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INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

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Request for Expression of Interest
ICMR-Industry Internship Initiative for PhD students

Preface:

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) is India's premier organization for the conduct, promotion, coordination and translation of highest quality biomedical research in India. It is committed to support and conduct research to improve the health of the population, and to make India a global leader in Biomedical Research. ICMR plays a key role in shaping policies and programs by providing evidenced-based inputs, guidelines and regulations from time to time. Currently, ICMR has 27 institutes spread across the country, each specializing in specific areas of biomedical research. Some of the thrust research areas include communicable diseases like tuberculosis, malaria and other vector-borne diseases, cholera and other enteric diseases, JE/AES, HIV/AIDS, and non-communicable diseases like cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, mental health, ageing, etc. It also focusses on reproductive, maternal and child health, malnutrition, food safety and one health. One of the modalities to achieve the research goals of ICMR is to build research capacity through training of Ph.D and postgraduate students via its collaboration with the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) an Institution of National Importance mandated to create and train some of the best of tomorrow's Science & Technology leaders. The ICMR institutes are recognized as Academic Centres of AcSIR providing avenues for Ph.D. and postgraduate courses.

Purpose:

ICMR, in alignment with the Honorable Prime Minister's Internship Scheme, has planned to launch the ICMR-Industry Internship Initiative for PhD students, working in various ICMR institutes. The purpose of this initiative is to support capacity building in the field of biomedical research by leveraging expertise, resources, and collaborative synergy for ground-breaking advancements and transformative impacts in the realm of healthcare and biomedical innovation. This internship initiative is expected to provide young researchers with hands-on industrial experience in the biomedical and health sciences fields, thereby enhancing their practical knowledge and skills. This exposure to cutting-edge research environments and real-world problem-solving is expected to significantly improve their employability by increasing job opportunities, both within academia and industry. The program also serves as a platform to

bridge the gap between academic research and industry needs, ensuring that students are well-prepared to contribute more impactfully to the healthcare sector post-graduation and research.

It aims to provide PhD students with extensive exposure to real-world health research, covering fields such as molecular biology, biochemistry, biotechnology, clinical trials, and public health policy. Students will have opportunities to engage with experts in their respective domains, and work with cutting-edge tools and technologies in advanced laboratories. Furthermore, the program opens pathways for interdisciplinary collaboration, enabling students to link their research with practical outcomes in healthcare and industry. By fostering skills in data analysis, research methodologies, clinical applications, and public health interventions, the scope of this program goes beyond academic learning, preparing students for various roles in both the public and private sectors. This initiative will play a pivotal role in expanding their career prospects in academia, healthcare industries, government health departments, and international health organizations, thereby contributing to the overall strengthening of India's health research ecosystem. This programme will benefit both students and industries. Industries will get access to the latest research and innovations from Ph.D. students, who often bring new perspectives and knowledge that can enhance the company's projects and R&D efforts.

Eligible students:

This program is designed for students enrolled in Ph.D. program at any ICMR institute. Currently, there are over 1000 Ph.D. students enrolled at various ICMR institutes. The numbers are rapidly growing with the creation of the AcSIR-ICMR Faculty of Medical Research.

Duration of Internship:

Eligible students can participate in two internships batches: the first during their second or third year of Ph.D. as intern, and the second during their fourth or fifth year as senior intern. Each stint will be of duration of 2 to 3 months.

Eligible industries/organisations:

Industries/organisations aligned with the research areas are invited to express their interest in this program. Eligible industries include but not limited to those involved in the manufacture of pharmaceuticals, biologicals, diagnostics, vaccines, public health industries, the organisations involved in quality control, calibration, testing etc. Organizations specializing in biotechnology, medical devices, clinical research, and healthcare technology are also encouraged to participate. Industries are expected to provide space, and hands-on-experience in the laboratories, and also involve in scientific activities. They are encouraged to provide stipend to take care of the day-today expenses.

Process involved in Partnership/Collaboration:

As part of the ICMR- Industry Internship Initiative, ICMR will collaborate with various industries/organisations to provide hands-on opportunities for PhD students. Students will submit their CVs through their respective supervisors, which will then be forwarded to relevant industries/organisations based on their research focus and skills. They will review and shortlist students whose expertise align with their needs. Once selected, the students will be placed in these industries/organisations for internship.

Assessment process:

ICMR invites applications for its internship program, aimed at connecting students with relevant academic institutions/industries based on their research interests and expertise. The process will follow the steps outlined below:

- i. Industry/organisation Screening: ICMR will screen and select industries/organisations based on their expertise and areas of specialization.
- ii. Submission of CVs: Interested students will submit their CVs to the Internship Cell for consideration.
- iii. Screening: Areas of research of students will be aligned with the expertise of the respective industries. The screened CVs will be forwarded to the relevant industries.
- iv. Shortlisting: The industries/organisations will shortlist the CVs, may conduct interviews, and offer internships to the selected Ph.D. students.
- v. Internship Placement: Shortlisted students will begin their internships at the industry/organisation selecting them.

Why participate?

Industries or organisations that successfully engage in the internship program for Ph.D. students will contribute to build the research capacity in the country, will have access to the trained emerging talent, and will also have opportunities for future collaborations with ICMR institutes.

How to participate?

The interested industries/organisations may contact with the expected annual intake to the following address:

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