

# Ministry of Science and Technology

## Department of Science and Technology

### 8<sup>th</sup> ADVERTISEMENT – 2015 (1)

### 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. The importance of Assured Career Opportunity in R&D sector has been recognized. **INSPIRE Faculty Scheme** opens up an “**Assured Opportunity for Research Career (AORC)**” for young researchers in the age group of 27-32 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.

#### 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 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015** 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.
- Publication(s) in highly reputed Journals demonstrating research potential of the candidate.

##### Desirable

- Candidates who are within top 1% at the School Leaving Examination, IIT-JEE rank, 1<sup>st</sup> 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)

#### b) Applications

- Three routes i.e. Direct, Nomination and Institution mode are available for applying by the eligible candidates,
- Candidates, who intend to apply **Direct or Nomination mode** may apply **only** online. Application formats with detailed guidelines are available at the website: [www.inspire-dst.gov.in](http://www.inspire-dst.gov.in) for information. To apply online, please visit the website: [www.online-inspire.gov.in](http://www.online-inspire.gov.in) and follow the process prescribed therein. After submission of application through **online**, the candidate must obtain a print of the application thus submitted.
- 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 short-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 position per year**

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

**e) Amount & Duration of each INSPIRE Faculty position**

- 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.
- In case the INSPIRE Faculty finds a permanent position during the tenure of the position, the Fellowship amount shall be discontinued from the day the INSPIRE Faculty joins in permanent position but he/she may continue with the INSPIRE Faculty Scheme availing Research Grant for the remaining period to carry out research at the new position.
- The INSPIRE Faculty is eligible to apply for any competitive grant from funding agencies during the tenure of the INSPIRE Faculty position and would be favorably considered by DST for future support at the end of 5 years based on performance and technical merit.

**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] Eligible students choosing '**Direct Mode**' must apply in the prescribed format of '**Direct Mode (A)**' to **The Executive Secretary, Indian National Science Academy (INSA), Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi – 110002** on or before **28th February, 2015**.
- B] Nominated applications in the prescribed format of '**Nomination Mode (B)**' should also reach **The Executive Secretary, Indian National Science Academy (INSA), Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi – 110002** on or before **28th February, 2015**.
- C] Under '**Institutions Mode**', the reputed Institutes or Universities should send all the relevant papers of pre-selected candidates to **INSPIRE Program Division, Department of Science & Technology (DST), New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi – 110016** on or before **June 30, 2015**.