

M K Bhan – Young Researcher Fellowship Programme (MKB-YRFP)
Guidelines, Terms & Conditions

1. ABOUT THE SCHEME:

The Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India, had launched a new grant opportunity in 2020-21, the M K BHAN – YOUNG RESEARCHER FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME (MKB-YRFP), with an aim to encourage young bright researchers to continue their research in the country after Ph.D. The scheme is to offer an independent research grant to young Post-Doctoral Fellows, so as to enable them to emerge as future leaders and take up cutting edge research focused on issues of national relevance. This fellowship will be awarded for Research work to be carried out at DBT-Autonomous Institutes only.

2. AIM OF THE FELLOWSHIP

- i. To provide attractive opportunities to young researchers for developing them as independent investigators.
- ii. This will enable young researchers to pursue their research interests within the country and also develop a critical mass of trained scientists for the country's research institutions, universities and major new initiative.

3. WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO APPLY?

- i. The applicant should be Indian National and possess a Ph.D. in any branch of Life Sciences/ Biotechnology/allied areas.
- ii. Applicant should not be holding a permanent position in any institute/university.
- iii. The applicant should have an excellent track record as evident by peer reviewed publications, technologies developed, patent (if any). Those who have submitted their Ph.D. are also eligible to apply; however, fellowship can be implemented only after award of the degree. Applicant should not take-up fellowship at the Institute where he/she has done his/her Ph.D.
- iv. Each applicant must identify a host institute and a mentor.
- v. The upper age limit will be 35 years as on the closing date of the submission of the application.
- vi. Applicants cannot have more than one fellowship at a given point of time.
- vii. The application has to be endorsed by the mentor and the head of the host institute (DBT Autonomous Institute) chosen by the applicant to take up the fellowship in the prescribed format.
- viii. In case a fellow is accepted a regular position in the DBT autonomous institute, salary component of the fellowship will be discontinued from the date of joining the position, however, other components of fellowship will be continued for the

remaining tenure of the fellowship.

- ix. The fellowship is co-terminus with the project duration.

4. NATURE OF SUPPORT

- i. The scheme provides a consolidated monthly remuneration of Rs. 90,000/- p.m.
- ii. MKB-YRFP fellows in addition will receive a research/contingency grant of Rs. 20.00 lakh per year for hiring manpower, purchase of consumables, minor equipment, domestic travel and other contingent expenditure to be incurred for the implementation of research proposal selected for the fellowship.
- iii. MK Bhan fellow can engage one manpower (JRF/SRF/Project Assistant/Project Associate) under him/her. Capital equipment will be procured in the name of the institute where the fellow proposes to work and value of the whole set of the equipment should not exceed Rs.10.00 lakh during the whole tenure of the project.
- iv. MKB-YRFP fellows will be eligible for regular research grant through extra mural and other schemes of various S&T agencies of the Govt. of India, provided that Co-PI is a regular faculty. However, they can take research grant from anywhere but salary from only one source.

5. WHERE WILL THE MKB-YRFP FELLOWS WORK?

- i. MKB-YRFP Fellows can take up the Young Investigator grant at any of the DBT-Autonomous institutions. However, application should be duly forwarded by the competent authority of the host Institute. Fellows can change their host institute only once during the tenure of the fellowship with the prior No Objection Certificate from the host institute who has forwarded the application (Director/Registrar). The proposed new institute should also be a DBT Autonomous Institute.
- ii. Candidate should submit his/her nomination through single host institute only. However, institutions can nominate more than one candidate.

6. DURATION AND NUMBER OF FELLOWSHIPS

- i. Upto 50 fellowships will be provided each year. The duration of the fellowship will be for a maximum period of three years and in exceptional cases the duration could be extended by another two years on a fresh appraisal.

7. HOW TO APPLY?

- i. Eligible applicants should submit application as per prescribed proforma to DBT duly forwarded by the Host Institute (DBT AIs only) where they intend to take up fellowship.

8. MODE OF SELECTION

- i. A national-level Selection Committee constituted by the Department of Biotechnology for the purpose will select the final candidates for MKB-YRFP.

9. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

| Non-Recurring | | |
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| Description | Amount | Comments and Notes |
| Equipment and accessories | Up to an amount of Rs. 10.00 lakh (mostly in first year) | |
| Recurring | | |
| Fellowship | Rs. 90,000 per month for 3 years | Admissible only to awardees who do not have a regular employment |
| Grant in Aid (Consumable/ one manpower / domestic travel etc.) | Rs. 10.00 lakh per year (first year), Rs. 20.00 lakh/year (subsequent years) | Manpower salary will be as per recent DST O.M./Government of India rule |

10. OTHER CONDITIONS

- i. A letter from the mentor, giving consent to provide laboratory space where the applicant desires to work, should be enclosed with the application. The laboratory should be able to support major needs of the project.
- ii. Fellows are not entitled to any kind of salary during the fellowship. If during the fellowship, the fellow finds a regular employment in DBT AIs, he/she should immediately inform to the DBT. In that case fellow can avail only the manpower, consumable, travel and equipment components of the fellowship. If fellow accepts a regular position/ an employment other than DBT AIs, he/she needs to relinquish from MKB-YRFP project.
- iii. The fellow can go to abroad (not more than 3 months) for professional training in line with MKB YRF project. This visit should not be planned in the first year and last 6 months of the project. If the fellow has to travel abroad for any professional work for more than 3 months, permission from DBT in advance is mandatory. For more than 3 month visit, only consumable grant & salary to the manpower hired under the project will be provided. However, MKB fellow will not get any fellowship during this visit.
- iv. The financial transactions of the award programme will be handled by the host institute, which will be responsible for submitting the Utilization certificate (UC) and Statement of Expenditure (SE) every financial year.
- v. The awardees will be the corresponding author for any publication emanating as a

result of the research carried out on account of the award. The mentor and others could be co-authors. The support of DBT should be suitably acknowledged in the publications (papers, reports etc.) arising out of the research work done under this award programme.

- vi. The Fellow will submit annual progress report through Host Institute.

- vii. Institute will constitute an Expert Review Committee to review the scientific work done by the Fellow and submit minutes of the Review Committee to the DBT along with UC/SE.
- viii. A mentor can endorse only one application each year. A DBT-AI can forward/endorse any number of applications to DBT for consideration. Mentor who have less than 5 year for retirement can't endorse MKB-YRFP application.
- ix. DBT reserves the right to discontinue fellowship at any stage and change terms & conditions of the fellowship.

Terms and Conditions for MKB - YRFP

Role of Department of Biotechnology

1. The Department of Biotechnology (DBT) would release fellowship grant: Rs.90,000/- p.m. consolidated and Research/contingency grant: Rs. 10,00,000 as Non-Recurring grant for equipment (first year only), Rs 10,00,000 for consumables, manpower, travel etc (first year) and Rs 20,00,000/annum for consumables, manpower, travel etc for next two years.
2. The grant for 2nd year onwards would be considered for release after review by DBT Committee subject to recommendation for continuation.
3. During the tenure of the fellowship the awardee is not entitled to any kind of salary. However, he/she can apply for research grant to various funding agencies through their host institute for which s/he should have another regular scientist/faculty as PI/Co-PI.
4. DBT should be acknowledged in the IPR issues and technology developed/commercialized (if any) from the R&D work done under MK Bhan-Young Researcher Fellowship Program.
5. DBT reserves right to discontinue fellowship at any stage and change terms & conditions of fellowship.
6. No relocation allowance will be provided to the fellow for joining the host institute.

Role of the Fellow

1. Each fellow is entitled to a fellowship grant of Rs.90,000/- p.m. consolidated for 3 years. Research grant: Rs. 10,00,000 as GIA – Capital grant for equipment (first year only), Rs 10,00,000 GIA-General Recurring in first year and Rs 20,00,000/annum for GIA – General Recurring for next two years. The GIA General Recurring grant can be utilized towards purchase of consumables, domestic travel, engaging manpower and other contingent expenditure to be incurred in connection with the implementation of the project. In exceptional cases, the duration of the award could be extended by another two years on a fresh appraisal by DBT Committee.
2. Each awardee is expected to avail the fellowship for a minimum period of one year from the date of the start of fellowship. If otherwise, the fellow may inform the Department (DBT) the reason thereof or relinquishing the fellowship.
3. If a fellow accepts a permanent position in a non-DBT Institute, he/she has to relinquish the fellowship before joining the permanent position. However, fellow can accept regular position in DBT Autonomous Institution anytime during the tenure of the fellowship. Approval has to be sought from DBT.
4. The awardee can join the fellowship either on 1st October or 1st April (in case of holiday on said dates awardee may join on next working day) of the year as may be the case. In

between joining will not be allowed. In case the awardee does not join on these dates, it will be presumed that he/she is no longer interested and the fellowship will automatically stand cancelled. No further extension of time will be granted. Therefore, each awardee should communicate the likely date of joining in advance to the DBT or Host institute.

5. The awardee can change the host institute only once during the tenure of the fellowship with prior approval from DBT. No objection certificate from previous host institute is pre-requisite while changing the host institute. The same may be submitted to the Department. However, the fellowship can be transferred only in DBT Autonomous Institute.
6. The awardee can change the mentor only once during the tenure of the fellowship with prior approval from DBT. No objection certificate from previous mentor, acceptance letter of the new mentor and Director of the institute are pre-requisite while changing the mentor. New mentor should be working in the same area of the proposed research work.
7. During the tenure of the fellowship, awardee is not entitled to any kind of salary from other sources. Fellows are encouraged to apply for research grant to various funding agencies through their host institutes.
8. Since the fellowship is routed through host institute, the awardee should abide by the norms of the host institute.
9. The awardee should submit annual progress report and UC/SE duly forwarded by the competent authority to the Department. The UC/SE has to be financial year wise i.e.; from the date of joining to 31st March of that year and then in subsequent years from 1st April to 31st March.
10. The support of DBT should be duly acknowledged in the publications (papers, reports etc.) by the fellows.
11. Only those who are unable to seek permanent faculty position and done exceptionally well during the tenure of the fellowship are eligible for 2nd term based on a fresh appraisal. During the extension period fellows are entitled to fellowship and Research grant.
12. Fellows applying for second term should submit their proposal in advance (6 months) and submit a detailed report on completion of 2.5 years of fellowship.
13. For all other clarifications such as change of host institute, absence for three months duration or beyond and other matters related to the effective utilization of the fellowship, DBT should be contacted at least 6 weeks in advance for necessary clearances and approvals.
14. Applicants selected for the MK Bhan-Young Researcher Fellowship Program (MKBYRFP) should submit the letter of acceptance, duly signed and forwarded copy of terms and conditions (in original) along with the likely date of joining to their host institute who will send to DBT.

Role of the Host Institute

1. The host institute accepting a MKB-YRFP Fellow should provide the necessary space, research facilities and other administrative support to conduct independent research under this fellowship. These selected fellows may be provided all the necessary facilities similar to those provided to regular Scientists/ faculty members so as to enable them to conduct their research smoothly.
2. Institute will maintain a separate audit head of account for the grant received from DBT.
3. Institute will ensure effective utilization of grant given by DBT for the purpose for which it is sanctioned.
4. The Host Institute will submit a 'Certificate/ Undertaking' in the following proforma:

CERTIFICATE

We have read and understood the above terms and conditions. The same are acceptable to us. The Institute will provide space, basic laboratory facilities and other necessary facilities as mentioned in the preceding pages to Dr. _____ for conducting research during the tenure of the MK Bhan-Young Researcher Fellowship Program.

Name:

Signature of the Fellow

Date:

Name:

**Signature with seal of the
Mentor**

Date:

Name:

**Signature with seal of the
Competent Authority of
Host Institute**

Date:
