

Scientific Social Responsibility

SERB has adopted Scientific Social Responsibility (SSR) Policy to imbibe a culture of social commitment among SERB Grantees. The policy intends to effectively utilize scientific infrastructure and expertise of SERB grantees to benefit other S&T stakeholders especially the less-endowed researchers and the society. SSR initiatives include infrastructure sharing, mentoring young faculty/researchers, fostering research culture among students and the academic community and public outreach and knowledge dissemination. SERB SSR policy ensures that the SSR activities are minimal and are aligned and integrated with the Grantees scientific research activities. It is expected that the combined efforts of all the SERB Grantees would lead to development of rich research culture of integrated scientific and social commitments in the country.

SSR activities for DIA (Fellowship with project) projects are given in the following table:

| Activities | Category | Target beneficiary | Requirement | Financial Support | Conditions |
|---|----------|--|--|---|--|
| Access to PI scientific facilities | A | Researchers of other institutions | Minimum 8 hrs per month | NA | Mandatory for equipment costing \geq Rs.10 lakh |
| Mentoring of faculty | B | SERB TARE Faculty or SERB PIs requiring mentorship for conducting research | Once in project duration | NIL (For TARE – Financial support as per TARE guidelines) | At least one activity from Category B is mandatory |
| Student Internship | B | Students in undergraduate engineering or postgraduate science | One student in project duration | Upto Rs. 5000 per month (max two months) as student assistantship | |
| Research Facility Training Program | B | Researchers (10 number) | One-day training, once in project duration | Upto Rs.10000 per day | |
| Workshop to faculty of nearby colleges | C | Faculty of nearby college (25 number) | One-day workshop, once in project duration | Upto Rs.25000 per day | At least one activity from Category C is mandatory |
| Visit of college/ school students in PI institution | C | Students (A group of 25) | One day visit | Upto Rs. 10,000 | |
| Individual lectures | C | School/ college students | Once in a year | NIL | |
| Public lectures on science | D | General Public | Once per project duration | NIL | At least one activity from Category D is mandatory |
| Popular Articles | D | General Scientific Audience | Once per project duration | | |
| Reports in newspaper, web articles, etc. | D | General Public | Once per project duration | | |
| Peer review of research proposals | E | Scientific Community through SERB | As and when referred | NIL | Mandatory |

Guidelines for DIA (Fellowship with project)

1. PI should choose the SSR activities and it is mandatory to carry out the chosen activities during the project period.
2. Activity A – Equipment sharing: Mandatory if the cost of a single sanctioned equipment is equal or more than Rs 10 lakh. PIs should share such equipment with researchers from less endowed institutions for a minimum of 8 hours per month. The PIs are also encouraged to share other equipments available with them. A record should be maintained regarding usage of the equipment by other researchers and should be available for scrutiny at any time. In case, if certain equipment costing above Rs. 10 lakh cannot be shared for scientific reasons, the PI can write to the Programme Officer and on suggestions from Program Advisory/Expert committee these equipment can be excluded from mandatory sharing.
3. One activity each from category B, C and D are mandatory. Monetary support would be provided by SERB for certain activities. Budget sanctioned under SSR is meant only for SSR activities and under no circumstances it can be reappropriated.
4. Activity E – Peer review of research proposals: It is mandatory for the PI to review research proposals assigned to them by SERB.
5. PIs are encouraged to do more than the mandated activity without affecting the project work.
6. Activities corresponding to category B and C should be completed within the first two years of the grant. Activity D should be done before the project completion.
7. The activities carried out need to be reported annually. SSR Report should be submitted through SERB online portal.
8. The outcome of SSR will become part of any new proposal submitted to SERB.

SSR activities for DIA (only fellowship) are given in the following table:

| Activities | Category | Target beneficiary | Requirement | Financial Support | Conditions |
|--|----------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Individual lecture | C | School/ college students | Once in a year | NIL | Mandatory |
| Public lectures on science | D | General Public | Once per project duration | NIL | At least one activity from Category D is mandatory |
| Popular Articles | D | General Scientific Audience | Once per project duration | | |
| Reports in newspaper, web articles, etc. | D | General Public | Once per project duration | | |
| Peer review of research proposals | E | Scientific Community through SERB | As and when referred | NIL | Mandatory |

Guidelines for DIA (Fellowship only)

1. PI should choose the SSR activities and it is mandatory to carry out the chosen activities during the project period.
2. Activity C (Individual lecture) and one activity from Category D are mandatory.
3. Activity E – Peer review of research proposals: It is mandatory for the PI to review research proposals assigned to them by SERB.
4. PIs are encouraged to do more than the mandated activity without affecting the project work.
5. The activities carried out need to be reported annually. SSR Report should be submitted through SERB online portal.
6. The outcome of SSR will become part of any new proposal submitted to SERB.