Last checked: 10 October 2026 · Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF, erstwhile SERB)

SERB-POWER (Promoting Opportunities for Women in Exploratory Research)

SERB-POWER, now run by ANRF, supports women scientists in India through a three-year fellowship and through research grants. It aims to narrow the gender gap in science and engineering research funding.

What you may get

The POWER Fellowship pays Rs 15,000 a month on top of regular income, a research grant of Rs 10 lakh a year and overheads for the host institute, for 3 years with no extension. The POWER Research Grant funds up to Rs 60 lakh for three years at Level I institutions, or up to Rs 30 lakh for three years at Level II institutions.

Who it is for

Women scientists working in universities, institutes and R&D labs in India: nominated scientists aged 35 to 55 for the fellowship, and Indian women principal investigators with a regular research position for the research grant.

Main conditions

- For the fellowship, the nominee must be an Indian citizen aged 35 to 55 with a PhD in science or engineering, working in an institution in India, with an excellent record as an independent investigator, and in regular service for the whole tenure.
- A fellowship nominee must not draw another fellowship from any Government source while the fellowship lasts, and a woman scientist cannot hold the POWER Fellowship and a POWER Grant at the same time.
- For the research grant, the principal investigator and Co-PIs must be Indian citizens with a regular academic or research position in a recognised institution in India.
- IITs, IISERs, IISc, NITs, Central Universities and central Government labs come under Level I. State universities, colleges and private academic institutions apply under Level II.
- The research grant needs a female Co-PI from the same institute, and not more than two Co-PIs. A male Co-PI is not allowed, and the PhD guide cannot be a Co-PI.
- Earlier POWER Grant holders, J.C. Bose fellows and principal investigators who have already completed two CRG projects cannot apply for the research grant.

Documents

- Bio-data and photo in the user profile on the portal
- Other technical document as a single PDF file of up to 10 MB (research grant proposal)

How to apply

1. For the POWER Fellowship, the woman scientist fills in the online form and the nominator, who is the head of an institution or a fellow of a national academy, gets an email link to check and forward it to ANRF. Nominations are received throughout the year.
2. For the POWER Research Grant, the woman scientist applies directly as principal investigator, in direct mode, through the SERB Core Research Grant platform.
3. Register on the online portal using the link on the SERB-POWER instructions page and fill in the profile details such as bio-data, photo and institute address. Register every Co-PI in the same way.
4. Enter the project title, summary, keywords, objectives, expected outcome and budget online, and upload the other technical details as one PDF.

Status

Active

Official source: https://anrf.gov.in/page/serb_power
Official application: https://anrfonline.in/ANRF/serbPowerInstructions
Labh Lo page: https://labhlo.in/en/schemes/central/serb-power/

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