



# VAJRA

Visiting Advanced Joint Research Faculty

Visit [www.vajra-india.in](http://www.vajra-india.in) for more details on the scheme.

## Science and Engineering Research Board

5 & 5A, Lower Ground Floor, Vasant Square Mall  
Sector-B, Pocket-5, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi – 110 070

Telephone: 0011 40000398

Telefax: 011 40000333

E-mail: [info@serbonline.in](mailto:info@serbonline.in)

Website: [www.serbonline.in](http://www.serbonline.in)

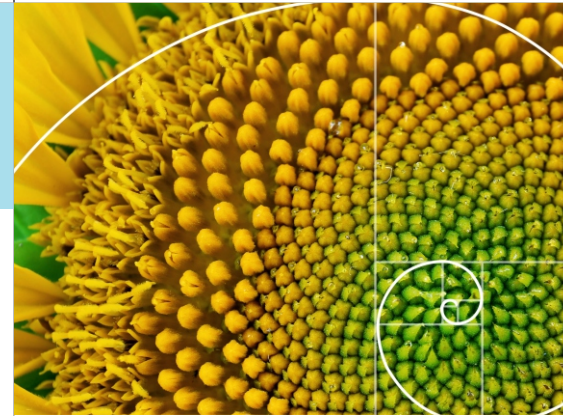
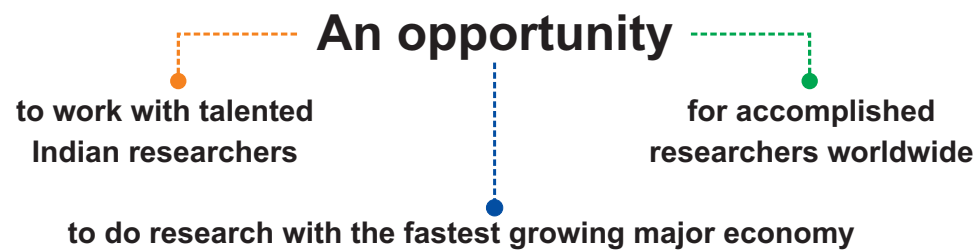


विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग  
DEPARTMENT OF  
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

An Initiative of SERB - DST  
Government of India

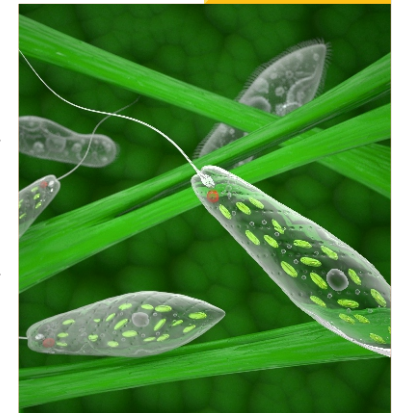


## VAJRA Faculty A Game Changer



## PREAMBLE

Science is global. Several studies indicate elevation of quality of research through various international collaborations. Scientific challenges the country faces are highly complex and often require multi-disciplinary expertise, and these can be effectively addressed through international partnerships. It is vital to utilize the specialized knowledge and technical skills of overseas scientists including NRI/PIO/OCI in our national endeavor. Keeping this objective in mind, the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology, has taken an initiative in formulating a scheme- 'VAJRA' (Visiting Advanced Joint Research) Faculty.



VAJRA Faculty Scheme has been conceptualized to bring an international dimension to the R&D ecosystem of India by leveraging expertise of overseas scientists to the Indian research framework. Further, the scheme is also aimed to create a flexible avenue for overseas Indian scientific diaspora to positively contribute to the growth of R&D in the country. Overall, the scheme envisages to promote a globally competitive environment for catalyzing cutting edge research for accelerated development of scientific and technological progress and overall economic prosperity of the nation.



## SALIENT FEATURES

VAJRA Faculty Scheme offers adjunct / visiting faculty position to undertake high quality research in Public funded Indian Institutions / Universities.

The scheme is open to overseas scientist / faculty / R&D professional including Non-resident Indians (NRI) and Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) / Overseas Citizen of India (OCI).

The overseas scientist / faculty should be an active researcher working with overseas academic / research / industrial organizations with proven track record of research and development.

VAJRA faculty will undertake research in S&T priority areas of nation wherein the capability and capacity are needed to be developed. The VAJRA faculty will engage in collaborative research in public funded institutions. The faculty can co-guide research students and can be a co-investigators in projects. The VAJRA faculty can also be involved in developing technology, setting up of start-ups etc.

The residency period of the VAJRA Faculty in India would be for a minimum of 1 month and a maximum of 3 months a year. It is expected that the Indian Host Institution may engage him/her for longer duration even after the completion of the assignment.

The faculty appointment may be renewable under the scheme.

The VAJRA Faculty is provided a lump-sum amount of US\$ 15000 in the first month of residency in a year and US\$ 10000 p.m. in the other two months to cover their travel and honorarium. While no separate support is provided for e.g. accommodation, medical / personal insurance etc. the host institute may consider providing additional support.

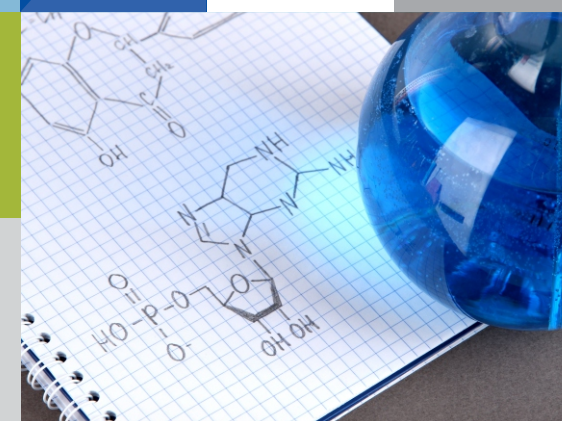
## APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND SELECTION CRITERIA

The Indian collaborator and the overseas faculty will jointly frame a research plan and the application duly endorsed by the Head of the Institution will be submitted online by the Indian collaborator.

The overseas faculty, if selected should get necessary permission/approval from his/her institution to work as VAJRA faculty in India for the specified period.

A Selection Committee of eminent scientists will evaluate the applications. The Committee will meet twice a year in January and July and make recommendations.

SERB will announce the results in the month of April and September.



## ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### The Host Institution

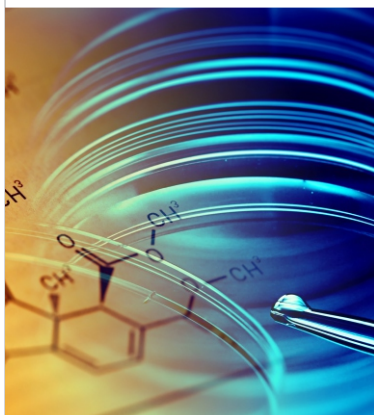
Public funded academic institutions and national laboratories are eligible to host the VAJRA Faculty. These institutions should appoint them as Adjunct / Visiting Faculty and involve them in co-guiding and mentoring of students and developing collaborative programs. The Faculty can also be allowed to participate in other academic activities as agreed to by the host institution and the Faculty.

Host institution should provide adequate research infrastructure and manpower required to carry out the proposed research by the VAJRA Faculty.

The host institution has to submit necessary financial statements and progress report to SERB.

### The VAJRA Faculty

- The VAJRA Faculty will carry out research of the highest global standards in collaboration with researchers of the host institution.
- While the primary role is research as outlined in the proposal, based on mutual agreement, the VAJRA Faculty can undertake other activities like teaching etc. without diluting the primary objective.
- VAJRA Faculty should submit an Appraisal Report at the end of the assignment elaborating the outcome of the research undertaken and its significance.



## OTHER SERB INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS\*: INVESTING IN YOUNG MINDS

### Overseas Visiting Doctoral Fellowship Program

To facilitate overseas research training for Indian Ph.D. Scholars registered in Indian institutions.

### Overseas Doctoral Fellowship

Fellowship to Indian students graduating from Indian universities/ institutes to pursue Ph.D. in areas of science, technology, engineering and medicine in Cambridge University, UK; The University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada and US Universities Stanford University, University of Southern California, Carnegie Mellon University, University of California Irvine, Rice University and The State University of New York, University at Buffalo.

### Overseas Postdoctoral Fellowship

The program admits candidates to do postdoctoral research in chosen areas in overseas top ranking universities in the globe. Newton Bhabha Fellowship is a dedicated program developed jointly with the Royal Society of the United Kingdom for doing postdoc research in UK.

### SN Bose Scholars Program

Indian students currently pursuing a Bachelors or Masters' degree to undertake a research internship at U.S. universities each summer for a period of 10 - 12 weeks. The program also supports U.S. students to intern at a recognized Indian institution for a similar duration.

\*For a complete list of other international program, visit [www.serb.gov.in](http://www.serb.gov.in)

