

Annexure-III**RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES FOR FACULTY**

R&D schemes for faculty are designed to bolster the academic and intellectual environment within the University. These schemes aim to promote innovation, facilitate interdisciplinary collaboration, and enhance the quality of education and research output. The primary objective of these funding schemes is to secure external grants from sponsoring agencies, which play a vital link between researchers and funding bodies, ensuring that promising ideas receive the necessary support to materialize into impactful outcomes.

1.1 General

Faculty members are eligible to avail only one scheme at a time. Additionally, each of the faculty members may avail all the schemes once during their tenure at the University.

1.2 Young Faculty Grant

Under this scheme, the R&D Office will annually solicit project proposals from Assistant Professors who have joined the university within the last 5 years and hold a PhD degree. The project duration will be 2 years. Faculty members whose project proposals are selected/awarded will receive a total grant of up to Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees five lakh).

1.2.1 Information required in a project proposal.

- a. Project title
- b. Details of Principal Investigator (Name, Department, education qualification, publications in last five years)
- c. Origin and Importance of the project
- d. National and International status of the project
- e. Objectives
- f. Methodology
- g. Budget
- h. Expected outcome(s) from the project.

1.2.2 Selection of projects and funding

Projects will be selected for funding solely based on scientific merit, as assessed by a review committee established by the University. Upon selection, a sanction letter detailing the budget breakdown will be issued to the Principal Investigator of the selected project. Initially, fifty percent of the grant will be disbursed for the first year. The release of funding for the second year will be contingent upon the review of the annual progress report.

1.2.3 Utilisation of funds

1. The funds of the projects shall only be used for the purposes specified in the sanction letter vis-à-vis small equipment, consumables, contingencies and travel. The funds shall NOT be used for salary/honorarium payments to PhD students, JRF, SRF, staff, etc.

2. Any deviation from the budget or project duration requires prior approval from the competent authority

1.2.4 Submission of Report

1. PI is required to submit a project progress report after the completion of one year, which includes the submission of at least one research project to an external funding agency.

2. PI must submit a final technical report upon completion of the project, highlighting the achievements vis-à-vis proposed objectives, outcomes in terms of publications, and information on projects submitted to external funding agencies.

1.2.5 Expected Outcome(s)

The success of the project will be judged based on:

1. Submission of the project proposal to an external funding source and receipt of an external grant.
2. Publication of at least two papers in SCI/SCIE/SSCI journals, with acknowledgments of the funding and scheme.

1.3 Equipment Matching Grant for Faculty

The aim of the Equipment Matching Grant scheme is to aid faculty members in strengthening their research capabilities by offering financial support for developing new capabilities and high-value research facilities in emerging fields, as well as for acquiring essential research equipment. The R&D Office will provide a matching grant of up to ₹35 Lakhs or an amount equal to the external funds secured by the faculty, whichever is lower. To qualify for this matching grant, faculty members must obtain external funding of an equivalent amount.

1.3.1 Information required:

1. Project details under which the equipment is sanctioned.
2. Amount of Equipment Grant Sanctioned by the funding agency & details thereof.
3. Amount of Matching Grant required from R&D
4. Equipment proposed to be purchased.
5. Justification to avail matching grant.
6. Names of other faculty/departments/centers/schools who/which can utilize the equipment.

1.4 Faculty Interdisciplinary Research Projects (FIRP)

The aim of the Faculty Interdisciplinary Research Project (FIRP) scheme is to enhance interdisciplinary and collaborative research in the University. FIRP proposals are to be submitted by teams of two or more faculty members working in different departments/centres and having expertise in different disciplines.

These interdisciplinary research groups are anticipated to expand in size or merge with other research groups, thereby enhancing the level of expertise and research scope within a specific interdisciplinary theme. Furthermore, these interdisciplinary research groups are expected to attract significant support from external funding agencies and facilitate synergistic cross-

research activities among faculty members across the University, resulting in joint research publications, patents, and PhD supervisions.

Under this scheme, the R&D Office will annually solicit FIRP proposals. The teams whose project proposals are selected/awarded will receive a total grant of Rs. 10 Lakhs, with Rs. 5 Lakhs allocated as seed funding for the first year and remaining Rs. 5 Lakhs for the second year. The joint research team is required to submit at least one research project to a funding agency by the end of the first year.

1.4.1 Information required:

- a. Project title
- b. Details of faculty members of the team (One of the team members to be listed as PI and the others as Co-PIs for administrative and accounting purposes)
- c. Objectives
- d. Origin and Importance of the Project
- e. National and International status of the project
- f. Methodology
- g. Interdisciplinary component of the project
- h. Importance and relevance of the research expertise of the collaborators towards the project
- i. Details of funding agency to which project proposal can be submitted after the first year.
- j. Budget breakup (maximum Rs 5 lacs per year)
- k. Details of Reviewer(s) from the University (Optional)

1.4.2 Selection of projects and funding

Projects will be selected for funding purely on scientific merit and judged by a review committee constituted by the University. Sanction letter with a budget breakup will be released for the selected project to the Principal Investigator. Initially, fifty percent of the grant will be released for the first year. In exceptional cases, seventy-five percent of the grant may be released in the first year itself with the permission of the Dean R&D. The release of funding for the second year will be contingent upon the review of the annual progress report.

1.4.3 Utilisation of funds

1. The funds of the projects shall only be used for the purposes specified in the sanction letter vis-à-vis small equipment, consumables, contingencies and travel expenses. The funds shall NOT be used for salary/honorarium/stipend payments for PhD students, JRF, SRF, staff, etc.
2. Any Deviation from the allocated budget or project duration requires prior approval from the competent authority.

1.4.4 Submission of Report

1. PI is required to submit a project progress report upon the completion of one year. This report must include the submission of at least one research project to an external funding agency.
2. Following the completion of the project, the PIs are obligated to submit a final technical report, highlighting the achievements vis-à-vis proposed objectives, outcomes in terms of publications and details regarding projects submitted to external funding agencies.

1.4.5 Expected Outcome(s)

The success of the project will be judged based on:

1. Submission of the project to an external funding source and receiving of an external grant.
2. Publication of at least two papers in SCI/SCIE/SSCI journals or a granted patent or achievement of Technology readiness level (TRL-1). The publications must acknowledge the funding and scheme.

1.5 Multi-Institutional Faculty Interdisciplinary Research Projects (MFIRP)

The goal of the Multi-Institutional Faculty Interdisciplinary Research Projects (MFIRP) is to promote collaborative research among partnering institutes, universities, and research laboratories, and to secure substantial support from external funding agencies. This scheme is applicable to institutions, universities, and research laboratories with which DTU has Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) for MFIRP. The R&D office encourages faculty members to collaborate with counterparts from other institutions, both within India and internationally. The scheme provides funding to teams comprising faculty members from different institutions or universities, requiring at least two Principal Investigators (PIs), one from each participating entity. Additionally, PIs have the flexibility to include Co-PIs from the same or different departments without any additional financial implications.

General Guidelines

I) Funding & Duration

1. The project duration and grant can vary depending on the collaborating Institute.
2. In general, the project duration ranges from 6 months to 2 years.
3. The supporting grant typically amounts to approximately Rs. 5 Lakhs per year from DTU, with a matching contribution expected from each of the collaborating institute, university, or research laboratory.

II) Submission of Project

1. The complete MFIRP proposal should be submitted by the PI from DTU to the Dean R&D.
2. Each team is allowed to submit only one proposal at a time.
3. The PI from the other institutes/universities must also submit one printed copy of the same proposal to the respective office of the collaborating institute/university, following the provisions outlined in the call.

III) Selection of projects

1. Projects will be selected for first-phase funding purely on scientific merit, as evaluated by a joint review committee established by all the involved Universities/institutes.
2. Out of the selected project proposals, DTU PI will be awarded Rs. 5 Lakhs and a similar matching contribution to the other institute/university PIs from the collaborating Institutes for the first year.

3. The release of funding for the second year will be contingent upon the review of the annual progress report and the submission of a joint project proposal to an external funding agency.

4. To request a budget revision and tenure extension for the second year of funding and project tenure extension, the PI must submit a "Budget Revision & Tenure Extension" request.

IV) Utilisation of funds

1. The funds of the projects should only be used for the purposes specified in the sanction letter *vis-à-vis* consumables, contingencies and support staff salaries. The funds should NOT be used for supporting PhD students, JRF, SRF, etc. Additionally, supporting staff should not receive financial support from two funding sources simultaneously.

2. Funds may only be used for core research activities.

3. Any deviation from the budget/ project duration requires prior approval from the competent authority.

V) Collaborative Activities

Collaboration activities between the two universities/institutions may involve:

1. Incorporating project work as part of students' dissertation work. In such cases, the respective student will be jointly supervised by both the Principal Investigators (PIs) of the collaborating institutes.
2. Undertaking joint research projects aimed at advancing knowledge and addressing research challenges collaboratively.
3. Promoting and implementing any other form of partnership that is mutually beneficial to both DTU and the collaborating institute. Such partnerships will be jointly identified and executed by both entities.

VI) Conflict Resolution

The issues pertaining to Collaborative Research Agreement, Intellectual Property Rights, and joint supervision will be addressed in accordance with the guidelines outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between DTU and the collaborating institutes. These guidelines are detailed in the MoU document and provide a framework for managing collaborative research endeavors, addressing intellectual property concerns, and facilitating joint supervision arrangements.

VII) Submission of Report

1. An interim project progress report is required upon the completion of the first year, which should include the submission of at least one research project to an external funding agency and/or a project progress presentation.
2. It is expected that the joint research team will submit at least one research project to an external funding agency upon the completion of the first year.
3. Upon the completion of the joint project, the PIs are required to submit a final technical report. This report should outline the achievements in relation to the proposed objectives, including outcomes such as publications, patents, conference proceedings, etc.

Additionally, it should provide details on projects submitted to external agencies, following the format mutually agreed upon with the collaborating institute.

VIII) Expected Outcome(s)

1. It is expected that the synergistic 'cross-research activity' between faculty members of different collaborating institutes of these interdisciplinary research groups will attract strong support from external funding agencies, leading to high-impact research, publications in high-impact journals, patents and quality PhD work.
2. These projects are to be considered as a one-time seed grant and the success of these projects will be judged based on the external grants the team can generate and the number of publications, patents, technology developed/transferred, outreach, etc.

IX) Call Schedule

Subsequent calls for proposals will be announced depending on factors such the availability of funds, the success of previous calls, and opportunities of collaboration with other institutes.

Note: While general guidelines are provided in the project call for proposals, specific terms and conditions for foreign projects collaborating with foreign universities/institutes are formulated only after mutual agreement. Some criterion outlined in the guidelines may vary depending on the participating university/institute. For example, eligibility conditions, call duration, supporting funds, etc., may differ based on the partner university/institute.