Indo-U.S. Genome Engineering/Editing Technology Initiative (GETin) Overseas Fellowship

Department of Biotechnology
Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India

IUSSTF
Indo-US Science and Technology Forum

Acknowledging importance of strategies & techniques in genome modification, as modern day essential tools for research & development, the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt. of India along with the Indo-U.S. Science & Technology Forum (IUSSTF) announces fellowship program between Indian institutes and premier U.S. Universities, in significant areas of Genome Engineering/Editing Technology (*GETin*).

The program is open to individuals whose research work has an interface with Genome Engineering/Editing Technology studies

Program Objective:

1. To provide opportunity to best and brightest Indian students and scientists to gain exposure and access to world class research facilities in leading US institutions;
2. To promote research and capacity building in the frontline area of Genome Engineering/Editing Technology;
3. To encourage and motivate outstanding students to take up research as a career path;
4. To 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.

Genome Engineering/Editing Technology (*GETin*) Overseas Fellowship Program Module

Who is eligible to apply:

1. Indian citizens having Ph.D. in Life Science, Biotechnology, Engineering or Technology holding a regular position in public funded R&D Lab/ S&T Institution/recognized Universities/Colleges in India.
2. Applicants must provide proof of independent research work in internationally recognized academic journals.
3. Open only to applicants working in a field having an interface with Genome Engineering/Editing Technology
4. Age: Up to 45 years as on **the last date of application**.

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Duration and Number of Awards:

1. Duration of fellowship will include work at U.S. Universities for a period of 5 weeks to 12 months.
2. Up to 5 Fellows will be awarded every year.

Nature of Support:

(i)   Monthly stipend of $ 3,000 per month
(ii)   Airfare
(iii)   Health insurance of up to $ 1,000
(iv)   Contingency of up to $ 1,000
(v)   Conference Allowance of up to $1,200

Where will the Awardees work:

1. The candidate should himself/herself correspond with their proposed host institute in the U.S for placement/visit.
2. Candidate is required to produce evidence, in the form of a Letter of Acceptance/Certificate on the letterhead of the U.S. host institute, duly signed/stamped by the host.
3. The letter should also include the merits/uniqueness of that host institute in the proposed area of research.
4. There should be willingness on the part of the American Institute to accept and extend necessary support to the candidate for the work proposed.

How to apply:

Application should be submitted using our Online Application Portal by **the said deadline,** web link provided on IUSSTF website **www.iusstf.org**, along with the following documents:

- Acceptance Letter/ Certificate from host institute in the United States, as per the format indicated*
- Two recommendation letters from Referees
- No-Objection Certificate/ Statement from the Current Employer, as per the format indicated**
- Scan copy of Ph.D. degree
- CV of the U.S. Host
- CV of the applicant with current photo (not more than 3 pages)
- Proof of DoB (Scan copy of the supporting document, e.g. Birth certificate/ 10th class certificate/passport)

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*ACCEPTANCE LETTER/ CERTIFICATE BY THE HOST INSTITUTE

Certify that Prof/Dr. _____ if given the awards for Indo-U.S. Genome Engineering/Editing Technology Initiative *(GETin)* Overseas Fellowship Program. He/ she will be provided office and laboratory space, access to equipment and library facilities etc. for implementing the research project proposal submitted by him/ her under this fellowship.

Date: ....
Place: ....
(Signature of the forwarding authority along-with the seal): ....

**STATEMENT FROM THE CURRENT EMPLOYER
(This should be given on the official letter-head of the parent institution/organization in the following format):

This is to certify that this institution has no-objection to the consideration of application for the **Awards for Indo-U.S. Genome Engineering/Editing Technology Initiative (*GETin*) Overseas Fellowship program** from Mr./Ms./Dr. ………………………………………… employee in the …………………….… (Name of the department/institute/ organization) for research/ training in the area of……………………… to be held at …………………………… for the duration of …………… months.

If the fellowship is awarded to him/her, Mr./Ms./Dr. ……………… will be relieved from ………… (Name of the institute/organization) duties for said period from the date of his/her joining for research fellowship under **Awards for Indo-U.S. Genome Engineering/Editing Technology Initiative (*GETin*) Overseas Fellowship program.**

During this period, the continuity of employment on the post presently held by him/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 he/she will join his/her present post on completion of tenure of his/her fellowship.

Place: ……………
Date: ……………… (Head of Institution/Organization): ………………
Official seal: ……………

For program information / clarifications contact:
Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum
Email: getin@indousstf.org

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Terms and Conditions/Administrative Guidelines for Indo-U.S. *GETin* Overseas Fellowship Program Module

(i) The individual availing this fellowship would be called **Indo-U.S. Genome Engineering/Editing Technology Initiative (*GETin*) Fellow** or **Indo-U.S. *GETin* Fellow**.

(ii) The Indo-U.S. *GETin* Fellow will be entitled to a monthly Stipend of US $3,000.

(iii) The Indo-U.S. *GETin* Fellow will be entitled to a comprehensive Health Insurance up to US $1,000 cover for the entire duration of the fellowship.

(iv) The Indo-U.S. *GETin* Fellow will be entitled to a Contingency/ preparatory allowances of US $1,000 (as per prevailing foreign exchange) to cover expenses for obtaining U.S. Visa, airport transfers in India & United States.

(v) The Indo-U.S. *GETin* Fellow will be permitted to travel within the United States to attend conferences or visit other institutes of interest seeking the approval of the advisor at the host institute. The Fellow will be entitled to a grant of up to US $1,200 for this purpose. The expenses incurred to be supported with vouchers/receipts during the settlement of the award grant.

(vi) Air-tickets for all the selected candidates Indo-U.S. *GETin* Fellow would be provided directly by the IUSSTF travel desk 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.

(vii) At the time of disbursement of 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. There will be a maximum restriction on the maximum number of foreign exchange during the entire duration of the fellowship detailed as follows:

- For a fellowship duration up to 6 months - one conversion
- For a fellowship duration up to 7-12 months - two conversions.

Any additional conversions have to be borne by the fellow. Accordingly, the concerned financial authority at the parent institution should confirm to the above.

(viii) The applicant's parent institute has to protect the interests of the applicant selected for internship/fellowship w.r.t. his/her service, if any, and IUSSTF will not bear any expenses towards leave salary, provident fund contribution, pensionary benefits, etc., for the period of stay in the United States. IUSSTF will have no liability towards these.

(ix) The parent institution would be responsible for necessary foreign exchange disbursements against the grants provided by IUSSTF.

(x) Visa arrangements are to be made by the fellow directly. The fellow has to apply for the J1 visa. The IUSSTF fellowship award letter can be used as a supporting document for the J1 visa along with necessary document from host institution i.e. the DS-2019 form.

(xi) After the award of fellowship the Fellow should not deviate from:
- Approved area of the research
- Identified host and host institute

(xii) 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.

(xiii) 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.

(xiv) Ordinarily, Indo-U.S. *GETin* 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.

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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.

(xv) All grant-in-aid Awards are subject to availability of funding, either from internal resources or external agencies, as the case may be.

(xvi) 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.

(xvii) 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.

(xviii) IUSSTF reserves the right to amend its policies and priorities anytime, depending on circumstances and such decisions shall be binding for all the awards.

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Acceptance of Indo-U.S. Genome Engineering/Editing Technology (*GETin*) Award by Indo-U.S. *GETin* Fellow

1. I have read the Terms & Conditions governing the Indo-U.S. *GETin* Overseas Fellowship Award 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.

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:

****

Indo-U.S. Genome Engineering/Editing Technology Initiative (GETin) Overseas Fellowship

Application Format for Overseas Fellowship Program Module

GETIN_Fellowship_Year_ Reference No. <<Auto-generated>>

Section-1: Basic Information

1. **Name: _____(First Name) _____ (Last Name)**

2. **Contact details:**
   - Present Postal address:
   - State:
   - Phone number :
   - E-mail:

3. **Date of Birth (dd/mm/yy): _____**(up to 45 years as on 31 December 2019 are eligible to apply)
   Age :

4. **Gender: ____ (Male/ Female)**

5. **Applicant Present Affiliation:**
   - Designation
   - Department
   - Address
   - Phone Number

6. **Employment [**Do you hold a regular position in your institute**?]: _____(Yes/No)**

7. **Passport Details:**
   - **Yes I have a passport –**
     - Passport Number
     - Place of Issue
     - Date of Issue
     - Expiration Date
   - **Applied for passport**

8. **Academic qualifications EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS** *(12th Standard onwards)***:**

Examination / Degree	University/ Board	Institute/ College/ School	Duration (from mm/yy to mm/yy)	Subjects studied/ Specialization	Percentage/ CGPA/ Rank

9. **Employment History:** Please provide details of your work experience starting with the current Organization and going back to previous organizations in reverse chronological order

Name of the Organization	Address of Organization	Department	Designation	Duration (from mm/yy to mm/yy)	Brief job description/Nature of work

10. **Honours and awards received** (should not exceed 1000 words)**:**

Section-2: Technical Details

1. **Title/Topic of the Proposed Research to be done under the *GETin* program** (max limit 300 characters) :

2. **Details of the Host Mentor in the USA:**
    *   Name:
    *   Designation:
    *   Department:
    *   Institute Name:
    *   Postal address:
    *   State:
    *   Phone number:
    *   Email Id:
    *   Web URL:

3. **Proposed duration of the internship (in months): _____** (max up to 12 months)

4. **Brief summary of your current area of research work** (Should not exceed 1000 words, figures/graph can be uploaded as optional):

5. **Description of proposed research work to be done under this fellowship program including**: (Point 5 Should not exceed 1000 words, figures/graph can be uploaded as optional):
    *   i.   *Objectives, Methodology with respect to timeline :*
    *   ii. *Specific need for the joint work (should not be confined only to access to instrumental facilities):*
    *   iii. *Tangible outcome expected and its relation to present state of knowledge in the field:*
    *   iv. *Mutual scientific benefit to be accrued to both sides:*
    *   v.   *Follow up activities that may emerge towards a sustained collaboration:*

6. **State any other relevant aspects in the application which may be useful for the reviewer to make a qualitative judgment on the application** (Should not exceed 200 words):

7. **Details of international internships/fellowships availed in the last three years:**

Name & address of overseas institute	Duration (in months)	Agency which sponsored the visit	Brief objective of the work done	Achievement/Out come

8. **Details of applications made/ pending for any other international fellowships:**

Name & address of overseas	Duration (Months)	Agency	Brief objective of the work done

institute			

9. Scientific projects with applicant:

Title	Grant Period	Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	Funding Agency

10. List of publications of the applicant in peer-reviewed journals:

Authors	Year	Title of the Paper	Journal name; Volume; Page; Impact factor

11. List of Conference Paper(s)/Oral Presentation/ Poster Presentation/Abstract presented by the applicant (Best 5):

Oral Presentation/Poster Presentation/Abstract	Authors	Year	Title of the Paper	Name of the Conference/ Symposium/ Seminar attended

12. Recommendations (One of the referees should be your faculty member/advisor or in case you have completed training in any lab, a reference from your supervisor there would be preferred. The recommendation should be provided on the official letter-heads of the referees):

Recommendations (Please furnish details of persons who can provide an assessment of your suitability for this internship)

Details	Reference 1	Reference 2
Name of Referee		
Designation		
Organisation		
Email id		
Phone Number		
Relationship with Applicant		

13. Signed and stamped no objection certificate from Indian Parent Institution:

STATEMENT FROM THE CURRENT EMPLOYER

(This should be given on the official letter-head of the parent institution/organization in the following format) :

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This is to certify that this institution has no objection to the consideration of application for the Awards for Indo-U.S. Genome Engineering/Editing Technology Initiative (GETin) Overseas Fellowship Program from Mr./Ms./Dr. ……………………………………… employee in the ……………………… (name of the department/institute/ organization) for research/ training in the area of……………………… to be held at …………………………… for the duration of …………… months.

If the fellowship is awarded to him/her, Mr./Ms./Dr. ……………… will be relieved from ………… (name of the institute/organization) duties for said period from the date of his/her joining for research fellowship under Awards for Indo-U.S. Genome Engineering/Editing Technology Initiative (*GETin*) Overseas Fellowship Program. During this period, the continuity of employment on the post presently held by him/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 he/she will join his/her present post on completion of tenure of his/her fellowship.

Place: ……………
date: ………………
(Head of Institution/Organization): ………………
Official seal: ……………

14. **Supporting Documentation check-list:** (All the documents should be in 'jpg' OR 'jpeg' OR 'png' OR 'pdf' format & file size should not exceed 2 MB)

- PhD degree
- First recommendation letter from a faculty member, advisor or lab supervisor on their official letterhead (as indicated in Point 12)
- Second recommendation letter from a faculty member, advisor or lab supervisor on their official letterhead (as indicated in Point 12)
- No objection certificate from Indian Parent Institution (in the format provided in S. No. 13)*
- U.S. Host Acceptance letter *
- CV of US Host (not more than 3 pages) *
- CV of the applicant with current photo (not more than 3 pages)*
- Proof of DOB (Please attach scan copy of the supporting document, e.g. Birth certificate/ 10th class certificate/ passport) *
- Any other document I (Optional)