



August 8, 2019

NOTIFICATION NO: 011

Sub: Scheme for Grant of Seed Money for Research Activities

Introduction:

The Seed Money Grant Scheme of Dayananda Sagar University is designed to stimulate competitive research in strategic areas of national or international importance, to promote innovative product and technology development, and/or to facilitate the start of research programs which shall potentially develop into creative ventures through external funding.

Objectives:

- 1) To aid a faculty to start a research program that has the potential to sustain by attracting funds from external agencies.
- 2) To test novel ideas and to generate preliminary results before submitting proposals to external agencies.
- 3) To promote inter-faculty collaboration in emerging areas.
- 4) To promote generation of IPR and product/process development.
- 5) To attract and retain talent.

Seed Money Support:

The Seed Money Grant shall be awarded with a maximum value of Rs. 5 Lakhs.

Duration:

The duration of the Grant shall be 2 years which could be extended by another year after complete review of the outcomes.

Validity of the Scheme:

The Scheme shall be valid till the end of the 31st March 2021 or such other date as may be reviewed from time to time.

Eligibility:

- 1) Any faculty member of DSU holding a PhD degree with a proven track record of quality research and employed in DSU shall be eligible to apply for the Grant.
- 2) Any group consisting of faculty of DSU and collaborators from other Universities/ Institution who shall provide an undertaking that they shall submit a proposal for an externally funded program with the same proposers during or within 6 months of the completion of the seed funded project. The external collaborator cannot be Co-PI in the Seed Grant. However, where required, letters from such collaborators may be attached in the proposal with commitment (such as facility use) clearly specified. They should also demonstrate that they do not have funding from any external agencies for the proposed research.



- 3) Any group comprising DSU faculty, PhD scholars, undergraduates, and post- doctoral fellows belonging to DSU with the PI being a DSU faculty with PhD. Only DSU faculty can be a PI. Participation by students of any category is encouraged but they may be only named as personnel in the project.
- 4) At any time, a PI can submit only one application. However, he/she can be a Co-PI in more than one proposal.
- 5) The PI at the time of submission of application shall not have a running project funded by the Seed Money Grant Scheme in which he or she is the PI.
- 6) However, to encourage younger faculty members, proposal from faculty members having/completed any major project of Rs 10 lakhs or more of internal or external grant shall not be considered.

Selection Criteria:

The following broad criteria may be kept in mind for selection of any proposal for Seed Money Grant under the Scheme:

- 1) Innovative interdisciplinary research
- 2) Team of faculty members whose expertise is complimentary.
- 3) Promise of sustainable research and development attracting external funds.
- 4) Budget matches the claimed outcomes.
- 5) Potential to generate intellectual property (Including product & process development)

Submission Deadlines:

It is found appropriate to have the selection processes at two different points of time during any academic year. Accordingly, the following submission windows are proposed to be created:

- 1) Proposals shall be invited maximum twice in a year. A decision shall be made within 8 weeks of the submission deadline of the application.
- 2) The deadline dates shall be - Oct 31st & April 30th in each academic year.

Evaluation Process:

The total evaluation process shall follow a two stage scheme:

Stage 1

- 1) Pre-proposals shall be evaluated by a rating scheme which considers each of the selection criteria. Additional points shall be awarded for the following cases:
 - a) The proposal is from a new faculty.
 - b) The proposal is linked with PhD program of students.
- 2) The Selection Committee would comprise of the following: a) Vice Chancellor; b) Dr. Khincha, Evangelist; c) Registrar; d) Dean Research/ Director - Research; e) Any 3 Deans.
- 3) The Committee may decide to seek the opinion from external experts on the pre-proposals before placing the same for consideration.
- 4) The committee would also take inputs from all those PIs who have submitted the pre-proposals.

Stage 2

- 1) The PIs of the shortlisted pre-proposals shall be asked to submit a full proposal.



- 2) The Review Committee shall comprise of the following: a) Vice Chancellor; b) Dr Khincha, Evangelist; c) Registrar; d) Dean Research/ Director - Research; e) Any 3 Deans; f) Any external experts from the respective field of knowledge
- 3) The full proposal shall be rated for intellectual merit and its broader impact.
- 4) The selection committee may, if required, discuss proposals with external experts and may seek further information from the PI before making a final decision.
- 5) The proposal evaluation shall consider the alignment of the budget with the deliverables.
- 6) The committee may suggest that two or more proposals be combined if the committee deems it advantageous, and may award an amount greater than Rs.10 Lakhs.

Terms & Conditions:

- 1) The decision of the Selection Committee shall be conveyed to the PI who shall be the contact person for all administrative matters regarding the project.
- 2) The PI is responsible for the conduct of the research in accordance with the DSUs research policy.
- 3) Procurement, utilization and maintenance of equipment shall be as per the University policy.
- 4) The funds have to be utilized within the stipulated period.
- 5) The Seed Money Grant has to be utilized in accordance with the approved budget.
- 6) The PI should submit a progress report every six months in the prescribed format for evaluation by the committee mandated to monitor individual projects. In case it is found that proper efforts are not being made in the project, further release of funding may cease.
- 7) The PI shall also be required to report progress or outcomes at the end of one year after the termination of the seed grant, including grants received and publication/IPR arising out of the seed grant.
- 8) In any research communication arising out of the funded project, the contribution of the University should be duly acknowledged.
- 9) In case PI leaves the University before the completion of project, a Co-PI from DSU shall assume responsibility as PI. No collaborator from another institution can become PI under this condition.

Deliverables:

Externally funded projects should be generated as outcome of seed grant scheme. Publication in peer-reviewed journals/intellectual property generation including product / process development would be expected as outcomes of the project. Further, it is understood that any IP emerging out of research funded by DSU shall be owned by DSU. Such IPR shall recognize contributions by all researchers as "inventors", and any resulting royalties shall be shared by DSU with the inventors.

The above guidelines shall be in force with immediate effect. The Scheme may be suitably popularized to all concerned.

For Dayananda Sagar University


Vice Chancellor

Copy to: The Secretary, DSI, Pro Vice Chancellors, Registrar, CFO, CoE, All Deans, All Faculty Members, Director - Research, Director - I&E, CIO, Website, Notice Board, Library.