promotion of Advanced Research (IFCPAR) or Centre Franco-Indien pour la Promotion de la Recherche Avancée (CEFIPRA) supports high-quality research groups through collaborative research projects in advanced areas of **basic and applied sciences** to nurture scientific competency. Such projects are empowered through the Collaborative Scientific Research Programme (CSRP). Details on the domains of science and technology supported under the programme and the thematic areas considered as priority are available [here](#).

Eligibility

- The principal and joint collaborators (Indian and French) should have permanent positions in an Indian or French university or an R&D institution.
- They should meet the national-level eligibility criteria with respect to the operation of grants and age of retirement.
- An ORCID/ResearcherID is mandatory for submission of proposals under the programme.

Support (for Indian partners)

- Funding support is provided for staff (JRF/SRF/RA/Master's students) for Indian partners).
- Funding is also provided for recurring expenses including consumables, domestic travel, and other miscellaneous expenses/contingencies.
- International travel is supported.
- Minor equipment and accessories, which are essential for the project with a cost limit of maximum 10% of the total approved budget of the project (**€ 20,000**), is considered for support.

Duration

The support is provided for **three years**.

Deadline

Last dates for application are **15 January** and **15 July** of each year. Please visit the website for further details on timelines.

Website

http://www.cefipra.org/Collaborative_Research.aspx

5.1.10. Industry-Academia Research and Development Programme (IFCPAR/CEFIPRA)

The Industry-Academia Research and Development Programme (IARDP), formerly named Industrial Research Programme (IRP), of IFCPAR/CEFIPRA was launched in 2002 to support collaborative research programmes involving both industry and academia of India and France. The programme has worked as an enabling platform for the organisations in both countries to realise their potential in terms of product and process development. It has facilitated innovation and risk uptake by industries and also brought private industries, public institutions, and the governments under one roof to promote research and innovation between India and France. The thrust domain of this programme includes **all areas of technology of interest to industry**.

Eligibility

- The project proposals that can be submitted in the framework of this programme should preferably involve at least one industrial partner and one research institute each from India and France (i.e. a 2+2 model). However, project proposals not fulfilling this 2+2 model are also eligible (at least one industrial partner either in France or in India and a research institute from the other country) but the proposal documents should clearly justify the situation of not fulfilling this 2+2 model. Further, the scope of work and responsibilities of each participating partner must be highlighted.
- The proposals must be innovative and industry-driven, towards the development of or substantial improvement of new products and processes.
- In the case of academic collaborators, the principal collaborators and joint collaborators should hold permanent positions as scientists/faculty members in universities/deemed universities, academic institutes, or national R&D laboratories/institutes.

Support

- Funding support of up to **€ 200,000** is provided under this programme. However, funding beyond this range may be given to outstanding proposals as exceptional cases.
- For the Indian institute collaborator, funding support is provided for staff (budget as per CEFIPRA rate), consumables, contingency, equipment, and travel (budget as per CEFIPRA rate).

Duration

The duration of the solution-driven proposals should be for a maximum period of **three years**.

Deadline

Applications are sought **once a year**. Please visit the funding agency website for the latest timelines.

Website

http://www.cefipra.org/Industry_Academia.aspx

5.1.11. Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty Scheme (SERB)

The Visiting Advanced Joint Research (VAJRA) Faculty Scheme of SERB aims to bring a strong international connection to the R&D ecosystem of India. The scheme offers overseas scientists, faculty members, and R&D professionals (including non-resident Indians and overseas citizens of India) adjunct/visiting faculty assignments to undertake high-quality collaborative research in public-funded academic and research institutions in India. The VAJRA faculty members are mandated to engage in collaborative research in cutting edge areas of **science and technology** including interdisciplinary areas of priority such as **energy, water, health, security, nutrition, materials, and manufacturing** with one or more Indian collaborators. The VAJRA faculty members are expected to co-guide research students, and they may also be involved in technology development, innovation, and start-ups.

Eligibility

- The scheme is open to overseas scientists, faculty members, and R&D professionals including non-resident Indians and overseas citizens of India.
- The overseas scientist or faculty should be an active researcher working in a leading academic/research/industrial organisation with significant accomplishments in research and development.
- The Indian collaborator(s) should be regular faculty/researchers in a public-funded academic/research institution, with significant ongoing research in the area of research/work of the VAJRA faculty.

Support

- Support is available as an amount of **\$ 15,000** in the first month of residence and **\$ 10,000** in each of the subsequent two months.
- If the assignment is for shorter durations, the amount will be provided on a pro-rata basis.
- No separate support is provided for travel, accommodation, and medical/personal insurance. However, the host institution may consider providing additional support (e.g. highly-subsidised on-campus/nearby off-campus accommodation).
- One research visit by the Indian host to the institute of the VAJRA faculty for a period not less than a week and not exceeding 30 days will be supported.
- Student mobility (at both doctoral and post-doctoral level) across labs is also supported.
- A research contingency grant of **₹ 5 lakhs** per year of research visit per VAJRA faculty is also provided to the hosting Indian collaborator.
- The VAJRA faculty is also provided a support of **₹ 1 lakh** to give lectures in their area of expertise at the host institution.

Duration

- The initial assignment will be for a period of **one year** extendable to subsequent years based on the collaborative outcome and interest.
- The residency period of the VAJRA faculty in the host institution will be for a minimum of **one month** and a maximum of **three months** every year.

Deadline

Applications for this scheme can be submitted **throughout the year**.

Website

- <https://www.serbonline.in/SERB/vajra>
- <http://serb.gov.in/vajra.php>

5.1.12. Shastri Institutional Collaborative Research Grant (SICI)

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) offers the Shastri Institutional Collaborative Research Grant (SICRG) for faculty members/academics from **all disciplines** of SICI's Canadian and Indian member institutions. This grant is to support and encourage institutional collaboration for a period of two years in R&D in the areas in which institutions from [SICI's Indian and Canadian Member Council](#) can benefit. Additionally, this grant intends to fill information gaps for policy makers and others influencing the policy-making process.

Proposals can be developed and submitted from all domains of knowledge/disciplines under this programme; details can be found [here](#).

Through this programme, SICI provides a grant to start research at a rudimentary level. Hence, it will be appreciative if the applicant can try to arrange additional contributions from other sources and from their own institution also.

Eligibility

- The proposed SICRG projects must involve a bi-national research initiative in any of the fields mentioned [here](#).
- The faculty members/academics/researchers of [Canadian](#) and [Indian](#) member institutions of SICI and their constituent colleges/institutes are eligible to apply for this grant.
- The applicant and co-applicant should be full-time faculty members of a Canadian or Indian member institution.
- The applicants must involve young faculty/research scholars/students in the proposed project.
- The project proposal must clearly address the feasibility of the proposed project with an undertaking to complete it within the stipulated period of two years commencing from the date of notification of the award.

Support

A grant of **₹ 10 lakhs** is given; the disbursement of the grant is done in two equal installments of **₹ 5 lakhs** each year. Additional contributions from the applicants' institutions to the project are encouraged.

Duration

The period of the collaborative research project will be **two years**.

Deadline

The call for applications is live **once a year**. Please visit the funding agency website for the latest timelines.

Website

<https://www.shastriinstitute.org/Shastri-institutional-collaborative-research-grant>

5.2. International Exchange Grants

5.2.1. Indo-US Professorship in Microbiology (ASM-IUSSTF)

The American Society for Microbiology (ASM) in partnership with the Indo-US Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF) launched the ASM-IUSSTF Indo-US Professorship in Microbiology to broaden scientific collaboration between India and the United States through travel grants that support research and teaching partnerships. This program is open to ASM members and non-members alike and is provided under the following two categories:

Visiting Teaching Professorship provides microbiologists in India and the United States with an opportunity to visit institutions in the other country to teach an interactive short course on a topic in any of the **microbiological disciplines**.

Visiting Research Professorship provides support to microbiologists in India and the United States to conduct a novel research project in partnership with colleagues at a research facility in the other country.

Eligibility

- Researchers and faculty members who are scientifically recognised in the area of microbiology and actively engaged in teaching at the post-secondary level can apply for the visiting teaching professorship.
- Researchers actively involved in microbiological sciences can apply for the visiting research professorship. Preference is given to early career scientists who have obtained a PhD or other equivalent academic degree within the past 10 years.

Support

- A grant up to **\$ 5000** is provided to cover travel costs, visa, and contingencies.
- Funds must be matched by the host institution. Matching funds provided by the host institution may be in-kind contributions such as housing and board for the visiting professor, supplies, facilities, and administrative support.

Duration

The duration for the visiting teaching professorship is **one to two weeks** and for visiting research professorship, it is a minimum of **six weeks**.

Deadline

The application opens **once a year**. Please visit the funding agency website for the latest information on application deadlines.

Website

<https://www.iusstf.org/program/asm-iusstf-indo-us-professorship-in-microbiology>

5.2.2. BBSRC India Partnering Award

The international partnering awards scheme of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) enables leading BBSRC-supported research groups to forge long-term relationships with international scientists in areas of research that are of direct relevance to BBSRC's current scientific strategy. The partnering awards should provide benefit to BBSRC-funded research by establishing long-term partnerships that will lead to the development of new collaborative research programmes.

The BBSRC India partnering award is for current BBSRC research grant holders to develop partnership links with laboratories in India.

Eligibility

- Applications must be made by a principal investigator who is currently in receipt of BBSRC research funding. In addition, the associated BBSRC grant must have started before the application deadline and must have at least six months remaining from the start of the award.
- The following applicants are eligible to apply:
 - o principal investigators on an active BBSRC responsive mode research grant;
 - o principal investigators on an active BBSRC themed research grant;
 - o recipients of a fellowship award from BBSRC;
 - o principal or co-investigators on a current BBSRC strategic longer and larger or initiative grant with funding of over £1 million;
 - o principal or co-investigators on a current BBSRC institute strategic programme grant at National Institute of Bioscience: Babraham Institute, Institute of Biological Environmental and Rural Sciences, John Innes Centre, Roslin Institute, Rothamsted Research, The Earlham Institute, The Pirbright Institute, and Quadrum Institute.

The complete details of the eligibility criteria for BBSRC funding can be found in the BBSRC research grants guide.

Support

The grant provides funding of up to **£ 30,000** for up to four years to support collaborative activities including:

- travel for one or more investigators in either direction;
- visits and access to facilities;
- scoping studies;
- workshops and networking;
- researcher exchanges.

Duration

The funding is provided for **four years**.

Deadline

Please visit the funding agency website for details on timelines.

Website

<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/bbsrc-india-partnering-award/>

5.2.3. Research Stays for University Academics and Scientists (DAAD)

The aim of this programme of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) is to support short-term research stays and thus promote the exchange of experience and networking among colleagues.

Eligibility

- University teachers and established academics and scientists who have completed a doctoral degree and work at a university or research institute in their home country are eligible.
- The research project must be coordinated with an academic host institute in Germany. The applicant must be provided with a workplace.

Support

- A monthly scholarship of **€ 2,000** is available for assistant teachers, assistant professors, and lecturers. For professors, this amount is **€ 2,150**.
- Health insurance coverage is mandatory in Germany. If the applicant does not have a corresponding home health insurance, they will be insured by DAAD. The costs will be deducted from the scholarship payment.

Duration

The length of the grant is generally **one to three months**; the length of the grant is decided by a selection committee and depends on the project in question and the applicant's work schedule.

Deadline

Application deadlines are updated **at least once a year**. In most cases, they are in the same period as the previous year:

- **5 October** (for stays that start between March and July of the following year).
- **8 April** (for stays that start between August of the same year and January of the following year).

Website

<https://www2.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/datenbank/en/21148-scholarship-database/?origin=4&status=5&subjectGrps=&daad=&q=&page=1&detail=50015456#voraussetzungen>

5.2.4. IBRO-APRC Exchange Fellowship

The IBRO Exchange Fellowships enable high-quality early career scientists from diverse geographic and scientific areas to broaden the scope of their training in **neuroscience** by working for 4–6 months abroad in established laboratories. Both the applicant and the host laboratory must be within the Asia-Pacific Region.

Selection for the receipt of this fellowship is based on the academic credentials of the applicant and the host, as well as the quality of the research proposal with a structured research plan. Priority is given to applicants from less-developed and less well-funded countries. Strong justification must be made by the applicant that they will return home after the exchange, bringing with them new knowledge and skills to advance neuroscience in their home countries.

Eligibility

- Postdoctoral fellows or junior faculty are eligible. Senior PhD students with a good publication record and strong justification for the exchange program are also considered.
- Applicants must be aged **45 years or younger** (plus time taken for parental leave).
- Letter of acceptance from the host laboratory and letters of reference are necessary.

Support

Up to **\$ 8,500** is available. The award may vary depending on the country in which the successful candidate works. The grant is used along with matching funds from the host laboratory to defray the cost of travel and to subsidize living costs.

Duration

The duration of the fellowship varies from **four to six months**.

Deadline

The application opens **once a year** in the month of March. Please visit the funding agency website for the latest information on application deadlines.

Website

<https://ibro.org/ibro-aprc-exchange-fellowships-2021/>

5.2.5. Jawaharlal Nehru Birth Centenary Visiting Fellowship (INSA)

The “Jawaharlal Nehru Birth Centenary Visiting Fellowship” was established in 1989 by Indian National Science Academy (INSA) to commemorate Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru’s support for science. This fellowship enables the academy to project the progress made by India in science and technology in the countries abroad

Eligibility

A search committee appointed by the President, INSA, selects the name of a distinguished scientist for the fellowship for the ensuing year in any field of science and technology.

Support

- INSA would meet the cost of return passage of the awardee from the place of duty to the place of last destination.
- If the awardee desires to visit a country with whom INSA has an exchange programme, the cooperating academy/organisation of that country would be requested to provide local hospitality for a period up to 4 weeks.
- Cost of travel expenses including visa, insurance, and per diem will be paid as per the norms of the Government of India.

Duration

The scientists selected by INSA under this fellowship would be deputed to undertake a visit for a period of up to **four weeks** in one or two countries to be specified each year.

Deadline

One fellowship is awarded **once in three years**. Please visit the funding agency website for latest information on the application deadline.

Website

- <https://www.insaindia.res.in/international2.php>
- https://www.insaindia.res.in/pdf/Jawaharlal_Nehru_Visiting%20fellowship.pdf

5.2.6. Research Fellowship Program (MIF)

The Matsumae International Foundation (MIF), founded by Dr Shigeyoshi Matsumae, started the Research Fellowship Program in 1980. The program is aligned to realise Dr Matsumae's concept of 'Towards A Greater Understanding of Japan and a Lasting World Peace'.

Eligibility

- Applicants of non-Japanese nationality who meet all the eligibility requirements are invited to apply.
- Applicants must obtain a 'Letter of Invitation' from their host institution in Japan.
- Applicants must hold a PhD degree.
- Applicants must be **49 years old or younger** at the time when the application documents are submitted.
- Applicants must have sufficient abilities in English or Japanese.
- Applicants should not have past or current experiences of staying in Japan (except for short-term stays such as sightseeing and conferences).
- Applicants must have an occupation in their home country, return there upon completion of the fellowship tenure, and should contribute to the development of their country.

Support

- A monthly allowance of **¥ 220,000** is provided for living expenses and research material costs.
- The following overseas travel accident/sickness insurance are provided:
 - Personal accident insurance with death benefit and medical treatment.
 - Sickness insurance with death benefit and medical treatment.
- Round-trip air tickets are provided in economy class for the most direct and economical route between the nearest international airport from the successful applicant's domicile and Tokyo.
- Upon arrival, a start-up fund of **¥ 120,000** is provided to cover the initial costs to start a new research stay in Japan.

Duration

The duration of the fellowship is **three to six months** within the period specified in the call for applications each year.

Deadline

Please visit the funding agency website for details on timelines.

Website

<http://www.mif-japan.org/fellowship/announcement/?hl=en>

5.2.7. International Exchange Scheme (Royal Society)

Under its International Exchange Scheme, the Royal Society funds scientists based in the UK who want to stimulate collaborations with leading scientists overseas through either a one-off visit or bilateral travel.

Eligibility

- Research must be within the Royal Society's remit of **natural sciences**, which includes but is not limited to biological research, chemistry, engineering, mathematics, and physics. For a full list, please see the breakdown of subject groups and areas supported by the Royal Society.
- Applicants for this scheme, including the overseas co-applicant, must:
 - hold a PhD or have equivalent research experience;
 - hold a fixed or permanent contract at an eligible organisation for the duration of the project (ineligible organisations include industrial, private and commercial organisations, university spin-out companies and government bodies);
 - be based in the respective countries at the time of the application.
- Collaborations should be based on a single project and travel can only take place between the UK and a country where the overseas collaborator is based. In the case of cost share applications, a relationship between both parties should already be established prior to making an application.

Support

The funding available is dependent upon the length of the visit as follows:

- up to **£ 3,000** for one-off travel lasting up to three months.
- up to **£ 6,000** for multiple visits to be completed within one year.
- up to **£ 12,000** for multiple visits to be completed within two years and cost share projects fixed at two years.

Duration

The duration of funding can vary from **three months to two years**.

Deadline

Please visit the funding agency website for details.

Website

<https://royalsociety.org/grants-schemes-awards/grants/international-exchanges/>

5.2.8. Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowships (USIEF)

The Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Fellowships of United States-India Educational Foundation (USIEF) aim to provide Indian faculty, researchers, and professionals the opportunity to teach, conduct research, or carry out a combination of teaching and research at a US institution. Depending on the US host institution, it is likely that the grantee may contribute towards developing curriculum, and conducting workshops and seminars. Applications can be submitted under a number of fields as listed [here](#). The fellowship is granted under the following four categories:

Research

Applicants must demonstrate the relevance of the proposed research to India and/or the US, its benefit to the applicant's institution, the feasibility of accomplishing the research goal within the stipulated period, and the need to carry out the research in the US.

Teaching

Indian academics and professionals contribute to the internationalisation of the curriculum at their US host institutions and the understanding of recent developments not just in India but globally. The recipient will be affiliated as a visiting scholar at a US institution and will teach courses individually or team-teach.

Research and Teaching

Applicants will carry out a combination of research and teaching activities at the US host institution. They must specify the percentage of the grant for each activity and define this in the project statement. Teaching could include courses (individually or team-taught) or a series of seminars at the US institution.

Flex Awards

Flex Awards are designed for scholars who require multiple visits to the US and for those who find it difficult to leave their home institutions during the academic year. This option allows grants to be conducted over short segments, preferably during the fall and/or spring semesters. Interested applicants should clearly indicate plans for Flex in their project statement, including a project timeline. Flex grant parameters can be found [here](#).

Eligibility

- Faculty/researchers must have a PhD or equivalent published work with at least five years of relevant teaching/research experience.
- Professionals outside academia must have a Master's degree or equivalent published work with recognised professional standing and at least five years of relevant experience.
- The applicant should upload a recent significant publication (copy of paper/article) in the online application (not exceeding 30 pages).
- If the applicant is employed, they must follow the instructions carefully regarding employer's endorsement. The employer must indicate that leave will be granted for the fellowship period. The applicant must obtain endorsement from the appropriate administrative authority on the 'Letter of Support' from the home institution.

Support

- The fellowships provide a J-1 visa support, a monthly stipend, an accident and sickness program for exchanges as per US Government guidelines, a round-trip economy class air travel (two round-trip economy class air tickets for Flex), a modest settling-in allowance, and a professional allowance.
- Subject to availability of funds, in case of grantees on eight- or nine-month grants, a dependent allowance and international travel may be provided for one accompanying eligible dependent provided the dependent is with the grantee in the US for at least 80% of the grant period.
- Flex grantees are not eligible for dependent benefits.

Duration

These fellowships are for a period of **four to nine months**.

Deadline

The application opens **once a year** and generally closes in the month of July. Please visit the website of USIEF for the latest information on application deadlines.

Website

<https://www.usief.org.in/Fulbright-Nehru-Academic-Professional-Excellence-Fellowships.aspx>

5.2.9. Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowship (USIEF)

USIEF administers the Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowships to build long-term capacity to address **climate change-related** issues in India and the US. The objective of this program is to promote mutual understanding between the two countries through exchange of knowledge and professional talent.

The Fulbright-Kalam Climate fellowship fields include, but are not limited to, energy studies, earth sciences, geology, environmental sciences, renewable energy, smart cities, agriculture, public policy, environmental engineering, and disaster-resilient infrastructure.

The fellowships are available for doctoral research, post-doctoral research, and academic and professional excellence (under categories of research, teaching, research and teaching, and Flex awards.) Details can be found [here](#).

Eligibility

In case of fellowships for academic and professional excellence, the following are the eligibility criteria:

- Faculty/researchers must have a PhD or equivalent published work with at least five years of relevant teaching/research experience.
- Professionals outside academia must have a Master's degree or equivalent published work with recognised professional standing and at least five years of relevant experience.
- The applicant should upload a recent significant publication (copy of paper/article) in the online application (not exceeding 30 pages).
- If the applicant is employed, they must follow the instructions carefully regarding employer's endorsement. The employer must indicate that leave will be granted for the fellowship period. The applicant must obtain endorsement from the appropriate administrative authority on the 'Letter of Support' from the home institution.

To understand the eligibility requirements for availing the fellowship for doctoral or postdoctoral research, please see the details provided [here](#).

Support

- These fellowships provide a J-1 visa support, a monthly stipend, an accident and sickness program for exchanges as per US Government guidelines, a round-trip economy class air travel between India and the US, a modest settling-in allowance, and a professional allowance.
- Selected doctoral scholars will have opportunities to audit non-degree courses, conduct research, and gain practical work experience in suitable settings in the US.
- In case of postdoctoral research and academic and professional excellence grantees, subject to availability of funds, a dependent allowance and international travel may be provided for one accompanying eligible dependent provided the dependent is with the grantee in the US for at least 80% of the grant period.
- Flex grantees are not eligible for dependent benefits.

Duration

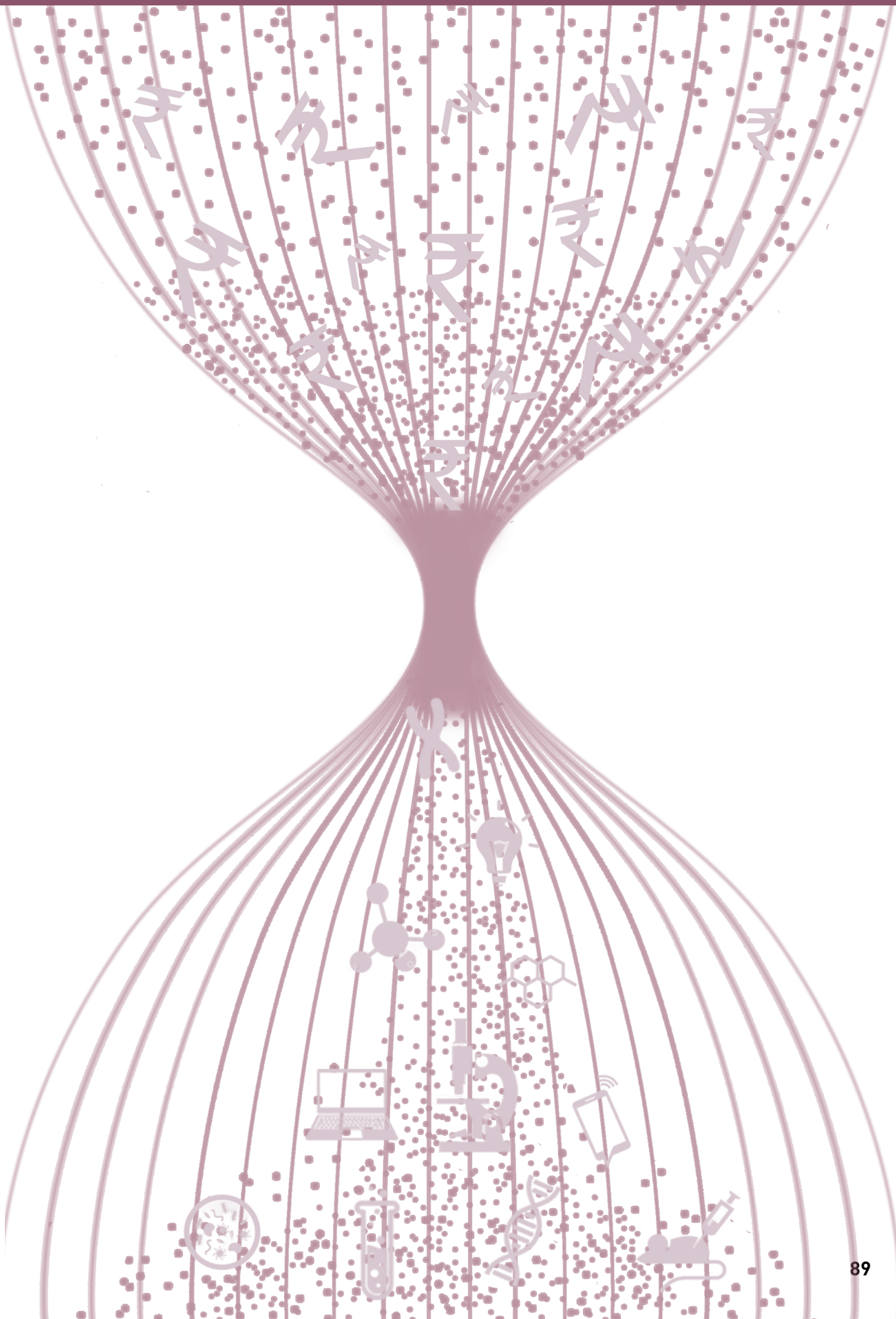
These fellowships are for a period ranging from four to nine months.

Deadline

The call for applications opens once a year and generally closes in the month of July. Please visit the website of USIEF for the latest information on application deadlines.

Website

<https://www.usief.org.in/Fulbright-Kalam-Climate-Fellowship.aspx>





Travel Grants



“Wherever you go becomes a part of you somehow.”

– Anita Desai

Science is a global, collaborative endeavour. It is becoming increasingly important for researchers to develop a global mindset to grow into research leaders. Travel awards play an important role in facilitating diversity in practice and culture, ensuring exposure to best practices in science, building networks for exchange of ideas and skills, and fostering collaborations. This section is a compilation of such travel awards that allow researchers from India to travel to international meetings, conferences and workshops.

6.1. Travel Grant Scheme (CSIR)

CSIR, under this travel grant scheme, provides financial assistance to young Indian researchers (such as PhD students, research associates, and resident doctors) and emeritus scientists or other non-regular researchers for participation or presentation of their research papers in international scientific events (such as conferences, seminars, symposia, workshops, short-term school, courses, and training programs).

Eligibility

- Applicants should be active young Indian researchers (such as PhD students, research associates, and resident doctors), emeritus scientists or other non-regular researchers engaged in research and development.
- Minimum educational qualification required is a postgraduate degree in science or a bachelor's degree in engineering/technology/medicine or equivalent qualification from a recognised university/institution.
- The applicant should not have availed financial assistance for travel support from CSIR in the last 3 years.
- Applicants should have published paper(s) in refereed journals.
- Applicants should have an accepted paper for presentation as a single or lead author or should have received an invitation to chair a session or as a keynote speaker at the event.
- The application form must reach CSIR-HRDG at least 2 months in advance but not more than 4 months in advance of the event. Incomplete or late application submissions may not be considered.
- The application must be signed by the applicant and by duly authorised signatories at the academic institution where the applicant is working. No application will be entertained without the signature of authorized signatories in the column provided.
- The applicant is expected to attend the entire event.

Support

The scheme provides up to full reimbursement of the actual return airfare from the place of work in India to the venue of the event. The journey should be undertaken by the shortest route in excursion/economy class by Air India.

Deadline

Applications must reach CSIR-HRDG between **4 months to 2 months** before the start date of the event.

Website

<https://csirhrdg.res.in/Home/Index/1/InPage/51/14>

6.2. Travel Support Scheme (DBT)

The Travel Support Scheme of DBT provides financial assistance to scientists/researchers involved in **biotechnology** for presenting their research papers at international conferences/seminars/symposia/workshops that are being held outside India and are relevant to the areas of interest and the projects/programmes of DBT. The event should be of international nature and sponsored by foreign governments, international organisations or institutions under the aegis of multilateral, regional, or bilateral arrangements.

Eligibility

- Applicants should be active scientists/researchers engaged in research and development and promotion of biotechnology. Scientists **below the age of 50 years** would be accorded preference.
- Applicants should have a postgraduate degree in science or bachelor's degree in engineering/technology or equivalent qualification.
- Investigators/co-investigators of DBT-supported projects/programmes, chairmen and expert members of the various task forces, biotechnology research promotion committee, and SAC-DBT are also eligible to apply.
- Senior scientists/faculties working in positions under pay band-4 will be provided travel support only if they have an oral paper presentation.
- Applicants should not have availed financial assistance for travel support from the Government of India in the last three financial years.
- Applicants should have an accepted paper for presentation as a single or lead author.
- Applications submitted online (www.dbtctep.gov.in) only will be considered. Proposals submitted physically (hard copy) will not be accepted.

Support

- The scheme provides up to full reimbursement of the actual return airfare in economy/excursion class by Air India to applicants from the airport nearest to their place of work in India to the venue of the conference/seminar/symposia/workshop.
- The grant is restricted to the following slabs:
 - For America, Australia, Canada, and South Africa—**₹ 60,000**
 - For Europe, China, and Russia—**₹ 40,000**
 - For South Asian Countries—**₹ 30,000**

Deadline

The application submission portal is open **throughout the year**. However, applications must be submitted between **24 weeks to 12 weeks in advance** of the event.

Website

<https://www.dbtctep.gov.in/staticTravelGuidelines.htm>

6.3. International Travel Grants (IBRO)

The IBRO International Travel Grant aims to foster **neuroscience** research, especially in less well-funded countries, by providing support to high-quality neuroscientists from diverse geographic and scientific areas (US/Canada region excluded) who wish to participate in international neuroscience meetings (taking place within the timeline specified in the call for applications).

Eligibility

- At least one letter of reference is required in order to be considered for this grant; two is ideal.
- Priority is given to those applicants who have not obtained an IBRO International Travel Grant or an IBRO/SfN Travel Grant within the past three years.
- Multiple applications from a single laboratory are discouraged.

Support

Financial support of up to **€ 1800** is provided.

Deadline

Calls for applications are made **twice a year** (February and August). Please visit the funding agency website for the latest information on application deadlines.

Website

- <http://ibro.org/international/>
- <https://ibro.org/ibro-international-travel-grants-2021-jan-jun/>

6.4. International Travel Scheme (SERB)

The International Travel Support (ITS) scheme of SERB provides financial assistance to Indian researchers for presenting a research paper at an international scientific event (such as a conference, seminar, or workshop) abroad. In addition, support is also provided to young scientists (below 35 years of age on the start date of the event) for attending training programmes, short-term schools, and workshops.

Eligibility

- The applicant should be an active Indian researcher engaged in R&D work in a recognised academic institution or research laboratory in India.
- The applicant should have an invitation for presenting an original scientific paper. Similar invitation is required in the case of young scientists attending training programmes such as short-term courses, summer/winter schools, or workshops.
- The applicant should not have availed financial assistance under this scheme during the last three years.
- The scientific event should be of an international character. Invitations of personal nature such as for carrying out postdoctoral work, informal training programmes/courses, internships, or observerships will not be eligible for support.
- The applicant must have obtained a Master's degree in science or Bachelor's degree in any professional course from a recognised university at the time of submission of application.
- Applications can be submitted within a window of 60–90 days in advance from the start date of the event. However, an applicant who has already submitted a proposal will not be eligible to apply again within the next 90 days from the date of submission of the first application.

Support

- Economy class airfare for the shortest route by Air India, airport tax, and visa fees are provided under this scheme.
- Registration fee as per actuals or ₹ 50,000, whichever is less, will be provided to young scientists (**aged less than 35 years** on the start date of the event) in addition to the above support.
- The support is provided on reimbursement basis as per actual expenditure incurred by the applicant within the guidelines of the scheme. However, taxi fare will not be reimbursed.

Deadline

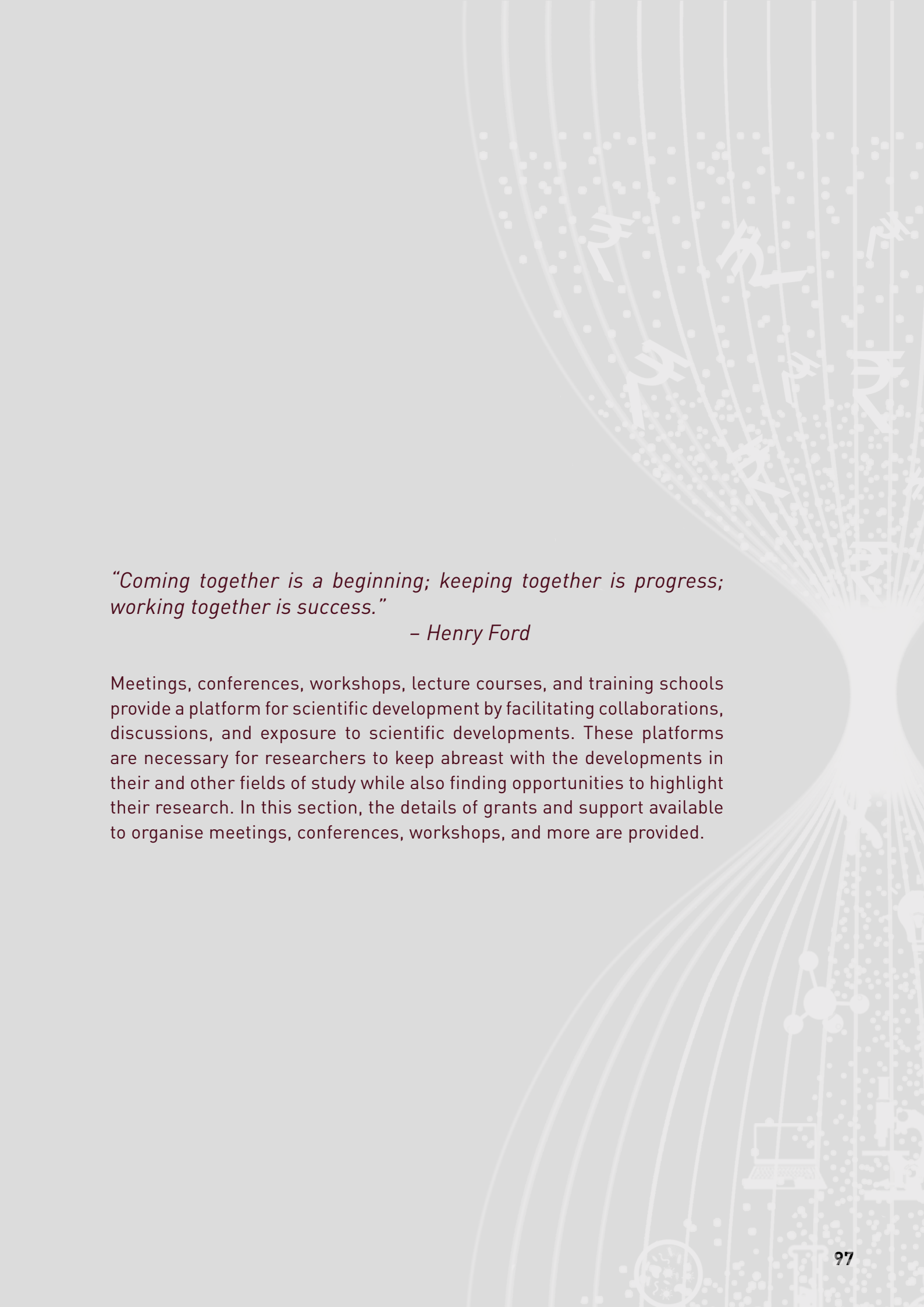
Applications can be submitted within a window of **60–90 days in advance** from the start date of the event. The online application system will not accept early or late submission of applications.

Website

- <https://serbonline.in/SERB/its>
- <https://prism.serbonline.in/RS-ITS>
- <http://serb.gov.in/its.php>



Meeting and Event Support



“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.”

– Henry Ford

Meetings, conferences, workshops, lecture courses, and training schools provide a platform for scientific development by facilitating collaborations, discussions, and exposure to scientific developments. These platforms are necessary for researchers to keep abreast with the developments in their and other fields of study while also finding opportunities to highlight their research. In this section, the details of grants and support available to organise meetings, conferences, workshops, and more are provided.

7.1. Seminars/Workshops/Training Schools (CEFIPRA)

The Centre Franco-Indien pour la Promotion de la Recherche Avancée (CEFIPRA) organizes seminars/workshops on topics of current relevance and interest to both India and France. Such events help in initiating interactions among scientists and technologists of the two nations and are expected to result in collaborative research projects.

Eligibility

- Involvement of at least 4 or 5 leading groups from different institutions of each country is expected.
- Involvement of young scientists of the host country, as some of the attendees, is encouraged.
- Participants are expected to be present during the entire duration of the seminar.
- Seminar proposals must be jointly submitted by a French and an Indian coordinator.
- Seminars can be held either in India or in France.
- There can be a maximum 15–20 participants from the host country and 10–15 participants from the other country.

Support

Please get in touch with the funding agency for details on the support available.

Deadline

The applications are open **throughout the year**. Please visit the funding agency website for further details.

Website

http://www.cefipraonline.in/CEFIPRA/app_srv/cefipra/gl/jsp/seminar_icon_details.jsp

7.2. Symposia Grant Scheme (CSIR)

Under the scheme, CSIR provides financial assistance to universities, academic institutions, colleges, government departments, and registered societies to organise scientific events such as symposia, seminars, conferences, workshops, or any other similar scientific activities that provide a platform/forum to professionals, scientists, and research and educational institutions to share knowledge and experience in various fields of science and technology.

Eligibility

- Faculty or scientists working in Government of India-recognized institutions in the area of scientific education or research (recognition should be by statutory bodies for scientific or technical fields such as UGC, DSIR, MCI, or AICTE).
- Any registered all India society/association/voluntary/professional organisation/trust with proven credentials and experience and registered under Societies Registration or other relevant act, with a minimum 3 years of audited accounts, can apply for support.
- Government departments or undertakings are also eligible.
- No application will be considered if there are pending reports or utilization certificates for prior grants given to the grantee organisation or if it is blacklisted by any Government agency.
- The organizers should have in house expertise in the subject area of the event proposed.

Support

- The scheme provides partial support towards expenses related to organizing scientific events such as travel support, registration fee waiver, promotion (website, brochures, and proceedings), secretarial assistance, local hospitality, and venue charges.
- Capital expenses of any nature such as purchase of laptops, computers, and printers, and fees/honoraria for speakers are not covered under the scheme.

Deadline

Applications must reach the Symposia and Travel Grant Unit (TGSM) unit of CSIR-HRDG at least **2 months in advance but not more than 4 months** in advance.

Website

<https://csirhrdg.res.in/Home/Index/1/InPage/53/14>

7.3. India | EMBO Lecture Courses (EMBO and India Alliance)

The European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) and DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance (India Alliance) jointly fund up to six lecture courses per year in India that are aimed at teaching participants, primarily PhD students and postdoctoral researchers. These courses should provide participants with background and underlying concepts, thereby making the topic accessible to scientists with diverse scientific backgrounds. An India | EMBO lecture course should consist of scientific lectures by experts, poster sessions, student presentations, and additional sessions covering topics such as career options, postdoc fellowships, research ethics, manuscript reviews, technologies for research and more. Practical training sessions (on grant writing, scientific writing, job applications, and presentation skills) can also be included.

Eligibility

- Applications for lecture courses must cover [a topic from the life sciences](#).
- Scientists from anywhere in the world are eligible to apply, independent of their nationality.
- Lecture courses must take place in India.
- The scientific organizing committee must be geographically diverse and come from more than one institute, representing the topics covered in the meeting. At least one of the organizers must be based outside India.
- Attendance of these courses should not exceed 120 participants and the ratio of speakers to participants should be around 1:5.

Support

The maximum core funding available for an India | EMBO Lecture Course is **€ 33,500**. In addition, India Alliance provides up to **₹ 5.5 lakhs (~ € 7,000)** for travel grants, childcare support, and training workshops.

Deadline

The deadlines for submitting the application are **1 March and 1 August each year**. Please visit the website of the funding agency for further details on application timelines.

Website

<https://www.embo.org/funding/funding-for-conferences-and-training/india-embo-lecture-courses/>

7.4. Meetings Support (IBRO)

The IBRO Meetings Support Program supports funding requests for symposia, short courses, workshops, and meetings on important topics in **neuroscience** within the Asia-Pacific (including the Middle East), Africa, Latin America, and Pan-European regions.

Considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, priority will be given to virtual meetings or meetings where the possibility to turn virtual (if necessary) is explicitly contemplated.

Eligibility

- Preference is given to activities that include younger scientists and offer training for scientists from countries with limited resources for research and/or teaching.
- Priority is given to virtual meetings in light of the pandemic.
- Speakers should be balanced in terms of gender and regional representation.
- Funding requests should include individual budgets for speaker's airfare and other associated costs.

Support

Funding up to **€ 1750** is available, which may be used to cover the following expenses:

- travel support for those invited to make plenary lectures, special lectures, or presentations in symposia.
- materials for hands-on training and other associated costs (only for Latin America and Pan-European regions).

Deadline

Please visit the funding agency website for information on timelines.

Website

<https://ibro.org/funding-support/>

7.5. Assistance to Professional Bodies & Seminars/Symposia (SERB)

Scientific events such as seminars, conferences, workshops, and technical meetings help the scientific community to keep abreast with the latest developments in their respective scientific/technical areas and also provide a platform to network with other individuals and research groups for knowledge exchange and collaborations. SERB extends partial financial support, on a selective basis, for organising such national and international events. Academic institutions, research laboratories, professional bodies, and other non-profit organisations engaged in promoting scientific research are eligible for financial support under the scheme. The support is primarily given to encourage participation of young scientists and research professionals in such events along with nominal support for pre-operative expenses such as announcements and brochures.

The primary focus of the scheme is to support events that have a strong orientation towards scientific research in the areas of **basic sciences, engineering, technology, agriculture, and medicines**.

Eligibility

- The applicant should be an Indian citizen residing in India.
- The applicant(s) must hold a regular position in a recognized academic institution or in a national laboratory/recognized R&D institution.
- The application should be submitted not earlier than 180 days and not later than 60 days, before the start date of the event.

Support

Support is provided under the following heads:

- domestic travel for young and senior scientists (Indians only).
- contingencies (stationary items, working tea/lunch, and audio-visuals).
- pre-conference printing (announcements and abstracts).

Deadline

Applications should be submitted **not earlier than 180 days and not later than 60 days**, before the start date of the event.

Website

https://www.serbonline.in/SERB/seminar_symposia

7.6. Scientific Meeting Grants (The Company of Biologists)

The Scientific Meeting Grants of the Company of Biologists finances a range of charitable activities including, but not limited to, in-person or virtual meetings, workshops, and conferences in the fields relevant to its journals. The grant can cover expenses such as those required for plenary or keynote speakers, assistance with travel for early-career researchers, or to reduce (or waive) registration fees.

For important information about the grant, application guidelines, and terms and conditions, please read the [Scientific Meeting Grant applicant handbook](#).

Eligibility

- Individuals who complete the application must be in the organising group for the meeting.
- Applications from professional fundraisers and conference agencies are generally not considered.
- Scientific Meeting Grants are not awarded retrospectively, with decisions taking up to 6 weeks after the deadline date.
- Although there is no restriction on nationality, the funders are unable to pay awards to recipients in jurisdictions, countries, or regions of the world subject to sanctions, embargoes or other political trade restrictions put in place by the United Nations, the EU, or the UK.

Support

Grants in excess of **£ 6,000** are awarded only in exceptional circumstances. Typically, grants are awarded on a sliding scale. For example, meetings with fewer than 100 people may receive up to **£ 2,000**, whereas a meeting with 400 people may receive **£ 4,000**.

As part of the [Sustainable Conferencing Initiative](#), an additional **£ 1,000** may be awarded to organisers who can demonstrate that efforts have been made to reduce the environmental footprint of their event.

Deadline

Please refer to the funding agency website for more details.

Website

- <https://www.biologists.com/grants/meeting-grants/>
- <https://www.biologists.com/wp-content/uploads/2020-Scientific-Meeting-Grant-Handbook.pdf>

7.7. Small Meeting Grants (The Company of Biologists)

The Small Meeting Grants are intended to cover the cost of running a small meeting in any of the fields of the Company's journals. Small meetings will normally be arranged on a small budget and will be a local meeting taking place on one day.

Applications for support for aspects of large meetings are not considered for a Small Meeting Grant. Small Meeting Grants do not support attendance at scientific meetings, conferences, or training courses.

Eligibility

- The individual who completes the form must be the organiser of the meeting.
- Although there is no restriction on nationality, the funders are unable to pay awards to recipients in jurisdictions, countries or regions of the world subject to sanctions, embargoes or other political trade restrictions put in place by the United Nations, the EU, or the UK.

Support

Grants up to **£ 400** are awarded to cover the cost of running a small meeting, either in-person or virtually, within the fields of the Company's journals. This will normally be a local meeting taking place on one day, with a maximum budget of **£ 1,000**.

Deadline

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis; please refer to the funding agency website for more details.

Website

- <https://www.biologists.com/grants/meeting-grants/>
- <https://www.biologists.com/wp-content/uploads/Small-Meeting-Grant-applicant-handbook.pdf>

7.8. Travelling Fellowships (The Company of Biologists)

The Company of Biologists' journals—Development, Journal of Cell Science, Journal of Experimental Biology and Disease Models & Mechanisms—offer Travelling Fellowships to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers for collaborative visits to other laboratories. These fellowships are designed to offset the cost of travel/accommodation and other related expenses. There is no restriction on nationality.

Eligibility

- Applicants should be working in the field of the journal to which they apply and plan to visit another laboratory.
- Only one person per laboratory may apply for funding, per funding round, per journal.
- Applications are strictly limited to one journal, per round of funding, per person.
- Applications will be considered from early-career scientists, which includes graduate students and postdoctoral researchers.
- The application form and all supporting documents must be completed in English

Support

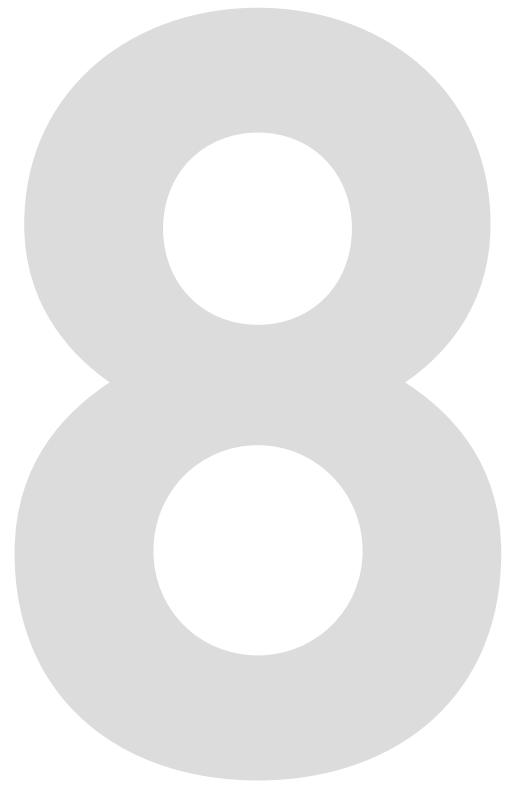
- Travelling Fellowships of up to **£ 2,500** are given.
- Expenses include travel, subsistence, accommodation, visa, bench and user fees. Travel insurance costs are not to be included in the expenses.

Deadline

Please refer to the funding agency website for more details.

Website

<https://www.biologists.com/travelling-fellowships/>



Awards

The background of the page is a light grey color. On the left side, there are several white, curved lines that sweep from the bottom left towards the top right. Scattered along these lines and in the background are various white icons and symbols, including a lightbulb, a chemical structure, a microscope, a DNA helix, a smartphone, a syringe, and some abstract shapes. The text is positioned in the center-right area of the page.

*“Next to excellence is the appreciation of it.”
–William Makepeace Thackeray*

Awards and prizes, which recognise researchers for their outstanding achievements and significant contributions to the advancement of their field, are a celebration of excellence in science. Such awards inspire talented individuals and highlight their work in addition to providing further support and resources. In this section, awards and prizes that recognise the achievements of life science researchers have been compiled.

8.1. ASH Global Research Award

The ASH Global Research Award, instituted by the American Society of Hematology, intends to support the **hematology**-focused careers of ASH members who are trainees or early-career investigators based in countries other than the United States or Canada. Thus, it fosters an inclusive scientific community by supporting leaders from all regions of the world. The award offers a funding structure that accommodates a wide array of innovative, project-based, hematology-related applications, provides support for training, including training in the conduct of clinical trials and research, and supports malignant and non-malignant hematology projects.

Eligibility

- The applicant must be based in a country other than the United States or Canada.
 - US or Canadian citizens who wish to conduct research outside the US and Canada, may now be eligible for the [ASH Scholar Award](#).
 - Those who are not US or Canadian citizens and are temporarily training in the US or Canada can apply to the Global Research Award only if they have an academic position at an institution in their country to which they can return once their studies in the US or Canada are complete (e.g. those who are studying in the US during a joint fellowship between a US university and their home institution).
- The applicant must have an MD, PhD, or MD-PhD (or its equivalent). On the due date of the letter of intent:
 - MD graduation may be no more than 16 years prior to the application, or the applicant may have no more than 10 years of postdoc experience after PhD graduation.
 - MD graduation may be no more than 16 years prior to the application, for applicants holding both MD and PhD degrees.
 - At least one year of experience, for PhD applicants.
- The applicant is or will be an ASH member in good standing at the time of award activation and plans to maintain membership for the duration of the award term. ASH members eligible for this award include:
 - Early-career [International](#) members.
 - [International Associate](#) members.
 - [Active](#) and [Associate](#) members who reside in Mexico and otherwise meet the training and professional experience criteria outlined above.

Support

For projects of one year or less, the applicant may request up to **\$ 100,000**. For projects of more than one year, the applicant may request up to **\$ 150,000**. The amount requested in each application will be assessed to determine whether it is appropriate for the project and for the costs of the region.

Duration

The award length may vary from **six months to three years**, depending on the proposed project needs.

Deadline

Please visit the funding agency website for details on the timeline.

Website

<https://www.hematology.org/awards/career-enhancement-and-training/global-research-award/apply#application>

8.2. Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize (CSIR)

The Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, named after the founder Director of CSIR Dr (Sir) Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, is conferred annually to scientists in India for notable and outstanding contributions to science and technology.

Eligibility

- Any citizen of India engaged in research in any field of science and technology up to the age of **45 years** as reckoned on 31 December of the year preceding the year of the prize is eligible. Overseas citizens of India and persons of Indian origin working in India are also eligible.
- The prize is granted to a researcher who, in the opinion of CSIR, has made notable and outstanding contributions to human knowledge and progress—fundamental and applied—in the particular field of their study/specialization.
- The prize is awarded on the basis of contributions made through work done primarily in India during the five years preceding the year of the award.

Support

Every awardee receives an award of **₹ 5 lakhs**.

Deadline

The prize is conferred **annually**. Candidate nominations received once by CSIR are considered for a period of three years (if eligible age-wise).

Website

- <https://www.csirhrdg.res.in/Home/Index/1/Default/2058/65>
- <https://ssbprize.gov.in>

8.3. Tata Innovation Award (DBT)

The Tata Innovation Fellowship, a highly competitive scheme instituted by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, recognizes and rewards scientists with an outstanding track record in biological sciences. This scheme empowers scientists involved in interdisciplinary work that focuses on finding innovative, commercially-viable solutions to major problems in **healthcare**, **agriculture** and other areas related to **life sciences** and **biotechnology**.

Eligibility

- The fellowship is open to Indian nationals residing in India who are below the age of **55 years** (as on the date specified in the call for applications). The fellowship co-terminates with the superannuation of a fellow in their organization.
- The applicant should possess a PhD in life sciences, agriculture, veterinary science or a Master's degree in medical sciences, engineering or an equivalent degree in biotechnology/related areas. The applicant must have made outstanding contributions with a good publication record in their area of study.
- The candidate must have a regular permanent position in a university/institute/organization and should be engaged in research and development. If a candidate is availing any other fellowship, they will have to opt for only one of the fellowships.
- The applicant should have spent at least 5 years in India before applying for the fellowship.
- The application should provide evidence of outstanding track record and show a commitment to find innovative solutions to major problems in health care, agriculture and other areas related to life sciences and biotechnology.

Support

- The amount of the fellowship is **₹ 25,000** per month in addition to regular salary from the host institute. If an awardee is receiving salary from an international organization, they will be entitled for the research grant (contingency) only.
- A contingency grant of **₹ 6 lakhs** per annum is available for meeting the expenses on consumables, equipment, international and domestic travel, staff, and other contingent expenditure to be incurred in connection with implementation of the ongoing research project under the fellowship.
- The recipients of the Tata Innovation Award are eligible for other regular research grant(s) through extramural and other research schemes of various S&T agencies of the Government of India.

Duration

The duration of the award is **three years**, which is extendable further by two years on a fresh appraisal.

Deadline

The call for applications is made **once every year**. Please visit the funding agency website for announcements and other details.

Website

<https://dbtindia.gov.in/schemes-programmes/building-capacities/awards/tata-innovation-fellowships>

8.4. S. Ramachandran-National Bioscience Award for Career Development (DBT)

The S. Ramachandran-National Bioscience Award for Career Development (previously called National Bioscience Award for Career Development) was instituted by DBT to recognize the outstanding contributions of young scientists (below 45 years of age) engaged in basic and applied research in **biological sciences** including **biotechnology, agriculture, medical sciences and environmental sciences**. The award provides a research grant to boost the research initiatives of scientists, who have made significant contributions in their field of research, towards their career development.

Eligibility

- Any citizen of India who is engaged in basic and applied research in the areas of biosciences and biotechnology in the country is eligible.
- The applicant should have made outstanding contributions in the areas of biosciences/biotechnology during the last 5 years, and the work must have been carried out entirely in India.
- They should be below the age of **45 years** on the closing date of application submission.
- The nominations for applicants that are forwarded through the Head/Executive authority of institutes/scientific organizations/scientific departments/approved scientific academies or societies are considered for selection. Nominations from individuals sponsoring their own names are not considered. The nominations should include a brief project proposal for proposed research for a period of three years.

Support

Each award carries a cash prize of **₹ 2 lakhs**, a citation, and a trophy. In addition, a research project grant of **₹ 15 lakhs (₹ 5 lakhs/year)** is given.

Duration

The duration of the award is **three years**.

Deadline

The nominations open **once a year**. Please visit the funding agency website for the latest timelines.

Website

<https://dbtindia.gov.in/schemes-programmes/building-capacities/awards/national-bioscience-awards-career-development>

8.5. Janaki Ammal-National Women Bioscientist Award (DBT)

The Janaki Ammal-National Women Bioscientist Award (previously called National Women Bioscientist Award) is conferred by DBT in recognition of the contributions of senior and young women scientists in the country who work in the areas of **biology** and **biotechnology**. This award is conferred under two categories—Senior and Young:

National Women Bioscientist Award (Senior Category)

The senior category award recognizes the lifetime contributions of scientists who have done excellent research in the country, with translational research outcomes for the benefit of students and society.

National Women Bioscientist Award (Young Category)

The young category award is given to women scientists below **45 years** of age who have made significant contributions in basic and applied research (with potential for product and technology development) in the areas of biosciences and biotechnology including basic research, agriculture, biomedical and environmental sciences.

Eligibility

- Any citizen of India who is engaged in basic and applied research in the areas of biosciences and biotechnology in the country is eligible. The work (of the last 5 years) for which nomination is made must have been carried out at Indian institutes and acknowledged in publications.
- The senior category award is for excellence in research (not for governance/management of science) and there is no age limit. For the young category, the candidate should be below 45 years of age on the closing date of application submission.
- The nominations from individuals sponsoring their own names are not considered. Nominations for applicants that are forwarded through the Head/Executive authority of institutes/scientific organizations/scientific departments/approved scientific academies or societies are considered for selection.

Support

For the senior category, the award carries a cash prize of **₹ 5 lakhs** along with a citation and trophy. For the young category, the award carries a cash prize of **₹ 1 lakh** with a citation, gold medal and research grant of **₹ 5 lakhs** per annum.

Duration

The research grant under the young category is provided for a period of **five years**.

Deadline

Please visit the funding agency website for the latest timelines.

Website

<https://dbtindia.gov.in/schemes-programmes/building-capacities/awards/national-women-bio-scientist-awards>

8.6. IBRO Early Career Awards

This Award by IBRO intends to support early-career principal investigators by providing supplemental laboratory funding.

Eligibility

- Applicants must have started their first independent research laboratory within the last 5 years.
- Preference is given to early-career investigators who have not previously received, nor expect to receive, substantial support from other sources.

Support

- The award grants an amount of **€ 5,000**, which cannot be spent on travel or conference-related expenses.
- The host institution must agree that no indirect costs/overheads will be charged.
- A report is to be submitted to the IBRO Secretariat within 12 months after receiving the funds.

Deadline

Online applications normally open around **June each year**, approximately one month prior to the deadline. Please visit the funding agency website for the latest information on application deadlines.

Website

<https://ibro.org/ibro-early-career-awards-2021/>

8.7. Young Researcher Award (LTMT)

The Young Researcher Award by the Lady Tata Memorial Trust (LTMT) recognizes and rewards young Indian scientists with an outstanding track record in **biological sciences**, a deep commitment to find innovative solutions to major problems related to **human diseases**, and the potential for high-quality research.

Eligibility

- The award is open to Indian nationals residing in India, who are below the age of **40 years** on the date specified in the call for applications.
- The applicant should possess a PhD in any biological science or a Master's degree in medical sciences or an equivalent degree in biotechnology and related areas. The applicant must have at least 4 years of professional experience in the specific area after obtaining any one of the above-mentioned degrees.
- The applicant must have a regular position in a university/organization/institute in India.
- The applicant should be engaged in research and development and have publications as an independent investigator in India in well-recognized peer reviewed journals of repute. The applicant's work should have contributed to knowledge generation to create significant impact in the field of translational possibilities.
- The applicant should highlight prestigious award(s) and other recognitions such as award(s) of major academies/societies in their applications.
- The awardees are eligible for regular research grants through extramural and other research schemes of various S&T agencies of the Government of India.

Support

- A fellowship of **₹ 25,000** per month is awarded in addition to regular salary from the host institute.
- In addition, a contingency grant of **₹ 7 lakhs** per annum is awarded for meeting the expenses on consumables, minor equipment, international and domestic travel, staff and other contingent expenditure to be incurred in connection with implementation of the research project under the award.

Duration

The duration of the award is initially for **three years**, which is extendable further by two years, after a review by the Trust's Experts' Committee.

Deadline

Please visit the funding agency website to find details on the timelines of the award.

Website

<https://ladytatatruster.tatatruster.org/StaticPageIndia/Awards/8>

8.8. Women Excellence Award (SERB)

The SERB Women Excellence Award recognizes and rewards young women scientists (below age 40) who have excelled in science and received recognition from any of the following National Science Academies in India:

- Indian National Science Academy, New Delhi.
- Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore
- National Academy of Sciences, Allahabad
- Indian National Academy of Engineering, New Delhi
- National Academy of Medical Sciences, New Delhi
- National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, New Delhi

Eligibility

- Only women scientists are eligible for this award.
- The age of the applicant should not exceed **40 years** as on the application submission date.
- Applicants must have recognition from any one or more of the national science academies such as the Young Scientist Medal and Young Associate.

Support

The award provides a research grant of **₹ 5 lakhs** per year and overhead charges of **₹ 1 lakh** per year.

Duration

The duration of the award is **three years**.

Deadline

The applications open **once a year**. Please visit the website of the funding agency for further details on timelines.

Website

https://www.serbonline.in/SERB/Women_excellence?HomePage=New

8.9. SERB Science and Technology Award for Research (SERB)

The SERB Science and Technology Award for Research (SERB-STAR) is a prestigious award instituted by SERB to recognize and reward outstanding performances of the principal investigators of SERB-funded projects. SERB-STAR is an initiative to acknowledge exemplary contributions in research and also to motivate the principal investigators of ongoing projects for outstanding performances in frontier areas of **science** and **engineering**.

Eligibility

- The nominee should have completed an individual-centric SERB project in the previous three financial years with 'excellent' grading. Only the principal investigators of such projects and not the co-investigators will be eligible.
- The nominee must hold a regular academic/research position in a recognized academic institution or national laboratory or any other recognized R&D institution.
- The age of the nominee should be within **40 to 50 years** as on December 31 of the year in which the call is made.
- The principal investigators who have an ongoing fellowship/honorarium such as the JC Bose Fellowship, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize, or Swarnajayanti Fellowship are not eligible for this award.

Support

A fellowship of **₹ 15,000** per month, a research grant of **₹ 10 lakhs** per annum, and overhead charges of **₹ 1 lakh** per annum are provided under this award.

Duration

The duration of the award is **three years**.

Deadline

The applications are open **throughout the year**. Please visit the funding agency's website for further details.

Website

<http://www.serb.gov.in/star.php>

8.10. Technology Translation Award (SERB)

The Technology Translation Award of SERB (SERB-TETRA) is a new scheme that aims to catalyse technology translation in academic settings. SERB-TETRA will empower scientists executing SERB grants, such as CRG, to establish effective, functional, and synergistic working collaborations with industry partners to elevate their breakthrough results and technologies to technology readiness level 5 and beyond.

SERB-TETRA is awarded to select principal investigators who have clearly demonstrated the translational potential of their research (through patents and IPR), have established contact with industrial partners and have identified technology incubators for fast-track graduation of their findings to prototype stage and beyond.

Eligibility

- Submissions under TETRA can be made only by principal investigators of ongoing research grants and all extramural grants completed in the last three years, where the principal investigator holds or has applied for a patent.
- Applicants (principal inventor and/or co-inventor(s)) should be Indian citizens. Foreign nationals (including OCI and NRI) are also eligible to apply provided they fulfil the eligibility criteria notified by SERB (SERB funding guidelines for foreign nationals dated 27 October 2016).
- Applicant(s) must hold a regular academic/research position in a recognized academic institution, national laboratory or in any other recognized R&D institution in India with at least 3 years of service remaining.
- Private academic institutions with valid UGC/AICTE/PCI approval, private R&D institutions with valid DSIR-SIRO recognition, and voluntary and non-governmental organizations registered under the NITI-AAYOG Darpan portal are eligible to host a project.
- The principal and co-investigator(s) should hold a PhD in science, mathematics, or engineering or MD/MS/MDS/MVSc degree at the time of applying for the award.

Support

The award entails an unstructured budget of up to **₹ 15 lakhs** per year (without international travel), including overheads.

Duration

The funding will be provided normally for a period of **two years**.

Deadline

Call for applications are made and awards are granted **once a year**. Please visit the SERB website for the latest information on timelines.

Website

<https://www.serbonline.in/SERB/Tetra>

8.11. TWAS Award

The TWAS Awards by The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) are awarded to individual scientists from developing countries in recognition of outstanding contributions to scientific knowledge in nine fields of sciences (**agricultural sciences; biology; chemistry; earth, astronomy and space sciences; engineering sciences; mathematics; medical sciences; physics and social sciences**) and/or to the application of **science and technology** to **sustainable development**.

Eligibility

- Candidates for a TWAS Award must be scientists who have been working and living in a developing country (<https://twas.org/node/12101>) for at least ten years immediately prior to their nomination. They must meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - Scientific research achievement of outstanding significance for the development of scientific thought.
 - Outstanding contribution to the application of science and technology to sustainable development.
- Members of TWAS and candidates for TWAS membership are not eligible for TWAS Awards.
- Self-nominations are not considered.

Support

- TWAS provides nine awards of **\$ 10,000** each in the following fields: agricultural sciences; biology; chemistry; earth, astronomy and space sciences; engineering sciences; mathematics; medical sciences; physics and social sciences (excluding economic sciences).
- Each award is accompanied by a plaque.
- Awards are usually presented on a special occasion, often coinciding with the General Meeting of TWAS.

Deadline

The nominations open **once in two years** and generally close in the month of **March**. Please visit the website of TWAS for details on timelines.

Website

<https://twas.org/opportunity/twas-awards>

8.12. Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Award (The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation)

The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation presents approximately 20 Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research Awards annually to internationally-renowned academics (excluding Germany) in recognition of their outstanding accomplishments in research. The award is named after the German astronomer and mathematician Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel (1784–1846) and is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, Germany.

Eligibility

- The nominated individual must have gained their doctorate no more than 18 years ago. An exception to this rule may be made where justified (e.g. in the case of career breaks to raise children).
- The nominee may not have previously received an award from the Humboldt Foundation for their academic work.
- The nominee must have lived and worked outside Germany for over five years at the time of nomination.
- The nominee must not yet have entered permanent employment in Germany at the time of selection.
- Self-nominations and nominations of close relatives or marital/registered partners are not possible. The nomination of qualified female researchers is particularly encouraged.
- Support
- The award amount is **€ 45,000**.
- Award winners are also invited to conduct a research project of their choice at a research institution in Germany in cooperation with specialist colleagues there.

Duration

The award enables stay for a period ranging from **six months to a year**, which can be split into multiple stays.

Deadline

The nominations may be submitted online **at any time**.

Website

<https://www.humboldt-foundation.de/en/apply/sponsorship-programmes/friedrich-wilhelm-bessel-research-award>

8.13. Simons Early Career Investigator in Marine Microbial Ecology and Evolution Awards (The Simon Foundation)

The Simon Foundation funds these awards to help launch the careers of outstanding investigators in the field of **marine microbial ecology** and **evolution**, who will advance our understanding through experiments, modelling, or theory. Investigators who are active in research on microbial ecology and/or evolution, excluding research focusing on the microbiomes of animals or plants, are conferred this award. The program encourages investigators with backgrounds in different fields to apply.

Eligibility

- Applicants must hold a PhD or equivalent degree.
- Applicants must have carried out research in a tenure track or, for institutions that do not have a tenure track, an equivalent independent position for at least one year and no more than eight years (start date of the first independent position must be between the timeline specified in the call for application) and must currently hold a tenure track, tenured or, for institutions with no tenure track, an equivalent independent position in a US or Canadian institution (in a campus within these countries).
- Applicants must be the principal or co-investigator currently or within the past year on a research grant from a national governmental agency or a major national or international foundation that awards direct funding to their institution for their research in the field of marine microbial ecology and/or microbial evolution. They may also be eligible if they hold such a grant in a closely-related field and are authors of a publication in the field of marine microbial ecology within the last three years.

Support

Grants are for **\$ 222,000** per year, including indirect costs (limited to 20% of the modified total direct costs), for a period of three years, subject to annual reviews and continuation of research in areas relevant to the purpose of this program. Appropriate expenses include salary support for the investigator and postdoctoral and graduate research assistants, travel, equipment, supplies and other research expenses.

Duration

The award is for a period of **three years**, subject to annual reviews and continuation of research in areas relevant to the purpose of this program.

Deadline

Please visit the funding agency website for the latest timelines.

Website

<https://www.simonsfoundation.org/grant/simons-early-career-investigator-in-marine-microbial-ecology-and-evolution-awards/>

9

Other Grants and Fellowships



“Science is a way of thinking much more than it is a body of knowledge.”

– Carl Sagan

The scientific research enterprise, today, is a complex system that involves many different communities and not just researchers. It calls for investments in various forms, ranging from infrastructure to capacity-building. This section includes the grants that support a plethora of activities in research such as facilitating partnerships and exchanges between research groups, setting up of specialised centres of research, building programmes for capacity building and career progression, improving research infrastructure, and more.

9.1. Going Global Partnerships Grant (British Council)

This grant of the Going Global Partnerships Programme is aimed at facilitating India-UK partnerships for the co-creation of joint programmes of study. The partnerships will increase the exchange of ideas and knowledge and deepen understanding through the creation of teaching modules with shared objectives, delivery plans, assessments, and quality assurance processes.

The key objective of the grant is to enhance opportunities for students in India and the UK to experience an international learning experience.

Two types of grants are awarded under this programme:

Exploratory Grants will support nascent partnerships that require assistance to create strong plans for transnational education and teaching collaborations. Awardees will jointly develop courses that meet global standards and allow easy credit comparability. The grant may be given to a consortium of up to four UK and Indian institutional partnerships.

There will be scope within the grant to secure consultancy services from ENIC (the UK National Information Centre), QAA (Quality Assurance Agency of UK), and others or deploy resources towards developing joint and collaborative teaching programmes at both the undergraduate and graduate levels within the subject of interest.

Collaboration Grants will be awarded to pre-existing partners to expand the scope of work to include joint and collaborative teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Like the Exploratory grants, the key objective will be the development of a teaching and collaboration model, and a course or module that contributes towards UK and India Bachelor's or Master's qualifications.

The partners will be able to secure consultancy services from UK service providers such as ENIC, QAA, and others. They will additionally be able to earmark a part of the grant to give transnational education bursaries or scholarships to students to enable them to experience education in the UK.

Eligibility

- The grant is available to all UK and Indian higher education institutions that wish to create a joint programme of study in a common thematic area.
- For the Exploratory Grant, applicants must include at least one university from the UK that will be the lead applicant and one Indian university as the co-applicant. A maximum of four universities can partner for this grant.
- For the Collaboration Grant, applicants may have a partnership of four to eight universities, where at least one university is from the UK. Universities must fill the application jointly, and the lead applicant (one of the UK universities) must submit the application.
- The Indian institutions may be government- or privately-funded and recognised by state governments, UGC, AICTE, or any other competent body in India. Indian institutes of eminence and Indian institutes of national importance are encouraged to apply.

Support

- The Exploratory Grants are of **£ 15,000 to £ 20,000**.
- The Collaboration Grants are of **£ 30,000 to £ 100,000**.

Duration

The project start and end dates are defined in the call for applications of **each year**.

Deadline

Please visit the funding agency website for the latest timelines.

Website

- <https://www.britishcouncil.in/going-global-partnership-grants>
- https://www.britishcouncil.in/sites/default/files/faq_-_v2.pdf

9.2. Bilateral Exchange of Academics (DAAD)

To improve international relations and bilateral research cooperation between German and foreign universities, DAAD supports exchanges of scientists and academics from partner countries.

Eligibility

Academics and scientists who have completed a doctoral degree and work at a university or research institute in their home country can apply. Details on eligibility requirements can be found [here](#).

Support

- The programme can fund research stays at state or state-recognised institutions of higher education or non-university research institutes in Germany.
- Lecture tours or visits to congresses are not funded.
- The programme includes monthly payments of:
 - **€ 2,000** for assistant teachers, assistant professors, and lecturers.
 - **€ 2,150** for professors.
- Unless otherwise regulated by bilateral agreements, costs of the outward and return journeys are borne by the respective sending countries.
- In the case of a disability or chronic illness, a subsidy is available for additional costs that result from the disability or chronic illness, which are not covered by other funding providers. (Find further information [here](#).)

Duration

- At least **14 days** (for stays from applicants from EU countries as well as from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine: at least 7 days) up to a maximum of **three months**.
- The duration of the grant is decided by a selection committee and depends on the project and the applicant's work schedule.
- The grant is non-renewable.

Deadline

Application deadlines are updated at least **once a year**. Please visit the website for an updated deadline.

Website

https://www.daad.in/en/find-funding/scholarship-database/?origin=4&status=5&type=a&q=&subjectgroup=&onlydaad=1&language=en&pg=3&detail_to_show=50015508&show_tab=apply

9.3. Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation Programme (DBT)

The Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation Programme (BioCARE) is a mission programme of DBT for empowering the women scientists of India. The programme is mainly for career development of both employed and unemployed women scientists.

The focus areas for support under this programme are **medical biotechnology, plant and agriculture biotechnology, compounds of industrial and medicinal utility, animal and marine biotechnology, bio-engineering and biomaterials, bioinformatics/computational biology, and environmental biotechnology and bioenergy.**

Eligibility

- Women scientists who are employed or unemployed and want to join research after a break can avail this opportunity to get back to the mainstream as principal investigators.
- Women scientists who have already availed any grant as a principal investigator from any government funding agency are not eligible to apply.
- The maximum age limit to apply for this grant is **45 years**.

Support

Support is provided under the following two categories:

- Research Grant Opportunity (RGO): A research grant is provided under this category for candidates who have post PhD experience of more than 2 years.
- Early Career Scientists (ECS): Scientists who have experience of less than two years post-PhD are eligible to apply for this research grant.

Duration

The fellowship is tenable for **three years**, with the possibility of an extension for two years after review.

Deadline

Please visit the funding agency website for the latest timelines.

Website

<https://dbtindia.gov.in/schemes-programmes/special-programmes/biotechnology-career-advancement-re-orientation-programme>

9.4. Clinical and Public Health Research Centres (DBT/Wellcome Trust India Alliance)

India Alliance funds Clinical and Public Health Research Centres, which are envisioned as virtual 'research-oriented centres' preferably involving multiple institutions, with a focus on addressing important biomedical research problems and developing physician scientists.

The CRCs can be based on either crosscutting or vertical research themes, within the remit of India Alliance. Training of early career physician scientists is deemed an important component of the scheme. Though not mandatory, this scheme encourages international collaboration.

Eligibility

- The applying institutions should propose a clear path for promoting clinical/public health research, developing physician scientists, and supporting clinicians and public health scientists to carry out-patient and population-oriented research in addition to patient care and preventive medicine.
- Research proposals from existing eligible institutions should provide evidence of access to an in-house or external Clinical Study Design Unit (CSDU) and relevant training programmes.
- The proposal should have components of human resource training and mentorship. Training of MD and PhD students should be a critical part of the proposed project.
- The CRCs may also link up with the [Clinical Research Training Programme](#) (CRTP) to develop a 3 to 4-year mentored training programme for clinical and public health researchers, and seek separate funds for that CRTP. A CRC application can also be made without linking it to CRTP, but relevant training and research components must be built into it.
- An appropriate research management plan should be in place in the coordinating institution, and preferably in all the participating institutions.
- The CRCs are envisioned to include more than one institution. Strong justification will be required for a single-institution CRC, in which case multiple departments in that institution should come together.
- The application should outline a resource-sharing plan and demonstrate sustainability after the funding is over. Substantial commitment from the institutions to co-support will be desirable.
- Only one application will be allowed from a lead institution, in any given round.

Further details on eligibility and provisions can be found [here](#).

Support

- A grant up to **₹ 10 crores** (including 10% overheads) is available for a five-year project.
- Applicants can seek support for items such as hiring new clinical and public health researchers (initially as project staff but with an institutional commitment longer than the duration of the grant), purchasing equipment and research supplies, maintaining clinical and population cohorts and biobanks, and for training early-career clinicians in research.
- Funds can also be requested for strengthening the research management structure in the institution(s) and for the Clinical Study Design Unit.

Duration

The grant is available for **five years**.

Deadline

There is a call for applications **once a year**.

Website

<https://www.indiaalliance.org/clinical-public-health-research-centres>

9.5. Indo-Belgian Joint Networking Call (DST/BELSPO)

The Indo-Belgian Networking Call is co-funded by the Belgian Federal Science Policy Office (BELSPO) and Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India. Through this, both parties aim to support exchanges that leverage long-term research cooperation between multiple Belgian and Indian research institutions, based on existing infrastructure and with significant impact on a priority research area.

Applications for this call, based on relevant themes as mentioned below, should be sent to DST or DBT only.

Focus areas with DBT:

- Marine biotechnology (organisms for industrial use, bioprospecting for bioactive compounds from marine microorganisms, algae, seaweeds, fish, and crustacean farming).
- Life sciences focused on micro-organisms (antimicrobial resistance with one health approach and environmental bioremediation).

Focus areas with DST:

- Space including astronomy, solar physics, and remote sensing.
- Marine sciences.
- Geology.
- Cybersecurity.

Eligibility

- For BELSPO, networking proposals may be submitted by Belgian university institutions, public scientific institutions, and non-profit research centres. The participation of federal scientific institutions is encouraged.
- For India, academicians and scientists who already have grants on research projects funded by science funding agencies can apply. In case of need, a partner search may be supported by the following tool: <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/india>
- The networking activities may include the organisation of a joint seminar or workshop, experts' visits, joint lab, or joint field exchanges.
- Through their proposals, applicants should aim to enhance scientific cooperation between researchers of the partnering institutions in both countries and to contribute to sustainable cooperation (e.g. via joint research projects) beyond the period of networking.
- One principal investigator/coordinator each from India and Belgium with additional co-investigators/partners (up to 4) on each side are allowed.

Support

- The funding for bilateral networking activities is based on the principle of reciprocity. Each country finances the costs for activities carried out on its territory (e.g. the organisation of study visits, seminars, workshops, setting up of joint experiments), whereas the international travel costs are borne by the respective sending countries.
- Research activities are not supported by this call.
- The maximum budget per proposal to be granted to the Belgian partner is **€ 35,000** or to the Indian partner is **₹ 35 lakhs**.

Duration

The duration of the project is for a maximum period of **two to three years**.

Deadline

Please visit the funding agency website for details on timelines.

Website

- <https://dbtindia.gov.in/whats-new/call-for-proposals>
- <https://dbtindia.gov.in/sites/default/files/Indo-Belgian%20Joint%20Networking%20Call%202021-1.pdf>

9.6. Young Investigator Programme (EMBO)

The EMBO Young Investigator Programme supports life scientists, who have been group leaders for less than four years at the time of application, in setting up their laboratories. Young Investigators receive financial support for networking and benefit from training opportunities, support for their lab members, and mentoring. They become part of an international network of more than 600 current and former EMBO Young Investigators, Installation Grantees, and Global Investigators.

Eligibility

- Applicants must have been an independent group leader for at least one year and for less than four years at the pre-application deadline.
- They must have an excellent track record.
- They must carry out research in life sciences in an EMBC Member State, an EMBC Associate Member State (currently India and Singapore), or in countries or territories covered by a cooperation agreement (currently Taiwan and Chile).
- They must have sufficient funding to run their laboratory.
- They must have published at least one senior author research paper in an international peer-reviewed journal from independent work carried out in their own laboratory.
- For female candidates with children, the limit of four years since independence is automatically extended by one year per child.
- For male applicants with children, the limit can be extended by the actual time taken off as paternity leave or—if their partner is working at least 80% FTE (full-time equivalent)—three months per child, whichever is longer.
- Illness and other care responsibilities are considered as exceptional circumstances on a case-by-case basis. Special provision may also be made for clinical scientists. If circumstances warrant an extension of the eligibility period, the EMBO Young Investigator Programme Office (yip@embo.org) can be contacted for advice before applying.
- Applicants must be able to attend an interview in Heidelberg, Germany (or optionally online), on the date specified in the call for applications.

For detailed information on the eligibility criteria (including an extensive FAQ section), please consult the [application guidelines \(pdf\)](#).

Support

EMBO Young Investigators receive a financial award of **€ 15,000** in their second year. They can also apply for additional small grants up to **€ 10,000** per year.

Young Investigators benefit from extensive practical support, which includes the following.

Networking:

- The annual EMBO Young Investigator meeting.
- Special interest groups organizing sectoral meetings on selected topics.
- Joint group meetings with other programme members' labs.
- Visits to discuss potential collaborations with other programme members.
- Seminars by Young Investigators at other programme member's institutes.

- Research visits of lab members to other programme members' laboratories to exchange expertise.

Support for Young Investigators:

- Mentorship by an [EMBO Member](#).
- Training in research leadership and management skills through [EMBO Lab Leadership Courses](#).
- An [online training course](#) on responsible conduct of research co-developed by [EMBO Policy](#).
- Posting of vacancies in programme members' laboratories.
- Grants for organizing conferences.

Support for Young Investigator laboratories:

- Access to [EMBL Core Facilities](#).
- Annual course for PhD students from programme members' laboratories.
- Travel grants to attend meetings for Young Investigators and their group members.

Detailed information about the benefits can be found in the [programme guide for Young Investigators and Installation Grantees \(pdf\)](#).

Duration

Young Investigators receive financial support for networking for **four years**.

Deadline

The application closes on **1 April every year**.

Website

<https://www.embo.org/funding/fellowships-grants-and-career-support/young-investigator-programme/>

9.7. Global Investigator Network (EMBO)

The EMBO Global Investigator Network supports group leaders who, at the time of application, are within their first six years of setting up laboratories in Chile, India, Singapore, or Taiwan. Global Investigators get opportunities to form collaborations with scientists in their region and in Europe as they become part of an international network of more than 600 current and former EMBO Young Investigators, Global Investigators, and Installation Grantees.

Eligibility

- The applicants must have been group leaders of a laboratory for at least one year and less than six years on 1 January in the year of the application*.
- They must have an excellent track record.
- They must perform life science research in an EMBC Associate Member State (currently India and Singapore) or in a country or territory covered by a cooperation agreement with EMBC (currently Chile and Taiwan).
- They must have published at least one senior author research paper in an international peer-reviewed journal from independent work carried out in their laboratory.
- They must have obtained sufficient funding to run their laboratory.
- They should not have applied to the programme more than once in previous years.
- The applicants must be able to attend a virtual interview on the date specified in the call for applications.

*An extended eligibility period may apply under exceptional circumstances or for candidates with children. For detailed information on the eligibility criteria, please consult the [application guidelines](#).

Support

Funds are available for EMBO Global Investigators to:

- visit other research institutions to give a scientific seminar or to plan or continue a collaboration;
- train in research leadership and management skills through [EMBO Lab Leadership Courses](#).
- invite researchers to give scientific lectures at their institutes;
- send members of their research group to another laboratory to carry out experiments or learn techniques;
- organize joint group meetings with other laboratories;
- attending or organize regional or international scientific meetings;
- attend EMBO Young Investigator Network annual meetings;
- arrange lab retreats;
- cover the fees for publications in EMBO Press journals;
- cover childcare support when attending conferences;
- avail manuscript and grant proposal editing services;
- attend professional development courses.

Duration

Global Investigators receive financial support for **four years** for training and networking activities.

Deadline

Applications to the EMBO Global Investigator Network are accepted **annually** via an [online system](#). Please visit the funding agency website for details on current timelines.

Website

<https://www.embo.org/funding/fellowships-grants-and-career-support/global-investigator-network/>

9.8. Young IBRO Maternity/Parenthood Grant (IBRO)

The Young IBRO Maternity/Parenthood Grant in **neuroscience** supports early-career principal investigators, who are approaching parental leave either by birth or adoption, through supplemental funding.

This grant aids in mitigating the effects of pregnancy, maternity leave, adoption leave, and primary caregiving for a child on researcher's continuity in scientific research.

Eligibility

- Applicants must have been principal investigators for seven years or less. Any extended breaks from research (e.g. previous maternity or adoption leave) are accepted and should be justified in the application.
- Applicants must have at least one paper as the corresponding author as a minimal requirement for the status of an independent researcher.
- Applicants must either be pregnant (at least 4 months), have given birth in the last four months before the grant application deadline, or close to adoption with being the primary caregiver.

Support

Awards up to **€ 4,000** are awarded to cover the costs of research under heads such as reagents, facility expenses, outsourcing experiments or data acquisition to third-party organizations, and transportation of non-commercial samples or reagents between laboratories.

Deadline

The Young IBRO Maternity/Parenthood Grant applications open **twice a year**. Please visit the funding agency website for the latest timelines.

Website

<https://ibro.org/young-ibro-maternity-parenthood-grant-2021/>

9.9. Indo-US Fellowship for Women in STEMM (IUSSTF)

The Indo-US Fellowship for Women in STEMM, instituted by DST and IUSSTF, aims to provide opportunities to Indian women scientists, engineers, and technologists to enhance their research capacities and capabilities by undertaking international collaborative research at premier institutions in the USA.

The program has two modules:

- Women Overseas Student Internship
- Women Overseas Fellowship

The eligibility and provision details for the Women Overseas Fellowship are given below:

Eligibility

- Indian women resident citizens with a PhD in basic sciences, engineering or technology including agricultural and medical sciences, holding a regular position at any recognized academic institution/R&D institute/university/college in India are eligible.
- Applicants having research collaborative projects with any institute/lab in USA (with no previous visits) are given preference.
- Applicants should be **27 to 45 years old** (on the date specified in the call for applications).

Support

The fellowship includes a monthly stipend of **\$ 3,000** and contingency of up to **\$ 1,000**. In addition, air fare of up to **\$ 2,500**, health insurance of up to **\$ 1,000**, and conference allowances of up to **\$ 1,200** are provided.

Duration

The fellowship is for a period of **3–6 months**.

Deadline

Please visit the funding agency website for the latest timelines.

Website

<https://www.iusstf.org/program/indo-us-fellowship-for-women-in-stemm>

9.10. Utilisation of the Scientific Expertise of Retired Scientists (SERB)

The Utilisation of the Scientific Expertise of Retired Scientists (USERS) scheme was launched by DST to utilize the expertise and potential of a large number of eminent scientists in the country who remain active and deeply motivated to participate in S&T development activities even after their retirement. The main activity supported under this programme is the preparation of books/monographs/state-of-the-art reports.

Eligibility

- After superannuation, scientists up to the age of **70 years** are eligible, provided that they are not availing any other fellowship/funding.
- The proposal should clearly focus on the scope of the book/monograph/review or state-of-the art report. The applicant should ensure publication of the work, by either approaching a scientific society or publisher who is willing to publish the manuscript, before submitting the proposal to SERB.

Support

The scientists awarded under this scheme are given an honorarium of **₹ 20,000** per month.

Duration

The project duration is normally for **two years**.

Deadline

Please visit the funding agency website for the latest timelines.

Website

- <https://serbonline.in/SERB/users?HomePage=New>
- <http://www.serb.gov.in/pdfs/guideline/users-guideline.pdf.bak>

9.11. Infrastructure Grants

9.11.1. Scientific Infrastructure Access for Harnessing Academia University Research Joint Collaboration (DBT)

The primary goal of the Scientific Infrastructure Access for Harnessing Academia University Research Joint Collaboration (DBT-SAHAJ Infrastructure) programme is to create a national service facility/research resource/platform. This programme intends to provide access to resources that cannot be provided by any single researcher's laboratory or scientific department but are required for data acquisition, analysis, and providing the proof-of-concept in cutting-edge research in frontier areas of **life sciences/biotechnology**.

Eligibility

Any public and deemed institution/university or private UGC-recognized institution/university (including deemed universities) certified for doing research and development activities by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) can avail this opportunity. Private universities must be recognized by UGC & DSIR for research and should have contributed significantly to the growth of biological sciences during the past 10 years.

Support

- To ensure access to cutting-edge research resources and infrastructure to researchers throughout India, the SAHAJ Portal enlists the scientific equipment/infrastructure in each DBT autonomous institute and DBT-supported infrastructure programmes in other institutions/universities.
- Applicants who have no government or other funding will be allowed to put in a request for accessing infrastructure facilities with details—scope of the study, objectives, and work plan for using the facility. These costs will be met from the infrastructure access grant available with each host institute capped at **₹ 10 lakhs**.

Duration

The duration of support is for **five years**; this is extendable by a maximum of five years.

Deadline

The call for DBT-SAHAJ is announced **annually** and is advertised on the DBT website.

Website

- <https://dbtindia.gov.in/schemes-programmes/research-facilities-resources-technology-platforms/scientific-infrastructure>
- https://dbtindia.gov.in/sites/default/files/19_1FAQ.pdf

9.11.2. Boost to University Interdisciplinary Life Science Departments for Education and Research Programme (DBT)

Under the 'DBT-Boost to University Interdisciplinary Life science Departments for Education and Research (DBT-BUILDER)' programme, DBT provides support to establish an interdisciplinary 'School of Life Sciences' for advanced research and education in universities.

The overall aim of this programme is to develop world-class schools of life sciences in universities by fostering interdisciplinary modern bioscience research through the creation of new research agendas.

Eligibility

- UGC-recognized central, state, and private universities/PG colleges registered under the Central Universities Act, 2009 and section 2(f) and 12B (for PG colleges only) of the UGC Act, 1956 (<http://www.ugc.ac.in/>) with proven track record in life sciences research and education are eligible to apply.
- The university should have a proven track record of performance in the following:
 - o current status of PhD students;
 - o size of faculty;
 - o available infrastructure;
 - o work culture and atmosphere;
 - o readiness for administrative reforms;
 - o areas of expertise;
 - o ideas of innovation from discovery to market;
 - o teaching activities;
 - o linkages with industry;
 - o team spirit in collaborative research;
 - o publications in high-impact journals;
 - o patents and technologies developed/transferred.

Support

The grant is provided under two major heads—non-recurring and recurring. Non-recurring costs include civil works (only for renovation and refurbishment) and interior infrastructure (no fresh construction); equipment suggested for upgradation, AMC/ CMC, refurbishment (only to be provided if not existing); and sophisticated common facilities (only those related to the area of research). Recurring costs include operational costs such as consumables, contingencies and the salaries of staff. Further details can be found [here](#).

Duration

The project is supported for a maximum period of **five years**.

Deadline

The call for DBT-BUILDER is announced **annually** and is advertised on the DBT website.

Website

- <https://dbtindia.gov.in/schemes-programmes/research-facilities-resources-technology-platforms/biotech-facilities>
- https://dbtindia.gov.in/sites/default/files/Guidelines%20DBT-BUILDER_0.pdf

9.11.3. Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (DST)

The Scheme 'Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (FIST)' is intended to provide basic infrastructure and enabling facilities for promoting R&D activities in new and emerging areas and attracting fresh talent in universities and other educational institutions. It is considered as complimentary support for enabling departments/centres/schools/colleges to pursue research activities more effectively and efficiently.

Currently, the programme functions by providing support at three levels as follows:

- At Level 0, proposals are accepted from active postgraduate colleges (government/government-aided/private).
- At Level 1, proposals are accepted from relatively small but active postgraduate S&T departments of universities and degree-awarding academic institutions requiring moderate funding for improving the quality of research.
- At Level 2, proposals are accepted from well-established S&T departments of state/central universities and degree-awarding academic institutions of high repute requiring substantial funding for acquiring state-of-the-art equipment and setting up laboratories for conducting internationally-competitive research.

Eligibility

- For university/degree-awarding academic institutions, the support will be considered for the 'department/school/centre' as a unit. All science (including medicine and agriculture) and engineering departments/centres having strong postgraduate research programs, which have existed for at least 3 years or more in universities and other higher educational institutions recognized or regulated by UGC/AICTE and/or MoE/State Education Department, are eligible to seek support for the first time. All other agency-based academic universities/institutes are excluded from the scope of FIST support.
- For any subsequent cycle of FIST support following the first cycle of support at any level, the beneficiaries are considered only after a period of 10 years from the date of sanction of the immediately-preceding project.
- Further eligibility parameters and criteria for each level of support can be found [here](#).

Support

- Funding is available up to **₹ 1.50 crores** at level 0, **₹ 3 crores** at level 1, and **₹ 5 crores** at level 2.
- The Scheme will provide optimal infrastructure facilities for postgraduate and higher research, such as renovation of existing laboratory space (no fresh constructions) and cold room, modernization of laboratories involved in postgraduate and higher research, acquisition of essential equipment, upgradation of existing facilities, networking and computational facilities including software and databases, scientific and technical books, and maintenance and refurbishment of existing and new facilities.

- The facilities provided under this programme are intended to support the efforts of the department as a whole or a number of faculty members in the department.

Duration

The duration of support for each FIST project is **five years**.

Deadline

Please visit the funding agency website for details on timelines.

Website

- <https://dst.gov.in/scientific-programmes/scientific-engineering-research/fund-improvement-st-infrastructure-higher-educational-institutions-fist>
- <https://dst.gov.in/sites/default/files/FIST%202021%20Advertisement.pdf>

10

Useful Resources

Useful Resources

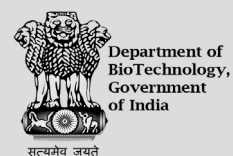
1. Grants section on the IndiaBioscience website: <https://indiabioscience.org/grants>
2. International Grants and Fellowships: <https://indiabioscience.org/international-grants-and-fellowships>
3. Funding Agencies and Schemes: <https://indiabioscience.org/videos/funding-agencies-and-schemes>
4. International Grants Awareness Programme: <https://indiabioscience.org/igap>
5. EMBO Schemes for Young Investigators: <https://youtu.be/3Z4-NLQbns>
6. NCBS funding database: <https://www.ncbs.res.in/rdo/sponsor-funding>
7. Secrets to writing a winning grant - An article in Nature: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-019-03914-5>

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