



SEED GRANT

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREAMBLE_____ 3

PURPOSE_____ 3

CRITERIA FOR LOCATIONS AND PARTNERS_____ 4

ELIGIBILITY_____ 4

 Value and Duration_____ 4

 Funding Coverage_____ 4

NATURE OF ASSISTANCE_____ 5

COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES_____ 5

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS_____ 5

 Scoring and Selection/Review Criteria_____ 6

IMPORTANT DATES_____ 7

SEED GRANT FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH

“Building Capacity for an International Research Partnership.”

Preamble

The Anna University seed grant for International research is a funding initiative to collaborate with partner universities abroad by encouraging faculty and students to pursue competitive research in emerging areas of national and international importance.

Global partnerships are designed to be long-term, university-wide, reciprocal relationships with peer universities in strategic locations worldwide. These partnerships enable us to support faculty collaborations, student exchanges, and alumni integration.

Purpose

Anna University and the strategic partners are committed to achieving impact through collaboration in research and education.

The seed grant is an initiative to support researchers from Anna University and Partner institutions to facilitate and fund collaborative projects that develop cutting-edge research to create academic and societal impact.

Through this grant, regular and full-time faculty will have the opportunity to work with our strategic partner in developing joint research projects. The funded projects are expected to progress into larger scale projects, sustained by leveraging external funding.

Proposals (each with two Principal Investigators: one from Anna University and other from the Partner Institute) will be funded with the seed grant of maximum Rs. 10,00,000 per institute towards joint-research with equal contribution from the partner institutions. Preference will be given to teams that involves PhD scholars and postdocs, rather than one-to-one research projects.

Criteria for locations and partners

Each partner meets the criteria in different ways by strengthening various aspects of our overseas portfolio.

- Substantial study abroad opportunities exist with well-regarded partner, including semester-long, short-term, and experiential opportunities.
- Academic calendar alignment and potential for student appeal.
- Location/partner is known and/or of interest to multiple departments.
- Partner institution is peer or best in the region and offers regional opportunities.
- Location or partner expands geographic and other diversity elements, i.e., public/private, disciplinary, region, and language.
- Leadership we trust and who are interested in exchange and providing resources for like-minded partnerships.
- Partner capacity for sustained collaborations.
- Capacity for alumni engagement can be an additional consideration.

Eligibility

Proposals will be invited from faculty of all disciplines at Anna University and Partner Institutions.

Previous recipients with completed seed-grant projects will not be considered for the next cycle.

Value and Duration

A maximum value of ₹ 10 lakhs for two years can be utilized to support research activities with match funding of international currency value from partner Universities.

Funding Coverage

- Airfares: Travel only on economy class will be considered.
- Local travel expenses (train, rental car, etc.).
- Accommodation and subsistence.
- Consumables.
- Publications and printing costs.

Applicants must familiarize themselves with the guidance and resources on international collaborations available in their respective websites.

All travel activities must comply with the guidelines of the respective universities, including travel insurance.

Funding will not consider the following:

- General teaching.
- Event registration fees.
- Venue hires if event held on campus.
- Website development.
- Salaries or salary supplementation, and honoraria.
- Scholarships for students.
- Course fees for international students.
- Mobile phone cards.
- Entertainment costs.
- Computers, including laptops, and other accessories.

Nature of Assistance

The amount allocated under the head “International Research” is to be utilized for data collection, travel and contingencies within the general scope and sphere of the ongoing collaboration.

Collaborative Activities

The grant will support innovative interdisciplinary research addressing the need for affordable and sustainable solutions in engineering, technology, science, and architecture.

Submission requirements

All proposals must be submitted online and include the following elements:

- Seed Grant Application Form (online)
- Details of the team involved and the role along with the contribution of each member.
- Expected outcomes
- Project timeline
- Project budget
- CV of the Partner Chief Investigator (maximum two pages in length) which should include:
 - Qualifications, current position, and employment history
 - 10 career-best publications
 - Awards and relevant presentations
 - Current grant income
 - Collaborative track record (limited to 200 words)

- CV of the Anna University Chief Investigator (maximum two pages in length) which should include:
 - Qualifications, current position, and employment history
 - 10 career-best publications
 - Awards and relevant presentations
 - Current grant income
 - Collaborative track record (limited to 200 words)
 - Endorsement by the relevant Head of the Institute.
- A brief letter of support in English on official letterhead from any additional institution/organization (other than the Partner/Anna University) that intends to formally collaborate.

Scoring and Selection/Review Criteria

Eligible Principal Investigator (PI) interested to avail the grant will be evaluated by a review committee according to the following criteria.

- Priority will be given to applications that align with the strategic research areas of both universities. Applications in other fields showing good prospect of sustainability are also welcome.
- Rationale for collaboration.
- Collaboration impact (linking the outcomes to the planned activities and performance indicators such as joint papers, external funding applications, joint research with industry and policy recommendations).
- Interdisciplinary nature of the collaboration.
- Capacity for future collaboration (the extent to which future collaborations are possible as a result of the exchange activities).
- Proposals are assessed holistically and scored as described below.

DESCRIPTION	REVENUE	EXPENSES
4	Excellent	Proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.
3	Very good	Proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a few shortcomings are present.
2	Good	Proposal addresses the criterion well, but several shortcomings are present.
1	Weak	Criterion is inadequately addressed or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

SELECTION CRITERIA	EXPENSES
Quality and Relevance (maximum 300 words)	<p>Clearly describe the objectives and methodology to be employed with the project. The objectives of the funding scheme will be considered in combination with the soundness of the concept and credibility of the proposed methodology.</p> <p>Explain the necessary expertise of the participants in the research team to carry out the project. The 2-page CVs of the Chief Investigators will be taken into consideration.</p>
Execution (maximum 300 words)	<p>Elaborate on workplan and milestones as an outline of activities in the Timeline and Budget.</p> <p>The long-term plan to attract research funding.</p>
Impact (maximum 300 words)	<p>Outline what the participants will gain from the project and how it will contribute to the discipline and field of research.</p> <p>Explain how the project will impact beyond the academic sphere (i.e. benefit society, address global challenges, Sustainable Development Goals, etc.).</p> <p>Explain how the project activities and results will be communicated to different target audiences.</p>

Important Dates (every year)

- Applications open DD July YYYY
- Applications close DD August YYYY, 23:59 IST
- Announcement of results DD September YY25 (1st week)
- 1st progress report due DD February YY26
- 2nd progress report due DD September YYYY
- 3rd progress report due DD December YYYY (3rd week)
- Date of project completion DD March YYYY
- Final report due DD March YYYY

Prof. R. Baskaran

DIRECTOR