

S&T Wing
Embassy of India, Tokyo

Category – I: Funding schemes available for Faculty and Researchers for international collaborative research (For Indian nationals, Overseas Scientists, Overseas Citizens of India and Non-resident Indians)

1. VAJRA (Visiting Advanced Joint Research) FACULTY SCHEME: It is a dedicated program to bring a strong international connect to the R&D ecosystem of India. The scheme offers adjunct / visiting faculty assignments to overseas scientists, faculty members and R&D professionals including Non-resident Indians (NRI) and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) to undertake high quality collaborative research in Public funded academic and research Institutions of India. VAJRA Faculty will 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, etc. with one or more Indian Collaborators. VAJRA Faculty is expected to co-guide research students and may also be involved in technology development, innovation, start ups, etc.

Eligibility

- The scheme is open to overseas scientists, faculty members and R&D professionals including Non-resident Indians (NRI) and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI).
- The overseas scientist or faculty should be an active researcher working in a leading academic / research / industrial organization with significant accomplishments in research and development.
- Indian Collaborator(s) should be a regular faculty/researcher in public-funded academic/research institutions with significant ongoing research in the area of VAJRA Faculty.

Nature of Support by the Government:

- 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 VAJRA Faculty in the host institution would be for a minimum of 1 month and a maximum of 3 months every year.
- VAJRA Faculty will be provided US\$15000 in the first month of residence and US\$10000 in each of the subsequent month. If the assignment is for shorter duration, the amount will be provided on pro-rata basis. No separate support is provided for travel, accommodation, medical / personal insurance etc. However, the host institution may consider providing additional support for e.g. highly subsidised on-campus / nearby off-campus accommodation.

Application Procedure

- Application for VAJRA Faculty Scheme can be submitted throughout the year. Applications are only received online, at www.serbonline.in . The Selection Committee constituted for the purpose of selection of VAJRA Faculty meets twice a year in every January and July and make recommendations. SERB announces the results in the month of April and September.
- The applicant may approach the Indian Institutions to explore the possibility of taking up the VAJRA Faculty position. The institutions in India can also scout for talented faculty in overseas institutions. The Indian collaborator and the overseas faculty will jointly frame a

research plan and the application duly endorsed by the Head of the Institution will be submitted online by the Indian collaborator.

- Endorsement certificate from Indian Institution and consent letter from overseas faculty institution for participation as VAJRA Faculty, should be uploaded during the time of submission.

Terms & conditions and documentation are available at <http://www.vajra-india.in/> and <https://www.serbonline.in/SERB/vajra>

2. GIAN (Global Initiative of Academic Networks) by MHRD – It aims in tapping the talent pool of scientists internationally to encourage engagement with the institutes of Higher Education in India so as to augment the country's existing academic resources, accelerate the pace of quality reform, and elevate India's scientific and technological capacity to global excellence. It seeks participation of foreign faculty in Indian Universities as Distinguished /Adjunct/Visiting faculty/ Professors to participate in delivering Short or Semester-long courses.

Support by the Government

A lump-sum amount of upto US\$ 8000 for 12 to 14 hours of contact and upto US\$ 12000 for 20 to 28 hours of contact can be paid to the foreign experts covering their travel and honorarium. Local hospitality will be arranged by the Host Institution. The duration (number of weeks/days) can be mutually decided by the host institution and the visiting faculty. In the meanwhile the National Coordinator will be allowed to spend Rs 1.0 crore for developing the Portal and other coordination and initial course related activities. Each Group Coordinators will be allowed to spend Rs 50 lakhs each from their Plan grant for initiation of activities of the group activities.

Proposal Submission

Proposals will be submitted on-line by the Local Institute Coordinator of an approved host Institute through the National GIAN portal in the prescribed proforma. Each proposal will be submitted to a Sectional Committee. The proposing Institution will ensure that the International Faculty can communicate in English or a suitable language that is clearly the appropriate medium of instruction for the said course. The courses will primarily be for credit and cover 10 to 14 hours for a typical 1 credit course over a period of at least one week covering 5 working days and 20 to 28 hours for a 2 credit course over a period of at least 2 weeks covering 10 working days and have regular evaluation mechanisms. For alternative credit structures, such normalized credit equivalence will be explained in the proposal. The proposer is expected to be aware that if the proposal is selected then the International Faculty is expected to accept to participate.

For details please visit : <http://www.gian.iitkgp.ac.in/cgenmenu/guidelines>

For approved courses for research/faculty : <http://www.gian.iitkgp.ac.in/ccourses/approvecourses2>
(has various fields of science, mathematics, management, humanities, economics etc)

Registration Link: <http://www.gian.iitkgp.ac.in/GREGN/index>

3. OVDF (Overseas Visiting Doctoral Fellowship): It provides support to researchers (Indian nationals only) residing in India, who wish to undertake training in overseas countries. The objective is to build national capacity in frontier areas of Science and Engineering, which are of interest to India by providing research training to PhD students admitted in the Indian institutions in overseas universities / institutions of repute and create opportunities to build long-term R&D linkages and collaborations with accomplished scientists and technologists from around the world. Applications will be sought annually. The selection would be made among students who obtained an offer letter from overseas institution to carry out research in chosen areas of interest to India.

Eligibility:

- The scheme is open to Indian nationals only.
- The applicant should have registered for full-time Ph.D. Degree in any of the recognized Institutions / Universities in India in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (including Medicine, Pharma, Agriculture and related S&T areas) disciplines.
- Should have received an offer letter from a reputed overseas institution to carry out research for a specified duration. The host supervisor should provide an official confirmation that they will host the student detailing the period of stay and other requirements.
- Part-time and sponsored students are not considered under the Program. Also students who have submitted their thesis for award of the Degree of Ph.D. are not eligible to apply.

For More details and application procedure: <https://www.serbonline.in/SERB/ovdf>

4. Core Research Grant (Individual Centric): The scheme provides core research support to active researchers to undertake research and development in frontier areas of Science and Engineering. The CRG scheme provides research support to an individual researcher or a group of researchers working in a recognized academic institution or national laboratory or in other recognized R & D institution in India. The funding is provided normally for a period of three years.

- The Call for applications will be notified through the website "www.serbonline.in" and "www.serb.gov.in". The application form along with a proper research proposal highlighting the research work to be undertaken should be submitted online through the website "www.serbonline.in".
- National Laboratories and Research Institutions should share 50% of the non-recurring cost of the project. For projects with total cost more than Rs. 80 lakh, 50% of the non-recurring and consumables cost should be shared by the Lab/Institution. If project is approved for SERB support, a certificate from National Laboratory / Research Institution will be required for the same. The average cost of the CRG project is Rs.35 lakh for a duration of 3 years.

Eligibility:

- Applicants [Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Principal Investigator(s) (Co-PI(s))] should be Indian citizens. Foreign nationals (including OCI and NRI) are also eligible to apply provided they fulfill the eligibility criteria notified by SERB.
- The applicant(s) must hold a regular academic/research position in a recognized academic institution or national laboratory or in any other recognized R & D institution in India.

For more details please visit: <https://www.serbonline.in/SERB/emr?HomePage=New>

5. Ramanujan Fellowship by DST: Ramanujan Fellowship is meant for brilliant Indian scientists and engineers from outside India to take up scientific research positions in India, those Indian scientists/engineers who want to return to India from abroad. The fellowship is scientist -specific and very selective. The Ramanujan Fellows could work in any of the scientific institutions and universities in the country and they would be eligible for receiving regular research grants through the extramural funding schemes of various S&T agencies of the Government of India.

Eligibility:

- The Fellowship is open to brilliant Indianscientists and engineers working abroad and are below the age of 40 years.

- The Nominee should possess a higher degree or equivalent, such as Ph.D. in Science/ Engineering, Masters in Engineering or Technology/ MD in Medicine, etc. and have adequate professional experience.
- These Fellowships are very selective and only those who have a proven/ outstanding track-record as evident from their research publications and recognition's would be eligible.

Nature & Duration of Support:

- The amount of the Fellowship will be Rs. 1,35,000/- per month (consolidated including HRA).
- Each Fellow will, in addition, receive a research grant of Rs.7.00 lakh per annum and Rs.60,000/- per annum as overhead charges.
- The duration of the fellowship will be for five years, and not extendable.

For details visit: <http://serb.gov.in/rnf.php>

6. SERB Overseas Postdoctoral Fellowship : Science and Engineering Research Board Overseas Postdoctoral Fellowship (SERB-OPDF) which aims to build national capacity in frontier areas of Science and Engineering of interest to India, provides postdoctoral fellowship for a period of one year to Indian applicants who are fresh PhD (not earlier than preceding 2 years) in science and engineering. The Program admits candidates in identified areas* and sends them to top institutions (other than in USA) and also to institutions where internationally acclaimed scientists are working. The applicant should himself/herself correspond with the proposed host institution abroad for postdoctoral work and produce evidence, in the form of a letter of acceptance from the host institution along with merits/uniqueness of the host institute in the proposed area.

*Materials, Energy, Sustainable Chemistry, Quantum Computing and Spintronics, Complex systems, Theoretical Mathematical Science, Big Data, Mechanobiology / Physical Biology, Bio-energy, Genetic to Physiology, Mental Health, High Performance Computation in Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics, Humanoid Robotics, Cognitive Science, Mechnotronics, Advanced Manufacturing, Cyber security, Encryption and decryption, Petroleum and Petro-Chemical Engineering, Science of Climate Change, Glaciology, Modeling, Imaging, Algorithms and Combinatorial Optimizations Application

Further details on: <http://serb.gov.in/opf.php> . The format, guidelines and other details of the SERB-OPDF Program details are also available at www.dst.gov.in .

7. The Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) by MHRD:

It aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's Higher Educational Institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world from 28 selected nations *including Japan* to jointly solve problems of national and/or international relevance. For Japan IIT-Hyderabad is the coordinating institution from Indian side. Each Indian Institution will be allowed to submit at most 25 projects as the lead Institution from India and not more than 10 with any foreign country. All participating Indian Institutions will develop a mechanism to review and shortlist proposals before submission for SPARC. Each Indian-Foreign team can submit at most one proposal with the same Principal Investigator pairs.

The scheme proposes to enable productive academic co-operation by supporting the following critical components that can catalyze impact making research, namely:

- Visits and long-term stay of top international faculty / researchers in Indian institutions to pursue teaching and research
- Visits by Indian students for training and experimentation in premier laboratories worldwide
- Joint development of niche courses, world-class books and monographs, translatable patents, demonstrable technologies or action research outcomes and products
- Consolidation of Bilateral co-operation through academic and research partnerships through Indo-X Workshops in India
- Publication, Dissemination and Visibility through a high profile annual international Conference in India

The expected outcomes include tangible results in terms of large quantity of high quality research publications, solution to key national and international problems, development of niche courses, high quality text books and research monographs, imbibing of best practices from top international academicians and researchers, strong bilateral co-operation, and improved world reputation and ranking of Indian Institutions.

For details please visit: https://sparc.iitkgp.ac.in/scheme_details.php

Category – II – Educational Scholarships for overseas students and children of NRIs and OCIs

1. SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME FOR DIASPORA CHILDREN (SPDC) of NRIs and PIOs/OCIs (For Higher and Technical Education in India – undergraduate course only) – by Ministry of External Affairs

Apply through portal <http://spdcindia.gov.in> (Conditions & Procedure available online)

Nearly 100 scholarships available. Covers institutions like National Institute of Technology (NIT), Indian Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), School of Planning and Architecture, Central Universities of Indian-origin

2. ICCR General Scholarship Scheme

Indian Council for Cultural Relations offers scholarships for, inter alia, Japanese nationals (in the age group 18-30 years) to undertake Undergraduate, Postgraduate and Ph.D. courses in various subjects under the General Scholarship Scheme. There were 10 seats for the academic year 2019-20. Students who pass the English ability test and interview, conducted in the Embassy of India, Tokyo apply for scholarship online on ICCR portal. Those students who wish to apply for the scholarship first send a soft copy of application form with required documents to Vivekananda Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Tokyo by e-mail. The seats and details are announced on the website of Embassy of India.

Living allowance ranges from ₹18000 p.m. for UG to ₹25000 p.m. for post-doctoral fellowship. HRA of ₹6500 / ₹5500 is also offered if hostel is not available.

More details on <http://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in/home/page/indian-council-for-cultural-relations-scholarship-schemes>

3. International Fellowship/Scholarship Programme for foreign nationals for undertaking AYUSH courses/ICCR Scholarships under AYUSH Scholarship Scheme

AYUSH supports through ICCR, foreign nationals including Japanese under an international fellowship/ scholarship programme for undertaking AYUSH courses at Diploma, UG, PG and PhD level. The scheme provides financial support in form of living allowance, HRA, tuition fee etc and also to and fro airfare every year.

Eligible students could be called 3-6 months prior to the commencement of the course in the college/ institute/ university for preparatory language course such as Hindi/Urdu/ Sanskrit/ Tamil, etc. so that they are acquainted with the language of classical literature of the course. Scholarship is provided for such additional period.

Further details on: <http://ayush.gov.in/sites/default/files/1609727650-Revised%20IC%20scheme%20%20%20%20%20%20%203.pdf>

Category – III – Cultural and Political domain programs

Distinguished Visitors Programme

As part of its efforts to foster & strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries, ICCR administers a “Distinguished Visitors Programme” under which it facilitates visits to India by eminent scholars, intellectuals, leading representatives of think-tanks and cultural institutions, well-known personalities in the field of politics, academics, art & culture so that they may be able to interact with institutions and audiences in India. Under the programme, the ICCR invites the guests for a period of 10 days to meet Indian leaders in their area of expertise, as well as obtain a first-hand view of developments in India. The programme typically includes a variety of sessions such as lectures, round table discussions, meetings with Ministers and senior government officials, NGO’s & intellectuals. Sightseeing to historical places and monuments is also scheduled. Full hospitality in terms of international air fares, board and lodging, transportation etc. is provided.

Some of the prominent visitors who have recently visited India under the programme include Martin Luther King Jr. (son of Martin Luther King) from United States, Prof. Alice Walker, celebrated playwright, H.E. Mr. Budimir Loncar, Special Advisor to the President of Croatia, Mr. Park Jin, Member of National Assembly of South Korea, Dr. Fareed Zakaria, eminent columnist, Ms. Samia Nkrumah, Member of Parliament and daughter of K. Nkrumah, Founder President of Ghana, Mr. Al Chung-Liang Huang, internationally-acclaimed Tao Ji Master, and Reverend Dr. Otis Moss Jr., theologian, pastor and civic leader from USA, HRH Princess Adelah Bint Abdullah Al-Saud, daughter of His Majesty King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud of Saudi Arabia, visited India, along with a twelve-member delegation, Ms. Tawakkol Karman, Nobel Laureate for Peace (2011), H.E. Le Thanh Hai, Member of the Communist Party of Vietnam, Dr. Oscar Arias Sanchez, former President of Costa Rica & Nobel Laureate for Peace (1987), H.E. Dr. Ziad Bahaa-Eldin, former Dy. Prime Minister of Egypt, H.E. Dr. Sam Nujoma, founding President of Namibia etc.