



## **FAQs- Frequently Asked Questions**

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1. What is BIG scheme and its salient features?

The BIG Scheme is for researchers / innovators in the area of Biotechnology who want to be entrepreneurs. The main aim of BIG scheme is to provide funding and mentoring support to establish and validate proof of concept. Funding will be in the form of Grant-in-Aid limited up-to Rs 50 Lakh.

2. How can we apply?

If you/your company has an idea/concept that has scientific merit and commercialization potential, or address an unmet national need then the applicant needs to register on BIRAC website and submit an online application.

3. What is the process of selection?

The Initial screening of the applications will be done by our BIG Partners. The shortlisted participants will be called for a presentation to BIRAC office. Based on the proposal and presentation, the final selection will be made by the BIRAC apex committee.

4. What are the evaluation criteria for short listing the applications?

The applications will be broadly evaluated for the technology, execution capability, potential impact of the technology, business plan etc.

5. Does the idea have to be absolutely novel?

BIG Scheme is to encourage high level of innovation however existing ideas can be developed, but should have a potential for commercial application or should address an unmet national need.

6. Can I apply for Infrastructure development?

No, the BIG scheme does not provide fund for Infrastructure development.

7. What should be the duration the project?

The duration of the project will not be more than 18 months.

8. Is there any limit of number of projects to be submitted?

You can apply for more than one proposal. However, more than 1 proposal may not be selected for funding..

9. What is the format to apply for BIG scheme?

The format is available online on the BIRAC website [www.birac.nic.in](http://www.birac.nic.in). The applicant should register as a new user on the BIRAC website as "BIG User" and fill the online form.

10. I have registered for BIPP, CRS and want to register using the same user name, e-mail Id for BIG.

Please use a different user name and e-mail id for submitting BIG proposal.

11. I have registered on the BIRAC website using company user and I cannot view the BIG application.

You have probably registered under a different scheme. To apply for BIG scheme kindly click on the link "[Click here to register as a BIG Scheme User](#)".



12. Can Individuals apply for BIG Scheme?  
Individuals may apply but as this is a competitive grant so it is preferred that a team of Individuals, with expertise to execute the project apply, to make the application stronger.
13. Should we have a guide/mentor?  
A Guide or Mentor is most preferable but is not a must. Individual applicants are encouraged to apply with a Guide/Mentor.
14. I am a Scientist in an institute, can I apply?  
Scientists are eligible to apply for BIG Scheme provided that there is no conflict with the policies of their Institute. However this fund is not meant to carry out the regular research of the institute. The scientist should carry out the research and development with BIG funds in an Incubator. An NOC from the institute authorizing the scientist to undertake the TBI (Technology Business Incubator) project should be furnished.
15. I am MSc/PhD Research student, can I apply?  
Students are eligible to apply for BIG Scheme provided that there is no conflict with the policies of their Institute. This fund is neither a fellowship nor can it be used for carrying out the regular research of the institute. The project work should not be carried out in their own institute lab. The student should be located in an Incubator.
16. Can a BSc student apply for this scheme?  
This scheme is for post graduates, PhD scholars etc, BSc students are not eligible to apply.
17. Can MBBS, BDS, B. Pharmacy, B. Tech Graduates apply for this scheme?  
Yes
18. Can MBA Graduates apply for BIG scheme?  
Yes, if two-thirds of the team are students/researchers in Life sciences.
19. I am employed; can I apply for this scheme?  
The BIG scheme is meant to encourage entrepreneurship. People working in the private sector can apply for BIG scheme provided they leave their job and meet the other eligibility criteria. However Scientists/professors in any Institute may apply provided there is no conflict with the policies of their institute. However the scientist cannot work in their institute lab. They should be incubated in an Incubator. The grant will be provisionally assigned to the applicant, and funds disbursed only when he/she meets the eligibility criteria.
20. Can a Director/Promoter/Owner/Shareholder of a Company(ies) apply for BIG Scheme?
- A Director/Promoter of a Company is not eligible to apply under the "Individual Category", if he/she holds stake in the company.
  - Founder/Owner of a Company is required to apply under Company Category only.
  - Applicant who is a mere share holder in Company(ies) but not Promoter /Director will be eligible to apply for BIG under Individual Category.



21. Can a Founder/Owner/Promoter of a company starting a new company be eligible for the BIG Scheme?

A Founder/Owner/Promoter of a company proposing to start a new company will not be eligible if applying under “Individual” Category. Companies within in 3 years of Incorporation will be eligible under BIG, if the new start up has a new line of business.

22. I am a person of Indian origin but hold a foreign passport can I apply?

No, only Indians or Indian Companies are eligible to apply for this scheme.

23. Can a Registered company apply for BIG scheme?

Yes, provided that the company has been registered in the last 3 years and more than 51% of the shares are held by Indians/NRI.

24. Can proprietorship firm, for BIG scheme?

No, the legal entity should be a company registered under the Companies Act.

25. Can Institute apply for BIG scheme?

No, Institutes/Universities are not eligible to apply for this scheme. Students may be eligible to apply.

26. Our firm is registered under Society's act, are we eligible to apply for BIG scheme?

No, the legal entity should be a company registered under the Companies Act.

27. Is DSIR recognition needed to apply for this scheme?

No, DSIR certification is not needed to apply for this scheme.

28. What do Incubator and Incubatee mean?

An Incubator is defined as facility designed for housing R&D driven start-up companies or individual incubatees active in Life sciences. It will provide the incubation space, equipments, mentoring and other required services to start-up companies/individuals for their initial growth.

An Incubatee is defined as an individual or a company located in the Incubator and availing services of the Incubator.

29. Can my institute be the Incubator? What are the criteria to become a Technology Business Incubator?

The Incubators should have a legal status i.e should be either a registered society or a registered trust or a registered company (usually u/s 25).

Alternatively Institute proposing to be Incubators;

- a. Should have a program for incubation (e.g. a dedicated facility) in place to incubate BIG Innovators.
- b. Should have an agreement in place with the BIG Innovator/Incubatee

**An ad hoc incubation by Institute is not encouraged.**

30. What is the role of the BIG Partner?

BIG Partners are responsible for initial screening of the proposal, technical due diligence, financial due diligence, project monitoring, fund disbursement, arranging for workshops etc.

31. Which BIG partner do I select?

If you need to know more about our BIG partners, please visit their website or contact them.



1. **Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP)**, Bangalore  
www.ccamp.res.in Contact Number: 080-67185100
  2. **Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT)**, New Delhi;  
http://www.fitt-iitd.org, Contact Number: 011-26597167, 011-26857762
  3. **IKP Knowledge Park, Hyderabad**; www.ikpknowledgepark.com, Contact Number:  
+914023480022
  4. **KIIT Technology Business Incubator, Bhubaneswar**: <http://www.kiitincubator.in/>,  
Contact Number: +91-674-2725466
  5. **Venture Center (Entrepreneurship Development Center), Pune**:  
<http://www.venturecenter.co.in/>, Contact Number: 020 6401 1026
32. Whether we should be an incubatee at present to be eligible for Biotechnology Ignition Grant or can we become an incubatee once we get the grant?  
If you are not an Incubatee yet then you may initiate talks with the Incubator you wish to incubate in. After the selection for BIG Grant you may formalize the agreement with the Incubator. But your selection will be provisional till the time you get Incubated in an Incubator.
33. In case of Individual applicants, who will receive the funds?  
The applicant will receive the fund in a separate auditable account. The selected applicants will have to open a separate bank account in a scheduled bank. The fund disbursed will be milestone based by the BIG Partners.
34. Is the information provided by me kept Confidential?  
We maintain confidentiality of all the proposals we receive under different schemes. All the reviewers sign a non disclosure agreement and no conflict agreement before viewing the proposals.

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