

Guidelines for Programme to encourage research personnel [Non-resident Indian (NRI), Persons of Indian Origin (PIO), Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)] serving abroad, to come back to India for undertaking health research in identified areas.

Objective of the Scheme:

1 A large number of Indian scientists go to foreign countries, especially the European and North American countries, after completing their education in India and many of them are working in reputed medical/health research organizations. A number of these scientists are willing to return back to India to serve the country in the field of health research, provided they get suitable opportunities. Since many of these scientists have exposure to high technologies in the front areas of research, country will benefit greatly if they are provided some platform to work in Indian institutes. **The Department of Health Research (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare), Government of India, has launched the programme “to encourage research personnel [Non-resident Indian (NRI), Persons of Indian Origin (PIO), Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)] serving abroad, to come back to India for undertaking research in identified areas”.**

2 This Scheme has been designed to provide contractual research positions to the Indian scientists settled abroad who are willing to come back to India on a fulltime basis or for short duration to pursue medical/health research in India and take up health research projects in collaboration with Indian scientists, particularly in areas of national priority.

3 There will be provision to provide financial support to the brilliant medical doctors/scientists of Indian origin from all over the world who wish to return to India, to take up research positions in the ICMR or other medical college/institute of their choice to pursue the objective. Under the scheme, the NRI/OCI/PIO will be submitting the proposal in the various areas of medical/health/biomedical research, developed in collaboration with Indian researcher, who should be a regular employee of Govt. research institution or medical college in India. Though all areas in medical/health/biomedical research are proposed to be covered under the scheme in view of the need to generate new knowledge on a wide range of subjects, focus will be on priority areas of Health Research in 12th Plan document.

Eligibility

- Only persons of Indian origin, non-resident Indian, and oversea citizen of India, as defined by Government of India, and currently working abroad.
- Having M.D./ M.S. / M.D.S. or M.Tech / MVSc./ M.Sc./M. Pharma /M. Tech or equivalent with Ph.D. in topic related to health research.
- Candidate should have at least three years of research experience in the foreign country as NRI/PIO/OCI; after obtaining the essential qualification.

- The candidate shall be submitting the research plan in the areas identified for programme for research studies in collaboration with a faculty working in Indian institute as regular employee.
- Candidate should be below the age of 40 years.
- Programme is scientist and area specific and cannot be transferred.
- Work of the fellow will be reviewed periodically by expert group and shall continue only after receiving the satisfactory report from the expert panel.

Mode of Selection:

10.4 Selection of the research project of NRI/OCI/PIO will be made through two tier system of screening. Preliminary screening will be based on the details provided in the prescribed applications format followed by evaluation of the research project of short listed candidates by the Expert Committees constituted by Secretary, Department of Health Research

Funding under the scheme:

- a. Each selected researcher shall be eligible to receive a consolidated amount of Rs.12.00 lakhs per annum (or equivalent to the scale of the Assistant Professor/Scientist 'C' in the Medical Colleges/Research Institutions), for 3 years, extendable upto a maximum period of 5 years.
- b. In case the researcher finds a permanent position during the tenure of the position, the remuneration shall be discontinued from the day he/she joins in permanent position but he/she may continue with the Scheme availing Research Grant portion for the project, for the balance period to carry out research at the new position.
- c. Provision would be available for supporting a research staff out of Research Grant during the tenure of the award.
- d. In the event of getting employment elsewhere other than the present Host Institute, the Awardee could also be allowed to move the research student along with him/her to new place within the country.
- e. Additional Funding would be available for research studies/projects costing up to Rs.1.00 crore, for the entire duration of the study. The proposed expenditure on the study would not include the expenditure on the salary of the Research Scientist.
- f. The selected proposal of the NRI/OCI/PIO would be funded under this scheme for project duration of up to three years, extendable at the discretion of the Expert Committee up to a maximum of 5 years.

- g. The Research Grant for the project which mostly will be of laboratory nature; shall be trifurcated into three broad budget heads with the following indicative break up:
- Recurring (including Project Manpower, Travel, Consumables & Contingencies - 60%
 - Capital Equipment - 35%
 - Overhead - 5%
 - However, Travel and Contingencies would be limited to 10% each.
- h. Each Awardees needs to provide proposal with detailed break up as above for utilization of Research Grant and the Host Institution needs to adhere the approved breakup for entire project period.
- i. The amount (consolidated salary and fund for the research project) will be released in favour of the Head of the Host Indian Institution, where the research project will be undertaken, and will be kept in separate account.

Roles and requirements of host institutions:

- i. Host institutions should be encouraged to provide a congenial atmosphere for the awardees to excel in their work.
- ii. Access to all common infrastructural facilities, acceptable laboratory and office space (Independently or on shared basis), computing, library access, etc.,
- iii. Host-institution's willingness to consider the candidate for a permanent position in due course will be subject to meeting, rules, regulations and all relevant statutory requirements.
- iv. Furnishing of the Utilization Certificate (UC) and the audited statement of account from the audit authority, as applicable to the Host Institute, as per the provisions of the General Financial Rules.