



# Newton-Bhabha PhD Placements Programme

## Call Guidelines





## 1. Background

The Newton Fund is a £375 million fund (£75 million a year for 5 years starting 2014/15) launched to promote science and innovation partnerships between the UK and key international partners, including India.

Programmes under the Newton Fund will augment the existing research collaboration with India to jointly deliver innovative solutions to global development challenges. In India, the Fund is worth £50 million over five years and is supported by the UK and Indian governments through a ministerial agreement.

Building up a talented pool of well trained, internationally active doctoral students is an essential step towards establishing world-class research systems. Improving mobility at the doctoral level is also an important factor in facilitating cross border research collaboration, as connections made at this level can be sustained over longer periods and can percolate through to other members of research teams.

Therefore, the Department of Business, Innovation and Skills of the British Government (BIS) and the Ministry of Science and Technology, India (MoST) have decided to jointly establish a three-year (2014-2016) PhD Placement Programme (*hereafter referred to as "the Programme"*) under the Newton-Bhabha Fund.

## 2. Programme Overview

The programme aims to develop individual capacity of scholars through PhD placements.

The programme is jointly funded by the British Council India and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and offers up to 30 short-term (3-6 months) PhD placements for Indian and UK PhD scholars to spend a period of their study at UK and Indian higher education or research institutions. The funding to the selected scholars will be disbursed by December 2015 and they can plan their travel between January – October 2016.



The PhD placements will be focussed on research areas which have been identified at the country level as important for fulfilling the Fund goals. (Please refer to the section on priority sectors.)

The approach of the programme will be scholar centred to ensure that the best possible development experience is provided for each scholar. International exchanges should add value through enabling scholars to:

- Learn valuable new skills or techniques
- Access facilities or resources not readily available in their home country
- Build relationships with potential new collaborators, including industry partners where relevant
- Advance complementary collaborative research.

### 3. Outcomes

The primary outcomes will be the following:

- Development of individual capacity through international training and development opportunities;
- Highly trained researchers in the UK and India with international experience, able to contribute to the absorptive capacity for research and innovation and thus bring about economic and social benefits;
- Participation of UK-based and Indian PhD scholars in international intellectual networks, building cultural understanding, and fostering long-term sustainable research collaborations;
- Development of international joint training pathways;
- Awareness of the research strength of the UK and India.

### 4. Eligibility

Applications are welcome from PhD scholars from India and UK in any Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects.

On the UK side applications will be considered from PhD scholars from all institutions which are strong in research in the priority sectors (please refer to the next section).



On the Indian Side: Different Departments and Ministries like DST, CSIR, MHRD/UGC etc will take call of applications separately for whole of India However, the scheme being operated at the DST is open to INSPIRE PhD Senior Research Fellows (SRFs).

## 5. Priority Sectors

Applications are invited in any Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects including the Grand Challenges areas and underpinning capabilities identified by the UK-India Task Force on Science and Innovation, which are -

- Sustainable Cities and Rapid Urbanisation
- Public Health and Well being
- Energy Water Food Nexus.

## 6. Application Process

Each application should come with endorsement letters from both the sending and receiving supervisors. The host supervisor's letter must confirm that they will host the PhD scholar and give them all necessary support; the duration of the stay; and the level of bench fees they will charge.

**Indian applicants** should use the application format provided at Annexure A or available at <http://online-inspire.gov.in/> & <http://dst.gov.in/> and then submit hard copy to DST, India at the following address:

Dr Chhama Awasthi,  
INSPIRE Program  
Department of Science & Technology  
Technology Bhavan,  
New Mehrauli Road  
New Delhi – 10016

Email address - [chhama.awasthi@nic.in](mailto:chhama.awasthi@nic.in)



**UK applicants** should submit the form online at the following link [https://britishcouncil-cxobw.formstack.com/forms/application\\_form\\_for\\_newton\\_bhabha\\_phd\\_2015](https://britishcouncil-cxobw.formstack.com/forms/application_form_for_newton_bhabha_phd_2015) and upload the supporting documents.

The deadline for receipt of applications is **31<sup>st</sup> July 2015**. The announcement of the selection results will be made by **mid-October 2015**.

## **7. Funding arrangements**

- Each scholar can visit the partner institution once for a period of 3 to 6 months.
- Visa fee, international airfares (economy class) and overseas travel insurance costs incurred by PhD scholars will be met by their sending government.
- Where the UK host university cannot waive the fees, the host supervisor can apply to the British Council for up to £5,000, which must be included in the Indian applicant's application.
- The Newton Bhabha Fund will pay Indian scholars a monthly stipend of £1,300 to cover meals, accommodation and domestic travel, etc.
- The Indian Government will pay UK scholars a monthly stipend of INR 25,000 (as per this office memorandum No. SR/S9/Z-09T201 dated 21.10.2014) and accommodation charges @10%,20% or 30% of stipend, based on the class of city, basic medical care insurance and a one-off arrival allowance of INR 10,000.
- UK students need to arrange their accommodation either in Host institution or anywhere outside before departing to India for their convenience. DST will release their House Rent allowances @10, 20 and 30% of stipend amount as per GOI norms not more than that.
- UK PhD scholars will be exempted from accommodation fees, tuition fees, experiment fees and basic teaching material costs. Costs beyond the above arrangements will be borne by the scholars themselves.
- Any existing support to both UK and Indian scholars from their respective governments must continue during the tenure of the placement.

**To summarise, funding from the British Government via the Newton Fund will cover the following items:**

- UK scholars' visa fees to India



- UK scholars' return airfares (economy class)
- UK scholars' Overseas travel insurance
- Indian scholars' bench fees in the UK
- Indian scholars' stipend in the UK.

#### **Funding from the Indian Government will cover the following items:**

- Indian scholars' visa fees to the UK - Student visitor visa fee
- Indian scholars' returning airfares (economy class) as per GOI norms
- Indian scholars' travel insurance
- UK scholars' arrival allowance in India
- UK scholars' stipend in India
- UK scholars' fees, accommodation as mentioned in point 7, insurance, experiment fees and basic teaching material costs in India

### **8. Evaluation Criteria**

The applicants should ensure their applications meet the criteria set out below. The principles underlying the assessment of applications will be:

- All questions on the Application Form are answered;
- The activities are planned to deliver the outcomes in the most effective way;
- The placement will add value to the PhD research and to the activities of the two research groups;
- The support offered to the researcher will ensure that the placement is as productive as possible
- The research is relevant to the priority sectors (mentioned above) of the Newton-Bhabha Programme.
- The mobility programme will contribute towards developing a long term sustainable partnership between UK and Indian universities.

### **9. Evaluation process**

Department of Science and Technology, India and British Council India will conduct the first level of assessment independently and based on that will



shortlist the number of scholars. After this the Joint Panel between the two agencies will be organized to take a final decision.

Applications will be screened for their relevance to the priority sectors (mentioned above) of the Newton-Bhabha Fund programme

## 10. Contracting and Financial Arrangements

### Grant Agreement with UK Institutions

1. Indian Scholars - The grant agreement for placements of Indian PhD scholars in the UK will be signed between the British Council and the UK host institution. The host institution will be responsible for:
  - Managing the grant, including paying the stipend to students
  - Provision of financial accounts to detail how the UK Government funds have been spent on each PhD scholar over the reporting periods by the end of December 2016.
  - Alerting the British Council India to any substantive changes that will impact on project outcomes.
2. UK Scholars - The grant agreement for funding UK PhD scholars for their Visa, Airfare and Insurance will be signed between British Council and the UK home institution. UK home institution will be responsible to disburse the grant to the respective scholars.

### Grant Agreement with Indian Institutions

1. UK Scholars: DST will inform about the final selection of UK fellows to their Indian Host institutes and will also release the fund to that Institute followed by sending a sanction letter. The host institution will be responsible for:
  - Provision of financial accounts to detail how the Indian Government funds have been spent on each UK PhD student over the reporting periods by the end of December 2016,
  - Alerting the DST India to any substantive changes that will impact on project outcomes.



2. Indian Scholars: DST will release the fund for Indian PhD scholars to their respective Indian Home Institutions. Their Indian Home institutes will have to disburse that money for their Visa, Airfare and Insurance as per Government of India norms (will also be mentioned in sanction order).

## 11. Support to students

The Newton-Bhabha PhD Placements programme expects that the host institution offers high standards of supervision, management and mentoring to placement students. In your proposal, you might want to consider the following:

- The host institution's standards of supervision, management and Mentoring.
- Support and training supervisors receive so that they provide the highest-quality supervisory support for their doctoral students
- Mechanisms that are in place to assess, provide for and monitor individual doctoral student needs and offer the student appropriate development opportunities
- Professional and transferable skills training offered to doctoral students, including training in the principles of good research conduct in their discipline and in the relevant ethical, legal and professional frameworks
- Learning and training opportunities available to doctoral students to raise awareness of the broader context of their research area, particularly in reference to societal and ethical issues, and the importance of engaging the public with research

For further information on UK standards for doctoral training, please refer to the 'Statement of Expectations for Doctoral Training' <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/RCUK-prod/assets/documents/skills/statementofexpectation.pdf>

## 12. Reporting and Monitoring

Each PhD scholar will submit the work done report, to the British Council India and DST respectively by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016.

The host institution which manages the grant will submit financial reports to the British Council and DST respectively by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 (see above)



Key Dates:

Activity	Date
Call announcement	15 <sup>th</sup> May 2015
Call close	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2015
Notification to selected scholars	15 <sup>th</sup> October 2015
Grant Disbursement	By 15 <sup>th</sup> December 2015
Travel	January 2016 – October 2016
Reporting to British Council and DST by scholars and institutes	By 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2016

### Contact Points

#### For British Council – India

Purti Kohli

Email ID - [purti.kohli@britishcouncil.org](mailto:purti.kohli@britishcouncil.org) or [newton@in.britishcouncil.org](mailto:newton@in.britishcouncil.org)

#### For DST – India

Dr Chhama Awasthi

Email ID - [chhama.awasthi@nic.in](mailto:chhama.awasthi@nic.in)



DATED: 15.05.2015

ANNEXURE A

**APPLICATION FORM FOR NEWTON-BHABHA SHORT TERM PHD PLACEMENT PROGRAMME FOR INSPIRE FELLOWS**

1. **INSPIRE FELLOWSHIP REGISTRATION NUMBER:** IF.....
2. **NAME OF INSPIRE FELLOW:**
3. **PRIORITY AREA** (as given in point no. 13 in guideline):  
(Science/ Technology/ Engineering/  
Mathematics/ Ground Challenge areas)
4. **STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR TRAINING** (relevance in PhD in maximum 500 words):
5. **UK HOST INSTITUTION NAME AND FULL ADDRESS:**
6. **UK SUPERVISOR NAME** (please include the complete CV of supervisor, address and contact no need to be mentioned):
7. **SUPPORT BY HOST INSTITUTION**

PLEASE DESCRIBE THE SUPPORT WHICH THE UK HOST INSTITUTION WILL GIVE TO APPLICANTS, PARTICULARLY IN TERMS OF THE PLANNING AND LOGISTICS OF THE VISIT.	
PLEASE DESCRIBE THE SUPPORT THE HOST SUPERVISOR WILL PROVIDE TO THE APPLICANT IN TERMS OF SPECIFIC TECHNICAL TRAINING RELEVANT TO THE PLACEMENT; PLANNING AND CONDUCTING THEIR RESEARCH; AND THE ANALYSIS, DISSEMINATION AND INTEGRATION INTO THEIR WIDER PhD PROJECT OF THE RESEARCH RESULTS.	



8. TITLE OF PHD RESEARCH IN INDIA :
9. OBJECTIVE OF RESEARCH WORK, IN INDIA(Maximum 100 words):
10. SUMMARY OF RESEARCH WORK DONE IN INDIA (not more than two pages: separate sheet may be included):
11. PLEASE OUTLINE THAT HOW THE HOST RESEARCH INSTITUTE AND YOUR HOME RESEARCH INSTITUTE COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER. (Maximum 100 words)
12. WHAT ARE THE MAIN LONGER TERM OUTCOMES YOU ARE EXPECTING FROM YOUR PLACEMENT? (Maximum 100 words)
13. LIST OF INDEXED RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS (PUBLISHED OR ACCEPTED) ALONG WITH ABSTRACT OF EACH PUBLICATIONS
14. AWARDS/ MEMBERSHIP OF INSTITUTIONS/ ACADEMIC SOCIETY OR ANY OTHER RECOGNITION:

**Declaration:** It is certified that all Information given by me in columns (1-14) are true to the best of my knowledge. **If any Information were to be found incorrect or false, I am aware that my application and fellowship are liable for cancellation.**

Signature ..... Place ..... Date .....