



INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED VIROLOGY

Autonomous institution under Science & Technology Department
Government of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala - 695317

IAV/429/R & D/2024

30.10.2024

Call for Expressions of Interest

Industry-linked PhD Program in the areas of Advanced Virology

Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV) is pleased to extend an invitation to the industries and R&D organizations to submit an Expression of Interest (Eoi) for participating in an Industry-Sponsored PhD Program in the areas of advanced virology. This program offers a unique opportunity for the industry/R&D organisations to collaborate on translational research aimed at addressing global challenges in virology.

Program Overview:

IAV aims to foster an environment that accelerates laboratory based virology research and its application to real-world problems. Industry-linked PhD program would augment the vision of IAV by bridging academic and industrial expertise, thereby enhancing the impact of translational virology research. **Industry PhD program, co-designed by IAV and Industry, provides the scope for the candidates to focus on bench to bed-side research in virology.** This program is expected to have an immediate translation of research outcomes for managing emerging and re-emerging viral diseases in terms of newer therapies, vaccines, diagnostic kits, pathogen surveillance, and public health interventions.

In the above context, we seek industry partners who intend to work on research projects that align with IAV's interests and who are interested in sponsoring potential candidates to undergo PhD programme in Virology and contribute to advancing knowledge in the following areas:

- *Antiviral therapeutics*
- *Vaccine strategies*
- *Bio-Assay Development*
- *Epidemiological modelling of viral diseases*
- *Diagnostic kits*

- *Viral Genomics and Bioinformatics*
- *Viral Pathogenesis*

Sponsorship:

Under the industry-linked PhD program, Industry partners can sponsor candidates who are external to their organization for the entire duration of research as stipulated in the PhD guidelines of Institute of Advanced Virology. The candidates selected will carry out their research primarily within the IAV under the supervision of IAV faculty, with industry sponsors providing financial support in terms of fellowship at par with CSIR/UGC/Government norms. If desired, industry can also extend additional support in terms of research grant to the candidate through IAV to cover the research expenditure. Sponsors can also contribute to defining the research agenda, strategic guidance, mentorship and gain regular insights into project progress.

Benefits for Industry Sponsors:

- *Shape research in critical areas of virology that are relevant to the industry's needs and of direct benefit to them.*
- *Ability to use the state of the art facilities (Transgenic Animal house, advanced BSL2/BSL3 facility) through the candidates; and develop a cost-effective way to conduct cutting edge research in a well-established laboratory set-up*
- *Collaborate with leading scientists and researchers enhancing the quality and innovation of industries R&D projects in newer domains*
- *Access to highly skilled PhD candidates working on strategic challenges for the organization.*
- *Access to industry-ready human resources.*

Eligibility criteria of the candidate:

- M.Sc with NET/GATE qualification. Candidates with relevant industrial experience will be given preference

Duration of the program:

- 3 to 5 years as per the regulations of the Institute and affiliated University.

Course work:

- As per PhD requirements of the Institute and affiliated University

Fellowship:

- On par with CSIR/UGC/Government fellowship guidelines

Fee structure:

- As per institute and University guidelines

Age limit:

- Candidate should not have completed 32 years as on last date of submission of application. Age relaxation will be applicable as per university/government norms.

Supervision

- A permanent faculty from IAV, who is a recognized guide of the University in which the candidate plans to register for the doctoral program, will serve as the PhD supervisor of the candidate
- A scientist from the sponsoring industry, who have relevant experience in the area of agreed research, will act as a joint mentor for formulating the research topic and monitoring the progress.

General Guidelines:

- The candidate will be selected in a joint interview where Industry representative will also be present as a member in the committee.
- Separate Interviews will be conducted for selecting candidates for each sponsor
- A candidate can apply to multiple sponsors
- The project idea will be jointly formulated by the industry and IAV; and should align with the thrust areas mentioned above.
- The doctoral research would be full-time research and shall have a mandatory industrial engagement for minimum 3 months with the industrial partner.
- The industry partner should enter into an MoU/ collaboration agreement with IAV incorporating the clauses about sustained funding till completion of the project /tenure of PhD programme, IPR sharing and publication rights.

- Ph.D candidates admitted for the PhD programme should also enter into a tripartite agreement with IAV and the industrial partner, which aligns with the collaboration agreement.
- Exceptions in selection criteria can be considered based on the recommendation of the Academic Committee of the institute

Industry eligibility:

- Should be a registered entity with a minimum of 5 years of existence
- Must have a registered office in India
- DSIR registration is optional
- For industries that have not registered with DSIR should fill out an IAV proforma to capture relevant information
- Must be willing to support doctoral research for the complete tenure (i.e. upto 5 years)

Guidelines for EOI Submission:

To express the interest of industries in sponsoring PhD candidates under this program, please submit an EOI with the following details in the attached proforma. Before responding to the EOI, Industry participants are expected to be in touch with the IAV faculty (<https://iav.kerala.gov.in/>) concerned to have a discussion on the intended area of research and the feasibility of the planned study at IAV.

How to apply: The duly filled expression of interest (in the format attached with this notification) prepared in the industry's letter head to be submitted along with the supporting documents to director@iav.res.in.

The shortlisted firms will be called for a detailed discussion with the Institute.

Deadline for EOI Submission: 15th November, 2024

For clarifications if any contact: aqiesh.b@iav.res.in/ao@iav.res.in

**Sd/-
Director**

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED VIROLOGY (IAV)

**SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST INDUSTRY LINKED PhD
PROGRAMME**

Name of the industry	
Address of the industry	
company registration details	
GST registration number and other mandatory details	
Areas of operation, product line and other related details.	
Annual turnover of the company for the last five financial years (Provide the copy of the balance sheet from FY 2019-20 to 2023-24 duly certified by CA)	
Whether registered with DSIR? If yes provide the DSIR registration details.	
Name and contact details of the authorised representative of the company	
Proposed areas for research collaboration (should be aligned with the thrust areas of research as per the notification)	
Expected outcome from the proposed industrial PhD programme? E.g., innovations, new products, patents, or processes	
Are you willing to provide fellowship to	

the sponsoring PhD candidate for the entire duration of the programme (i.e upto five years) at the CSIR/UGC approved rates and to provide an undertaking/surety in this regard?	
Are you willing to provide any additional support other than the proposed fellowship?	
Are you currently associated with any other institution for similar programmes? If yes, provide the details	
Are you currently associated with IAV in any manner? If yes, provide the details	
Have you initiated discussions with IAV faculty on the proposed work and feasibility of execution at IAV	
If yes, please indicate the name of the faculty	
Do you have any specific educational/ training pre-requisites for the candidate you are willing to sponsor? (This will be over and above the essential requirements stipulated by the affiliated University for PhD registration). If yes, please indicate the specifics.	

Declaration

I/We hereby declare that I/We have read and understood the guidelines, and the details given are true to the best of my/our knowledge.

Date

Signature of authorised representative with seal