1. **Who can apply?**
   - The college must be Government or Government aided or Autonomous included under Section 2(f)/12(B) of UGC Act, 1956.
   - College should run minimum 4-5 UG courses in basic sciences such as botany, zoology, applied life science, microbiology, physiology / biochemistry, biotechnology etc. and 1-2 applied course/PG diploma courses.
   - Adequate in-house faculty expertise in each science departments with at least 1 permanent faculty.
   - Basic infrastructure and facilities in terms of laboratories and library, LCD / overhead projection facilities, Computers with internet access in consonance with UG level of India.

2. **When is the call for DBT Star College Scheme announced?**
   - The call for DBT-Star College scheme for both Urban and Rural categories is announced annually and is advertised on the DBT website.

3. **What are ‘Urban’ and ‘Rural’ categories of colleges?**
   - DBT is focussed on equitable percolation of benefits of the Star College Scheme throughout the country and is committed to ensure that geographical location and access to means of communication and technology should not be a deterrent for securing this highly competitive grant. Therefore, since 2018-19 Colleges have been categorized into Urban and Rural categories based on the **physical location of the college**.
   - Colleges applying under Rural category should mandatorily attach a certificate (with the application) from competent authority (local administration and not Principal of the College) either in Hindi or English stating that the college is located in a Rural area, failing which applications shall not be considered further.

4. **Can colleges which have been applied / supported earlier under DBT-Star College scheme reapply for fresh support?**
   - Colleges that have applied but have not been recommended for support can re-apply to DBT for financial support with appropriate modifications and revisions.
   - Colleges which have been discontinued after a round of support are eligible for re-applying only after a **cooling period of two years**.
5. **Can a college request addition of new departments during the ongoing tenure of support?**

Colleges requesting addition of new departments should first complete one cycle of support i.e. 3 years with the departments that the grant was recommended for.

6. **Who can be a Coordinator for a Star College Scheme?**

The Star College Scheme encourages young and energetic faculty of a College to assume greater responsibilities besides their routine roles and functions. A Coordinator should be active, engage in networking with other Departments seeking support under the DBT-Star College Scheme and should be involved with the overall functioning of the scheme in respective Colleges.

The Coordinator for the Star College Scheme shall be responsible for the coordination between the Colleges and DBT; thus the change of coordinator shall not be entertained during the entire duration of the support unless there is some personal issue due to which the coordinator is not available, for duration of more than six months at a stretch.

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

- Applications must be submitted through the online portal of DBT e-ProMIS and all mandatory information should be furnished.
- Consideration shall be given to regional requirements, women's colleges, autonomous colleges and colleges from Aspirational districts.
- Applications shall be initially screened by an expert Committee constituted by DBT. Shortlisted Colleges shall be called for final presentation before the Task Force. Site visit, if required, will be undertaken to arrive at final decision. Decision of Task Force will be final.

The decision of the Expert Committee/Task Force is generally communicated to all applicants via email along with the observations of the Committee.

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).

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

For any assistance, recipients of the DBT-Star College grant / Co-ordinators may contact:
9. **Is there a mechanism for mentoring colleges aspiring for support under DBT Star College scheme?**

Each Colleges supported under the DBT-Star College scheme is envisaged to promote networking and strengthen ties with neighbouring institutions and a separate fund is provided for mentoring activities. A College aspiring to apply for a Star College grant may get in touch with the neighbouring Star College. A list of Colleges supported under the DBT-Star College Scheme with contact details of Co-ordinators is provided below. Additionally, DBT also conducts workshops and outreach activities periodically throughout the country. Details are provided in the Twitter handle of DBT.