



MEDIA RELEASE

Australia India Fellowships Advance Gender Equity in STEM Research

Applications for the new Australia India Women Researchers' Exchange (AIWE) Program will open next week, designed to strengthen collaboration between Australia and India while addressing the critical issue of gender equity in STEM research.

The AIWE Program, led by the Australia India Institute and funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, offers STEM women researchers from Australia and India the opportunity to engage in short-term research exchanges.

The CEO of the Australia India Institute, the Hon Lisa Singh, said the Institute is proud to support women researchers, who represent [about 30 percent](#) of STEM researchers worldwide.

"Through the AIWE Program, we are opening doors for talented women researchers to advance their work in STEM disciplines across borders," she said.

"These bilateral exchanges will drive innovation and help build a more equitable research community."

The AIWE program offers ten fellowships for early-career postdoctoral researchers in STEM disciplines. Each fellowship supports a 6 to 8-week research exchange between Australia and India.

- Five fellowships will be awarded to Indian researchers from central and state public universities in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.
- Five fellowships will be awarded to Australian researchers from universities in regional centres.

Dr. Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General of the Association of Indian Universities, and Chair of the AIWE Steering Committee said the program aims to promote

research engagement beyond universities located in major metropolitan centres and capital cities.

"This initiative is about providing funding and opportunities to researchers in regions where such support might otherwise be out of reach," Dr. Mittal said.

"By extending these opportunities, the AIWE program not only empowers individual researchers early in their STEM careers, but also brings their diverse perspectives to the global stage."

Successful applicants will have the opportunity to carry out a collaborative research project, engage with leading researchers at their chosen host institution, and build networks that could pave the way for future joint research endeavours.

Enhancing bilateral research collaboration is a key focus of the Australia India Institute's [Education Program](#). This initiative builds on the success of previous grant programs administered by the Institute, including the [Australia India Research Students Fellowships](#) and [Australia India 'Unnati' Research Collaboration Grants](#).

Applications for the AIWE program will open next week and can be submitted via the [Australian Researcher Cooperation Hub-India](#) – a digital platform promoting researcher engagement between Australia and India. For updates on the launch date and further information, please sign-up to the [ARCH-India mailing list](#).

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