

Indo-U.S. Bilateral Workshops/Symposia/Conferences & Training Schools

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What are the kinds of bilateral programs that are supported by IUSSTF?

Workshops/ Symposia/ Conferences:

Indo-U.S. bilateral activities that aim at dissemination of information and creating awareness through substantive interactions between Indian and American scientists and researchers from academia, laboratories and industry with the explicit aim to develop sustained linkages. The proposals should be designed around a theme of common interest that has a high potential for generating follow-up activities.

Training Program/ Advanced Schools:

To enhance scientific knowledge and awareness through a devised pedagogical course including conducted practical classes by assimilating a mix of faculties and trainees from both countries. The proposal should be designed around a theme of common interest that has a high potential for generating follow-up activities.

2. Please elaborate on the Review Process followed for selection.

- Proposals received are sent out for peer-review in India and the United States. Reviewers are provided with an Evaluation Format wherein the evaluators are asked to rate the proposal on the following specific indices:
 - Impact (*Scientific merit of the proposed activity. What is its significance to its field of study? What is the strength of its contribution toward the advancement of knowledge or future development in the field?*)
 - Novelty (*Creativity of the proposed activity. Does it introduce novel concepts or methodologies? Does it challenge existing standards and/or protocols to suggest new ones?*)
 - Feasibility (*Feasibility of the approach. Does the proposed project consist of a well thought-out plan that can be easily executed given its particular environment and resources?*)
 - Investigators (*Appropriateness of the investigators for this project. Do their areas of expertise match the necessary requirements for the success of the proposed activity?*)
 - Global Implications (*Is the proposed activity relevant and does it contribute to scientific and technological capacity-building in both US and India? Does it promote future collaboration between researchers in these two states?*)

- Additionally, the Reviewers provide subjective comments indicating any concerns and/or suggestions they may have regarding the proposal, and identify any issues that require further clarifications.
- Each proposal is reviewed by at least 3 Expert Evaluators on each side.
- Taking into consideration the reviewer comments and the overall scores from both India and the United States, IUSSTF prepares a list of proposals that would be eventually be considered for support based on the available budget for the activity in the said financial year.

3. How many partnering institutions are required for proposal submission? Can there be more than 2 partnering institutions from both countries?

Each proposal should have one Indian and one U.S. partnering institution. A proposal can however have more than two partners on each side. e.g. Lead Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI).

4. Can the proposal include Industry partners as well?

Yes, however no travel support will be extended to Industry participants.

5. Can there be partners from countries other than the United States of America in the proposal?

No, IUSSTF supports only bilateral (Indo-U.S.) activities, events, and initiatives that promote interactions between the scientific and research communities in India and the United States.

6. What is the nature of funding provided for selected proposals?

- International and Domestic Airfare (by economy excursion class & shortest route not exceeding prescribed limits)
- Accommodation
- Other event costs

7. Is there any guidance on the maximum budget/extent of funding?

After a highly competitive evaluation process, IUSSTF offers partial support to a small number of workshops due to availability of limited funds. The extent of funding is around INR 10-15 lakhs (disbursement as per IUSSTF guidelines). Applicants are welcome to approach other funding agencies for additional funding.

8. How would the domestic/international travel arrangements be done?

The PI's need to furnish the list of confirmed participants to the concerned IUSSTF Program Officer at least 2 months before the date for travel. The Officer will coordinate facilitation of international/domestic tickets by economy excursion class

and shortest route through the IUSSTF Travel Desk.

9. Can the partner(s) book their own tickets and seek reimbursement from IUSSTF?

Reimbursements may be permissible in certain cases. However, prior approval should be sought from IUSSTF before making travel arrangements.

10. How will the grant-in-aid be disbursed?

The grant-in-aid will be released to the Lead initiating institution. Under no circumstances will the grant-in-aid be released to any other institution/organization.

11. Would the funds cover indirect costs?

The heads of expenditures covered under the grant will be strictly as per the budget format. IUSSTF does not provide financial support for any items of expenditure (e.g. Overheads, indirect costs) which are not mentioned in the budget format.

12. What is the mechanism to handle IP issues?

Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) are subject to Annex I- Intellectual Property (IPR Annex) of the Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of India (S&T Agreement, 2005) and the respective standard IPR provisions of the Parties to the extent it is not in contravention with the IPR annex.

13. How should the proposal be submitted?

Proposals need to be submitted online at <https://www.ws.iusstf.org>

Please note that IUSSTF reserves the right to adapt its policies and priorities over time, depending on circumstances. Revisions to these FAQs may be posted at a later date.