

SERB Overseas Visiting Doctoral Fellowship 2024

Purdue University Process

As defined in an agreement 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; joint service on the student's thesis committee or joint supervision of the thesis are strongly encouraged.

Each selected PhD student will:

- Spend 12 months at Purdue with an option to apply for an extension of up to 6 additional months (through a competitive process)
- Arrive at Purdue in August 2024
- 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:

- Support just one application for the 2024 application process
- Host the PhD student in his/her research group for 12 months
- Cover lab costs and/or other costs associated with the research activities (no bench fees will be provided)
- Provide Purdue ISS visa processing fee and DS-2019 mailing fee (approximately \$350) and initiate DS-2019 process through Purdue's PISA office (recommended minimum of 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)
- 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 (as per SERB's specific travel guidelines). 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 (as per SERB's specific travel guidelines). The appointment process and obligations of the external member of the thesis committee should follow the guidelines of the student's home institution

The 2024 [application form can be found here](#). Applicants should ensure that they have all the following documents before beginning the application (the form will allow you to save your work and continue but it is advisable to try to complete the application in one sitting when possible). All docs must be submitted **before 11:59 PM EST on January 2, 2024**.

- 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 (*See Template on Purdue-India Website*)
(Including Academic & Research Qualifications, Publications list , Patent list, Details of research projects being implemented/ completed/ submitted, if any)
- 4) Bio-data (or CV) of Purdue Host Scientist
(Including Academic & Research Qualifications, Publications list , Patent list, Details of research projects being implemented/ completed/ submitted, if any. Does *not* need to use template)
- 5) Certificate from the applicant (*See Template on Purdue-India Website*)
- 6) Endorsement letter from the head of the Indian institution (*See Template on Purdue-India Website*)
- 7) Letter of acceptance of research plan by the Purdue Scientist and Indian Supervisor (this should be signed by both the Indian Supervisor and the Purdue host)
- 8) Recommendation letter from the Indian supervisor
- 9) Letter of undertaking from Indian supervisor (*See Template on Purdue-India Website*)
- 10) CV of student
- 11) Invitation letter, signed by the Purdue faculty member, indicating a commitment to host the student if the student is selected (Note: the initial letter can be informal, not through ISS liaisons; formal Purdue invitation letters will be required for students who are ultimately selected for a fellowship).

Any questions should be addressed to Heidi Arola, Director of the Purdue-India Partnership, at harola@purdue.edu, copying PurdueIndia@purdue.edu.

Further details on the fellowship available at: <http://serbonline.in/SERB/ovdf>