INTERCONNECT FELLOWSHIP

Interconnect fellowship is a program by Bharathiya Vikas Trust (BVT) supported by Blockchain for Impact (BFI) designed to strengthen India's biomedical innovation ecosystem by enabling collaboration, visibility, structured support and unlocking capital for high potential innovators.

The Interconnect Fellowship, built on the interconnect app, is a structured one year program that supports innovators with strong ideas, early prototypes, or research backed concepts, helping them overcome challenges in scaling, validation, and building viable pathways to impact.

Fellowship Support:

- Fellowship of ₹12,00,000 over 12 months, disbursed quarterly based on milestone achievements.
- Mentorship from experts in academia, industry, and healthcare
- Structured guidance on problem definition and strategy
- Support in finding collaborators via the Interconnect network
- Periodic progress reviews
- Opportunity to showcase work at a national level final event

WHO SHOULD APPLY

The fellowship is open to:

- Biomedical and healthcare innovators & entrepreneurs (independent, startup affiliated, or research institution affiliated)
- Postdoctoral researcher/scientists working on translational or applied healthcare problems
- Clinician and physicians from medical colleges and healthcare institutions
- Public health professionals building or implementing solutions at scale

Applicants should demonstrate:

- Clear understanding of the problem they aim to solve
- Scientific or technical depth
- Potential for real world healthcare impact
- Willingness to collaborate openly within the ecosystem

STEP BY STEP APPLICATION PROCESS

Step 1: Download the Interconnect App

All applications to the Interconnect Fellowship must be submitted via the Interconnect App.

- Download from Google Play (for Android phones) : https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.blockchainforimpact.interconnect&pcampaignid=web_share

- Download from App Store (for iPhones) : https://apps.apple.com/in/app/interconnect-network/id6749044826

Scan and download

App Store   Play Store

Step 2: Register on the App

Create your professional profile with your background, expertise, and interests.

Step 3: Post Your Project on the Feed

Applicants must first share a brief overview of their project on the Interconnect feed. This post is mandatory and will be considered the official fellowship application for initial review.

The post should clearly mention:

- The problem you are trying to solve and its relevance in the Indian healthcare context
- Proposed solution or approach
- The type of support or collaboration being sought

Step 4: Complete the Detailed Fellowship Application

After posting their project on the Interconnect feed, applicants must submit a detailed fellowship application. Posting a project on the feed unlocks the Interconnect Fellowship application within the app.

To apply, applicants should select the plus (+) icon, choose Start an Application, and then select Interconnect Fellowship. The application template is available in the Resources section of the app.

All information submitted in the fellowship application is visible only to the Interconnect admin team and will not be accessible to other users on the platform.

Step 5: Review & Shortlisting

All submitted projects will be reviewed by the Internal Review Committee. Shortlisted applicants may be contacted for clarifications or follow-up discussions, and domain experts will be involved for subject-specific evaluation.

Step 6: Expert Pitch & Evaluation (Offline)

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to an *in-person pitch before a panel of experts. This stage assesses problem relevance, innovation, feasibility, team capability, and potential impact. Details of the pitching session will be shared with shortlisted applicants.

Step 7: Fellowship Selection & Onboarding

Final fellows will be selected based on the overall evaluation. Selected applicants will receive official confirmation and onboarding details. The 12-month fellowship tenure will begin upon formal onboarding.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Projects will be evaluated on:

- Relevance to India's healthcare and biomedical needs
- Strength and clarity of the problem statement
- Scientific or technical merit
- Innovation potential
- Feasibility and scalability
- Potential for real world impact

FELLOWSHIP JOURNEY (12 MONTHS)

During the fellowship, fellows will:

- Identify collaborators across research, clinical, and industry domains
- Develop a clear roadmap toward validation or commercialization
- Participate in periodic review and feedback sessions
- Receive guidance on overcoming technical, regulatory, or market fitness

FINAL SHOWCASE & SCALE UP SUPPORT

At the end of the fellowship year:

- Fellows will present their work at a national level showcase event.
- Projects will be presented to ecosystem experts, industry leaders, and potential supporters.
- Selected innovations may receive further support toward scale up or next stage funding.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- There is no application fee to apply for the Interconnect Fellowship.
- Submission of a project post does not guarantee selection.
- BVT and BFI reserves the right to make final decisions regarding fellowship awards.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For any questions related to the Interconnect Fellowship, please reach out at: interconnect@blockchainforimpact.nl or info@bvtmanipal.org

ABOUT INTERCONNECT APP

A professional networking app, a product of Blockchain For Impact (BFI) (available on Google Play Store and Apple App Store) for the researchers, clinicians, startups, social innovators and industry experts across the healthcare sector.

Through the platform, users can:

- Users can post their projects, ideas, research problem statements, or collaboration needs on the Interconnect app.
- Once posted, projects become visible to a wide network of researchers, clinicians, startup founders, industry professionals, domain experts, and BFI team.
- Interconnect users can engage with projects by liking posts to show interest, commenting to share feedback or suggestions, and reaching out directly to the project owner through the platform to explore potential collaboration.
- Users can regularly browse the feed to discover ongoing projects, identify ideas aligned with their expertise, and engage with or support initiatives where they can add value, creating two way participation that goes beyond posting to actively contributing to others' work.

These interactions help build interdisciplinary research and innovation teams organically and create a continuously evolving network of projects, skills, and collaboration needs.