



सत्यमेव जयते

Department of Biotechnology
Ministry of Science and Technology
Govt. of India

Australia-India Strategic Research Fund: Collaborative Research Projects Round 16

A call for proposals under the Innovations partnership between India and Australia

Global Innovations Division

Last date of application submission: 11 April, 2025 (by 5 PM IST)

Indo-Australian Biotechnology Fund (IABF)

- Indo-Australian Biotechnology Fund (IABF) supports Indian and Australian Scientists, from both the public and private sectors, to collaborate in cutting edge research in the area of science & technology.
- Supports funding of joint projects, DBT & DST fund the Indian side based on priority areas and Department of Industry, Innovation and Science (DIIS), Govt. of Australia funds the Australian side.



DBT Priority Areas of the Call

- biomanufacturing for industrial and consumer products, including biochemicals, biofuels and novel bio-based materials
- biotechnology for improved agricultural productivity and climate resilience (including food security or renewable feedstocks)
- RNA vaccines and biotherapeutics (immunotherapy)



Application

- Joint Call requires that the collaboration between Indian and Australian research teams be submitted as a Multiple Principal Investigator (Multi-PD/PI) application with both of the lead scientists from each country as the PD/PI.
- Indian application should follow DBT guidance using the 'Proposal Submission form for R&D Projects' format available at the DBT eProMIS portal: (http://www.dbtepromis.nic.in/sample_forms.htm).
- Only meritorious applications will be considered for joint funding and will be supported by the DBT and DIIS under this program.
- The maximum project period is 3 years.
- The participants shall enter into a Project Agreement.



Important Points for Application Submission

- Submission in epromis is mandatory.
- A signed copy of the joint proposal forwarded through proper channel should be submitted to iyoti.logani@nic.in and icone@dbt.nic.in
- Information about Australian PI and their role must be defined in the proposal.
- Last date of application submission: 11 April, 2025 (by 5 PM IST).



Grant Assessment

- Criteria:
 1. Scientific merit of proposal
 2. Approach and methodology
 3. Organization and investigator capabilities
 4. Impact and deliverables
- Applications will be assessed on a competitive basis against the assessment criteria. The grants would be evaluated by Indian and Australian expert committees and awards will be decided jointly.



Funding

- Australian Call- The grant amount will be up to 100 per cent of eligible project expenditure
The minimum grant amount is \$200,000.
The maximum grant amount is \$1,000,000
- DBT will fund the Indian side with a rationalised budget as per DBT norms in alignment with the 'Biotechnology Research Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (Bio- RIDE)' scheme.



Funding Instruments/Items

Head	Year1	Year2	Year3	Total
A.Non-recurring				
1.Equipment				
TotalA				
B.Recurring				
1.Consumables				
2.Manpower (JRF/SRF/RA/TA)				
3.Travel(both Domestic and International for Project purpose)				
4.Contingency				
5.Overheads–as per DBT norms				
6.Outsourcing				
7.Others				
TOTALB				
TOTAL(A+B)				



Eligible Activities and Expenses

- International economy excursion class return airfares for Indian researchers travelling to Australia to participate in collaborative research projects (international airfares for Australian researchers travelling to India will be met by the Australian Government);
- Living expenses, including accommodation and meals, for Australian researchers travelling to India to participate in collaborative research projects and workshops as per Gol norms. (This should be built in under the project by the Indian PI)
- Living expenses, including accommodation and meals, for Indian researchers travelling to Australia will be met by the Australian Government. (maximum of AUD\$300 per person per day, or AUD\$4,000 per person per month, whichever is the lesser amount.)



Eligibility Criteria

Academic/Research Partners:

- must have a well established research support system
- recognition documents and registration at Government of India's Public Finance Management System (PFMS) <https://pfms.nic.in>

NGO(s)/VO(s)/Trust(s)/Research Foundations:

- should have experience of at least 3 years in scientific research, teaching, training and extension activities; and must follow research as one of the mandates
- Proof of registration at 'NGO DARPAN' of NITI Aayog (<http://ngodarpan.gov.in/>)



Regulatory, Ethical, Safety & Statutory Considerations (If applicable)

- Research Using Hazardous Microorganisms, Genetically Engineered (GE) Organisms & Products there off or R&D Purpose:
Necessary intimation/ recommendation/ authorization from concerned Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBSC), Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) & Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) is obligatory based on type & scale of research operations.
- Human and Animal Subjects Research:
Review by the Indian Bioethics Committees prior to award request (DBT/ICMR policies).
http://www.icmr.nic.in/guidelines/ICMR_Ethical_Guidelines_2017.pdf



Important Point Post Shortlisting

- The Project Coordinator/ Principal Investigator may utilize the Biological Research Regulatory Approval Portal (BioRRAP) at [<https://biorrap.gov.in/>] to obtain information and guidance regarding various regulatory approvals.

Note: Successful registration of the project on BioRRAP and assignment of unique project BioRRAP ID is a mandatory pre-requisite for further submission to various regulatory bodies including Review Committee for Genetic Manipulation (RCGM), Committee for Control and Supervision of Experiments on Animals (CCSEA), Health Ministry's Screening Committee (HMSC), and for seeking approval/clearance for foreign assistance and/or collaboration from the administrative Line Ministry/Department of the Government of India.

- For research in life sciences involving foreign assistance and/or collaboration, including research studies in humans, animals, plants, and environment, clearance/approval has to be obtained mandatorily from the Health Ministry's Screening Committee (HMSC), or concerned Line Ministry/Department of the Government of India, as applicable, prior to initiation of research activities. Note: The above applies to any kind of foreign collaboration/ assistance, regardless of the source of financial assistance.



Thank you!

