

SERB Overseas Visiting Doctoral Fellowship Purdue University Process

As defined in an MOU between Purdue University and the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) of India, SERB has agreed to sponsor research visits to Purdue by visiting doctoral students who are pursuing their doctorate degrees at Indian Institutions under the Overseas Visiting Doctoral Fellowship program. In line with SERB's mission, students must be enrolled in PhD programs in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (including Medicine, Pharma, Agriculture and related S&T area disciplines).

Our aim is to ensure that the program provides meaningful international research experiences for PhD students enrolled in top Indian institutions and that it fosters collaborations between research groups in order to strengthen institutional partnerships between Purdue and strategic partner institutions in India. Toward these goals, qualifying PhD students must be jointly nominated by a Purdue faculty member and a faculty member at the Indian partner institution (thesis advisor). The interactions between the participating faculty should include an established or evolving research collaboration between the research groups and joint service on the student's thesis committee or joint supervision of the thesis are strongly encouraged.

Each selected PhD student will:

- Spend up to 12 months at Purdue with an option to extend for an additional 6 months upon approval by SERB
- Travel with a J1 visa (research as primary activity, no courses)
- Receive a \$2000 per month stipend from SERB (approximate dollar value distributed in rupees) to Indian bank acct) to cover travel/living costs
- Remain enrolled in the PhD program at their home institution

Faculty Commitments:

In submitting the nomination, the **Purdue faculty member** agrees to the following, contingent on award approval:

- Host the PhD student in their research group for 12 months
- Provide lab costs or other costs associated with the research activities (note: SERB guidelines indicate that a nominal grant may be provided to the overseas host institution to cover such fees but it is not guaranteed)
- Provide Purdue ISS visa processing fee and DS-2019 mailing fee (approximately \$200) and initiate DS-2019/invitation letter process through appropriate departmental or college-level office (recommended three months prior to visit)
- Provide information to student regarding local resources to assist with housing, etc. (resources typically include Indian graduate student association (IGRASP), but may also include graduate students in professor's group). Engineering Concierge office website also has resource links: <https://engineering.purdue.edu/Engr/Concierge/visa-assistance.html>
- In collaboration with faculty member from student's home institution, request appointment to the student's thesis advisory committee whenever possible and identify appropriate funding to support travel costs or other logistical costs associated with serving on the committee. Note: one trip of the Purdue faculty member to the Indian Institution will be paid for by SERB. The appointment process and

obligations of the external member of the thesis committee should follow the guidelines of the student's home institution.

In submitting the nomination, the **faculty member at the student's home institution** agrees to the following, contingent on award approval:

- Participate in definition and execution of research themes for the visit, in line with typical responsibilities as thesis advisor
- Ensure that student remains enrolled in PhD program at home university during the visit
- In collaboration with faculty member from Purdue, request appointment of Purdue faculty member to the student's thesis advisory committee whenever possible and identify appropriate funding to support travel costs or other logistical costs associated with serving on the committee. Note: one trip by the home institution advisor to Purdue will be paid for by SERB. The appointment process and obligations of the external member of the thesis committee should follow the guidelines of the student's home institution.

Student should first submit the following two items to PurdueIndia@purdue.edu, copying Heidi Arola, harola@purdue.edu:

- 1) A Completed Application Form (available for download on the Purdue India website)
- 2) A letter of invitation from a Purdue faculty member inviting the student to be a guest researcher in his/her lab and the proposed dates of the stay (Jan 2019 start dates recommended).

A *complete* (zipped) nomination packet containing the following additional documents must then be submitted before 11:59 PM on June 30 to PurdueIndia@purdue.edu, copying Heidi Arola harola@purdue.edu

- 1) Work Methodology and Research plan in a single PDF file not more than 4 pages (max 10 MB).
- 2) Ph.D. registration certificate
- 3) Bio-data of the Indian Supervisor
(Including Academic & Research Qualifications, Publications list , Patent list, Details of research projects being implemented/ completed/ submitted, if any)
- 4) Bio-data of Purdue Host Scientist
(Including Academic & Research Qualifications, Publications list , Patent list, Details of research projects being implemented/ completed/ submitted, if any)
- 5) Certificate from the applicant [Download Template](#)
- 6) Endorsement letter from the head of the Indian institution [Download Template](#)
- 7) Letter of invitation and acceptance of research plan by the Purdue Scientist and Indian Supervisor
- 8) Recommendation letter from the Indian supervisor (Application from researcher should be forwarded through the head of organization/ department where the applicant is enrolled for Ph.D. along with recommendation of the Indian supervisor.)
- 9) Letter of undertaking from Indian supervisor [Download Template](#)
- 10) CV of student