PREAMBLE

Science is global. Several studies indicate elevation of quality of research through various international collaborations. Scientific challenges the country faces are highly complex and often require multi-disciplinary expertise, and these can be effectively addressed through international partnerships. It is vital to utilize the specialized knowledge and technical skills of overseas scientists including NRI/PIO/OCI in our national endeavor. Keeping this objective in mind, the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology, has taken an initiative in formulating a scheme- ‘VAJRA’ (Visiting Advanced Joint Research) Faculty.

VAJRA Faculty Scheme has been conceptualized to bring an international dimension to the R&D ecosystem of India by leveraging expertise of overseas scientists to the Indian research framework. Further, the scheme is also aimed to create a flexible avenue for overseas Indian scientific diaspora to positively contribute to the growth of R&D in the country. Overall, the scheme envisages to promote a globally competitive environment for catalyzing cutting edge research for accelerated development of scientific and technological progress and overall economic prosperity of the nation.
APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND SELECTION CRITERIA

The Indian collaborator and the overseas faculty will jointly frame a research plan and the application duly endorsed by the Head of the Institution will be submitted online by the Indian collaborator.

The overseas faculty, if selected should get necessary permission/approval from his/her institution to work as VAJRA faculty in India for the specified period.

A Selection Committee of eminent scientists will evaluate the applications. The Committee will meet twice a year in January and July and make recommendations.

SERB will announce the results in the month of April and September.

SALIENT FEATURES

VAJRA Faculty Scheme offers adjunct / visiting faculty position to undertake high quality research in Public funded Indian Institutions / Universities.

The scheme is open to overseas scientist / faculty / R&D professional including Non-resident Indians (NRI) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) / Overseas Citizen of India (OCI).

The overseas scientist / faculty should be an active researcher working with overseas academic / research / industrial organizations with proven track record of research and development.

VAJRA faculty will undertake research in S&T priority areas of nation wherein the capability and capacity are needed to be developed. The VAJRA faculty will engage in collaborative research in public funded institutions. The faculty can co-guide research students and can be a co-investigators in projects. The VAJRA faculty can also be involved in developing technology, setting up of start-ups etc.

The residency period of the VAJRA Faculty in India would be for a minimum of 1 month and a maximum of 3 months a year. It is expected that the Indian Host Institution may engage him/her for longer duration even after the completion of the assignment.

The faculty appointment may be renewable under the scheme.

The VAJRA Faculty is provided a lump-sum amount of US$ 15000 in the first month of residency in a year and US$ 10000 p.m. in the other two months to cover their travel and honorarium. While no separate support is provided for e.g. accommodation, medical / personal insurance etc. the host institute may consider providing additional support.
OTHER SERB INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS*:
INVESTING IN YOUNG MINDS

Overseas Visiting Doctoral Fellowship Program
To facilitate overseas research training for Indian Ph.D. Scholars registered in Indian
institutions.

Overseas Doctoral Fellowship
Fellowship to Indian students graduating from Indian universities/ institutes to pursue
Ph.D. in areas of science, technology, engineering and medicine in Cambridge University,
UK; The University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada and US Universities Stanford
University, University of Southern California, Carnegie Mellon University, University of
California Irvine, Rice University and The State University of New York, University at
Buffalo.

Overseas Postdoctoral Fellowship
The program admits candidates to do postdoctoral research in chosen areas in overseas
top ranking universities in the globe. Newton Bhabha Fellowship is a dedicated program
developed jointly with the Royal Society of the United Kingdom for doing postdoc research
in UK.

SN Bose Scholars Program
Indian students currently pursuing a Bachelors or Masters' degree to undertake a research internship at U.S. universities each summer for a
period of 10 - 12 weeks. The program also supports U.S. students to intern at a recognized Indian institution for a similar duration.

*For a complete list of other international program, visit [www.serb.gov.in](http://www.serb.gov.in)