

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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### 1. Who can apply?

The following categories of institutions with proven track record in life sciences research and education are eligible to apply for DBT-BUILDER:

- a) UGC recognized Central, State and Private universities
- b) PG colleges registered under Central Universities Act 2009 and section 2(f) and 12B (for PG colleges only) of the UGC Act, 1956 (<http://www.ugc.ac.in/>)

### 2. When is the call for DBT-BUILDER announced?

The call for DBT-BUILDER is announced annually and is advertised on the DBT website.

### 3. What are the different levels of support provided under DBT-BUILDER ?

Support under DBT-BUILDER is at three levels: Level – I, Level - II & Level – III for **duration of 5 years** subject to reviewing of progress and fulfillment of Terms and Conditions of the grant.

**The criteria for short-listing for these three levels are as follows:**

➤ **Level I – *Post Graduate College with teaching and active research***

- PG College should be accredited by nationally recognized Accreditation Agency, with minimum of ‘A’ rating.
- There should be a minimum of 10 students in each PG department every academic year.
- Minimum number of Faculty at PG level shall be 4 per Department.
- At least 1 Extra-mural Research Grant to each Department.
- Evidence of research in the PG Department (s) of the College in terms of publication in peer reviewed *Science Citation Index*-ed (SCI) journals.

Funding up to Rs. 3.00 Crores for 5 years may be provided at this level.

➤ **Level II - *University/Institute departments with teaching and active research***

- Department (s) should have existed at least for 3 years.
- Evidence of Extra-mural Research grants received during last 5 years.
- Performance during last 5 years: Publications in peer reviewed *Science Citation Index*-ed (SCI) journals, Patents, Awards received by the Faculty Members of the participating Departments.

- Number of core faculty members having Ph. D degree should be five (5) or more in each of the participating Departments.

Funding up to Rs 5.0 Crores for 5 Years may be provided at this level.

➤ **Level III – Well established internationally competitive Department / Research Institutes**

- Department / (s) should have existed at least for 5 years.
- Each faculty should have received at least 1 extramural Research grant during last 5 years.
- Performance during last 5 years: Publications in peer reviewed *Science Citation Index*-ed (SCI) journals, Patents, Awards received by the Faculty Members of the Department/ Centre.
- Number of core faculty members having Ph. D degree should be eight (8) or more.

Funding up to Rs 5.0 Crores for 5 Years may be provided at this level.

**4. What are the major heads under which grants received under DBT-BUILDER can be utilized?**

The grant sanctioned shall be under 2 major heads i.e. Non-recurring and Recurring.

➤ **Non-recurring**

- Civil Works (only for Renovation & Refurbishment) and Interior Infrastructure (No fresh Construction)
- Equipments suggested for up gradation, AMC/ CMC, refurbishment (only be provided if not existing). A list of existing facilities and equipments needs to be provided by the Institution during application.
- Sophisticated common facilities (Only those which are related to the area of research and if not available are to be asked)

➤ **Recurring**

- Operational cost like consumables and contingencies
- Salaries of the manpower  
(A letter of undertaking should be submitted by Principal of College/ Vice-chancellor of the University/ Director of Institute stating that the financial liability for the manpower involved would be borne by the respective institution at the end of the project support is essential provided the manpower has been involved in the project for not less than 3 years in continuation)

**5. How is a new proposal processed?**

DBT-BUILDER is a highly competitive grant and the Department is fully committed to ensure complete transparency during the process of consideration and short listing of proposals.

- ❖ Upon receipt of a new proposal, the same will be reviewed for **completeness** by the Internal Screening Committee. *Incomplete applications and those which do not fulfill eligibility criteria will not be considered further.*
- ❖ Applications that are complete and responsive will be further evaluated for scientific and technical merit by a high-powered Expert Committee constituted by DBT.
- ❖ The Programme Coordinator may be invited to make a detailed presentation before the Committee.
- ❖ The decision of the Committee on a proposal will be final and communicated to the Coordinator.

For discussion or evaluation of proposals, members of committee must declare a conflict of interest if they or close professional associates will or might benefit, directly or indirectly, from any support. The potential Conflict of Interest will be discussed and rated as high, medium or low and the member(s) will be either asked to leave the meeting for the duration of Committee's deliberations regarding the relevant proposal, or to refrain from any discussion and participation in decisions related to the proposal(s).

#### **6. Who can be a Programme Coordinator?**

The Programme Coordinator could be the following:

- Principal / Head of the Department / Senior Professor of a PG College
- Vice-chancellor or Dean, Life Sciences/Biological Sciences or Senior Professor with proven track record in life science research and education as evidenced by publications, patents, technology developed/transferred, research projects implemented, awards and fellowships etc.

The tenure of service for the Programme Coordinator must be valid throughout the entire duration of support. Requests for change of Co-ordinators shall not be entertained during the tenure of the grant (except for exceptional circumstances).

#### **7. What are the responsibilities of the Co-ordinator?**

- ❖ Ensure coordination between participating Departments focusing on an interdisciplinary approach
- ❖ Avoid plagiarism while drafting the proposal
- ❖ Ensure fulfillment of stated objectives against timelines and timely utilization of grants
- ❖ Timely submission of progress reports, financial documents to DBT

#### **8. Under which conditions can the duration of support be extended?**

The duration of support shall be for a maximum period of five years and **NO extension** will be provided beyond five years in general. However project duration

may be extended, subject to the recommendation of a high powered technical Committee constituted by DBT for either:

a) Maximum of one year with in the approved budget of the project.

OR

b) Maximum of two years for projects showing exceptionally outstanding performance with additional budget. During extension period, ONLY the costs for manpower and consumables will be provided.

**9. Is there any guidance provided by DBT during the tenure of support?**

For any assistance, recipients of the DBT-BUILDER grant / Co-ordinators may contact the Programme Officer: Dr. Garima Gupta, Sc. E, DBT Email: [garima.g@nic.in](mailto:garima.g@nic.in)

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