

Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Science and Technology

15th ADVERTISEMENT call – July 2018
INSPIRE Faculty Scheme: a component under NSPIRE.

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. **INSPIRE Faculty Scheme** 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,
- Candidates shall possess minimum 60% (or equivalent CGPA) marks throughout his/her academic profile starting from Higher Secondary examination(class 12 onwards).
- Those who have submitted their Ph.D Theses and are awaiting award of the degree are also eligible. However, the award will be conveyed only after confirmation of the awarding the Ph.D degree.
- The **upper age limit as on 1st July 2018** 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.
- Candidates who are employed in regular/contractual position within India may apply for INSPIRE Faculty Award towards improvement and enhancement of his/her career prospects but upon selection, the candidate needs to resign (no lien or deputation or any type of leave would be accepted) from the current job and organization for the implementation of INSPIRE Faculty Award.

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).

b) Mode of Application:

- Two routes i.e. Direct, Nomination are available for applying by the eligible candidates,
- Candidates, who intend to apply **Direct or Nomination mode**, may apply **only** online. Detailed guidelines are available at the website: www.inspire-dst.gov.in for information. To apply online, please visit the website: www.online-inspire.gov.in and follow the process prescribed therein. After submission of application through **online**, the candidate may obtain a print of the application thus submitted for personal use only.

- 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 themselves to be considered in "Direct (A)" or Nominated (B)" route, may fill the online application through the web portal address given above 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 three-tier selection process i.e. Discipline-based Expert Committee in case of candidates under "Direct" and "Nomination" modes which is followed by selection through Apex Level Committee. Finally INSPIRE Faculty Council selects the candidates in the two modes.
- Discipline-wise committees of INSA would evaluate and screen the candidates who apply on Direct and Nominated Routes without support from host-institutions.
- 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 further be considered at the INSPIRE Faculty Council whose decision is final to offer INSPIRE Faculty Offer.
- 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) Amount & Duration of each INSPIRE Faculty position

- Each selected INSPIRE Faculty shall be eligible to receive a consolidated amount of Rs.80,000/- pm. 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 Awardee shall be regulated as per guidelines available at website: www.online-inspire.gov.in and www.inspire-dst.gov.in. Candidates need to visit the websites and read the guidelines for reference before applying in INSPIRE Faculty Award scheme.
- 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.

e) 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.
- Under nomination mode, In-breeding by host-institution is generally not encouraged. However, in case host-institutions are willing to nominate their own Ph.D students under this Scheme, specific justifications and commitment for development of independent directions of research should be clearly delineated.
- 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 Ph.D students, hire research fellows, independently or jointly with a permanent faculty member

f) Last date

Eligible students choosing '**Direct Mode**' or '**Nomination Mode**' must apply online only in the prescribed format on or before **31 August 2018**.
