

Call for Collaboration of Academic Institutions for the Digital India eGovernance Fellowship Programme

Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology, Government of India is launching a targeted call for applications for collaboration with Academic Institutions for the eGovernance Digital India Fellowship Programme. The Programme is a one-year practice-oriented programme (9 months part – time and 3 months full-time in institutions, both national and international) to give impetus to eGovernance related research and studies across levels of policy and implementation through building the capacities of individuals, who act as change agents. A detailed description of the various components of the Programme is presented in the Guidelines for the Programme available at <http://digitalindia.gov.in/writereaddata/files/Digital-India-e-Governance-Fellowship-Programme-guidelines.pdf>.

In an innovation-driven economy, there is imperative need to increase research and development. Researchers are making breakthroughs across a host of key subject areas in various spheres of eGovernance. To ensure that this knowledge is carried forward and also for enhanced learning and subsequent scope of implementation through the Government mechanism, meaningful partnership between Government and Institutions excelling in various spheres of eGovernance is vital. This also is in line with the fact that the government plays a key role in aligning research with public need while Institutions play an important role in hard core research and moving the discoveries and ideas germinating on campus into the real world where they can do real good.

Role of selected academic institutions:

- The research Institutions are to support the Ministry in finalizing the research Fellows by being a part of the selection committee.
- eGovernance Institutions are expected to play an important role as mentors for the research Fellows in the Programme.
- The selected institution will nominate a mentor among their faculty members to support & guide the research in the right direction in synchrony with the priorities of the Government and worldwide developments.
- National Partner universities, academic and research institutions are to host the selected Fellow - National for one month and International for two months.
- In order to ensure global exposure for the said purposes, the research Institutions are to collaborate with foreign universities on their own as also with those already in partnership with NeGD.
- The institutions are to help the research Fellow to develop and submit a white paper to the Government at the end of the research period spanning one year.
- The Institutions are also expected to be part of and support NeGD to steer the Introduction and Final Seminars for the research Fellows.

Benefit for Selected Academic Institutions:

- NeGD will acknowledge the selected Institutions as partner for the Fellowship Programme on Digital India website.
- National and International mentor may co-author the white paper with the Fellow with due acknowledgement of the same from NeGD.
- The collaboration will enable the selected Institutions to be part of the National knowledge building network for Digital India.

- The collaboration will enable the partner Institutions to keep abreast of global best practices by partnering with reputed International institutions working in the domain of eGovernance.

Role of NeGD:

- Cover basic costs related to the Fellow including provision of stipend.
- Provide honorarium to the mentor / Institution (as outlined in the Guidelines).
- Organise the Introduction and Final Seminars.
- Provide all secretarial support for the Programme.

The criteria for selection of national universities for collaboration with NeGD on the fellowship program are as under:

a. Competence in guiding/mentoring research in e-Governance: The faculty or students of the university/institutions should have at least 10 - 12 publications in the area of eGovernance in last 3 years. These publications should be in international/national peer reviewed journals listed in various journal ranking lists such as FT-45 (Financial Times 45), ABDC (Australia Business Deans Council), SJR (Scimago Journal List) and ABS (Association of Business Schools), etc.

b. Competency in design, development and deployment of e-Governance related solutions: Proven experience in having undertaken and implemented projects in e-Governance areas by the universities/institutions.

c. Special set-up of e-Governance chair/unit: Preference will be given to universities / institutions who have laid special emphasis on research in e-Governance by setting up chairs and divisions in e-Governance. This is indicative of the interest in e-Governance research as well as availability of good mentors to guide fellows in research.

d. Co-collaboration with International academic institutions: Preference will be given to universities / institutions having partnerships with International counter-parts.

Based on the expertise and proposal of the Institutions, a Selection Committee would decide on the final list of partnering Institutions.

For any queries related to this call for collaboration, the Academic Institutions may write to fellowship@digitalindia.gov.in.

Important Dates:

- i. Call for Collaboration with Academic Institutions: 10th August 2017
Opens on: 1st July 2017
Closes on: 10th August 2017
- ii. Evaluation of Expression of Interest by NeGD: 30th August 2017
- iii. Presentation / discussion with prospective Institutions by: 7th September 2017
- iv. MoU with selected Institutions: 15th September 2017

Please submit your Expression of Interest in the given format (<http://digitalindia.gov.in/writereaddata/files/FormatforCallforInstitutionalCollaboration.pdf>) at fellowship@digitalindia.gov.in.