India-Australia Research Funding

- Government of India
  - Department of Science & Technology
  - Department of Biotechnology

- Australian Grant & Scholarship Programs
  - The Australia-India Council
  - Australia India Institute
  - Endeavour Scholarships
  - Australian Research Council
  - National Health and Medical Research Council

- Australia-India Fellowship Fund
  (Administered by Australian Academy of Science)
Bi-national Research Funding

- Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF)
- Established in 2006
- A platform for bilateral collaboration in science
- Jointly managed by Australian and Indian governments
- Supports collaborative, leading-edge research between researchers and scientists in Australia and India
- Focuses on a range of agreed priority areas
- AISRF is Australia’s largest fund dedicated to bilateral science collaboration
- Support is provided for Collaborative Workshops and Research Projects involving Australian and Indian partners
# Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Administration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indo-Australian S&amp;T Fund</strong></td>
<td>Administered jointly with Department of Science &amp; Technology (DST), Government of India &amp; Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE), Government of Australia</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Indo-Australian Biotechnology Fund</strong></td>
<td>Administered jointly with Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India &amp; DIISRTE, Government of Australia</td>
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<td><strong>Grand Challenge Fund</strong></td>
<td>Administered jointly with Department of Science &amp; Technology (DST), Government of India &amp; DIISRTE, Government of Australia</td>
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Indo-Australian S&T Fund

Supports collaborative projects and workshops in the priority areas of:

- Agricultural Research
- Astronomy and Astrophysics
- Environment Sciences (including climate change research)
- Material Science (including Nanotechnology)
- Renewable Energy
- Marine Sciences
- Earth Sciences
- Information and Communication Technology (including Computer Science)

Priority areas for collaborative research projects:

- Information and Communication Technology (including Computer Science)
- Marine Sciences
- Earth Sciences
Indo-Australian Biotechnology Fund

Supports collaborative projects and workshops in the priority areas of:

- Biomedical Devices and Implants
- Stem Cells
- Transgenic Crops and Marker-assisted Breeding
- Nutraceuticals and Functional Foods
- Bioremediation
- Bioenergy and Biofuels
- Vaccines and Medical Diagnostics

Priority areas for collaborative research projects:

- Vaccines, immunomodulators and immunotherapeutics
- Biotechnological interventions for improved agricultural productivity
Grand Challenge Fund

- Designed to support collaborative projects of significant scale and ambition
- Projects expected to deliver practical solutions to some of the key challenges shared by both countries

### Themes: Health & Energy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sub-themes (Health)</th>
<th>Sub-themes (Energy)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metabolic disorders</td>
<td>New and renewable</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infectious diseases</td>
<td>Fossil Fuels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lifestyle diseases</td>
<td>Transport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical devices</td>
<td>Emerging Technologies (including robotics)</td>
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<td>Healthcare delivery</td>
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</table>
Funding Limits

- Collaborative Workshops
  - Most workshops are typically funded around $30,000
  - Maximum funding is capped at $75,000

- Collaborative Research Projects
  - Maximum funding for a research project is $300,000
  - Funding can be up to $400,000 if applicant can demonstrate at least one active “end-user” partner
  - Higher cap is intended as an incentive to engage industry
  - End-user partner could be for-profit industry bodies and companies, not-for-profit organisations, non-government organisations and public sector agencies
  - End-users may be located in either of the countries
Funded Activities

- Under Indo-Australia Strategic Grand Challenge Research Fund:
  - 121 Expression of Interest (EOI) received in areas of Health and Energy
  - 16 EOI’s recommended to submit full detailed project

- Support was continued to 3 on-going major joint projects in the areas of Food and Water Security

- Sub-themes included: Integrated water resource management, Potable water supply, Plant and animal sciences, Dryland agriculture, Post-harvest management, Regional climate modelling, Marine, and Bioremediation.

- Fellowships awarded in frontline areas in all fields of Science & Technology including Medical and Agriculture to visit Australia during 2013 under the Indo-Australia Fellowship Programme
  - 20 Fellowships to Early Career Researchers (3-12 months)
  - 10 Fellowships to Senior Professional Scientists (1-2 weeks)
Under ‘Competitive Category’, 49 Indo-Australian research projects supported in the areas of:

- Agricultural research,
- Astronomy & Astrophysics,
- Microelectronic Devices & Materials,
- Nanotechnology
- Renewable Energy
- Marine Sciences

130 exchange visits of scientists

2 Indo-Australian Joint Symposium on “Preparing for climate change on marine systems in Australia and India”

(Organized in Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute, Cochin and Tasmanian Aquaculture and Fisheries Institute (TAFI), University of Tasmania)
- Year 2013 was the call for Round Seven

- Applications are generally open for 6 weeks

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 January 2013</td>
<td>Round Seven opens for applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 March 2013</td>
<td>Closing date for applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March – May 2013</td>
<td>Applications assessed and ranked by AISRF Advisory Panel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 2013</td>
<td>Joint meeting between Australian and Indian governments to negotiate on final set of projects to be supported</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 2013</td>
<td>Joint public announcements by Australian and Indian governments on successful applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July – August 2013</td>
<td>Contract negotiations with successful applicants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September – October 2013</td>
<td>Projects commence</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Year 2012 was the call for Round Two

- Applications are generally open for 8 weeks
- Projects will run typically for 3 years but no longer than 4 years

<table>
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<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>22 June 2012</td>
<td>Stage 1 – Expression of Interest open for submission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 August 2012</td>
<td>Closing date for EOIs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August – October 2012</td>
<td>EOIs assessed and short-listed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October – December 2012</td>
<td>Stage 2 – Full applications open for short-listed EOIs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 2012 – February 2013</td>
<td>Assessment and selection of Stage 2 Full Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 2013</td>
<td>Projects commence</td>
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</table>
Application process fairly comprehensive

Detailed guidelines are available on AISRF website

Application process for Indo-Australian S&T Fund and Indo-Australian Biotechnology Fund are similar

Each component covers priority different areas

Applicants need to clearly mention under which component and which priority area application is being made for funding

Australian universities are not the only eligible organisations for funding under the programme, which makes the Fund fairly competitive
Eligible Australian Organisations

- Australian tertiary education institution
- Australian Cooperative Research Centre
- Australian Commonwealth-funded research organisation
- Australian State/Territory-funded research organisation
- Australian public research company
- Australian private research company
- Australian not-for-profit research organisation
- Other Australian incorporated entity
Important Web Links

- **Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF)**
  www.innovation.gov.au

- **Australian Academy of Science**

- **Australia-India Council (AIC)**
  www.dfat.gov.au/aic

- **Australia India Institute (AII)**
  www.aii.unimelb.edu.au