

Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation Programme (*Bio-CARe*) for Women Scientists

In an attempt to enhance the participation of Women Scientists in Biotechnology Research, the Department of Biotechnology launched a Biotechnology Career Advancement and Re-orientation Programme (Bio-CARe) for women scientists. The programme is mainly for Career Development of employed/ unemployed women scientists upto 55 years of age for whom it is the first extramural research grant. The scheme is open for all areas of Life Science / biology (including agriculture, veterinary science and medicine).

There is a Research Grant Opportunity (RGO), under which a 3-5 year research grant is provided. The purpose is to build capacities for women scientists employed fulltime in Universities and small research laboratories or unemployed women scientist after a career break so as to help them undertake independent R&D projects. Under this scheme the women scientists who are unemployed will be provided a monthly emoluments ranging from Rs. 35,000/- to 45,000/- p.m. The employed women scientists in addition to salary will get an amount of Rs.5,000/- p.m as an incentive. A research grant of Upto Rs. 50.00 lakhs is provided.

In addition there is a Career Re-orientation Fellowship (CRF). This scheme is mainly for women scientists who are trained in a particular area, but leave their permanent jobs / or are unemployed and would now like to change their career path to take on newer areas. Specialized skills would be essential and this would require training in the relevant field such as – IP management, Bioinformatics, Policy research and analysis, Translational research, Regulation etc. The training cost are borne by the Department upto maximum amount of Rupees one lakh on this training could be for a period ranging from 3 months -12 months. Under this scheme the women scientists who are unemployed will be provided a stipend of Rs.25,000/- p.m. and employed scientists will get an amount of Rs.5,000/- p.m as an incentive in addition to their salary.

Details of the Scheme:-

The purpose is to build capacities for women scientists employed fulltime in Universities and small research laboratories or unemployed women scientist after a career break so as to help them undertake independent R&D projects.

I. Eligibility Criteria:

- (i) M.D/M. Tech /Ph. D/Equivalent degree in any branch of Life Sciences
- (ii) Women Scientists who are employed or unemployed or are coming back after a break.

- (iii) Women Scientists for whom it is the first grant. (Women Scientist who have already availed any grant as PI from Government Funding Agency under WOS (A&B) of DST are not eligible to apply).
- (iv) Women Scientists upto 55 years of age
- (v) The scheme is open to women applicants from all areas in Life Science or biology (including agriculture, veterinary science and medicine)

II. Guidelines for Application & Procedure:

- (i) Since women for whom it is the first grant are eligible, the applicants are asked to submit a letter of intent (LoI) for preliminary screening. LoI should describe what she intends to achieve in the project period.
- (ii) For unemployed candidates, a letter from the Mentor Scientist /Institute in whose lab she proposes to work should accompany the LoI. In case, where Mentor/Institute is not identified, but LoI looks interesting a Mentor/Institute can be identified and requested to be associated.
- (iii) LoI's will be screened by an Expert Committee and those which get shortlisted based on the following criteria will be intimated to submit full proposal.
 - 1. Scientific merit of the proposal
 - 2. Experience and the qualification of the PI
 - 3. Publications
 - 4. Infrastructure of the Host Institute
- (iv) Women whose LoIs look promising but could not qualify for full proposal will be called to participate in a Mentorship workshop. The workshops will be held from time-to-time to help women scientist to understand what good grant writing and thereby help them to improve their project proposals and apply next time when the department calls for LoIs.
- (v) Project proposal can be for a 3+2 years (two years extension is subjected to review).
- (vi) Any woman scientist can be considered for a maximum of 3 such applications run consecutively not in parallel with total duration of the support under this scheme not extending beyond fifteen years.

III. Budget/Stipend:

- (i) There would be a provision for stipend fellowship amount as lumpsum in the following 3 slabs for the unemployed candidate in the budgets provision. The slabs would be decided based on post Ph.D experience

Grade – I Rs.35, 000/- (Ph.D+ nil experience)

Grade – II Rs.40,000/-(Ph.D + more than 5 years research/industrial experience)

Grade– III Rs.45,000/-(Ph.D+ more than 10 years research/industrial experience)

The candidate will have to provide proof of year of experience.

If a selected candidate is availing a Post-Doctoral or Contractual fellowship she will have to resign from the same before accepting the project under Bio-CARE programme.

- (ii) For employed candidate an additional amount of Rs. 5,000/- over her salary would be provided as an incentive
- (iii) All research related expenses to be booked under Equipment, Consumables, Manpower, Contingency, Travel etc as in other ongoing R&D Schemes.

IV. Others

- (i) The successful candidate will be informed through biocare.dbt@nic.in. No interim correspondence will be entertained and canvassing in any form would lead to disqualification of the applicant.
- (ii) LoIs received after the deadline/incomplete LoIs shall not be considered.

Contact Info:

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