

Regulations for Institute Research Fellowships (IRF)



BIRLA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Deemed University under section 3 of UGC Act, 1956
MESRA-835215, RANCHI, JHARKHAND, INDIA
Website: <http://www.bitmesra.ac.in>

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PREAMBLE: BIT Mesra, Ranchi with the aim to build their reputation for excellence in research, have initiated the scheme of Institute Research fellowship (IRFs) from the Spring Semester of 2018.

The objective of the Institute Research Fellowships is to provide individuals of academic merit with high-quality learning opportunities that contribute to achieve excellence of BIT Mesra' s standing in education and research. IRFs are selected through competitive process set by BIT Mesra. IRF scheme provides financial support for thus selected high-quality scholars and encourage them to develop successful academic research careers

Motivated by our goal is to do more and better research, we are looking to expand our Academic Excellence through the appointment of a number of meritorious research scholars (IRFs) across various departments of BIT.

ADMINISTRATION OF IRFS: Dean, Academic Programme, BIT Mesra administers the IRF.

At the outset Dean AP office will oversee:

- i. Allotment of PhD supervisor(s) to newly conceived Institute Research Fellow(s) (**IRF**).
- ii. Carry forward of allotted IRFs due to non-availability of suitable candidates.
- iii. Topics of research and appropriateness of Doctoral Committee members.

1 Guidelines for Selection of PhD supervisor(s) of Institute Research Fellow(s) (IRF).

- i). The PhD supervisor shall be a regular faculty member of the institute and should have served BIT at least for six months.
- ii). Supervisor of the institute research fellow (IRF) shall have at least one publication in SCI journal during last three years. In addition, he/she should have R&D/consultancy project of Rs 20.00 lakhs as PI or Co-PI or at least have submitted the same for financial support to an appropriate funding agency.
- iii). Depending on student's research interest, first preference shall be given to Assistant Professors during allotment of PhD supervisor.
- iv). In case sufficient, PhD supervisors are not available at the Assistant Professor level; second preference shall be given to Associate Professor.
- v). Whenever, more fresh scholars are available, IRF may be allotted to a Professor as well.
- vi). At any point of time, a faculty member shall not have more than one IRF as a guide or co-guide unless all the eligible faculty members have at least one IRF under his/her supervision.
- vii). Further allocation of IRF to a faculty member at any level shall depend on whether the faculty is able to bring R&D grant of worth Rs 20.00 lakhs or more within three years after receiving the first IRF.
- viii). The **Departmental Academic Committee (DAC)** will decide the allocation of this most valuable institutional resource and the consolidated list of IRFs recommended from all departments accompanied with admission test score and original application form will be submitted to the VC for approval with concurrence of the **Institute Faculty Committee (IFC)**.
- ix). If more than 25 suitable candidates are available and an extremely able candidate is being lost due to allocation limit, then, with the consent of Dean (AP), the DAC may borrow one more seat from departmental allocation for next semester.
- x). In case, the qualifying candidate insists on working with only a particular guide and the guide so selected does not have an IRF and also has brought sponsored Research grants in excess of Rs.30 Lakhs and has 5 or more SCI publications in last three years, the IRF allocation rules may be relaxed by DAC without setting any precedent.
- xi). In case a department is unable to find a suitable supervisor following above criteria, the issue will be settled by the Institute Faculty Committee (IFC) including concerned HoD.
- xii). Once a scholar has been allocated, the guide has the responsibility to supervise and monitor the research progress with an objective of time-bound output. The focus shall be on the novelty and quality of research.
- xiii). The PhD supervisor shall ensure that the fellow publishes at least one research paper in a reputed SCI journal within 2 ½ years.

2. Carry forward of allotted IRFs due to non-availability of suitable candidates

25 IRFs shall be available per Semester. However, if 25 eligible candidates are not available during a semester, then the shortage can be carried forward by the allottee department in the next semester. In successive two semesters, if a department is unable to get allotted number of IRFs then the shortage shall be distributed to other engineering departments. After such redistribution, a total of 50 IRFs shall be recruited during successive two semesters.

3. Topics of Research and appropriateness of members of the Doctoral Committee

The IRFs of Engineering departments shall focus exclusively on engineering research and the guide and the doctoral committee members ought to have appropriate and demonstrated research experience in engineering research.

The HOD may seek an exception through Institute Faculty Committee (IFC).