

Indo-US Clinical Research Ethics Fellowship

Under the aegis of

Indo-US Vaccine Action Programme (VAP)

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Eligibility Criteria

What is eligibility criteria?

Applicant as well as Host Institute are eligible as follows:

1. Applicant should be an Indian Citizen and the upper age limit is 45 years at the time of the submission of application, age will be calculated by taking the date of closure of the call.

The Host Institute could be Public, Private, registered under or as a Trust, Society, Non- profit Organization or Corporation. At least 51% of Indian stakeholders are must and Host Institute should be at least 3 years or older.

Whether an individual from a Company can apply for this fellowship? Whether any start-up/ Incubatee can submit the proposal?

An individual can should be associated with a host institute in India. Please refer to RFP section ‘WHO CAN APPLY’.

What kind of proposal should be submitted?

The proposal that is likely to advance knowledge and be practically relevant to clinical medicine, public health, easy to understand, no vague or ambiguous terms. It should address a specific problem within a broader topic. For further details, please refer to the link on BIRAC website

https://www.birac.nic.in/webcontent/1692963859_Rid_Steel_2023_How_to_write_a_bioethics_research_proposal.pdf

A two-part research proposal in standard format must clearly define the work to be undertaken in the host institute and at Department of Bioethics, NIH, USA. The proposal must describe how the project fits within current bioethics research projects in the Department of Bioethics, NIH and the proposed research proposal in India

How to choose the mentor at the Department of Bioethics, NIH, USA? Can he/she be directly contacted?

The applicant can check the video uploaded on BIRAC website which gives a description or work and publications of Bioethics Department. The mentors may be chosen based on the work of interest of the applicant and synergy with the Bioethics Faculty’s research Access to selected

publications from NIH Bioethics department to illustrate different kinds of bioethics research questions and methods: <https://nih.box.com/v/BioethicsResearch>

Is it mandatory to have a prior discussion of the proposed bioethics research with a faculty member?

No. But the applicant is encouraged to go through the NIH faculty work and identify the mentor before application submission

What is age limit?

For Applicant the upper age limit is 45 Years and for Host Institute it should be at least 3 Years or older.

Can the applicant do his/her routine work during the fellowship period?

The investigator can contribute a couple of hours in a week to do his/her routine work during the fellowship period. but will have to Commit the required time for the research project being funded under this call. The Host Institute should endorse a commitment of a minimum 40% of the time for tenured candidates of institute i.e., the fellows and 100% of the time for adhoc/temporary/contractual candidate towards the fellowship, and ~50% from those in permanent faculty positions.

Which centre in USA we need to choose and the procedure of the same

This will be decided by the mentor and objectives of the proposal

Is there a word limit to the application?

No

Is it possible to extend the timelines for submission of proposals?

No

What is the procedure to be followed post approval?

If selected the Applicant shall not engage herself/himself anywhere else or take up any other assignments during the entire period of this Fellowship, other than the position held at the host institute. Submit all the necessary documents sought by the Host Institute within the given time period, to be submitted further to BIRAC. The Applicant must seek the consent of Host Institute if she/he intends to be away from the institute (except for field work related to the project) continuously for a period of more than eight weeks. The Fellowship grant shall be solely utilized for the purpose of the project. The Fellow will be under the administrative control of the Host Institute where she/hewould be working on the Fellowship and will be subject to the Rules and Regulations of the Institute concerned.

2. Documents Details

What should the Letter of Support from Host Institute include?

The Host Institute Letter should indicate that Creating Bioethics is a focal point in institute and the Bioethics Fellowship is step towards that direction. The Host Institute Letter should indicate that Creating Bioethics is a focal point in institute and the Bioethics Fellowship is step towards that direction. More details in terms of Commitment from host institute may be sought after selection of the fellow as deemed necessary.

How do we provide evidence of scientific achievement to satisfy the "experience" evaluation criterion? Does this information have to be included in the Project?

Yes, details of publications and work relevant to the Research Proposal must be submitted

3. Submission

What will be the time and last date of submission?

18th September 2023 5:00 PM IST

Can one submit multiple proposals?

NO

Can you critique a draft of my application?

You may write to BIRAC for specific clarifications on proposal submission. You may write to BIRAC for specific clarifications on proposal submission. Alternatively, the FAQs would also be published online on BIRAC website

What if there is an important reason we might miss the application deadline?

The proposal will not be considered after close of call

How soon will I learn if my proposal will not be competitive?

BIRAC will to communicate the decision at every stage of evaluation. The decision making will be done with 2-4 months.

4. Funding Nature

What are the budget limits for each grant?

Applicant can propose the budget requirement commensurate with project activities with justification

5. Agreement

What is the Grant agreement to be signed?

Grant-In-Aid-Letter agreement will be signed between the BIRAC, Host institute and applicant with specific terms and conditions.

6. Evaluation Process

Who shall be responsible for evaluation/selection of the proposals?

Proposals will be selected based on a three-tier selection process:

- Primary eligibility check by BIRAC
- Peer review and shortlisting of proposals by Evaluation Committee
- Presentation of research proposal before the Evaluation Committee and final selection

An Evaluation Committee comprising national and international experts would assess the merit and quality of research proposals and recommend the most appropriate applicants

How many Fellowships will be supported?

This will be decided only after close of the call and proposal evaluation.