

## **General Guidelines for MFIRP Scheme**

The Industrial Research and Development (IRD) Unit, IIT Delhi initiated the Multi-institute Faculty Interdisciplinary Projects (MFIRP) scheme in collaboration with different institutes across India & abroad, with an aim to positively and collectively impact society and environment.

### **I) Who can participate?**

There will be two Principal Investigators (PIs) – one from each collaborating institute. The PIs can include Co-PIs from the same or other departments without any further financial implications. We expect that a faculty member would participate in only one project at a time. The faculty members who are already a part of two ongoing IRD funded faculty scheme may not apply for the third scheme IRD funded scheme.

### **II) Funding & Duration**

1. The project duration and grant varies depending on the collaborating institute.
2. In general project duration varies between 6 months to 2 years.
3. The supporting grant is approximately Rs. 5 Lakh/year from IITD and a matching contribution from the collaborating institute.

### **III) Submission of Project**

1. The full joint project proposal should be submitted online by the faculty PI from IITD in the MFIRP portal of IRIS.
2. A team can submit only one proposal at a time.
3. The faculty PI from the other institute should submit one printed copy of the same proposal (submitted by the IITD counterpart in IRIS) to the respective office of the collaborating institute as per the provisions mentioned in the call.

### **IV) Selection of projects**

1. Projects will be selected for first phase funding purely on scientific merit as judged by a joint review committee set up by both the institutes.
2. The selected projects will initiate “ New project Initiation (NPI) “ in IRIS with the budget heads as per the submitted project proposal
3. Out of the selected project proposals, IITD PI will be awarded Rs. 5 Lakhs and a similar matching contribution to the other institute PI from the collaborating institute for the first year.

4. The second year funding will be released following a review of the annual progress report and submission of a joint project proposal to an external funding agency.
5. For the second year funding and project tenure extension “Budget Revision & Tenure Extension “ request needs to be submitted by the PI.

#### **V) Utilisation of funds**

1. The funds of the projects should only be used for the purposes designated in the sanction letter *vis-à-vis* consumables, contingencies and support staff salary. The funds should NOT be used for PhD students, JRF, SRF, etc. Supporting staff should not get funds support from two funding sources at a time.
2. For MFIRP with foreign institutes/universities NMT Rs. 1.5 Lakh travel grant is permissible from the total project funds.
3. Funds may be used for core research activities only.
4. Deviation from the budget/ project duration demands prior approval from competent authority.

#### **VI) Collaborative Activities**

Collaboration activities may be based on joint projects set up by faculty members of both institutions, including:

1. The project work can be part of a dissertation work of MD/MS/MCh/DM/MTech students. In this case the concerned student will be jointly supervised by both the PIs of the collaborating institutes.
2. Joint research projects
3. Any other form of partnerships, to be promoted and implemented jointly when both IITD and collaborating institute find it mutually beneficial.

#### **VII) Conflict Resolution**

Collaborative Research Agreement, Intellectual Property Right and joint supervision issues will be addressed as per the guidelines of the two institutes described in detail in the IITD and collaborating institute MoU.

#### **VIII) Submission of Report**

1. Interim project progress report after completion of one year which includes submission of at least one research project to external funding agency and/or project progress presentation.

2. It is expected that the joint research team will submit at least one research project to an external funding agency on the completion of the first year.
3. A final technical report highlighting the achievements *vis-à-vis* proposed objectives, outcomes in terms of publications, patents, conference proceedings, etc. and details on projects submitted to external agency are required to be submitted by the PIs after completion of joint project as per the format decided mutually with the collaborating institute.

#### **IX) Expected Outcome(s)**

1. It is expected that the synergistic 'cross-research activity' between faculty members of different collaborating institutes of these interdisciplinary research groups will attract strong support from external funding agencies leading to high impact research, publications in high-impact journals, patents and quality PhD work.
2. These projects are to be considered as a one-time seed grant and the success of these projects will be judged based on the external grants the team is able to generate and number of publications, patents, technology developed/transferred, outreach, etc.

#### **X) Call Schedule**

Subsequent calls for proposals will be announced depending on the funds availability, success of previous calls and collaboration with other institutes.

**Note:** General guidelines are included in the project call for proposals. However, the terms and conditions for foreign projects that will function in collaboration with foreign universities/Institutes are framed only after mutual agreement. Some criteria mentioned in the guidelines may vary depending on the participating university/institute. For instance, eligibility conditions will vary with the partner university/institute, call duration, supporting funds, etc.