



SEPTEMBER 12 Q&A

OPPORTUNITY LANDSCAPE PANEL

Q. Does India Alliance DBT welcome has subject specification or scientist from any field can apply?

A. Only Indian national.

Q. What are the age limits for Ramanujam and Ramalingaswamy fellowships? (Asked by Shatadru Chakravarty)

A. 45 years for Ramalinga fellowship.

Q. '@Dr. Meenakshi Munshi: are there any restrictions to non-Indians from applying to any fellowships available for postdocs/fresh recruits? Thank you. (Asked by Blessy Paul)

A. Only Indian Nationals are eligible to apply.

Q. '@Dr. Meenakshi Munshi: Hello Dr. Munshi, I realized from your presentation that there are no Ramalingaswamy fellows hosted by north-east India institutes. Is it a drawback to put an institute in north-east India as host institute? Thank you. (Asked by Saumitra Dey Choudhury)

A. There are few.

Q. My question is regarding Ramalingaswamy fellowship. It is difficult to get a lab contact before applying a proposal. Could you throw some information on this? (Asked by Raghu Ramanathan)

A. You need to write to various institute directors for sponsorship.

Q. What is the process of asking an institute for supporting Ramalingaswami/Ramanujan/IndiaAlliance application before getting hired there?

A. You need to write to various institutes but do visit their website to see what kind of facilities are available.

Q. Although it was mentioned that there is no age limit for fellowship and the grants, what is the age limit for most of the Universities in India to recruit postdocs from US as a faculty?

A. There is an age limit for faculty at entry level but not for applying for a research grant.

Q. Can you please elaborate on the differences in being an investigator at a DBT versus CSIR institute? (asked by Sandhya Ganesan)

A. Not much. Both have similar profiles

Q. Are there provisions to facilitate international collaborations for equipment sharing? (asked by Raunak Bardia)

A. Indeed there is, as I mentioned the DST program. But even DBT has supported similar programs. Access to synchrotrons, Cryo-EM are good examples of this.

Q. What are the various criterias based on which application and reserach proposal evaluated in Ramalingaswami Re-entry Fellowship? (asked by Abheepsa Mishra)

A. It is your resume, your publications your proposal your reccos it is a holistic view of your application which matters

Q. Can you mention different funding opportunities available for women scientists? (asked by Abheepsa Miishra)

A. There is a specific program by DBT as BioCare for women scientists

Q. Unlike US why do Indian public institutions have age restrictions for research faculty positions?

A. Terrific Q. There is now an attempt to remove age barriers. Let us hope (and pray) that our point of view accepted in this regard.

Q. To Dr. Mande and Dr. Munshi: with the economic contraction due to covid19 shutdown, how much of an affect this is going to have on the funding scenario? (asked by Jithesh Vijayan)

A. These are challenging time around the World. We will have to wait and watch how much disruption is caused to the economies. But we remain hopeful of having substantial money for R&D.

Q. How long does CSIR labs typically take to hire a candidate from the date they make the application? (asked by Subramaniam Sankaranarayanan)

A. Yes, the answer is very embarrassing. Currently it can take upto 18 months (damn)!!! But we are attempting a change, and in the next few months you will see that it has changed substantially, where we aspire to hire people in 1-4 months time.

Q. '@Prof Sekhar Mande: About cryo-EM, central facility like NCBS, IIT Delhi is fine. But to screen the quality of biochemically purified sample which are suitable for high resolution data collection, we need atleast one low-end screening microscope per institute. How many such low-cost screening microscopes (for eg: Arctica, Glacios) will be bought in coming years in India? (asked by Tofayel Ahmed)

A. Plenty of screening facilities are on cards. CCMB has already placed an order. SERB has given a call for Cryo-EM proposals, 15th Sept is the last date.

Q. I have a suggestion. Can there be an online portal for potential institutes willing to recruit a RJ or RL or IA fellow?for communicating back and forth. Approaching is extremely unstructured which introduces bias. (asked by Abhijit Rath)

A. Abhijit,

The current Sci-ROI leadership team is trying to build a portal. If the current Job portal is not designed to address your request, I invite you to meet with the team during the breakthrough session and discuss it with them. Or better yet join the team and bring this option to life...

Aseem

Q. '@Prof. Shekar Mande, even with lot of efforts, why we still keep hearing that CSIR JRF/SRF fellowship will not reach the beneficiaries in time?

A. Well....the remedial steps are definitely ON. There are two lines we are working on- hand over to a third party, which will deal with it (not sure if it will work more efficiently). The second is more definitive, is to create a one unified portal through which the all the fellowships (DBT, DST, CSIR etc) will be discussed. Let us hope one of them will work. CSIR fellowship disbursement has considerably improved in the last one year- that you will have to agree to, but lot more needs to be done.

Q. What is the support for applicants (men or women) who took/had to take a break in career for caregiving/ personal family problems that is not related to having or caring for children. This is also related to age. Or should they simply not bother to apply.

A. CSIR has just passed the rule that women (at least at this stage only women) will be given flat 5 years relaxation in all recruitment. The rule will come into effect in another month or so.

Q. '@prof Mande: some projects are more challenging than others, which reduces number of first author papers in postdoc. however skills gained can be invaluable. for example- cryo-EM single particle analysis is much easier than performing cryo-tomography. how will such candidates be evaluated? (asked by Tofayel Ahmed)

A. Normally, we do not place as much emphasis on the authorship order, but more on the future prospect of a candidate.