

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 permanent 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 permanent 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) Up to 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.