

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is VAIBHAV fellowship?

Vaishvik Bharatiya Vaigyanik (VAIBHAV) Fellowship envisages a collaborative research work between scientists of Indian STEM Diaspora and Indian Educational Institutions, Universities and Research Institutions. The Scientists on Fellowship would identify an Indian Institution for research work and may spend up to one to three months in a year as visiting. adjunct faculty. 75 fellowships would be awarded each year. This would include International and Domestic travel, Fellowship grants @ USD 5,000 per month, accommodation and contingencies.

2. Who can apply for this fellowship?

- The fellowship is for scientists of Indian STEM diaspora employed abroad in regular capacity.
- Applicants must have the Indian Nationality and work VISA/work permit of the foreign country.
- This Fellowship is NOT open for
 - Those Indian scientists who have just completed PhD/post doc abroad and are seeking placement in Indian institutes
 - The Indian researchers currently working in India.

3. What are the research areas in which Indian Diaspora may submit the research proposal?

Proposals are sought in select identified verticals of VAIBHAV:

- 1) Quantum Technologies
- 2) Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning
- 3) Computational Sciences
- 4) Data Sciences
- 5) Photonics
- 6) Energy
- 7) Electronics and Semiconductor Technologies
- 8) Communication Technologies
- 9) Aerospace Technologies
- 10) Materials and Processing Technologies
- 11) Earth Sciences
- 12) Environmental Sciences
- 13) Advanced Manufacturing Technologies
- 14) Health, Medical Sciences and Biomedical Devices
- 15) Pharmaceuticals and Bio-Technology
- 16) Agro Economy and Food Security

4. What is the eligibility criteria for applying?

Eligibility: (for Scientists of Indian diaspora)

1. The applicant should be Non-Resident Indian (NRI), Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI), currently working abroad in the top-500 QS World University Ranking.
2. The applicant must have obtained Ph.D/M.D/M.S degree from a recognized University.
3. Plan to pursue research work for minimum of 1 month to a maximum of 2 months a year in a research institution / academic institution in India, spread over 3 years.
4. Applicants can submit their proposal only once in a calendar year.

Eligibility: (for Indian Institutions)

1. Higher Educational Institutions / University ranked in top 200 in NIRF overall rankings and having NAAC 'A' grade (3.0 and above) and public funded scientific institutes/National Labs.

5. What is the age limit for in applying for this fellowship?

There is no age limit, however, it is mandatory that the applicant should be in regular employment in foreign country and there should be at least 5 years in his/her retirement.

6. My institution does not meet QS 500 ranking. Am I eligible?

No

7. I work for the Federal Government in my country of residence. Can I apply in personal / private capacity. Am I eligible?

If your Institution provides the consent letter/NOC, then you may apply for this fellowship.

8. What is the procedure to apply for the fellowship?

The call for applications for VAIBHAV Fellowship will be notified through DST website www.dst.gov.in.

9. When is the call going to open?

Applications would be invited twice in a year, ending on 31st July and 31st January.

10. Usually how much time the call is going to remain open?

Call shall be open for 45 days.

11. How do I apply? online or Offline?

Only Online applications would be considered.

12. What is URL of the portal to apply?

It would be updated on DST website, once the call would be open.

13. How long does it usually take to get the result?

It may take around 6 months.

14. Do I need to submit a work proposal?

Yes

15. Is there any detailed guidelines regarding the fellowship? Also, on how to apply?

The guidelines would be shared once the call is open.

16. Is there any mailing list so I am alerted about the possibility of applying?

No

17. What are the documents that are needed with the application?

- Bio-data of Applicant
- Copy of Valid Passport with Date of Birth
- Qualification Certificates
- Undertaking Certificate by the applicant and NOC from their parent institute
- Endorsement Certificate from Host Institute in India.
- Plagiarism undertaking

18. Are there any proforma for the host and home institute letters?

Yes, it will be part of the Call for the Proposals.

19. What will fellows get if selected for the fellowship?

The fellows will be entitled to receive the grants as given below:

- Fellowship @ USD 5000 (in equivalent Indian currency)
- International Travel from place of work in parent institute to place of work in India in business class
- Accommodation in 3 or 4-star hotel
- Contingency Rs 1,00,000 per year
- Domestic Travel for academic purposes up to two Indian stations in a year

20. What will host Institute get from DST while hosting an Indian Diaspora under this fellowship?

The host institute will get Rs 10 lakh per year for hosting the scientist and providing office/lab accommodation, consumables, access to lab equipment and facilitation for various infrastructure support.

21. What is selection Criteria and mode of application?

The selection will be based on the recommendations of an Expert Committee that will be constituted by the DST which will evaluate novelty of research, nature of research (basic/applied/ translational), likely outcomes, consent of the host Indian institutes.

22. How would this fellowship be terminated?

- If any fellow wishes to terminate the fellowship, he/she shall inform DST. The implementing institute should not incur any expenditure from the date of

termination of the project or the date of resignation of PI. The institute will also arrange for submission of documents mentioned above.

- DST reserves the right to terminate the Fellowship at any stage if it is convinced that appropriate progress is not being made or the grant has not been utilized properly.

23. I am currently on a J-1 visa. Would there be any restrictions in future in renewing my visa or applying for other visa categories like H1-B and O1?

The applicant needs to be in regular employment and visa should be the work visa while working in foreign country. Applicants with student VISA are not eligible for this fellowship.