

KERALA BIOTECHNOLOGY RE-ENTRY FELLOWSHIP (K-BiREF)

Guidelines

1. Introduction

A fellowship programme to attract well-trained and highly skilled researchers with good track record (Indian nationals) working abroad in various frontier areas in biotechnology (biomedical sciences, agriculture, veterinary science, bioengineering, energy, environment, bioinformatics and other related areas) to research and academic institutions in Kerala, by providing them an attractive opportunity to pursue research and development in biotechnology. Applications will be screened by an expert committee and shortlisted candidates are interviewed.

2. Who can apply?

- The applicant should possess a Ph.D., M.D. or equivalent degree and at least three years of post-doctoral research experience in premier research laboratories abroad with an outstanding track record of research in biotechnology related areas as reflected in publications and other recognitions.
- Only candidates (Indian nationals) working overseas who are below 45 years of age are eligible; relaxable for 3 years for OBC and 5 years for SC/ST/PH candidates.
- The fellowship is tenable at any reputed institutions in Kerala.

3. How to apply?

The applications are to be submitted online when notified.

4. Social Relevance and tangible output:

Social Relevance shall be provided along with the proposal

5. Commercialisation Efforts:

Possibility of commercialisation of Lead molecules, pharmacologically relevant products etc can be highlighted.

6. Maximum grant amount (Fellowship):

The Fellow is entitled for a consolidated monthly remuneration of Rs. 1,00,000/- and Rs. 18,500/- as HRA per month. Annual research /contingency grant of Rs 7.5 lakh each for first

and second year and Rs 5 lakh each for the subsequent 3 years. The fellowship is taxable under Govt. of India rules.

Host Institution may provide medical benefits, transport allowance, and other benefits as per the prevailing norms applicable to their employees of the equivalent rank out of their own resources/ funds. Fellowship is further extendable for another term after evaluation.

7. Procedure of operation of the scheme.

- **Scrutiny of the Application:**
The project proposal will be acknowledged with a reference number and other instructions, if any. Applications will be screened by an expert committee consisting of experts nominated by the Commission. Short listed candidates will have to appear for an interview /presentation which can be either in person or through skype or similar tele-mode. Selected candidates have to execute an agreement accepting the terms and conditions of the Award and must join the Host Institution within three months' time.
- **Presentation before Programme Advisory Committee (PAC)**
The expert committee assesses the content and objectives of the proposed work. The decision of KSCSTE based on the recommendations of the expert committee on such proposals shall be final.

8. Issuing Sanction Order

- **Date of Start of the Project:**
The project becomes operative with effect from the date of receipt of Council order or the date on which the amount is received by the implementing Institution. This date should be intimated by the Institution authorities/ Fellow to KBC. It will, in no case be later than one month after the receipt of the funds by the Institute.

K-BiREF Fellows could take up fellowship at any of the scientific institutes/ universities in the State of Kerala. However, application should be duly forwarded by the competent authority of the host Institute. Awardees are eligible to apply for research grants to any of the funding agencies towards accomplishment of research proposal. However, there must be a permanent employee of the host institution as Co-Investigator. The quantum of funding shall be subject to the recommendations of PAC and approval of Council.

- **Submission of Progress Reports**
The Institute / Fellow will furnish Annual Progress Report of the work on the project on a yearly basis.
- **Progress Monitoring/Review procedure**

KBC may designate Scientist / Specialist or an Expert Panel to visit the Institute periodically to review the progress of the work being carried out and to suggest suitable measures to ensure realization of the objectives of the project.

- Periodic submission of SE & UC
Audited statement of expenditure & Utilization Certificate from the Head of institution (for Govt./University) and chartered accountant in the case of private institution each year.
- Conditions if the progress is not satisfactory
The Council reserves the right to terminate the fellowship at any stage if it is convinced that the grant has not been properly utilized or appropriate progress is not being made. The Fellow is liable to refund the Grant Amount in part or in full in case of unsatisfactory implementation of the project or unwillingness to co-operate with KBC for monitoring/evaluating the progress of the project.

9. Release of further instalment of grant

To the HoI through online account transfer – further release as per the recommendation of the Review Committee.

At the time of seeking further instalment of grant, the Institute/ Fellow has to furnish the following documents:

- a. Audited Utilization Certificate (UC) and Statement of Expenditure (SE) for the previous project year (in original or copy if sent earlier)
- b. Latest authenticated Statement of Expenditure including Committed Expenditure, for the year till the previous month
- c. Technical Annual Progress Report (in detail).

10. Project Completion Report

The Project Completion Report (one copy) to be submitted within one month of completion of the Fellowship Period.

11. Final review of the Project Report

The final expenditure statement (audited) and research report as well as utilization certificate should be submitted within three months of completion of the project.

- a. Final Technical Report in the prescribed format
- b. Consolidated audited statement of expenditure and utilisation certificate
- c. DD/cheque for any unspent amount with the Institution

12. Re-appropriation of Funds and Extension details

The Kerala Biotechnology Re-entry Fellowship (K-BiREF) will be purely on contract basis and will not be eligible for any service benefits. The fellows will be required to complete the research programme within a period of three years; however, 2 years extension of the fellowship period will be provided based on evaluation of the progress.

13. Guidelines for publication of Research output

K-BiREF Fellow who publishes technical/ scientific papers based on the research work done under the project should acknowledge the financial assistance received from the Kerala Biotechnology Commission/KSCSTE. Investigators are also requested to publish the research papers emerging out of the project work in leading Journals with good impact factor.

14. Guidelines for IP Output generated

Intellectual property rights on the inventions arising out of the project shall be dealt in accordance with rules of the Council. The know-how generated from the research will be the joint property of the Investigators and KBC/KSCSTE. Transfer of technology generated shall be done in consultation with the Council.

Due acknowledgement of Kerala Biotechnology Commission, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment must be given in all the publications/patents originating from the research work.

For more details, contact:

The Scientist-in-charge
Kerala Bio-Technology Commission
Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE)
Sasthra Bhavan, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram – 695 004
Ph. 0471-