

ADDITIONAL COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANT

Introduction:

This scheme is over and above (a) the usual Rs. 2 Lakh given to eligible new faculty as “Research Initiation Grant”, and (b) the Seed grant made available on a competitive basis to existing eligible faculty to initiate research.

Objectives:

This scheme will provide up to Rs. 10 Lakhs to a new faculty to initiate research by procuring equipment to establish facility necessary for his/her research.

This additional research grant will be awarded to new faculty on a competitive basis and based on a well-documented research plan in the form of a proposal.

The scheme will support on an average one-third of new faculty in each campus.

This ADDITIONAL COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANT will help attract and retain new faculty to the three BITS’ campuses in India.

Given that the above ADDITIONAL COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANT may not cover the requirements for pursuing a research agenda, the faculty member(s) are expected to seek necessary research grants from external agencies, such as DST, DBT, etc.

Eligibility:

Any faculty member of BITS’ who joined (or was promoted and joined) either of its campuses in Pilani, Goa and Hyderabad on or after August 1, 2009 at the level of an Assistant Professor or above is eligible to apply and receive this ADDITIONAL COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANT.

The faculty member should commit to do research and seek external funding for research.

Awards:

The proposal must be limited to Rs. 10 Lakhs. The breakup of expenditure must be consistent with the guidelines given below.

The funds must be used up within 24 months of approval of the ADDITIONAL COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANT. Unspent money may not be carried forward beyond the 24 month period.

Application Process:

A new faculty member is expected to apply for this ADDITIONAL COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANT soon after he/she joins BITS in the form of a well-documented research plan (proposal format is enclosed), and submit the same to the Head of his/her Department.

The proposal must be made as soon as possible, but no later than one year of their joining. Faculty members may also apply for this ADDITIONAL COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANT even prior to their joining BITS. Funds will, however, be released only after he/she joins.

For those who joined after August 1, 2009 and before July 1, 2014, the proposal must be submitted before Dec 31, 2014.

Selection Criteria:

The research plan should (a) be challenging with potential for significant impact, (b) help define and undertake a longer-term research agenda, (c) help attract external research funding, and (d) have the potential for successful completion.

Evaluation Process:

The proposal will be reviewed by respective Departmental Research Committee (DRC), and recommended for processing by a campus-level approval committee.

A campus level approval committee, which will be a standing committee, will meet periodically (possibly every 3 months) to select proposals recommended by the departments.

The campus Director will approve the grant.

Guidelines for Expenditure:

The grant is primarily to be used to purchase specialized research equipment, specialized databases, specialized software and laboratory supplies (chemicals/glassware, etc.), payment towards collection and analysis of samples, etc.

In certain disciplines, such as Humanities and Social Sciences, Economics & Finance or Management, the fund may be used for data collection, preparation of survey, etc. during field studies.

Normally, the funds may not be used for travel to attend conferences, attend meetings, or attend training programmes.

Normally, desktops, laptops, printers, peripherals, etc. may not be purchased from this grant. However, equipment, such as servers, storage systems, or network equipment, may be procured.

Normally, the fund may not be used for secretarial assistance or to pay honorarium or stipend to students.

Conditions:

All purchases/expenses should be processed in accordance with BITS policies and procedures.

Record of purchase of equipment etc. will be maintained by the concerned department (as is the current practice.)

Expected Outcomes:

There will be a periodic review of the grant by the campus-level standing committee, possibly every 6 months to ensure that funds are indeed well spent and grant objectives are met. This will be based on a brief report submitted by the faculty.

It is further expected that the faculty member will seek external funds to support his/her research agenda, and do so as early as possible but certainly within two years of the commencement of the grant.