

SEED GRANT POLICY

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Version : V-1

NIET recognizes that seed funding is critical to initiate high-quality, innovative, and interdisciplinary research projects. The **Seed Grant Policy** aims to provide financial support to faculty and students for exploratory research, pilot studies, and preliminary experiments, which can later lead to larger externally funded projects. This chapter outlines the objectives, eligibility, allocation, utilization, and reporting procedures for seed grants.

1. Objectives of Seed Grant Policy

The objectives of NIET's seed grant policy are:

1. **Promote Innovative Research:** Support early-stage and high-risk, high-reward projects.
2. **Enable Interdisciplinary Work:** Encourage collaboration across departments and research areas.
3. **Facilitate External Funding:** Provide preliminary results and proof-of-concept studies that enhance competitiveness for national and international grants.
4. **Support Student Research:** Provide financial assistance to postgraduate and doctoral students undertaking significant research.
5. **Enhance Institutional Research Output:** Encourage publications, patents, prototypes, and other tangible research outcomes.

2. Eligibility Criteria

Seed grants can be applied for by:

- **Faculty Members:** Full-time faculty of NIET with a demonstrated research background. Faculty should have at least **2 research articles** published in **SCI-indexed journals**.
- **Student-Faculty Teams:** Postgraduate and doctoral students working under faculty supervision.
- **Collaborative Proposals:** Interdisciplinary or multi-department proposals are encouraged, with clear roles and responsibilities defined.
- Faculty or student-faculty must provide **proof-of-concept (published utility/ordinary patent)**.



Exclusions:

- Projects already funded by other sources are not eligible for seed grant support.
- Faculty or students with incomplete reporting for previous seed grants are not eligible for new grants until compliance is achieved.

3. Scope of Funding

Seed grants at NIET can cover:

- Consumables, chemicals, and laboratory materials required for research.
- Equipment or small instruments not exceeding a predefined cost limit.
- Software licenses or access fees for simulation, modeling, or analysis tools.
- Financial support for **paper and patent publication**.
- Travel for data collection, experiments, or presenting research at conferences (if approved).
- Minor technical support or research assistantships directly linked to the project.

Note: Seed grants cannot be used for routine departmental expenses, faculty salaries, or unrelated infrastructure.

4. Allocation and Funding Limits

- The typical seed grant funding limit is **₹2–3 lakh per project**, depending on scope, interdisciplinary nature, and strategic importance.
- Funding may be provided for **one year**, with the possibility of extension based on project progress and review.
- Priority is given to projects in emerging areas such as **Artificial Intelligence, Quantum Computing, EV Battery, Green Energy, Bio-Medical Diagnostic Devices, Nanotechnology, Semiconductors**, etc.

5. Application and Approval Procedure

1. **Proposal Submission:** Faculty or student-faculty teams submit a detailed research proposal to the **R&D Cell**, including objectives, methodology, expected outcomes, budget, and timeline.
2. **Department Review:** The DRC evaluates the proposal for feasibility, innovation, and alignment with departmental and institutional priorities.
3. **R&D Cell Review:** The R&D Cell reviews the proposal, budget justification, and strategic relevance.
4. **Seed Grant Committee Approval:** A Seed Grant Committee, constituted by the R&D Cell, makes the final decision on allocation.
5. **Grant Disbursement:** Funds are released in phases based on milestones and submission of periodic progress reports.

6. Monitoring and Reporting

- **Quarterly Progress Reports:** Principal investigators must submit updates on project activities, expenditures, and preliminary results.
- **Annual Report:** Upon completion, a detailed report summarizing outcomes, publications, patents, prototypes, or other deliverables must be submitted to the R&D Cell.
- **Auditing:** All financial transactions related to the seed grant are subject to audit by the institute finance office.

7. Expected Outcomes

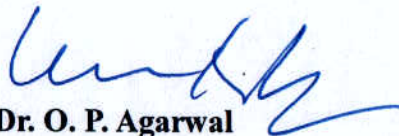
Seed grants are expected to generate:

- High-quality publications in peer-reviewed journals and publication of patents.
- Prototypes, patents, and intellectual property.
- Preliminary data to apply for **external funding** from national or international agencies.
- Opportunities for students to gain hands-on research experience.

8. Strategic Benefits of Seed Grant Policy

- Encourages **exploratory and innovative research**.
- Provides **early-stage support** for faculty and students, reducing dependency on external funding.
- Facilitates **interdisciplinary collaboration** and strengthens the research ecosystem.
- Enhances **NIET's visibility** through publications, patents, and funded projects.


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