

International Partnerships for Science and Technology (IPSAT)

Global collaborations for local problems

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Rationale

The International Partnerships for Science and Technology (IPSAT), is a programme to obtain services of high calibre scientists and technologists working abroad. It is directed at promoting international research collaborations, technology transfer, and at obtaining expertise towards developing a globally-engaged community of scientists and technologists in Sri Lanka. The Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy of Sri Lanka has also identified IPSAT as a key strategy programme for human resource development for research innovations & allied services.

This programme will facilitate foreign-based scientists, engineers, science and technology policy makers and research personnel, to undertake service assignments for a stipulated period in Sri Lanka. The programme will assist public sector institutions, universities, research institutions and industry by providing support for;

1. NSF [IPSAT Resource persons](#) - contributing at conferences / workshops as lecturers or speakers; up to 2 weeks, maximum 3 resource persons if NSF is not a co-organizer
2. NSF [IPSAT Consultants](#) - short-term - feasibility studies, consultative visits, research collaborations, technology transfer projects, institution strengthening projects: up to 2 weeks to 3 months
3. NSF [IPSAT Fellows](#) - A world renowned expert currently working in the respective field, supported for a longer-term collaborative research or technology transfer programmes and/or strengthening research capabilities at universities, research institutions or industrial facilities. It is expected that the programme will globalize scientific research competence and promote national capacity building; period from a minimum of 3 months to a maximum of cumulative 12 months

The objectives of IPSAT are:

1. To develop institutional capacities
2. To facilitate research and technology transfer process
3. To facilitate STI infrastructure, skills development and science communication
4. To support and develop nationally significant STI programmes

Preference will be given to scientific areas which can promote industrialisation or those that have been identified by the STI Policy and Strategy, thereby consolidating limited resources on national priorities and improving the country's economic competitiveness.

1.2 Expected outcomes

1. Strengthen institutional capacities in Science and Technology
2. Human Resource and Development
3. Globally engaged community of scientists and technologists in Collaborative Research and Technology Transfer

1.3 Eligibility

- The programme is open to individuals or teams who have been actively engaged in scientific activity or are recognised experts in their chosen fields for a minimum of five (5) years.
- Identifying the international collaborator(s) is the responsibility of the Lankan scientists /institutions.
- Once a partnership is agreed upon, sponsorship from NSF may be sought by completing the attached application forms.
- The joint research /activity must be conducted in a public sector institution or organisation in Sri Lanka. In the case of technology transfer, the private sector may also be supported up to a maximum of 50% of the total cost.

The primary applicant for the IPSAT must be a citizen of, and residing in, Sri Lanka, registered with the STMIS database of the NSF and, actively engaged in scientific research or technology transfer programmes in a Sri Lankan institution for a minimum of five years after obtaining a postgraduate research degree. The task of identifying an international collaborator and preparing a joint proposal is that of the primary applicant. International collaborators may not directly contact NSF for funding under any component of IPSAT.

1.4 Selection criteria

Each application will be required to demonstrate the scientific merit of the project, and a clear relationship to national development.

Due credit will be given to NSF Research Fellows or recipients of NSF research grants (previous or current). The dissemination of research findings, or of skills gained, during the course of a particular IPSAT programme will be encouraged through workshops and seminars at all times, and such seminar /workshop programmes should be included in the project proposal.

In evaluating applications for IPSAT grants, the following criteria will be considered:

- a record of relevant experience (e.g. research in the applicants' chosen field(s) of study of both the local and international partners);

- a well-defined STI programme, or a well thought out proposal, in less than 600 words;
- a programme / proposal that, ideally, is relevant to the needs and interests of Sri Lanka's development strategy & in alignment with Science Technology and Innovation strategy of Sri Lanka
- the primary applicant's potential for continuing international collaboration on completing the project
- a commitment by the host (local) institution to (a) provide institutional facilities including bench space, purchase and supply of consumables, access to instrumentation, laboratories and libraries outside standard working hours and throughout the year irrespective of public holidays and ensure purchases required for the programme are made well in advance.

1.5 Funding

All applications to NSF for the partnership component will have to be submitted by the primary applicant who must abide by the NSF standard procedures. This does not, however, preclude applicants from seeking additional funds from other sources, both within and outside Sri Lanka.

Funding from NSF will cover any combination of the following:

1. for local component of the STI research project : support for the STI programme as per NSF's norms may include any combination of the following.
 - Expenses incurred organizing workshops/ seminars/ training programmes
 - Transport cost for field visits
 - Charges for hiring of equipment
 - Accommodation and living expenses (for programmes organized outside Colombo)
2. for the international collaborator(s): any combination of the following:
 - return airfare by the most economical and direct route (economy class); Business class may be considered under very special circumstance
 - food and accommodation or DSA may be considered for the Fellows to be given to the host institution

Travel, Accommodation and food for all foreign collaborators should be arranged by the counterpart (Sri Lankan) institution with which they will be collaborating. If airfare and accommodation are requested from NSF, two original quotations (per each) in favour of NSF should be submitted. (for airfare - quotations should be provided inclusive of an itinerary from two travel agents licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority of Sri Lanka for a ticket valid for 30 days.).

1.6 Releasing funds

Ninety percent (90%) of the total approved amount will be released before commencement of the programme while retaining 10% of the total approved amount. The retained ten percent (10%) will be released after submission of the Financial Statement (Bursar of the University/ Accountant of the Institution should certify the financial statement), two original agreements with signatures, the original invoices, original bills and the Report.

2. THE AWARD

The duration of an award can be up to a maximum of one year, depending on the nature of the project. Before any applicant requests financial support from the NSF, the primary applicant must satisfy all administrative arrangements and requirements of the institution(s) where the collaborative research is to be conducted. Additionally, it is the responsibility of the primary applicant and the institution of the primary applicant that the international partner(s) is provided with all required facilities.

All applicants must complete the relevant application form which requests, *inter alia*, a statement in less than 600 words in English on how the proposed project/ programme will contribute towards the advancement of science and technology and its application to national development as mentioned in Part I of the application.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES

3.1 Application procedure

- application forms can be downloaded from the NSF website(www.nsf.ac.lk)
- the application form must be completed in full before submission to the NSF
- incomplete applications will be rejected
- applications should be submitted at least two months prior to the commencement of the event
- e-version of the duly filled applications along with the attachments should be forwarded to ipsat@nsf.gov.lk and the complete original set of documents should reach the NSF within three working days
- Board of Management of the NSF will evaluate all applications and the decision of the Board will be final
- no correspondences will be entertained regarding rejected applications
- no applications may be entertained for reimbursements, except where prior approval of the Board has been granted

3.2 Allowances and payments

Allowances will be granted as per the relevant NSF regulation(s), and the payments will be made according to the NSF's financial regulations and guidelines.

3.3 Agreement with NSF

All IPSAT recipients (local and international) will be required to enter into a legally binding agreement with the NSF.

3.4 Reporting

All recipients are required to submit a detailed report according to the given format, on their project within a month of completion. Those who fail to submit reports within the specified time may be disqualified from receiving further grants from NSF.

Recipients of long-term awards (exceeding 3 months) will be required to submit a mid-point report.

It is mandatory that recipients acknowledge support from the NSF in their reports, publications, and presentations as an indication of the use made by public funds towards scientific advancement and national capacity building.