

Department of Biotechnology

Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship

1. SCHEME:

The Department of Biotechnology has instituted a scheme known as “Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship” for Indian Nationals who are working overseas in various fields of biotechnology and life sciences and are interested in taking up scientific research positions in India. Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellows would be able to work in any of the scientific Institutions/Universities in the country.

2. WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY

- i) The Indian working in any area of life sciences & biotechnology, bio-engineering, health care (human and animal), agriculture and veterinary biotechnology, bio-energy and allied areas will be eligible to apply.
- ii) The applicant should possess a Ph.D./M.D. degree or equivalent in life sciences/ agriculture, bioinformatics and allied areas or M.Tech. in Biotechnology/ allied areas/ medicine etc. with at least three years of post-doctoral research experience in overseas research laboratories. Those who have already returned to India within one year of the closing date of the advertisement (two years for women candidates) are also eligible to apply; however, if they have secured a regular position in India within this period then they are not eligible to apply.
- iii) Applicants should have a proven/outstanding track record as evident from research publications and recognitions.
- iv) In case a fellow joins a regular position, the fellowship component of the scheme will be discontinued from the date of joining the regular position, however, he/she can avail the research grant component for completion of the project objective on time.
- v) The upper age limit for applying is 45 years as on the closing date of the application.
- vi) Once a candidate is selected for the fellowship, before the initiation of the fellowship, he/she would need to submit a two-member advisory committee comprising one member from his/her host institute and one from another institute in India or abroad from the area of his/her research. The advisory committee will mentor research work of the fellow and suggest course correction, and their opinion/views regarding the progress of the fellow may also be sought by the committee, whenever required.

3. DURATION AND NUMBER OF FELLOWSHIP

- i) The duration of the fellowship will be for a period of three years. In exceptional cases, the duration of the award may be extended by additional two years after a fresh appraisal of performance. During the extension period the fellow will be provided with Fellowship, Contingency/Research grant, and Institutional Overhead.
- ii) Upto 75 fellowships will be awarded every year.

4. NATURE OF SUPPORT:

- i) The amount of the fellowship will be of Rs.1,35,000/- per month (consolidated).
- ii) Each awardee will in addition receive an annual Research Support grant of Rs. 13,00,000/- per annum for the purchase of consumables, minor equipment, domestic travel, engaging project staff and other contingent expenditure to be incurred in connection with the implementation of the project.
- iii) Rs 50,000/- per annum institutional overhead will be paid to the host institute.
- iv) Awardees will be eligible for regular research grant/s through extramural and other research schemes of various S&T agencies of the Government of India, provided that a Co-PI is a regular faculty member, and the concerned funding agency allows for this. The information on the details of projects applied/sanctioned by the agencies may be made available to DBT from time-to-time and also as a part of annual report.

5. WHERE WILL AWARDEES WORK (Selection of Host Institute)

- i) Awardees can choose to work at any S&T institution including university departments or other academic institutions and national laboratories in India, provided the institution at which they wish to pursue research is willing to provide the necessary R&D, administrative and basic infrastructural support to facilitate research.
- ii) The applications have to be duly forwarded by the competent authority of the host institutions against an advertisement.
- iii) **The fellow can change the host institute only once during the tenure of the fellowship with prior approval from DBT.** However, second change is allowed only in case fellow gets a permanent job in a different institution. If the fellow has opted for the change of host institute first time itself on the basis of getting a permanent position, no further request of changing the host institute will be considered. **If the fellow requested the change of host institution before activation of the fellowship it will be treated as first change.**

6. MODE OF SELECTION

DBT will periodically advertise the Fellowship on its Website (www.dbtindia.nic.in) and in National Newspapers and Scientific Journals. The Committee constituted by the Department of Biotechnology will recommend the selection of the candidates for the fellowship.

Terms and Conditions for availing the Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship of Department of Biotechnology, GOI, New Delhi

I - Role of Department of Biotechnology

1. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) would release fellowship grant of Rs.1,35,000/- per month, consolidated as per revision of emoluments, Research support grant of Rs. 13,00,000 per annum, and Institutional overhead of Rs. 50,000 per year will also be provided to the fellow for three years. The research support grant can be utilized towards purchase of minor equipment, consumables, domestic travel, engaging manpower and other contingent expenditure to be incurred in connection with the implementation of the project. In exceptional cases, the duration of the fellowship could be extended by another two years on a fresh appraisal with fellowship, research grant, and overhead.
2. The first review of the progress of the research work will be done at mid-term after joining of the fellowship. During this review the fellow will be called to present his/her research work before the committee.
3. During the tenure of the fellowship the fellow is not entitled to any kind of salary. However, he/she can apply for research grant to various funding agencies through their host institute. The Co-PI should be a permanent faculty. The information on the details of projects applied/sanctioned by the agencies may be made available to DBT from time-to- time and also as a part of annual report.
4. Follow the DBT Publication and Patent Guidelines available on <http://dbtindia.gov.in/regulations-guidelines/guidelines/dbt-ip-guidelines-2023>. The same may be incorporated as a part of annual progress report.
5. The DBT reserves right to visit the host institute to inspect the facilities/resources created by using the fellowship grant at any time during the tenure of the fellowship.
6. DBT reserves right to discontinue fellowship at any stage and change the terms & conditions of fellowship.
7. No relocation allowance will be provided to the fellow for joining the host institute.

II - Role of the Fellow

1. Each fellow is expected to avail the fellowship for a minimum period of three years from the date of the start of fellowship, except when fellow gets a regular position. If otherwise, the fellow may inform the Department (DBT) the reason thereof for relinquishing the fellowship as the case maybe.
2. A fellow is encouraged to apply and secure a regular (permanent/tenure track/contractual) position in an Indian Institution during the tenure of the fellowship. In such a scenario the fellowship will be discontinued from the date of the joining of the regular position, however, the fellow can avail the research grant component for completion of the project objective on time.
3. The fellow can take up the fellowship within nine months from the date of issue of the award letter. In case the fellow does not join within this period, it will be presumed that he/she is no longer interested and the fellowship will automatically stand cancelled. No further extension of time will be granted. Therefore, each fellow should communicate the likely date of joining promptly.
4. Once a candidate is selected for the fellowship, before the initiation of the fellowship, he/she would need to submit a two member advisory committee comprising one member from his/her host institute and one from another institute in India or abroad from the area of his/her research. The advisory committee will mentor research work of the fellow and suggest course correction, and their opinion/views regarding the progress of the fellow will also be sought by the committee, whenever required.
5. The terms and conditions and other relevant documents along with the joining letter should be submitted by the fellow at the time of joining his/her host institute. It is mandatory that each page of document should be duly signed by Ramalingaswami Fellow and forwarded by competent authority along with official seal.
6. The fellow can change the host institute only once during the tenure of the fellowship with prior approval from DBT. No objection certificate from previous host institute and acceptance letter from new institute are pre-requisite while changing the host institute. The same may be submitted to the Department. However, second change is allowed only in case fellow gets a permanent job in a different institution. If the fellow has opted for the change of host institute first time itself on the basis of getting a permanent position, no further request of changing the host institute will be considered. If the fellow requested the change of host institution before activation of the fellowship it will be treated as first change.

7. Since the fellowship is routed through host institute, the fellow should abide by the rules and regulations of that institute.
8. The fellow should submit annual progress report, and UC/SE duly forwarded by the competent authority to the Department. The UC/SE has to be financial year wise i.e. from the date of joining till 31st March of that year and SE till date.
9. The support of DBT should be mandatorily acknowledged in the publications (papers, reports etc.) by the fellows.
10. Fellows are required to make mandatory presentations about progress before review committee at the end of 3rd year and subsequent years of his/her fellowship.
11. Only those who are unable to get regular faculty position during the three year tenure of the fellowship will be eligible for 2nd term based on a fresh appraisal. During the extension period fellows are entitled for fellowship, research grant and overhead.
12. Fellows applying for extension must submit their proposal at least three months in advance, along with a consolidated, detailed progress report outlining the achievements during the fellowship period. This report should be forwarded by the Head of the Host institution with a recommendation for the extension.
13. If the Fellow has to travel abroad for any professional work for more than three months (maximum of six months only), approval from DBT is essential and this will be given only for very special cases. In such cases, fellow will be permitted to go abroad only after completion of one year of fellowship.
14. For all other clarifications such as change of host institute, absence for three months duration or beyond and other matters related to the effective utilization of the fellowship, DBT should be contacted at least four weeks in advance for necessary clearances and approvals.
15. Applicants selected for the Ramalingaswami Fellowship should send the letter of acceptance, duly signed and forwarded copy of terms and conditions (in original) along with the likely date of joining to Department of Biotechnology, Block-2, 6-8th Floor, CGO Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi – 110003.

III-Role of the Host Institute

1. The host institute accepting a Ramalingaswami Fellow should provide the necessary space, research facilities and other administrative support to conduct research under this fellowship.
2. The fellow would be governed by the rules and regulations of the host institute with regard to leave/travel and other related issues.
3. As regards the medical benefits, host institute may consider giving medical and other relevant benefits from their own resources as applicable to their regular faculty at level of Scientist 'D'/Assistant Professor.
4. Host institute will maintain separate account of the grant released and would submit UC/SE at the end of the financial year along with interest earned for the grant which would be reflected in the UC/SE submitted every year. The interest earned amount would also be required to submit to the Department through Bharatkosh portal in favour of DBT, PAO.
5. Institute will ensure effective utilization of grant given by DBT for the purpose.
6. The DBT reserves right to visit the host institute to inspect the facilities/recourses created by using the fellowship grant at any time during the tenure of the fellowship.

CERTIFICATE

We have read and understood the above terms and conditions. The same are acceptable to us. The Institute will provide space, basic laboratory facilities and other necessary facilities as mentioned in the preceding pages to Dr. _____ for conducting research during the tenure of the Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship.

Name:

Name:

Signature of the Fellow

**Signature with seal of
the Competent
Authority of Host
Institute**

Date: