



Ministry of Science and Technology
Department of Science and Technology
SERC Division

(i) Invitation for Individual Research Proposal in Cognitive Science Research Initiative (CSI) for 2009-10:

Cognitive Science is the study of the processes by which the humans and other animals come to know properties of their external environment and convert that knowledge into action as well as relay that knowledge to others by means of communication. As a result, Cognitive Science has a vital role to play in several socially important areas such as mental health, social engineering, education and computer technology. It is assumed that Cognitive Science is one of the four pillars of the 21st Century along with Nano, Bio, and Information Technology. Of the four, Cognitive Science is the least represented in the Indian scientific scenario. In view of this, DST has identified specific thrust areas in Cognitive Science for special consideration in the 11th Five Year Plan. These are: Foundations of Cognition; Language and Cognition; Computational Intelligence; Cognitive Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience. In addition to basic research and infrastructure, human resource development has been identified as an integral part for success of this initiative.

Scientists, who are interested, are welcome to participate in this Cognitive Science Research Initiative and submit research proposals in their area of expertise. The SERC project format is available at the website: www.serc-dst.org. The scientists are required to submit 15 copies of the proposal to Dr HB Singh, Scientist, SERC Division, Department of Science and Technology, Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110016 [e-mail: haribhsingh@nic.in]. The envelope may be superscribed "Cognitive Science Research Initiative (CSI)".

(ii) Postdoctoral Fellowships in Cognitive Science Research Initiative (CSI):

Applications are invited from Indian nationals for the award of “DST-CSI-Postdoctoral Fellowship” for pursuing research in frontier areas of Cognitive Science. The fellowship is tenable in Research Institutions/Universities/Non-profit R&D Institutions within India. The fellowships are awarded under a programme “Cognitive Science Research Initiative (CSI)” sponsored by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India.

Eligibility: The applicants should hold a Ph.D. or equivalent degree in Science and Engineering with research interests in Cognitive Science and a good academic record. Those who have already submitted Ph.D. thesis are also eligible to apply. The applicants should be below 40 years of age.

Details of the Award: The postdoctoral fellowship is a purely temporary assignment and is tenable for a maximum period of 2 years. In exceptional cases, depending upon progress of the research, the fellowship may be extended for the third year. Each fellow would be entitled to a fellowship of Rs 20,000/- per month and research contingency grant of Rs 1,00,000/- per year, payable to the host institution. The fellowships cannot be availed at the same institution where the candidates have earned their Ph.D. degree.

Mode of Selection: The candidates will be selected based on their bio-data and performance in the interview. Applications will be evaluated by an expert committee. The key factors considered when assessing proposal are the excellence of applicant’s academic / research record, the excellence of the proposed research and the relevance of the host institution in the proposed research. If the candidate accepts the fellowship, he/she must join the host institution within two month’s time.

Mode of Application: Candidates may submit their application on plain paper along with bio-data, list of publications (attach reprints of 2 important papers), one page synopsis of Ph.D. or equivalent degree’s thesis. The applicant is advised to propose his/her place of work, name of the supervisor, enclose two page synopsis of proposed research work which must be compatible with the ongoing research of the proposed supervisor, and his/her consent of availing the fellowship. One should also enclose a declaration stating that if selected for the fellowship, he/she will complete the tenure of the fellowship. However, they may be allowed to relinquish the fellowship only if accepting permanent employment in India. The scientists are required to submit their application in duplicate to Dr HB Singh, Scientist, SERC Division, Department of Science and Technology, Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi-110016 [e-mail: haribsingh@nic.in].

Last date for receipt of applications for both (i) & (ii): August 31, 2009.