

BIRD Intellectual Tourism Scheme (BITS)

*An Innovative Initiative of BIRD
Lucknow!*



**Bankers Institute of Rural
Development
Lucknow**

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Background

There has been growing demand from research scholars registered with Universities and Institutes to find a good place to undergo internship or conduct research for their dissertation or thesis. Also there are persons, employed or unemployed, with aptitude/interest in research, looking for a sabbatical, to pursue their interest in research or studies. Many institutions offer such facilities, but on structured terms with little flexibility in terms of eligibility, duration, format etc. Many of those scholars look for a flexible, demand-driven scheme suitable to a diverse group.



Why BIRD?

BIRD was set up in 1983 at Lucknow as an autonomous institute promoted by NABARD.

Housed in a sprawling green campus of 43 acres, BIRD has the state-of-the-art infrastructure for residential training. It also has one of the largest library in the region. A huge collection of over 60000 books and 113 national and international journals and periodicals make the library a favourite destination of scholars and researchers.



BIRD also has a large pool of Faculty Members drawn from NABARD, who are professionally qualified and possess rich pan-India field experience in the areas of agriculture, allied sectors, climate finance, banking, finance, financial inclusion, micro finance, IT, behavioural sciences etc. They can act as Mentors or Guides for the research scholars during their stint at BIRD.



There are 4 Centres of Excellence set up at BIRD viz., Centre for Professional Excellence in Co-operatives (C-PEC), Centre for Research in Financial Inclusion and Microfinance (CRFIM), Centre for Climate Change (CCC) and APRACA Centre of Excellence (ACE). These Centres also provide opportunities for research/studies in their respective areas.

With its perfect ambience, state-of-the art infrastructure and professional guidance, BIRD can facilitate and guide talented and interested research scholars to undergo internship or pursue research or studies of his choice.



With the above background, BIRD has formulated an innovative scheme viz., **BIRD Intellectual Tourism Scheme (BITS)** and the salient features of the scheme are outlined below:

1. Objective of the Scheme

To engage interested researchers for undergoing internship or conducting research on thematic areas/topics related to agriculture and rural development, by providing academic infrastructure and mentoring support available with BIRD/NABARD.

2. Nature of engagement

The broad areas of engagement will include i) Internship in areas/topics of choice by the scholar; ii) Research/study in areas either identified by the scholar or by BIRD; iii) Assist/collaborate with BIRD/NABARD Team for research/study/survey; iv) Document research/prepare reports/articles. This list is only illustrative and any other assignment could also be considered, if found suitable.

3. Academic qualifications

Persons pursuing Post-Doctoral/PhD/Post-Graduate/Professional Degrees from recognised Indian Universities and Institutions with specialisation in the fields of Agriculture, Allied sectors, Economics, Agri. Economics, Law, Management, Finance, IT, Law etc.

4. Age limit

Not above 50 years of age

5. Work Experience

The scheme is normally open to candidates pursuing Masters or Doctoral degree from recognised Universities/Institutes with specialisation in the fields indicated at para 3 above. However, any person, employed/unemployed, with interest in research with at least a Post-Graduate degree or Diploma in the aforesaid fields can also apply.

6. Selection procedure

The applications received will be scrutinised and selected by BIRD. The Scheme would be open ended i.e. interested persons can apply and enrol any time during the year and the selection would be subject to maximum intake capacity.

7. Intake capacity

Maximum 10 at any point of time.

8. Location/Placement

The selected scholar will be located at BIRD Lucknow. However, depending on the requirements of the research/study, visits to other locations may also be necessary.

9. Mentor/Guide

The selected scholar/researcher will be attached to a Mentor/Guide identified by BIRD and he/she would work under the guidance of the Mentor.

10. Duration

The duration is normally for a period of 6 months to 1 year (relaxable in genuine cases).

11. Fellowship/Stipend

There is no Fellowship/Stipend available from BIRD under the scheme. The scholars can make use of their Research Fellowship/ Scholarship/ Stipend, if any, available from other agencies,

parent University/Institute or even self-supported. In case the scholars are required to undertake outstation tours as part of the research/study, travel/visit expenses will be paid by BIRD at rates decided from time to time.

12. Fee

BIRD will not charge any fee from the scholars under the scheme. However, in case the Scholar opts for residential arrangement in the campus, the living expenses (boarding & lodging) at rates decided by BIRD on a case to case basis will have to be borne by the Scholars.

13. Accommodation

Accommodation, though not guaranteed, may be provided at BIRD campus subject to availability and payment of prescribed charges.

14. No Right of appointment

The research scholar shall have no right/claim for an appointment in BIRD/NABARD by virtue of their research associateship under the scheme.

15. Modifications/Amendments

BIRD shall have the right to modify and/or amend the scheme at any time.

16. How to Apply

Interested persons can apply by attaching the following documents:

- (i) Brief Bio-Data indicating academic qualifications, experience, contact details etc.
- (ii) Copy of latest photograph (to be affixed on Bio-data)
- (ii) Statement of purpose – Internship, Research/study for thesis, any other
- (iii) Employment certificate, if employed
- (iv) Self-attested copies of mark sheets & degrees
- (v) Recommendation from the Head of the Institution
- (vi) Brief summary of previous research/studies undertaken, if any.



The application may be sent/e-mailed to:

The Director
Bankers Institute of Rural Development
(BIRD)
Sector-H, LDA Colony
Kanpur Road
LUCKNOW – 226 012
Email: bird@nabard.org
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