

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION
BETWEEN
THE UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION (UGC)
INDIA
AND
THE DEUTSCHE FORSCHUNGSGEMEINSCHAFT (DFG)
GERMANY**

**FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH TRAINING
GROUPS (IRTGs)¹**

The University Grants Commission (hereinafter referred to as UGC) and the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation, hereinafter referred to as DFG), herewith conclude a Memorandum of Understanding on scientific cooperation with a common aim of strengthening cooperation between the researchers of universities in both countries in all fields of sciences, humanities and social sciences.

1. Background

The UGC and the DFG consider international collaboration to be an essential feature of scientific progress and encourage exchange and co-operation between scientists from India and Germany and their colleagues abroad. Accordingly, both organizations offer a range of schemes to facilitate international contacts.

However, the UGC and the DFG feel that it is useful and desirable to add to these existing means by creating a special focus on relations between researchers from both India and Germany.

Cooperation between these countries can offer practical and effective opportunities to combine forces, for example in relation to the study of issues of mutual interest, the development and expansion of high quality research centers, and the training of future research Scholars, leading to the award of a doctoral degree (Ph.D.).

Therefore, the UGC and the DFG are prepared to make resources available for programmatic cooperation between research groups in India and in Germany. In order to enhance well structured and long-term partnerships, this funding scheme will focus on:

- Co-operation between research groups forming an "International Research Training Groups (IRTGs)" in India and in Germany, aimed at the training of doctoral students in both countries, in areas of mutual interest.

Such cooperation may be initiated jointly by partners from India and Germany.

2. Outline of German/Indian International Research Training Groups

2.1. Strategic Aim

The aim of the scheme is to promote intense research cooperation among the researchers of India and Germany in well defined projects of mutual interest. Well structured doctoral training programmes, within the framework of the research programme jointly established and implemented by researchers in both countries, would be the constituent element of this scheme. This would provide excellent opportunities to young talented doctoral students in both countries to develop their skills in the context of a joint doctoral training programme.

2.2. Forms of Cooperation

- a) The Indian and German partners should jointly formulate a high quality research and qualification programme to be implemented by researchers on both the countries;
- b) The programme should provide for regular exchanges of scientists, academic staff, post-docs and doctoral students working in the defined project for the purpose of joint research and joint training;
- c) During their PhD-project doctoral students should spend at least six months altogether in the other country for research and training;
- d) Doctoral students should have at least two supervisors working in the defined project in India or in Germany - one from India and one from Germany. It is expected that the "Main Supervisor" is a Principal Investigator of the doctoral student's home university, while the Co-Supervisor is a member of the German/Indian partner university, respectively.
- e) Doctoral theses should be, wherever possible, assessed by a joint doctoral board (such boards should, preferably include a German researcher involved in the project for conducting the doctoral examination of an Indian student and an Indian researcher in the case of the German doctoral student), before the award of the doctorate proceeds in accordance with the respective national/university regulations.
- f) The UGC and the DFG will provide means for all activities, as listed below, related to the project, given the availability of funds:
 - doctoral students
 - post-docs
 - visiting researchers
 - workshops
 - summer schools
 - conferences
 - specific additional research costs
 - travel costs for doctoral students, Post-docs and Principal Investigators
 - additional administrative costs (e.g. coordination, recruitment)
- g) An IRTG may be funded initially for a period of four and half (4.5) years. In well deserved cases extension may be granted for a second term of four and half (4.5) years after the evaluation of a joint renewal proposal.

3. Criteria

- The research groups on both sides should possess a high international reputation;
- The proposed research programme in which the groups wish to cooperate should be

of the highest quality;

The participation of both groups should be of such significance – in terms of both content and size – that the joint programme can be expected to develop into a German-Indian center of competence of the highest academic quality.

4. Research Areas

In principle, any research area (with specific emphasis on interdisciplinarity within the main topic of the research area) is eligible. However, either party, DFG or UGC, may also suggest specific research topics of common interest to the other party for future IRTGs.

5. Participants and Eligibility

The number of Principal Investigators and Co-investigators, participating doctoral students and Post-doctoral of a German-Indian IRTG shall be in accordance with the current DFG guidelines for the establishment of International Research Training Groups. The participation of Indian and German researchers in an IRTG should be balanced and ensure that sufficient research expertise is provided to cover all aspects of the research and qualification programme.

On the German side, an IRTG is applied for by the German host University. On the Indian side, the offer will be applicable to researchers permanently employed at academic institutions / organizations, recognized by the UGC under sections 2(f) and 12(B).

The applications from faculty, who have established contacts with faculty from partner institutions in each other's countries, would be the pre-requisite. The Principal Investigators from both sides should thoroughly discuss the details of the project in advance, before finalizing and submitting the project proposals to the UGC and the DFG for establishment of International Research Training Group (IRTG).

6. Support mechanism

Once the research project is approved and funding is decided and provided for by both sides, all the expenses in respect of the activities of the defined research project (including short-term visits, lectures or workshops / summer schools, etc.) will be administered by the principal investigators from the allocated funds.

It is mutually understood that the respective host country takes the responsibility for providing necessary funds for local hospitality. The international travel costs are covered by the sending party.

It is also mutually understood that each party takes the responsibility for providing supplementary fellowships to its doctoral students for the duration of their stay at the partner institution in order to enable them to conduct the research work for the cooperative program in the partner country.

7. Proposal Submission and Evaluation

The proposals will be invited by the UGC and the DFG separately, but with mutual consent, annually.

Pre-proposals for the establishment of an IRTG will be submitted to and evaluated by DFG.

After a positive review of the preliminary proposal, the applicants are invited to submit a full proposal. DFG will inform UGC upon all submission and results on a timely basis.

The full proposal is a joint application regarding the research and qualification programme and includes separate budget requests for the UGC and the DFG; both sides inform each other about the budget for the partner abroad, including the same in the proposal. The Indian coordinator submits the proposal to the UGC and the German coordinator submits the proposal to the DFG. Additional regulations may apply for the submission (e.g. submission in response to annual calls).

Both parties will independently organize scientific reviews according to their normal procedures with the help of scientists from the respective areas of research. Whenever feasible, joint review panels shall evaluate proposal on site (i.e. at the main partner institutions) in India or in Germany and make a joint funding recommendation to the decision making bodies of the UGC and the DFG

The UGC and the DFG will share the results of the evaluations and support IRTGs approved by both parties.

8. Budget

It is understood by both parties that each is working to a budget determined annually in advance and that any variation in their budgets can affect the volume of exchange activity covered by this Memorandum. The UGC and the DFG agree to consult each other if such variations arise.

Allocation of funds from both sides – UGC to the Indian Project Coordinator and the DFG to the German Project Coordinator - will be offered according to the requirements of the joint activities, as indicated above. Participants from India are expected to also raise financial support from other sources.

The per diem or monthly allowances for the travel costs of the researchers (principal and co-investigators, academic staff, post-docs, doctoral students, participating in the programme) correspond to the prevalent rates in the two countries.

9. Joint Advisory Working Group:

Both sides should nominate three members (experts and officials of the funding partners) each to form a Joint Advisory Working Group to implement the provisions of this MoU as well as advice partner organizations in their future efforts. This Working Group should meet for regular consultations in India and in Germany, at a frequency to be decided by both sides India and in Germany, at least once year.

10. Results of Work

Rules and regulations regarding the results of work (including inventions) generated within the scope of the IRTGs shall be agreed upon between the partners from the Indian and the German side prior to the funding of the specific IRTG.

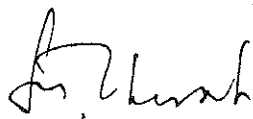
11. Miscellaneous

This Memorandum of Understanding shall be valid for a period of five years and shall subsequently be extended thereafter annually, unless either Party terminates it by giving six months written notice. Termination of the agreement will not affect activities that have already been approved or are in progress under the terms of this Memorandum.

Amendments to the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding, including administrative procedures and implementation details, may be made by mutual agreement of the two parties, separately via correspondence.


Duplicated in English, both are authentic.

For the University Grants Commission
(UGC), India



Professor Dr. Sukhadeo Thorat
Chairman

For the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
(DFG), Germany



Professor Dr.-Ing. Matthias Kleiner
President

20 October 2010

¹ The term „Research Training“ is an established technical term in policy discussions and refers to the qualification support for Ph.D. candidates (supervision, environment, etc.). The Ph.D. phase is considered to be the first independent research. Thus “Research Training” does not refer to student training or vocational training.