Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Science and Technology

6th ADVERTISEMENT – 2014
INSPIRE Faculty Scheme: a component of "Assured Opportunity for Research Career (AORC)" under INSPIRE.

The Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, has launched the **"Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE)"** [http://www.inspire-dst.gov.in] program in 2008. The program aims to attract talent for study of science and careers with research. INSPIRE includes many components for different age groups. The importance of Assured Career Opportunity in R&D sector has been recognized. **INSPIRE Faculty Award Scheme** opens up an "**Assured Opportunity for Research Career (AORC)"** for young researchers in the age group of 27-32 years. The upper age limit as on **1st January 2014** should be 32 years for considering support for a period of 5 years. However, for SC and ST candidates upper age limit will be 35 years. It offers a contractual research awards to young achievers and opportunity for independent research in the near term and emerge as a future leader in the long term.

- Each selected INSPIRE Faculty shall be eligible to receive a consolidated amount equivalent to the entry level salary of an Assistant Professor in any IIT system as an Award amount, in addition to a Research Grant of Rs. 7 lakhs per year. The INSPIRE Faculty Award is tenable for a maximum period of 5 (five) years.

- Three routes i.e. Direct (A), Nomination (B) and Institution mode are available for applying by the eligible candidates.

- Under **`Institutions Mode'**, reputed academic institutions shall be required to adopt and complete the internal process as per guidelines and mechanisms available for the INSPIRE Faculty Award before forwarding names of pre-selected candidates for final selection by the Apex Committee.

- Eligible candidate, who wish to be considered in **'Direct (A)'** and **'Nominated (B)'** routes, may send applications directly to **Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi** for consideration.

- Nominations from academic institutions or Industry R&D through Vice-Chancellors/Directors of Institutions/Heads of Institutions/Presidents and Fellows of Science Academies or Eminent Scientists from India and Abroad based on personal knowledge under **`Nominated Mode'**.

- Candidates need to apply through one Mode only, either Direct or Nominations or Institute Mode. Use of more than one Mode shall call for rejection of application.

- Students, who intend to apply **Direct or Nomination Mode,** needs to apply On-line. Detailed Guidelines are available at the **Website: www.inspire-dst.gov.in** for information. To apply **On-line,** please visit the **website: www.online-inspire.gov.in** and follow the process prescribed therein. **On-line submission will commence on 15th January 2014 and close by 28th February 2014.** After submission of application through **On-line**, the Candidate must obtain a print of the application thus submitted.

- Applications submitted through **On-line** method by eligible candidates both in **'Direct Mode (A)** and **Nominated Mode (B)**, must reach in the prescribed format completed in all respect with hard copies of the necessary enclosures to **The Executive Director, Indian National Science Academy (INSA), Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi – 110002** on or before **28th February 2014.**

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Note: Applications through off-line mode shall not be entertained and liable for rejection.

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6th ADVERTISEMENT – 2014 (1)
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a) Eligibility

Essential

- Indian citizens and people of Indian origin including NRI/PIO status with PhD (in science, mathematics, engineering, pharmacy, medicine, and agriculture related subjects) from any recognized university in the world,
- Those who have submitted their PhD Theses and are awaiting award of the degree are also eligible. However, the award will be conveyed only after confirmation of the awarding the PhD degree.
- The **upper age limit as on 1st January 2014** should be **32 years** for considering support for a period of 5 years. However, for SC and ST candidates upper age limit will be 35 years.
- Candidates who are employed (in any form i.e. permanent, contractual) with any organization within India will be eligible to apply. However, they will be considered only for the Research Grant component of the INSPIRE Faculty Award scheme.

Desirable

- Candidates who are within top 1% at the School Leaving Examination, IIT-JEE rank, 1st Rank Holder either in graduation or post-graduation level university examination (which are used presently for identifying INSPIRE Scholars at under-graduate level and INSPIRE Fellows for doctoral degree)
- Publications with an aggregate Impact Factor 10 **OR** at least three research publications in SCI journals (one in case of Mathematics) of high Impact Factor.

b) Applications

- Three routes i.e. Direct, Nomination and Institution mode are available for applying by the eligible candidates,
- Under `Institutions Mode', candidates may directly approach reputed academic institutes and the host academic Institute shall be required to adopt their own internal process and mechanism as available before forwarding names of shot-listed candidates for final selection by the Apex Committee.

- Nominations from academic institutions or Industry R&D through Vice-Chancellors/ Directors of Institutions/ Head of Institutions/ Presidents and Fellows of Science Academies or Eminent Scientists from India and Abroad based on personal knowledge. Nominations to be sent to Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi.
- Eligible candidate who wishes to consider in 'Direct (A)' and 'Nominated (B)' route, may also send application directly to Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi for consideration.

c) Method of Selection

- Indian National Science Academy (INSA), New Delhi in coordination with DST will be implementing this INSPIRE Faculty Scheme up to the selection of candidates for awarding INSPIRE Faculty Award.
- A two-tier selection process i.e. Discipline-based Expert Committee in case of candidates under `Direct' and `Nomination' routes and Institutional level short-listing in `Institutional route' followed by final selection by the Apex Level Committee.
- Discipline-wise committees of INSA would evaluate and screen the candidates who apply on Direct and Nominated Routes without support from host-institutions.
- Reputed academic institutions enjoying the status of Centre of Excellence like IITs, IISc, IISERs, TIFR, CSIR Laboratories etc. and Central & State Universities selected under PURSE scheme of DST could employ their own internal processes to short-list candidates and submit the list for final selection by the Apex Committee.
- The Apex Committee shall finally select short-listed candidates for offering INSPIRE Faculty Award under this Scheme and decision of the Apex Committee for selecting candidates in this Scheme shall be the final.
- Candidates, who have not identified host institutions at the time of their application, should do so immediately after their final selection. All selected candidates should avail the INSPIRE Faculty Award within 3 months of their final selection.

d) Number of INSPIRE Faculty Award per year

- The Scheme provides a provision of maximum 1000 INSPIRE Faculty Awards per year subject to rigorous and transparent criteria basis met by the potential aspirants.

e) Amount & Duration of each INSPIRE Faculty Award

- Each selected INSPIRE Faculty shall be eligible to receive a consolidated amount equivalent to the scale of the Assistant Professor of an IIT as Fellowship amount. In addition, a Research Grant of Rs 7 lakh per year for 5 years shall also be provided to each successful candidate.
- The INSPIRE Faculty Award is for a maximum period of 5 (five) years.
- Each INSPIRE Faculty Award shall be regulated as per the guidelines available at the website: www.inspire-dst.gov.in/Scheme_Guidelines.pdf . Candidates need to visit the website and the read the Guidelines for reference before applying in INSPIRE Faculty Award Scheme.

f) Roles and requirements of Host Institutions

- Host institutions should be encouraged to provide a congenial atmosphere for the awardees to excel in their work, and should view them as potential assets for faculty development
- Under no circumstances the "INSPIRE Faculty" Award is renewable after 5 years. Host-institutions are expected to consider "INSPIRE Faculty" for permanent positions in due course, subject to meeting institutions' performance assessment criteria.

- In-breeding by host-institution is generally not encouraged. However, in case host-institutions are willing to nominate their own PhD students under this Scheme, specific justifications and commitment for development of independent directions of research should be clearly delineated.
- Minimum information/ commitment requirements from Host Institutions are:
    - Access to all common infrastructural facilities, acceptable laboratory and office space (independently or on shared basis), computing, library access, etc.,
    - Information on whether desirable new areas/directions of research are being introduced through this scheme,
    - Information on whether the INSPIRE Faculty will be allowed to supervise PhD students, hire research fellows, independently or jointly with a permanent faculty member,
    - Host-institution's willingness to consider the candidate for a permanent position in due course, subject to meeting statutory requirements.

g) Last date

A] Students, who intend to apply **Direct or Nomination Mode,** needs to apply On-line. Detailed Guidelines are available at the **Website: www.inspire-dst.gov.in** for information. To apply **On-line,** please visit the **website: www.online-inspire.gov.in** and follow the process prescribed therein. **On-line submission will commence on 15th January 2014 and close by 28th February 2014.** After submission of application through **On-line**, the Candidate must obtain a print of the application thus submitted. Applications submitted off-line shall not be entertained and liable for rejection.

B] Applications submitted through **On-line** method by eligible candidates in **'Direct Mode (A)** and **Nominated Mode (B)**, must reach in the prescribed format completed in all respect with hard copies of the necessary enclosures to **The Executive Director, Indian National Science Academy (INSA), Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi – 110002** on or before **28th February 2014.**