SCHEME FOR PROMOTION OF ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH COLLABORATION (SPARC)

The Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPARC) launched by MHRD (Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India) aims at improving the research ecosystem of India's Higher Educational Institutions by facilitating academic and research collaborations between Indian Institutions and the best institutions in the world from 28 selected nations to jointly solve problems of national and/or international relevance (see SPARC eBrochure: https://sparc.iitkgp.ac.in/assets/pdf/SPARC_eBrochure.pdf).

The scheme proposes to enable productive academic cooperation by supporting the following critical components that can catalyze impact making research, namely:

- Visits and long-term stay of top international faculty / researchers in Indian institutions to pursue teaching and research
- Visits by Indian students for training and experimentation in premier laboratories worldwide
- Joint development of niche courses, world-class books and monographs, translatable patents, demonstrable technologies or action research outcomes and products
- Consolidation of Bilateral cooperation through academic and research partnerships through Indo-X Workshops in India
- Publication, Dissemination and Visibility through a high profile annual international Conference in India

The expected outcomes include tangible results in terms of large quantity of high quality research publications, solution to key national and international problems, development of niche courses, high quality text books and research monographs, imbibing of best practices from top international academicians and researchers, strong bilateral cooperation, and improved world reputation and ranking of Indian Institutions.

IIT Bhubaneswar is the Nodal Institution for coordinating with eligible Institutes of Switzerland.

Please note that the faculty members may submit proposals to any of the eligible institutions (https://sparc.iitkgp.ac.in/assets/pdf/foreign_institutes.pdf) from 28 selected countries.

For More Details (https://sparc.iitkgp.ac.in)

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Process for Proposal Submission:

The proposal submission should be through SPARC Proposal Management System (PMS) (https://sparc.iitkgp.ac.in/sparcpms/auth/login.htm):

- The process starts with nominating a coordinator by the head of the Institute through email. After receiving the nomination, national coordinator (IIT Kharagpur) will assign the nominated person as the local coordinator of the Institute in PMS.
- During this process, the PMS will send a system generated email which confirms the assignment. In case the nominated person is new to the system, the email will also contain the one-time-password (OTP) which

can be used for login. The password should be changed and profile should be updated first to get access to other functionalities of PMS.

- The PMS will facilitate the Institute coordinators to invite principal investigator (PI) from their Institute to submit a proposal.
- Once the institute coordinator invites a PI through PMS, the system will send an auto-generated invitation email to the PI. In case the PI is new to the system, the email will also contain the one-time-password (OTP) which can be used for login. The password should be changed and profile should be updated first for getting access to other functionalities of PMS. The PI can, thereafter, submit the proposal.
- The proposal form contains multiple sections which should be filled up before final submission. These are described in the User's Manual (https://sparc.iitkgp.ac.in/sparcpms/UserManual.pdf) for SPARC PMS. The PI can view the draft proposal at any time. After final submission, changes are not allowed and PI can download the final version of the proposal in PDF format
- During the final submission, the system will send an email to the foreign PI for giving his/her consent online. The PMS will also facilitate the PI to resend the email. The foreign PI should click on the link mentioned in the email or open it in the browser. The foreign PI can download the proposal and click on the "Accept" button to give his/her consent.
- The institute coordinator can thereafter accept the submitted proposal through PMS. The proposal accepted by the institute coordinator will only be considered for further processing.

Points to remember for preparing the Proposal

The login id and password to be provided to PIs after receiving requests. The request for the same must be sent to: **sparc@iitbbs.ac.in**.

- Title, Thrust Area and Subdomain to be mentioned
- Abstract (250 words) and Keywords (at least 5)
- Details of Indian PIs and Co-PIs; International PI and Co-PIs
- Project Personnel details with their 2 page CV
- Budget as per format (download from https://sparc.iitkgp.ac.in/sparcpms/auth/login.htm)
- Mention prior expertize of investigators in the domain area (250words)
- Keep supporting documents (download from https://sparc.iitkgp.ac.in/sparcpms/auth/login.htm) some ready for Uploading:
    1. CV of Indian PI (2 page, Max 500kb),
    2. CV of Indian Co- PIs (collate individual 2 page, Max 500kb),
    3. CV of International PI (2 page, Max 500kb),
    4. CV of International Co- PIs (collate individual 2 page, Max 500kb),
    5. CV of Research Personnel (collate individual 2 page, Max 500kb),
    6. other technical details (Max 500kb),
    7. monograph outline (Max 500kb)
- The International PI can give his/her consent by either clicking on the link or opening the link in a browser. The International PI can download the submitted proposal from that link as well.

Useful Links:

- SPARC website (https://sparc.iitkgp.ac.in)
- Eligible Foreign Institutes (https://sparc.iitkgp.ac.in/assets/pdf/foreign_institutes.pdf)
- Eligible Indian Institutes (https://sparc.iitkgp.ac.in/assets/pdf/indian_institutes.pdf)
- SPARC Proposal Management System (https://sparc.iitkgp.ac.in/sparcpms/auth/login.htm)
- User's Manual (https://sparc.iitkgp.ac.in/sparcpms/UserManual.pdf)
- Download Templates (download from https://sparc.iitkgp.ac.in/sparcpms/auth/login.htm)