

**Ministry of Science & Technology
Department of Science & Technology**

**“Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure in Universities and Higher
Educational Institutions (FIST) Program – 2021”**

Proposals are invited online for consideration of support under the Scheme “Fund for Improvement of S&T Infrastructure (FIST)” of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India. The Scheme is intended to provide basic infrastructure and enabling facilities for promoting R&D activities in new and emerging areas and attracting fresh talents in universities & other educational institutions. It is considered as complimentary support for enabling Departments/ Centres/ Schools/ Colleges to pursue research activities more effectively and efficiently. The current emphasis on the immensely successful FIST programme is for orienting it towards the goal of Atmanirbhar Bharat by providing accessibility of the R&D infrastructure facilities not only for research activities in academic organizations but also for use by the start-ups/ manufacturing industries/ MSMEs. Appropriate mechanisms including use of the FIST facilities through multiple shifts are being encouraged through a public notice to promote optimal utilization of these resources.

Nature of Support: The Scheme will provide optimal infrastructure facilities for post-graduate and higher research, such as, renovation of existing laboratory space (no fresh constructions) and cold room, modernization of laboratories involved in PG and higher research, acquisition of essential equipment, up-gradation of existing facilities, networking & computational facilities including software & databases, scientific & technical books (no journals), maintenance & refurbishing of existing and new facilities etc.. The facilities provided under the Program are intended to support the efforts of the Department as a whole or a number of faculty members in the Department. Proposal towards individual R&D support would not be accepted under this Scheme. The synergy and focus of research may preferably be aligned to National Missions/ priorities.

Duration: The duration of support for each FIST Project will be for a period not exceeding 5 years.

Eligibility: For University / Degree awarding Academic Institutions, the support will be considered for the 'Department / School / Center' as a unit. All Science (including Medical & Agriculture) and Engineering Departments/ Centres having strong PG 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 MHRD/ State Education Department based, are eligible seeking support under FIST Program. All other agency based academic University/ Institutes are excluded from the scope of FIST support.**

For any subsequent cycle of FIST support following an earlier FIST Project at any level, henceforth all such beneficiary Department/ College would be considered for repeat cycle of FIST support at an appropriate level ONLY AFTER A PERIOD OF 10-YEARS FROM THE DATE OF SANCTION OF THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING PROJECT.

However, all such Department/ Centre/ School already receiving support under FIST Program may ensure submission of all relevant documents towards final settlement and closure of the concerned project after completion of the ongoing project tenure and obtain the 'Project Completion Certificate'.

Those Departments that have completed 2 cycles of support in any particular level i.e., Level 1 or Level 2 and which would be not eligible in normal way to next higher level after 2 cycles of support may be considered for support **(subject to completion of 10 years from the date of sanction of the 2nd FIST Project)**, only for research, with the maximum quantum equal to 50% of upper limit of support in any given category as an upper limit in 3rd cycle of support (i.e., an upper limit of Rs 1.5 crore in Level 1 and Rs 2.5 crores in Level 2 for research purposes only).

For College, the support to 'College as a whole' shall be considered for the post-graduate S&T departments only and not for other Departments i.e., Humanities, Management, Commerce etc.

Further eligibility parameters and criteria for considering a proposal for support under FIST Program are based on the type of support and are provided, subsequently.

Type of Support: Currently, there are four types of support corresponding to four different levels. These are as follows:

- (1) **Level-0:** Proposals from active PG Colleges (Govt./ Govt. aided/ Private) (having eligibility as specified for Level-0) shall be considered for a maximum support of up to Rs. 1.50 crores for establishing research facilities for the S & T for 5 years duration.
- (2) **Level-1:** Proposals from relatively small but active post-graduate S&T Department from different Universities (having eligibility as specified for Level-1) and degree awarding academic Institutions requiring moderate funding for improving quality of research. The support would be up to Rs 3.0 crores for 5 years duration for augmentation of research facilities to a Department/ School/ Centre.
- (3) **Level-2:** Proposals from well-established S&T Department from State/ Central Universities and degree awarding academic Institutions (having eligibility as specified for Level-2) with high repute requiring substantial funding (upper limit - Rs.5.0 crores for 5 years duration) for acquiring state-of-the-art equipment & setting up laboratories for conducting internationally competitive research.
- (4) **Level-3:** Proposals from well established, internationally competitive S&T Department from State/ Central Universities and degree awarding academic Institutions (having eligibility as specified for Level-3). The upper limit of funding support would be Rs 10.0 crores for 5 years duration) for acquiring only state-of-the-art very sophisticated equipment/ facilities.

Criteria for proposals to be considered for support under FIST Program:

Level – 0:

- Funding at this level is up to Rs 1.50 Crore for 5 years duration,
- College should be among top 150 NIRF ranking (in any category, only for S&T related Departments),
- College should be NAAC (B+)/ NBA accredited,
- College should have existed at least for 3 years
- The PG College should have at least 2 ongoing EMR grants worth Rs 50.0 lakhs in last 5 years.
- Minimum number of students shall be PG Programs (15) & UG Programs (30),
- Average number of Faculty at PG level shall be 4 across Departments with good quality,
- Evidence of research in the PG Department (s) of the College,
- In case of Non-Govt., the College should have **at least 4 PhD students** pursuing their PhD as full time Research Scholar and receiving their fellowships either by virtue of NET/GATE qualification or holder of Institute/any other agency fellowship.

Level – 1:

- At this level funding is up to Rs 3.0 Crores for 5 Years duration for moderate research activities,
- Departments in: i) State Universities; ii) Departments **applying for 1st time** from Central Universities/ Academic Institutions,
- Departments in Central Universities/Academic Institutions **applying for repeat support** after completing 1st FIST Project **need to be less than 15 years in existence**
- Departments from **all IITs, IISc, IISERs & AIIMS would not be considered for Level 1 support**,
- Department should have existed at least for 3 years,
- Number of core faculty members having Ph D degree should be **five (5)** or more,
- The Department should have at least 2 ongoing EMR grants worth Rs 100.0 lakhs,
- The Department should have at least 1 faculty with i-10 index of 1 publication in last 5 years,
- Performance in last 5 years:
 - Publications, Patents etc.
 - Awards received by the Faculty Members of the Department/ Centre
- Projected Research Plan for next 5 Years,
- In case of Non-Govt. University/ Institute, departments of the University should have **at least 6 PhD students** pursuing their PhD as full time Research Scholar and receiving their fellowships either by virtue of NET/GATE qualification or holder of Institute/any other agency fellowship.

Level – 2:

- At this level funding is up to Rs 5.0 Crores for 5 Years duration,
- Departments in: i) State Universities, ii) Departments in Central Universities / All Academic Institutions (**more than 15 years in existence**) / IITs, IISc, IISERs & AIIMS,
- Department should have existed at least for 3 years,
- Number of core faculty members having Ph D degree should be **eight (8)** or more,
- Well established Department/ Centre and should be internationally competitive,
- The focus of support would be in tune with the National Missions as well as National Priorities in manufacturing, waste processing, clean energy, water and start-up India etc.,
- The Department should have at least 3 ongoing EMR grants worth Rs 400.0 lakhs,
- The Department should have at least 4 faculty with i-10 index of 1 publication in last 5 years,
- Performance in last 5 years
 - Publications in SCI Journals, Patents etc.
 - Awards received by the Faculty Members of the Department/ Centre
- Projected Research Plan for next 5 years,
- No additional Maintenance support. Such Departments need to include/ negotiate comprehensive warranty of the equipment at the time of purchase for a maximum of 5-years period.
- In case of Non-Govt. University/ Institute, departments of the University should have **at least 10 PhD students** pursuing their PhD as full time Research Scholar and receiving their fellowships either by virtue of NET/GATE qualification or holder of Institute/any other agency fellowship.

Level – 3:

- Departments in State & Central Universities /All Academic Institutions (including IITs, IISc, IISERs & AIIMSSs) that are well established and internationally competitive Department / Centre in research activities,
- Funding is up to Rs 10.0 Crores for 5 Years duration,
- **The Department should have already received 2 cycles of FIST support at Level ‘2’ and secured at least one ‘Excellent’ and one ‘Very Good’ review grading in those Projects,**
- The focus of support would be in tune with the National Missions as well as National Priorities in manufacturing, waste processing, clean energy, water and start-up India etc.,
- Minimum Number of permanent faculty members with PhD degree should be **ten (10)** faculty members,
- At least **20% Faculty Members** in the Department/ Centre shall have **recognition at National/ International level** such as Membership of Academies, Awards and Leadership Roles etc.,
- The Department should have at least 4 ongoing EMR grants worth Rs 500.0 lakhs,
- Measurement of Department/ Centre’s profile on last 10 years’ Performance:
 - Publications in SCI Journals with citation of each publication,
 - Patents (Filed or Granted) and Patents exploited for commercial gain,
 - Extra Mural Research (EMR) Grants received from a) National Agencies, b) International Agencies, c) Industry (on both Collaborative Research & Consultancy),
 - Full-time PhD awarded,
 - Recognition of faculty members from a) National and b) International agencies like Academy Membership, Awards etc.
- No additional Maintenance support. Such Departments need to include/ negotiate comprehensive warranty of the equipment at the time of purchase for a maximum of 5-years period.
- In case of Non-Govt. University/ Institute, departments of the University should have **at least 15 PhD students** pursuing their PhD as full time Research Scholar and receiving their fellowships either by virtue of NET/GATE qualification or holder of Institute/any other agency fellowship.

PRIVATE Academic University/ College/ Institution under Not-for-Profit status and GOVT. AIDED Colleges would be considered as Academic Institutions (Private) option during the process of online submission of proposal. For Self-financed post-graduate departments of Private Universities/ Academic Institutes and Private/ Govt. aided Colleges, support shall be considered **only on merit of research activities for research facilities.** Such departments of the University or “College as a whole” would need to contribute **50 % of total recommended budget.**

Selection: The selection will be through a peer review mechanism and visit to the laboratories, if necessary. An Advisory Board of Experts will assist the DST in making final selection.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING ONLINE APPLICATION

1. Log on onlinedst.gov.in to access the home page of the “DST e-PMS Portal”.
2. Before filling up the form candidates are advised to carefully go through the Relevant Advertisement published at the DST Website (www.dst.gov.in) and also available under Proposal Formats in the e-PMS Portal (www.onlinedst.gov.in) after logging in the portal site.
3. To save your time and avoid data loss please download the appropriate proposal format as suitable for your either Department [LEVEL 1/ LEVEL 2/ LEVEL 3] or PG College [LEVEL 0], fill all the information required as per the format (Word and PDF) file (**max. size 5Mb**) and then keep it ready for upload during submission of mandatory documents.
4. Click on “Submit proposals” link which would take you to a page seeking multiple information starting with – General information, Principal investigator etc. **Please note for FIST Program you do not need to fill – Suggested referees and Current Ongoing Project.** Fill all the mandatory information sought against each menu except (**Suggested referees and Current Ongoing Project**).
5. After filling all above particulars there is provision for preview your detail before final submission of application form on clicking on “Preview” button. Preview page will display all facts/particulars that you have mentioned on entry time if you are sure with filled details then click on “Submit” button to finally push data into server.
6. Candidates are advised to carefully fill and verify the details filled in the online application themselves as no change will be possible/ entertained after clicking the FINAL SUBMIT BUTTON.

LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS:

Online Application must be submitted by 06th September, 2021 after which the web-link will be AUTOMATICALLY disabled FOR ANY USAGE. For any enquiry, contact: Dr Arindam Bhattacharyya; Email id: a.bhattacharyya@nic.in

PLEASE NOTE

- 1 IT IS MANDATORY TO SUBMIT THE PROPOSALS ONLY THROUGH **ONLINE MODE**.
- 2 THE DEPARTMENTS ARE REQUIRED TO SEE THE COMPLETENESS OF THE APPLICATION BEFORE IT IS SUBMITTED FINALLY. SINCE THREE (3) CHANCES ARE AVAILABLE FOR SUBMISSION OF A PROPOSAL FROM THE SAME DEPARTMENT/ COLLEGE, **THE LAST PROPOSAL SUBMITTED WOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR EVALUATION.** THE DEPARTMENT/ COLLEGE SHALL KEEP A COPY OF THE SUBMITTED PROPOSAL FOR THEIR REFERENCE. THERE WILL BE **NO NEED TO SUBMIT HARD COPY OF THE PROPOSAL AT THE DST.**
- 3 INCOMPLETE OR WRONGLY FILLED UP APPLICATION FORMAT OR APPLICATION WITH LACK OF ESSENTIAL INFORMATION/ DOCUMENTS WILL BE SUMMARILY REJECTED. ANY LEGAL PROCEEDINGS IN RESPECT TO ANY MATTER OF CLAIM OR DISPUTE ARISING OUT OF THIS ADVERTISEMENT AND / OR APPLICATION CAN BE LODGED ONLY IN DELHI COURTS/ TRIBUNALS/ FORUMS AND DELHI COURTS / TRIBUNAL/ FORUMS ONLY SHALL HAVE THE SOLE AND EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION TO TRY ANY CASE / DISPUTE.
- 4 PROPOSAL SUBMITTED THROUGH E-MAIL WILL NOT BE ENTERTAINED. UNIVERSITY/ DEGREE AWARDDING ACADEMIC INSTITUTION DEPARTMENTS (LEVEL I/ LEVEL II/ LEVEL III) AND COLLEGES (LEVEL 0) MUST USE SEPARATE FORMAT OF APPLICATION UPLOADED AT THE ONLINE PORTAL (ONLINEDST.GOV.IN)/ GIVEN IN THE WEBSITE (WWW.FIST-DST.ORG). **SUBMISSION OF PROPOSAL OTHER THAN THE PRESCRIBED FORMAT SHALL SUMMARILY BE REJECTED WITHOUT ANY FURTHER PROCESSING AS PER PROGRAM NORMS.**

Mandatory Documents to be uploaded with the Online Proposal:

- *Endorsement from PI and Summary Sheet for FIST-2021*
- *Endorsement Letter from the Registrar of the University/Head of the Institute/ Principal of the College*
- *Department of Science and Technology - Policy on Conflict of Interest*
- *Terms and Conditions for “FIST” Grant*
- *Project Implementation Group (PIG)*
- *Brief Summary of the FIST Support (**Not required for Departments/ Colleges seeking first time support**)*

Please note that incomplete Proposal/ Proposal not in the prescribed Format would summarily be rejected and no correspondence in such cases would be made in this respect. The name of the successful departments shall be displayed in the Website after completion of the evaluation process.