

## INDIA-UK SCIENCE NETWORKS – PHASE II

### Scheme Information (Notes for Applicants)

#### OVERVIEW

In 2002, the UK Office of Science and Innovation (OSI) signed a bilateral agreement with the Department of Science and Technology (DST), India making funding available to establish a networking scheme which aimed to initiate and develop enduring partnerships between the UK and Indian scientists. Under each agreement, both sides agreed upon the need to bring together their most excellent scientists in any field of science and technology.

#### OBJECTIVES OF THE NETWORKING SCHEME

The networking scheme has been running for over 3 years and has now reached its second phase. Funding is now available to continue to support the establishment of networking grants between the UK and India.

- To initiate and encourage 'bottom-up' networking between excellent UK and Indian postdoctoral scientists.
- To develop new and enduring partnerships in any field of science and technology, that would ultimately result in bids for project funding through national structures.

This funding opportunity is seen as a crucial "stepping stone" to support sustainable partnerships.

The scheme may also provide the opportunity for those scientists who have already previously participated in the networking scheme to take their collaboration one step further by applying for funds to support a follow-on activity.

#### WHO CAN APPLY?

Scientists must comply with the eligibility and assessment criteria of the Royal Society in the UK and the Department of Science and Technology in India

#### Eligibility requirements

- The research must be on a subject within the natural sciences, including: physics, chemistry, mathematics, computer science, engineering, agricultural and medical research. The scheme does not cover social sciences, clinical medical research and the scientific aspects of archaeology, experimental psychology, and the history of science.
- Applicants must demonstrate excellence in their field.
- Applicants must have already identified a host who would be willing to participate in this scheme.
- Participants to the networking activity must have completed a PhD or have extensive experience at an equivalent level. We are unable to support the funding of students to this scheme.

- This scheme is primarily aimed at those scientists (UK and India) preferably in their early or mid career stage. However, scientists with more experience would not be exempt from applying but would need to demonstrate how the activity would include scientists who perhaps are at their early or mid career stage.
- Participants must be from academia and not industry.
- Applications will only be considered for bilateral (not multi-lateral) activities.
- Holders of a Royal Society joint project may not apply for a visit with the same overseas institute.
- Scientists working in governmental research institute are not excluded from acting as hosts but they must explain clearly in a separate email why their institute is not funding the visit.
- Applications cannot be accepted from private or commercial organisation.
- Previous award holders of the networking scheme may apply for follow-on funding provided they are able to demonstrate how this would take their collaboration one step further and ultimately result in long term scientific exchange and research collaboration.

#### **UK participants to the networking activity**

- UK scientists should be resident within the UK
- The UK scientist must hold a permanent or fixed term contract in an eligible organisation which, if it is the latter, continues at least for the duration of the project.

#### **Indian participants to the networking activity**

- Must be a citizen of India and should be scientists / faculty members working in regular capacity in UGC recognised Universities /Deemed Universities/Academic Institutes and National Research & Development Laboratories / Institutes
- Is conducting independent research and has obtained sufficient substantial research results; and must have completed a PhD or have extensive experience at an equivalent level.
- Should have established close contact with the proposed UK host and should have prepared a concrete research plan which could be acceptable to the concerned UK host.
- The candidate should be able to forward the completed application through proper channel of the parent institution.

*Please note that scientists who have already received funding for follow-on activities under the first phase of the networking scheme would not be eligible to apply again under this scheme. Scientists should consider applying for a joint project (full details available from the Society's website).*

#### **TYPE OF NETWORKING ACTIVITIES COVERED UNDER THE COST-SHARE AGREEMENTS**

Funding is available to support a wide range of networking activities. Scientists are encouraged to demonstrate how best the networking grant could be used for a particular activity. Applicants should ensure that their networking activity is interactive, with clearly defined outputs.

Applicants may choose **ONE** of the following networking activities which should take place in **EITHER** the UK or India. *Applicants who try to apply for more than one networking activity per application will not be considered.*

Please choose **ONE** of the following:

1. One-to-One meeting (either in the UK or India), lasting between 5 days to 3 months.
2. Thematic workshop (either in the UK or India), typically lasting up to 5 days with the sending side supporting up to 5 scientists. The host side may consider involving up to 20 scientists some of which may include scientists in their early career stage.
3. Exploratory mission (either in the UK or India), lasting up to one week. These exploratory visits may include up to 5 scientists who wish to collaborate together on a particular theme. The group may visit up to a maximum of 3 institutions.

*Please note that this type of award is not intended for scientists wishing to travel to either country to attend international conferences or workshops.*

*Scientists looking for support for on-going international one-to-one collaboration should consider applying for a Royal Society International Outgoing or Incoming Short Visit Grant. Details about the short visit scheme can be found at:*

*Short Visits to the UK:* <http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/funding.asp?id=2138>

*Short Visits from the UK:* <http://www.royalsoc.ac.uk/funding.asp?id=2118>

#### **CLOSING DATE AND RESULT DATE**

Scientists must send a copy of the application form to both the Royal Society and to the Department of Science & Technology (DST) before the **31 July 2007**.

Results will be made available in **January 2008**.

#### **FUNDING**

The Royal Society and the DST will cooperate to share costs on the principle of the sending side paying for international travel and the host side paying for local subsistence, including in-country accommodation, food and travel.

Funding is up to a maximum of £10,000 shared between the Royal Society and the DST.

Funding cannot be used to cover research expenses and proof of expenditure will be required after the networking activity has taken place.

### **1. ONE-TO-ONE MEETING (between 5 days and 3 months)**

Scientists from India wishing to undertake a visit in the UK may apply for international travel from the DST. The Royal society will provide the scientist with the cost of subsistence and local travel within the UK (the exact cost will be calculated by the Royal Society and is dependant upon the length of stay in the UK).

Scientists from the UK wishing to undertake a visit in India may apply for international travel from the Royal Society. The DST will provide the scientist with the cost of subsistence and local travel within India (the exact cost will be calculated by the DST and is dependant upon the length of stay in India).

### **2. THEMATIC WORKSHOP (lasting up to 5 days)**

These awards provide funding for scientists in both countries for travel, subsistence and local costs of the workshop.

If the workshop is to be held in India, the DST will cover the local costs of the workshop; local travel, venue, accommodation and subsistence costs for all participants. The Royal Society will cover the cost of the international travel of up to 5 UK scientists (economy/APEX tickets).

If the workshop is to be held in the UK, the Royal Society will cover the local costs of the workshop; local travel, venue, accommodation and subsistence costs for all participants. The DST will cover the cost of the international travel of up to 5 UK scientists (economy/APEX tickets).

### **3. EXPLORATORY MISSION (lasting up to one week)**

Scientists from India wishing to undertake an exploratory mission in the UK may apply for international travel (economy/APEX tickets) from the DST (up to 5 scientists). The Royal society will provide the scientists with the cost of subsistence and local travel within the UK (the exact cost will be calculated by the Royal Society).

Scientists from the UK wishing to undertake an exploratory mission in India may apply for international travel (economy/APEX tickets) from the Royal Society. The DST will provide the scientists with the cost of subsistence and local travel within India (the exact cost will be calculated by the DST).

*Please note that there is no provision for bench fees, conference fees, departmental costs, medical insurance, excess baggage costs, and expenses relating to accompanying dependents or contributions towards salaries.*

## **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

The main criterion for the assessment of proposals is whether the proposed networking activity will be able to support sustainable partnerships which will ultimately result in long term scientific exchanges, and who will be in a position to bid for project funding through national funding structures.

The primary consideration will be:

- The research background of the UK and India scientist
- The strength of the scientists and institution in the area of proposed research

- The mutual benefit of the collaboration
- The strength of the proposal
- The potential contribution to the UK and India science base

#### APPLICATION PROCEDURE

It is the responsibility of both the UK and Indian scientist to submit a copy of the application form to both the Royal Society and to the \*DST before the relevant closing date. When submitting the application form, please ensure that you have included the following:

- 1) A completed networking application form. Please ensure that the following information is included in the application form (additional pages may be used).
  - Theme for the networking activity
  - Timeframe for the networking activity
  - Benefits of hosting such an activity
  - Detailed budget
  - Tentative agenda (if applicable)
  - list of those participating from the UK and India (name, title and full address)
  - Details of what we may expect as a result of these proposed activities. What are the proposed outcomes (defined outputs)?
- 2) An invitation letter from the host institution (on letter headed paper)
- 3) Agreement (consent letters) from both the Heads of Departments in both the UK and India (email or letter format) that participants are allowed to take part in this networking activity.

\* Ten copies of the proposal along with consent letter of the UK collaborator may be submitted by Indian researcher in the prescribed format. The applicant should send these documents along with duly filled in format and a self addressed postcard (for acknowledgement) directly to DST.

#### MONITORING AND EVALUATION

End-of-award reports are requested from the host and visitor at the end of each visit for feedback and to refine the operation of the scheme. Reports should also outline the scientific discussions, plans for developing collaboration and successful applications to other organisations for project funding (if any), and include a statement on expenditure of the award. Reports should be submitted within 2 months of the award ending.

#### REFEREE

The Royal Society and the DST require that **TWO** independent (nominated) references are provided. One referee should be based in the UK and be familiar with the work of the UK scientist and the other referee should be based in India and be familiar with the work of the Indian scientist. All references must be completed on the RS/DST referee statement form. **It is the responsibility of the applicant and host to choose the independent referees.**

The guidelines for choosing independent referees are as follows:

- The primary consideration is that he/she is able to comment independently and authoritatively on the application and area of research involved.

- The applicant and host should confirm with the referees that he/she is happy to give a reference by the relevant closing date.
- Nominated referees from the same institution as the applicant or host are not accepted. The referee must not be a member of the Royal Society sitting on the assessment panel for this scheme, or a member of the Royal Society's Council (if you require further clarification, please contact the Royal Society).

Please provide the referees with a copy of the application form. All references must be submitted to the Royal Society and to the DST by the closing date. Nominated referees should send their references directly to the Royal Society and DST by email or post by 31 July 2007

**CONTACT DETAILS:**

For additional advice on this scheme, please contact:

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