




Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB)
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 विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग
DEPARTMENT OF
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

SERBPOWER
PROMOTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN IN EXPLORATORY RESEARCH

SERB – POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research) program is formulated to mitigate gender disparity in science and engineering research funding in various S&T programs in Indian academic institutions and R&D laboratories. SERB – POWER is specially designed to provide structured effort toward enhanced diversity in research to ensure equal access and weighted opportunities for Indian women scientists engaged in research and development activities.

MECHANISMS OF SUPPORT

SERB would endeavor to create a funding framework for empowering women researchers in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) under the following two categories:



SERB – POWER Fellowship



SERB – POWER Research Grants

SERB – POWER Fellowship

SCOPE AND ELIGIBILITY

- This fellowship will identify and reward outstanding women researchers and innovators working in Indian academic institutions and R&D laboratories, holding Ph.D. degree in any branch of science and engineering.
- The nominee should be an active scientist with an excellent record of research performance as an independent investigator or innovator.
- The nominee should be in regular service throughout the duration of Fellowship.
- The nominee should be an Indian citizen between 35-55 years of age working in an institution in India.
- The nominee should not be receiving any other fellowship from Government sources during the tenure.

NATURE OF SUPPORT & DURATION

- Fellowship of Rs. 15,000/- per month in addition to regular income.
- Research grant of Rs. 10 lakh per annum. Research grant can be used for minor equipment, manpower, consumables, contingencies and domestic travel.
- Overheads for the host institute.
- Fellowship duration will be fixed for three years, without the possibility of extension.
- Successful POWER Fellows cannot be re-nominated for a second time.

NOMINATION PROCEDURE

- Applications for POWER fellowships are invited normally through nominations. The nominations should be sent by the Heads of the Institutions or Fellows of National Academies.
- The nominations will be received throughout the year through online (www.serbonline.in) only.
- Selection of POWER Fellows will be made twice a year by a specially constituted Search-cum-Selection Committee.

SERB – POWER Research Grants

This scheme aims to encourage emerging and eminent women researchers for individual-centric and competitive mode of research funding to undertake R&D activities in frontier areas of science and engineering. POWER Grants will empower women researchers by funding them under following two categories:

Level I: The scale of funding up to **60 lakhs** for three years.

Level II: The scale of funding up to **30 lakhs** for three years.

MECHANISMS OF IDENTIFICATION

The SERB-Core Research Grant (CRG) Platform will be used to identify and support women scientists under the POWER Research Grant component. Accordingly, proposals will be received through two streams:

Stream 1: Direct applications for POWER Grant (Online)

Stream 2: Applications sourced from CRG Scheme (All PACs)

Women researchers who have applied in the current cycle but not secured funding under CRG will be considered in Stream 2 at an appropriate level (Level I & II). Women scientists who have applied in CRG Scheme need not re-apply in any of the above streams.

ELIGIBILITY

- Applicants [Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Principal Investigator(s) (Co-PI(s))] should be Indian citizens.
- The applicant(s) must hold a regular academic/research position in a recognized academic institution or national laboratory or in any other recognized R&D institution in India.
- Applicants from IITs, IISERs, IISc, NITs, Central Universities, and National Labs of Central Government Institutions will be considered under Level I Category, whereas applicants from State Universities / Colleges and Private Academic Institutions should apply under Level II Category.
- POWER Grant will be regulated through terms of reference conforming to SERB-CRG guidelines.
- The POWER Grant is provided for equipment, manpower, consumables, travel and contingency. "Overheads" is also being provided to the implementing institution as per prevailing norms of SERB.
- The selection will be based on the recommendations of Program Advisory Committee (PAC) constituted by the Board. If required, the applicants may be called for discussion/presentation.

GENERAL GUIDELINES (FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS)

Women scientists cannot hold POWER Fellowship and POWER Grant at the same time.