



ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ

("ವಿ ಟಿ ಯು ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ ೧೯೯೪" ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದಿಂದ ಸ್ಥಾಪಿತವಾದ ರಾಜ್ಯ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ

Visvesvaraya Technological University

(State University of Government of Karnataka Established as per the VTU Act, 1994)
"Jnana Sangama" Belagavi-590018, Karnataka, India



Prof. B. E. Rangaswamy, Ph.D.
Registrar

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Ref. No.: VTU/R&D/2023-24/ 2471

Date: 28 AUG 2024

NOTIFICATION

Sub: Seed Money for the faculty of VTU Centres - reg.
Ref: Vice-Chancellor's approval dated 28.08.2024.

In order to harness and nurture the research talents in the young faculty members working in the VTU Centres for Postgraduate studies, a **Seed Money Policy** has been incorporated **under the Research Grants Scheme** of VTU applicable to the **faculty working on Permanent full time basis in VTU Centres**. The said policy will be applicable from the date of notification.

NOTE: The online application for submission of seed money proposal shall be available in the University website.

The Faculty members working in the VTU centres may take benefit of the same.

Sd/-

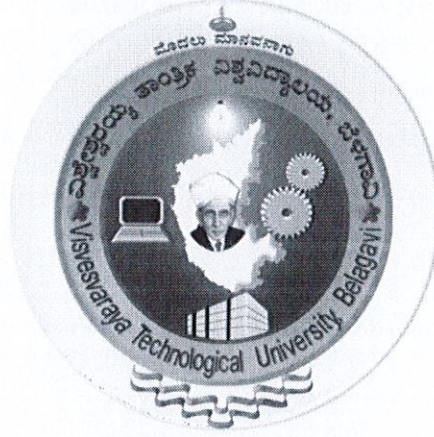
REGISTRAR

- To, 1. The Chairpersons / Programme Coordinators of all the Departments, Centers for PG Studies of VTU.
2. The Coordinator, Dept. of PG Studies, VTU Muddenahalli.

Copy to:

- 1) The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, through his Secretary, VTU, Belagavi for information.
- 2) The Regional Director (I/c), VTU Regional offices, for information.

Rc 28/08/24
REGISTRAR
[Signature]



Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi

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Seed Money Policy

(Under the Research Grants Scheme)

A. Preamble -

Activities Related to Innovation, Creativity, Research and development create and disseminate new knowledge in range of fields, promotes innovation culture and motivate better learning. Research is the foundation of knowledge that brings new energy, builds state of the art facilities, promotes research publications, develops collaborations and becomes part of active community that shares the mission objectives. Taking these into considerations, Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi (VTU) is framed Seed Money Policy & implemented.

B. Purpose -

The Purpose of the Seed Money Policy is to create a vibrant atmosphere of Research, Innovation and Creativity among faculty members, students and researchers in VTU, Belagavi and its PG Centers.

C. Objectives -

- To create an enabling environment within Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi (VTU) in order to foster research.
- Culture as well as provide required support through research framework and guidelines.
- To nurture an environment of undertaking socially useful research with potential for commercialization.
- For creating opportunities for teachers of the University to involve themselves in real life research projects and obtaining sponsorships.
- To aid a faculty to start a research program that has the potential to sustain by attracting funds from external agencies.
- To test a novel idea and to generate preliminary results before submitting proposals to external agencies.

- To promote inter-faculty collaboration in emerging areas.
- To promote generation of IPR and product/process development.
- To attract and retain talent.

The faculty members can apply for financial assistance for one or more of the following purposes -

- Technology allowance to buy a portable technology device, which can aid in mobility and increase the research output,
- To develop proof of concept or prototype for a novel research idea,
- For capacity building (organizing training programs for research scholars, inviting prominent researchers to interact with the group etc)
- For filing patents
- To disseminate research findings by organizing workshops/ conference/ seminars to the society.
- For certification programs in special/advanced courses.
- For attending FDPs, Training Programs, Refresher courses etc

The University faculty members are encouraged to submit research proposals based on their innovative ideas. The applicants have to clearly and convincingly demonstrate that the proposed project represents a new research direction in an area likely to generate external funding.

The primary goal of this scheme is to support faculty members in developing research resources in the area of expertise and to develop innovative or interdisciplinary approaches or methodologies. The faculty members who have been appointed to a position of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor in Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi (VTU) and its PG

Centers & Constituent College are encouraged to apply for Seed Money. Normally, the Seed Money grant shall be sanctioned to the applicant based on the Recommendations of Research Grants Scheme Committee of VTU and approval from the University Authorities.

D. Eligibility Criteria:

Funding is restricted to innovative and original projects that have not been published, patented, or otherwise displayed elsewhere. Projects must align with VTU's mission to advance sustainable, scalable, and impactful technological solutions. To be eligible for seed money, applicants must be under the age of 40.

1. AI-Generated Content Prohibition:

All proposal submissions should be free from content generated by AI language models, such as ChatGPT, GPT-4, or any other automated systems. Submissions will be checked using advanced plagiarism detection tools capable of identifying AI-generated content. The use of AI tools must be explicitly reported and substantiated in the project report. However, AI-generated content should be minimal, non-essential, and must not relate to the core idea or innovation. Submissions found to contain AI-generated content without proper disclosure will be rejected, and *may affect eligibility for future applications.*

2. Ensuring Uniqueness:

All proposal reports and prototypes must be demonstrably unique, including providing evidence that the work cannot be replicated or duplicated using existing AI tools. Researchers and developers must submit detailed documentation and logs of their work, covering design decisions,

developmental stages, and problem-solving processes. ***The originality and uniqueness of the project will be assessed through expert reviews and cross-referencing with existing databases and publications.***

3. No Plagiarism Guarantee:

Applicants must submit a signed declaration confirming that all submitted materials are original, not sourced from third-party content, and free from plagiarism. VTU reserves the right to use plagiarism detection tools to verify the originality of submitted proposals. ***Any findings of plagiarism will result in immediate disqualification.***

4. Emphasis on Product-Oriented and Innovative Ideas:

Seed funding will only be provided for proposals with clear potential for product development and commercialization ***The idea must have clear market potential and offer a compelling value proposition that is distinct and not currently available in the market or online.***

5. Non-Existent in the Public Domain:

Proposals must not have been disclosed in any public forum, published, or shared online. ***Any proposal found to exist anywhere on the internet or public domain will be disqualified.*** The team must ensure confidentiality and that non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) are signed by all contributors, collaborators, and stakeholders.

6. Strict Review and Monitoring

Proposals will undergo a rigorous multi-stage review process, including originality checks, feasibility studies, and market potential assessments. VTU reserves the right to audit the use of seed funds and project progress at any stage. ***Misuse of funds or deviation from the project plan will result in withdrawal of funding and repayment demands.***

Applicants must disclose any use of third-party tools, data, or algorithms. Failure to do so will be considered a policy violation.

E. Procedure to Apply

The faculty member may apply on prescribed format (Annexure A) with brief justification of the seed money / financial assistance to their respective heads/Chairman any time during the year.

“Research Grants Scheme Committee” of VTU will meet once in a year and Announcement will be made to submit pre-proposal. Pre-proposals submitted by PI will be evaluated by Chairman of the Respective Department and Director (R&D) of the University. The full proposals will be reviewed by the “Research Grants Scheme Committee”. Decision on the award will be announced within one month after thorough investigation & consideration.

All Invoices/Quotes should be in the name of university along with GST Number. It is the responsibility of Investigating Team to provide all bills duly certified for the expenditure incurred for the Project to the Accounts Team on a timely manner.

Annexure A

Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi

Proforma for financial support to promote Innovation, Creativity and Research & Development under Seed Money Scheme of VTU, Belagavi

Name of the Principal Investigator				
Department and Faculty				
Investigating Team Members / Collaborators, If any		1. 2. 3.		
Head of the Department/ Research Centre				
Title of the Project				
Project Proposal		As per the attached Format		
Ethics Approval Required		Yes/No		
Funds Requested (Inclusive of GST)				
Sl. No.	Procured with Technical Specifications	Unit Price in INR	Total Quantity Required in Nos.	Total Estimated Cost in INR
1.	Equipment/Software			
2.	Consumables			
3.	Glass wares			
4.	Fabrication			
5.	Laboratory Testing Services			
6.	Biological Specimens			
7.	Others (Pl. Specify):			
Grand Total [Should Not Exceed INR Three Lakhs]				
Declaration by the Principal Investigator and Team				
I, Dr. _____, Principal Investigator (PI) of the above-mentioned Project is fully aware of the rules relating to Seed Money Policy. In the event, any discrepancies are found and notified in future, I as PI and/or the Investigating Team accept responsibility to reimburse the Seed Money claimed from the University.				

Signature of the PI and Team	1. 2. 3.	Date
Comments by respective Chairman whether the intended Research is in alignment with Department and Faculty's Road Map	Comments by Chairman:	Date
Details of Three Subject Experts to Review the Proposal (Director (R&D) to Fill)	1. 2. 3.	
For Official Use Only		
Received By:	Signature	Date
Chairman		
Forwarded By:	Signature	Date
Director (R&D)		
For Office Use Only		
Remarks by Director (R&D)		
Signature of Director (R&D)		
Remarks by Registrar		
Signature of Registrar		
Approval by Vice Chancellor		

Please Note:

The committee shall schedule a Meeting with the Core and Expert Committee to review the request for Seed Money to carry out preliminary research. The PI and Team are requested to make a Presentation in front of the Chairman & Research Grants Scheme Committee.

Format for Research Proposal (Not more than THREE Pages)

1	Title of the Proposal (Not more than 20 Words)
2	Aim: Objectives: a. b. c.
3	Background Study and Rationale (not more than 250 Words)
4	Literature Review (National and International Status) (not more than 250 Words)
5	Description of the Project (not more than 700 Words)
6	Envisaged Outcomes and Deliverables (not more than 100 Words) a. b. c.
7	Explain Reasons on How can Department and Faculty can be benefitted from the proposed Research with respect to the future Road Map (not more than 100 Words)

Evaluation form for Early Career Seed Money and Research Grant for Faculty Member

Name of PI:

Name of Co-PI:

Institution:

Title of Project:

Eligibility criteria:

1. Applicant is below age of 40 years as on 1st September of the year: Yes No
2. Applicant has not availed the VMRF-DU Category I grant earlier: Yes No

Criteria to Evaluate the Merits of the Proposal			
Sl No	Criteria	Marks Allotted	Marks Awarded
1	Whether the Aim/Objective of the Research Study is clear?	10	
2	Whether the Research work is relevant and meet the thrust area of the Institute/University?	10	
3	Advantages/benefits that would accrue out of the research:	10	
4	Whether the Methodology of the research work is Clear and well defined?	20	
5	Previous experience of PI in research work including publications	15	
6	Whether the deliverables (Products/solutions/ methodology/ publications etc.) are clearly defined and achievable?	10	
7	Whether the Three-Monthly milestones for review are well defined?	5	
8	Total Time being sought is reasonable and objectives are achievable?	5	
9	Total Budget sought is reasonable and objectives are achievable?	5	
10	Whether the major equipment required is available in the institute?	5	
11	Breakup of the budget in terms of equipment, consumables, manpower is clear?	5	
	Grand Total	100	

Comments (Attach additional sheet if required):

Ethics Review:

Approved Not Approved

Overall Recommendation:

Recommended Not Recommended

Name and Signature of the Chairman: