



Seed Grant Policy

Preamble

The purpose of the seed grant policy is to set out the guidelines and procedures for the newly recruited faculty members early at their career to obtain seed funding from the institute. The goal of the seed funding is to support such faculty members for initiating their research activities and developing proof of concept studies which may lead to research funding from the relevant industry or different funding agencies or may result in publications in reputed journals.

Who Can Apply for Seed Grant Research?

A newly joined faculty member early at their career (Ph.D. degree awarded within last three years) can apply for seed grant.

Seed Grant Amount

The support of seed grant is up to Rs. 10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh) for three categories of research project. A new faculty member can apply for the seed grant only once within a year after joining the university and has to make a choice whether to apply for category A or B or C as mentioned below. The project duration can be at the most two years.

- Category A: Seed Grant proposal up to Rs. 2,00,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh)
- Category B: Seed Grant proposal more than Rs. 2,00,000/- (Rupees Two Lakh) but less than equal to Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh)
- Category C: Seed Grant proposal more than Rs. 5,00,000/- (Rupees Five Lakh) but less than equal to Rs. 10,00,000/- (Rupees Ten Lakh)

Mode of Application and Approval Process

A faculty can submit the proposal to the Dean(R&D) with the details as per the prescribed format (Annexure 1). This format applies to all three categories of the proposal.

Category A: The proposal will be reviewed by an internal subject-matter expert to be identified by the Dean(R&D). The Dean(R&D) may then request a revision, as applicable, of the proposal addressing the comments/suggestions of the reviewer.

Category B: The proposal will be reviewed by two subject-matter experts (either internal or external) to be identified by the Dean(R&D). Based on the reviews, the Dean(R&D) may request revision of the proposal as applicable. If the proposal is approved, the Dean(R&D) will constitute a Research Progress Committee (RPC), comprising internal and external experts in the area of the proposal, which will evaluate the progress of the work once in six months.

Category C: The proposal will be reviewed by three subject-matter experts with at least two of them external to be identified by the Dean(R&D). Based on the reviews, the Dean(R&D) may request revision of the proposal as applicable. If the proposal is approved, the Dean(R&D) will constitute a Research

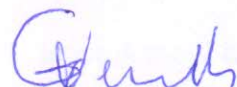
Progress Committee (RPC), comprising internal and external experts in the area of the proposal, which will evaluate the progress of the work once in six months.

Note

- Once a proposal is cleared by the reviewers, the Dean(R&D) will recommend it to the director for funding approval.
- Seed Grant is not expected to cover the costs for the full research plan, but only provide assistance to a faculty member to initiate their research project. The proposal should explain overall research goal, approach(es), the type of facilities/equipment/consumables that are required, the expected outcome and possible uses/applications, and the agencies that can be approached to fund the projects in future.
- Seed Grant of Category A cannot cover expenses of technical staff, but the Category B and Category C may allow expenses of technical staff with a limit upto 50% of the sanctioned fund of the proposal.
- This policy supersedes the previous policy of Seed Grant.

The office of Dean (R&D) will approve the financial aspects including the equipment, technical staff, travel under the seed grant. The accounts and auditing will be managed by DAU's account office.

Date: 11 September 2025


G Venkatesh
(Director – School of Technology)

Annexure 1: Format for Seed Grant for the Category-A Proposal

1. Name of the Investigator
2. Title of the Seed Grant Research Proposal
3. Name of the Area/Department:
4. Background of the Research
 - Context and importance of the research problem
 - Gaps in existing knowledge/technology
5. Research Objective, Methodology, Timeline
 - Research problem and significance
 - Novelty/innovation
 - Methodology
 - Potential impact
 - Timeline
6. Budget Estimate and Justification (year-wise)
 - Equipment / materials / Cases
 - Travel
 - Consumables
7. Expected Outcomes and Impact
 - Anticipated research results in terms publications, patents
 - Contribution to science/technology/education/society
 - Pathways for external funding
 - Potential interdisciplinary collaboration
8. Signature (with date) of the Investigator

Annexure 2: Format for Seed Grant for the Category-B and Category-C Proposal

1. Name of the Investigator
2. Title of the Seed Grant Research Proposal
3. Name of the Area/Department:
4. Background of the Research
 - Context and importance of the research problem
 - Gaps in existing knowledge/technology
5. Research Objective
 - Research problem and significance
 - Novelty/innovation
 - Objectives
 - Expected outcomes
 - Potential impact
6. Research Methodology and Approach
 - Research design and methods
 - Expected challenges and mitigation strategies
 - Timeline / milestones
7. Budget Estimate and Justification (year-wise)
 - Project personnel (student, Research Assistant)
 - Equipment / materials / Cases
 - Travel
 - Consumables
8. Expected Outcomes and Impact
 - Anticipated research results in terms publications, patents
 - Contribution to science/technology/education/society
 - Pathways for external funding
 - Potential interdisciplinary collaboration
9. Name of three external experts (preferably from premier institutions, R&D labs) in the field of research/proposal
10. Signature (with date) of the Investigator