

Anveshan: Student Research Convention

Guidelines

Preamble

Spirit of inquiry, creativity and innovativeness are some of the natural endowments bestowed upon human beings, which are the keys to transformation of life. These factors, when manifested in the form of research, open new frontiers of knowledge, which is instrumental for all forms of development. Perhaps, this is the reason for which research is recognized as one of the core functions of the universities/ institutions of higher learning and the universities have been rendering this responsibility with utmost diligence. India's noteworthy progress in the field of Information Technology, Energy and Space, etc., are the outcome of consistent endeavour of our intellectual resources. India, currently producing a solid core of knowledge workers in tertiary and scientific and technical education and its economy and industrial sector set for an unparalleled growth is poised to become the future global knowledge hub. However, the onus lies largely on our Higher Education system and particularly on our universities. But, of late, research has become a subservient component in the university functioning. Resource constraints, lack of commitment, proper incentive etc., are the impediments that are affecting the quality of research in our institutions of higher education. Other important factors for the deterioration of the quality of research are the absence of adequate training and other capacity building endeavour in our system, which have restricted students' creativity only to rote memory. On the contrary, their potential should be nurtured and harnessed for the benefit of the society. The current boom in Indian economy signalling an era of transformation should provide ample opportunity for success to innovative young brains to become trend setters and role models of a vibrant India.

With a view to inculcating research culture in our higher education institutions, the Research Division of Association of Indian Universities has taken a pioneering initiative to organize Student Research Conventions for the aspiring researchers throughout the country. These conventions aim at identifying the young and rising talents who would be promoted through proper encouragement and incentives. Also an attempt shall be made to commercialize their research projects with industrial collaboration. The endeavour may accelerate scientific research and innovation and their application towards community development percolating to the grass root level. **Anveshan:** The student research convention was applauded across the country for providing an innovative platform for students and generating a great zeal of enthusiasm among the young and emerging breed of researchers in the country. Nevertheless,

the initiative in an attempt to inculcate and strengthen a culture of research in the universities and other institutions of higher learning.

Objectives

- To identify young talents with research aptitude and interest to take up research as career option.
- To promote the talent in research throughout the country.
- To nurture the talent through specialized training and education in some of the nationally and internationally reputed premier institutions of higher learning in the country.
- To augment financial and physical resources through collaboration with different sponsors for supporting education and training of the young researchers.
- To provide proper incentives to enhance the skill of the potential students.
- To initiate an intensive research culture in a selected group of institutions.

Areas/ Fields

The areas/fields in which projects (Individual **and Group Projects***) are invited:

- Agriculture
- Basic Sciences
- Engineering and Technology
- Health Sciences and Allied subjects, Pharmacy, Nutrition, etc.
- Social sciences, Humanities, Commerce and Law (Objective and result oriented Projects)

*In case of a **Group project**, only three members (one principal investigator and two major contributors) are allowed to participate in the zonal/ national convention.

Type of Project

- Projects on the above mentioned areas must be original and must have undergone some exploration/ ground work in order to show its feasibility and impact.

Procedure

- The duration of the convention will be **three days or two days depending on the number of participation.**
- The convention will be held in **three phases.**
 - i. In the **First Phase**, all universities in the country will be requested to organize an exhibition of research projects at **University level** in which students from **Affiliated / Constituent Colleges, Research Institutions and University Postgraduate Departments** will be invited to participate. The exhibited projects will be scrutinized by a team of experts of their respective areas.
 - ii. In the **Second Phase**, the exhibition will be held at **Zonal level** for which **Five** Universities , one in each zone, have been identified (calendar enclosed for details) From each zone **best 15 projects** will be given entry to compete at the **National level.**
 - iii. In the **Third Phase**, the exhibition/competition will be held at **National level.** The association of Indian Universities will call for the successful projects, selected through the zonal competition, for National level competition. A total of **75 selected projects** will be displayed for assessment at the National level out of which **15 projects** will be finally selected.

No. Of Projects

- Each university is allowed to send a maximum number of **five** projects for the zonal level student Research Convention
- In case of universities/institutes not having courses/ programmes in all the above mentioned categories, entry of five projects in their respective fields shall also be entertained.
- The projects selected at the university level will be forwarded to the Zonal level competition. Registration form for zonal level convention will be issued to the selected project teams.

The projects will be assessed by a panel of experts drawn from various disciplines. The students whose projects will be selected in the final stage at national level convention will be promoted through proper incentives for career development in research.

Criteria for Assessment of Projects

All the projects will be assessed on the basis of following criteria. Each criterion is assigned some weightage. The final selection of projects will be based on the cumulative weightage weightage given on all criteria.

Criteria and Weightage

• Scientific Thoughts and Principles	20
• Creativity	20
• Thoroughness	10
• Skill	10
• Relevance	20
• Cost Effectiveness	10
• Team work	10

Apart from the above criteria, **Scope of Commercialization** of the projects will be considered as an **additional merit**. However, there will be no weightage point for this criterion. In case of the projects having scored equal cumulative weightage point, this criterion will be considered for making the final decision.

Eligibility for Participation

Entries of the research projects will be purely **INSTITUTIONAL** and only **BONAFIDE fulltime** Students/Research Scholars from undergraduate to Doctoral Degree level are eligible to take part in the convention. **Those who are below 30 years of age are only eligible to take part in the Convention.**

Guidelines for the Participants

- Projects should be original and based on new/innovative idea and must have undergone some exploration and groundwork to prove its feasibility and show impact.
- The projects are invited in five categories/ areas –
 - i. Agriculture
 - ii. Basic Sciences
 - iii. Engineering and Technology
 - iv. Health sciences and allied subjects, pharmacy, nutrition, etc
 - v. Social Sciences, Humanities, Commerce and law (Objective and result Oriented Projects)
- In case of a group project, only **three members** [the principal investigator and two major contributors] are allowed to participate in the zonal/national convention. But, only **one member** will be allowed for presentation.
- Entries of the research projects will be purely INSTITUTIONAL and only BONAFIDE full time students/Research Scholars from undergraduate to doctoral degree level are eligible to take part in the convention.
- Entry Fee- Rs. 500/- (per student). The entry fee for zonal level competition in the form of Demand Draft drawn in favour of **Association of Indian Universities, New Delhi** and the registration form should be send to the **Deputy Director, Research Division, Association of India Universities, New Delhi** with a copy to the coordinator of the organizing University. There is **No Registration Fee** for participating in **National level Convention**.
- Registration is compulsory for all participants. The entries for projects in the convention will be accepted only if **forwarded through the Head of the Institution**.
- The projects can be presented in the form of live demonstrations/ models/ posters/podium (oral) presentation in any aforementioned areas/fields.
- Each university is allowed to send a maximum number of **five projects** for the **zonal level** student research convention.
- The duration of the convention will not exceed a maximum of **three days**.
- The projects will be presented in **three rounds**. In the **first round** the participants will display their projects in poster presentations (Size of Posters- 1m X 1m) before a panel of judges. If selected in the first round, the project will be allowed for podium and oral presentation before the panel of judges in the **second round**. In the **Third Round** the presentation will be open for question- answer.

- The host university will provide the required infrastructural facilities like Display/Mounting Boards, space for display, LCD/overhead projector, etc., required for presentation. In case any special assistance is required the participants may request the coordinator of the host university for the same at least three days before the convention starts.
- Total time allowed for oral/podium presentation is 10 minutes. **Seven Minutes** for presentation and **Three minutes** for question – answer.
- The host university will provide accommodation, breakfast working lunch and dinner to the participants and their team members (**not more than three**) **free of cost**.
- Certification of participation and mementoes with endorsement of both AIU and Host University will be issued to all the participants.
- Unless extraordinary circumstance so warrants the results of the competitions will be declared in the last day of the convention preferably in the valediction.
- Winning projects will be invited for **National Student Research Conventions** as per the schedule decided by Association of Indian Universities.
- Winners in the **National Student Research Convention** will be awarded cash prizes along with certificates and mementos. The amount of cash prize for **first position holders is Rs 75000, second position Rs. 50000 and third position Rs 25000**. One best project will be selected across all the Five categories which will be awarded a **Gold Medal** along with the cash prize and certificate.
- The decision of judges will be final and binding on all participants.
- In case of any dispute relating to selection and assessment of Projects the appellate authority is the Secretary General, AIU.