 

**Water Advanced Research and Innovation Fellowship Program (WARI)**

Guidelines/ Terms & Conditions for Fellowship (for Scientist) Program Module

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## Introduction & General Guidelines:

* 1. Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India and Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF) jointly announce the **Water Advanced Research and Innovation Fellowship Program (WARI).**
	2. The **objective** of the program is to provide Indian scientists & students opportunities to undertake international collaborative research in premier institutions in U.S.A. to enhance their research capacities and capabilities in the area of water.
	3. The program has two modules for the applicants:
1. **Internship (for students)**Age limit: up to 32 years as on 31 December 2024
Duration:3-6 months
2. **Fellowship (for scientists)**Age limit: up to 40 years as on 31 December 2024
Duration:3-12 months

	1. **Applicants’ research background/ experience**
3. Environmental and chemical sciences
4. Hydrology
5. Water pollution
6. Water resource management including ecological water management
7. Water / Wastewater quality, management, and reuse
8. Chemical and microbial risk research including water remediation
9. Sustainable water infrastructure
10. Modeling water systems
11. Water research linked to climate change and sustainability including remote-sensing applications
12. Water and energy nexus
13. Nutrient recovery and management
14. Health and water research including climate impacts
15. Water-relevant research in earth sciences and atmospheric sciences
16. Applications of data sciences, AI, and machine learning to water research
17. Economics and policy relevance in water sciences
	1. Funding support extended would include **Monthly Stipend, Return Airfare, Health Insurance, Contingency, and Conference Allowance** (details given in Section D, Point 5).
	2. Expenses incurred for the fellowship purposes have to be supported with vouchers/receipts and have to be submitted during the settlement of the award grant. Expenditure should be incurred strictly in accordance with the guidelines. **Re- appropriation of Heads of expenditure will not be admissible.**

*Note: No bench fees/institutional allowances/research allowances/ overheads can be paid to the U.S. institution from the fellowship grant.*

* 1. Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India and IUSSTF should be **duly acknowledged in all publications, presentations etc.** emanating from the Water Advanced Research and Innovation Fellowship Program (WARI).

## Objectives:

1. Provide opportunity to the best and brightest Indian students and scientists to gain exposure and access to world class research facilities at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Daugherty Water for Food Global Institute, Purdue University, Texas Tech University, Oklahoma State University, and the University of Idaho;
2. Promote research and capacity building in the area of water;
3. Encourage and motivate outstanding students to take up research as a career path; and
4. Pave way for the next-generation scientists and technologists from India to interact with American peers, thus helping to build long-term R&D linkages and collaborations.

## Selection:

1. The selection will be made based on the merit of research proposals submitted by the applicant. A Selection Committee will be constituted to examine the proposals and give their recommendations.
2. The committee would select **top 5 candidates each** under the Internship (for students) and Fellowship (for scientists) modules respectively.
3. Candidates who have availed any other overseas fellowship for a period of three months or more through any Government/public funding agency during last five years will not be considered for this fellowship and an **undertaking to this has to be submitted by the candidate.**
4. **Awardees should commence their travel within three months from the date of award announcement.** No request for a waiver on any account shall be considered thereafter (other than the cases where J1 U.S. visa is delayed due to administrative reasons).
5. Once the award has been made, **no change** in the proposed area of research / title of the proposal, name of the host institution or principal investigator, and fellowship duration shall be permitted under normal circumstances.

## Acceptance by the fellows:

The selected candidate shall submit acceptance as stated under the Terms & Conditions, that in case, the fellow does not come back or discontinue the fellowship in midway; the entire amount will be treated as a loan, and s/he will be liable to repay the amount back to the grantee.

## MODULE II: FELLOWSHIP (FOR SCIENTIST) GUIDELINES

* 1. **Eligibility**: Indian citizens having a Ph.D. in Science / Engineering in areas related to water and holding a regular position at any public- or private-funded R&D Laboratory / S&T Institution / recognized University / College in India. The applicant must be capable of doing independent research work and have publications in internationally recognized academic journals.
	2. A No Objection Certificate (NoC) shall be provided by the present employer indicating that during this period, the continuity of employment on the post presently held by her would continue to be applicable (Format indicated).

**Points to be noted:**

* + 1. Those who have done their Ph.D. or D.Sc. from abroad are **not eligible**.
		2. Candidates already having overseas research exposure for a duration of three months or beyond in last five years from the last date of submission **are not eligible**.
	1. **Age:** Up to 40 years as on 31 December 2024.
	2. **Duration of the fellowship**: For a period of up to 3-12 months
	3. **Nature of Support** would include:
1. Monthly Stipend of $3,000
2. Air Fare up to $2,500
3. Health Insurance of $1,000
4. Contingency of $1,000
5. Conference Allowance of up to $1,200
	1. **Documents to be submitted :**
6. Two recommendation letters from referees (such as senior Faculty, Mentor, Scientist, Professor, Head of Institute/ Department etc.)
7. Statement from the Current Employer, as per the format indicated\*\*
8. Copy of Ph.D. degree
9. Proof of Date of Birth (Scanned copy of the supporting document, e.g. Birth certificate/ 10th class certificate/Passport)
10. Copy of passport

**\*\*\*NO-OBJECTION CERTIFICATE/STATEMENT FROM CURRENT EMPLOYER**

*(To be given on the official letterhead of parent institution/organization in following format)*

This is to certify that (name of the institution/university/organization) has no objection to consideration of an application for the ***Water Advanced Research and Innovation (WARI) Fellowship Program*** byDr./Prof.…………………………………………, employee in the ……………………… (name of the department/institute/ organization) for research/ training in the area of……………………… to be held at …………………………… for a duration of months.

If the fellowship is awarded to Dr./Prof.………………, she will be relieved from ………… (Name of the institute/organization) duties for a said period from the date of her joining of the research fellowship for the ***Water Advanced Research and Innovation (WARI) Fellowship Program***.

During this period, continuity of employment on the post presently held by her would continue to be applicable and rules governing payment of salary (basic pay and all allowances), leave, medical benefits, gratuity, GPF, GIS, and pension etc. would continue to be applicable during the entire period of fellowship and she will join her present post on completion of tenure of her fellowship.

Place: ...............

Date: ....................

(Head of Institution/Organization): .................... Official seal: ...............

Note:

1. *For candidates with regular employment, the applicant’s parent institute has to protect the interests of the applicant selected for the fellowship w.r.t. her service, if any, and IUSSTF will not bear any expenses towards leave salary, benefits, etc. for the period of stay in the United States. IUSSTF will have no liability towards these.*

*ii. No changes in the NoC format are allowed.*

## Terms & Conditions for Fellowship (for scientists)

The individual availing this fellowship would be called **Water Advanced Research and Innovation (WARI) Fellow** or **WARI Fellow**.

1. The WARI Fellow will be entitled to a fellowship amount of US $3,000 per month.
2. The WARI Fellow will be entitled to contingency/ preparatory allowances of up to US $1,000 to cover expenses for obtaining U.S. Visa, airport transfers in India and the United States, orientation, mentorship, field trips, etc.
3. The WARI Fellow will be entitled to US $1,000 for an appropriate comprehensive health insurance cover for the duration of the fellowship. The U.S. federal regulations stipulate that the visitors have adequate health insurance cover during their stay in the U.S. The insurance cover rates vary according to the age of the fellow and the duration of their stay in the United States. The Medical Insurance cover shall be obtained by the fellow as per the Host University guidelines within the limit prescribed as part of the award. In case the health insurance budget exceeds the award limit, any additional amount shall be borne by the fellow themselves.
4. The WARI Fellow will be permitted to travel within the United States to attend conferences or visit other institutes of interest with the approval of the advisor at the host institute. The Fellow will be entitled to a grant of up to $1,200 for this purpose. The Fellow should seek a formal prior approval from the U.S. Host Mentor and IUSSTF to attend conferences or visit other institutes of interest within the United States.The conference grant amount will be released after receiving the supporting documents/ receipts and with its details of participation of the conference during the final settlement of the fellowship grants.
5. All the expenses incurred shall be supported with vouchers/ receipts during the settlement of the award grant.
6. The WARIFellow will be entitled to airfare of up to US $2,500. Air-tickets for all the selected Fellows would be provided directly by the IUSSTF travel service provider by economy class and shortest route from their place of work in India to the US host institute and back. Normally, as per IUSSTF rules, reimbursements will not be provided for air-tickets purchased directly but, under some exceptional circumstances IUSSTF may consider reimbursements as per the approved budget or actuals, whichever is less. IUSSTF should be informed for ticketing at least 6 weeks before the date of travel.
7. At the time of disbursement of the grants to the parent institution, 90% of the total stipend amount due would be directly disbursed and the balance 10% of the stipend amount would be settled at the time of UC/SE settlement. The grants as per the Award letter will be released based on the prevailing foreign exchange rate. Any difference in exchange rate will only be reimbursed by IUSSTF after completion of the Fellowship visit and on submission of UC/SE supported by foreign exchange conversion receipts.
8. There will be a restriction on the maximum number of Foreign Exchange conversions during the entire duration of the fellowship detailed as follows:
* For a fellowship duration up to 3 months - one conversion.
* For a fellowship duration up to 6 months - two conversions.
* For a fellowship duration up to 12 months - three conversions.

Any additional conversions shall be borne by the Fellow. Accordingly, the concerned financial authority at the Parent Institution should confirm the above.

1. To facilitate the advance grant transfer, the WARIFellow is requested to provide the banking details of their Parent Organization (format would be provided before the fund disbursement):
	1. Name of the Beneficiary
	2. Account Number
	3. Account Type
	4. Bank Name and Address
	5. IFSC/RTGS Code number
	6. MICR No.
2. The applicant’s parent institute shall protect the interests of the applicant selected for Fellowship w.r.t. his/her service, if any, and IUSSTF will have no liability and not bear any expenses towards leave salary, provident fund contribution, pensionary benefits, etc., for the period of stay in the United States.
3. The parent institution shall be responsible for necessary foreign exchange disbursements against the grants provided by IUSSTF.
4. The visa arrangements shall be made by the Fellow directly. The Fellow shall apply for the J1 visa. The IUSSTF fellowship award letter may be used as a supporting document for the J1 visa along with necessary document from host institution i.e. the DS 2019 form.
5. **Time frame for availing the fellowship:** Awardees shall commence their travel within three months of the date of the award announcement. No request for a waiver on any account will be considered thereafter. Failure to commence the fellowship within the stipulated period would cause the candidate to forfeit the fellowship opportunity.
6. After the award of Fellowship, the Fellow should not deviate from:
* Approved area of research/ Title of the proposal
* Host institute
* Fellowship duration
1. Ordinarily, the WARI Fellow is bound to utilize the complete duration of the approved fellowship. No deviations would be permissible. In case the Fellow stays beyond the approved fellowship period, there will be no financial commitments/liabilities of IUSSTF. In case of any emergency, IUSSTF may consider the request of the Fellow to shorten the duration of the fellowship. If the Fellow is cutting-short his/her approved fellowship duration; the stipend amount will be settled only for the actual duration of stay in the United States on a pro-rata basis.
2. During the interim period (between the submission and till the results are announced), if the candidate gets the opportunity to visit overseas either personally or officially, it should be notified to IUSSTF immediately.
3. The Fellow will abide by the conduct, rules & regulations of the U.S. host institution and country. IUSSTF will not be responsible for any contravention.
4. Within 8 weeks of completion of the fellowship, the Fellow must submit a detailed report to IUSSTF along with the necessary documents (Utilization certificate/ Statement of Expenditure), etc. towards the settlement of award grant in the prescribed formats.
5. As WARI Fellowship Program is funded by the DST; the Fellow will be governed by the DST overarching framework of prevailing regulations and policies (such as the Open Access Policy) to the extent applicable.
6. All grant-in-aid awards are subject to availability of funding, either from internal resources or external agencies, as the case may be.
7. IUSSTF is not responsible if the funding agency, at any given point of time, withdraws the funding support to the program due to unforeseen exigencies; or for any delays in fund release arising due to delayed receipt of funds from the funding agency.
8. No damages, direct or indirect, caused due to any eventualities during work, stay and travel, such as an accident, injury or illness, shall be attributed to IUSSTF during the course of implementation of the award or any period preceding/ succeeding the award.
9. IUSSTF reserves the right to amend its policies and priorities anytime, depending on circumstances, and such decisions shall be binding for all awards.
10. With issues pertaining to conflict of interest or any other disputes, the decision will be made on case-to-case basis in consultation with DST. **The decision of Secretary, DST in such cases shall be final and binding.**

## Acceptance of Fellowship Award under Water Advanced Research and Innovation Fellowship Program

1. I have read the Terms & Conditions governing the Fellowship (for scientist) Award under the Water Advanced Research and Innovation Fellowship Program as stated above and accept the same.
2. I abide by the Terms & Conditions laid by IUSSTF towards the utilization of grants and completion of the fellowship award.
3. I hereby undertake that that I have not availed any other overseas fellowship to

U.S.A. through any Government/public funding agency for a period of three months or more during last five years.

1. I hereby declare that the details furnished in my application for WARI Fellowship Award under the Water Advanced Research and Innovation Fellowship Program with DST/IUSSTF are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I undertake to inform you of any changes therein, immediately.

In case, any of the above information is found to be false, untrue, misleading, or misrepresenting, I am aware that I may be held liable for it and the fellowship would be cancelled or withdrawn by the competent authority, as per the rules.

(Signature) Name: Place: Date:

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