



IES UNIVERSITY, BHOPAL

Approved by All India Council of Technical Education, Pharmacy Council of India, Madhya Pradesh Private University Regularity Committee

IES Campus Kalkheda, Ratibad Main Road, Bhopal (M.P.) – 462044

Seed Funding Policy

1. Introduction

Innovation, research, and entrepreneurship are integral pillars of modern higher education. IES University, a leading multidisciplinary private university with a strong legacy of academic excellence, research-driven education, and NBA-accredited programs, aims to cultivate an environment where ideas can be nurtured into viable prototypes, products, services, and startups. Recognizing the global shift towards innovation-led economies and the increasing role of universities as incubation hubs, IES University establishes this **Seed Funding Policy** to empower students, faculty, researchers, and alumni to transform their ideas into impactful real-world solutions.

The objective of this policy is to provide structured financial support, mentorship, infrastructure, networking, and monitoring mechanisms to early-stage ideas and projects emerging from various departments of IES University, including Engineering, Management, Pharmacy, Nursing, Ayurveda, Agriculture, School Education, Law, and Applied Sciences. This policy aligns with the guidelines of the Ministry of Education (MoE), AICTE, Startup India, Madhya Pradesh Startup Policy, and National Innovation and Startup Policy (NISP) 2019.

Seed funding at IES University is designed as a **pre-incubation and incubation support mechanism** enabling young innovators to experiment, develop prototypes, validate their ideas, protect intellectual property, launch startups, and eventually scale them. The policy is intended to function through IES University's Innovation, Incubation, and Entrepreneurship Development Cell (IIEDC) and the associated incubation centers.

2. Vision, Mission, and Objectives

2.1 Vision

To establish IES University as a leading hub of innovation, research translation, and startup development by enabling early-stage ideas to evolve into sustainable entrepreneurial ventures.

2.2 Mission

- To empower students and faculty to become innovators, entrepreneurs, and problem-solvers.
- To support research commercialization and product development.
- To build a robust ecosystem that nurtures creativity, multidisciplinary collaboration, and startup culture.
- To ensure financial, technical, and infrastructural assistance to early-stage innovations.

2.3 Core Objectives

1. Provide financial assistance to student/faculty-led innovative ideas and prototypes.
2. Support promising research outcomes for commercialization.



IES UNIVERSITY, BHOPAL

Approved by All India Council of Technical Education, Pharmacy Council of India, Madhya Pradesh Private University Regularity Committee

IES Campus Kalkheda, Ratibad Main Road, Bhopal (M.P.) – 462044

3. Encourage student startups and promote an entrepreneurial mindset.
4. Strengthen the university's incubator to create a pipeline of high-potential ventures.
5. Foster collaboration with industry, government agencies, and funding bodies.
6. Ensure transparency, accountability, and systematic monitoring in utilization of seed funds.
7. Promote inclusive participation from all departments, including women innovators and socially relevant projects.

3. Scope and Applicability

This Seed Funding Policy applies to:

- All students enrolled in diploma, undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs at IES University.
- Faculty members (full-time/adjunct) working under any department of IES University.
- Researchers, project staff, and post-doctoral fellows associated with IESU.
- Alumni (up to 5 years from graduation) with innovative ideas or startup proposals.
- Interdisciplinary teams comprising internal and approved external collaborators.

The policy supports innovation across all domains, including but not limited to:

- Engineering & Technology
- Biotechnology and Life Sciences
- Pharmacy & Healthcare
- Ayurveda and Medical Sciences
- Management & Commerce
- Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence
- Education & Behavioral Sciences
- Law and Governance
- Agriculture and Rural Development
- Environmental Science and Sustainability
- Media, Arts, and Design

4. Types of Seed Funding Support

IES University provides the following types of seed funding under this policy:

4.1 Prototype Development Grant (₹10,000–₹2,00,000)

For converting an idea into a working model or prototype. This includes costs of raw materials, fabrication, electronic components, testing, and validation.

4.2 Research-to-Product (R2P) Grant (₹50,000–₹3,00,000)

For projects emerging from academic research, dissertations, or applied research wanting to convert into commercial products.



IES UNIVERSITY, BHOPAL

Approved by All India Council of Technical Education, Pharmacy Council of India, Madhya Pradesh Private University Regularity Committee

IES Campus Kalkheda, Ratibad Main Road, Bhopal (M.P.) – 462044

4.3 Early-Stage Startup Seed Grant (₹50,000–₹5,00,000)

For teams registered as startups (or in process) with a validated prototype and business model.

4.4 Women Innovators Special Grant (₹20,000–₹1,00,000)

To promote women-led innovation and entrepreneurship, aligned with national policies.

4.5 Social Innovation Grant (₹10,000–₹1,50,000)

For projects addressing rural development, sustainability, healthcare access, education, disability support, environment, and public welfare.

4.6 IP Support Grant (₹10,000–₹50,000)

Supports patent filing, design registration, or trademark registration.

4.7 Travel & Exposure Grant (₹5,000–₹30,000)

For attending innovation competitions, pitching events, exhibitions, or mentoring bootcamps.

5. Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for receiving seed funding from IES University:

1. The applicant must be a student, faculty member, researcher, or eligible alumni of IES University.
2. The applicant/team must apply through the official proposal submission process.
3. The idea or project must be original and innovative.
4. The project must demonstrate potential for prototype development, commercialization, or societal impact.
5. Teams must have at least one IESU-affiliated member.
6. For startup grants, the entity must be registered under Startup India or in process with proof of application.
7. Applicants must not have received identical grants for the same project from other internal schemes.

6. Funding Mechanism and Allocation

6.1 Annual Budget Allocation

IES University shall earmark an annual budget under IIEDC for seed funding. The amount may be revised yearly based on:

- University priorities



IES UNIVERSITY, BHOPAL

Approved by All India Council of Technical Education, Pharmacy Council of India, Madhya Pradesh Private University Regularity Committee

IES Campus Kalkheda, Ratibad Main Road, Bhopal (M.P.) – 462044

- Number of applicants
- Availability of external grants
- Performance of previous grant recipients

6.2 Disbursement Structure

Seed funding will be released in phases:

- **Phase 1 – Initial Release (40–60%)** based on proposal approval.
- **Phase 2 – Mid-term Release (20–40%)** based on progress review and milestone completion.
- **Phase 3 – Final Release (10–20%)** after submission of prototype, report, or startup registration.

6.3 Mode of Payment

Payments will be made through:

- Direct purchase of equipment/materials
- Reimbursement on submission of bills
- Direct transfer to incubated startups (under special conditions)

7. Proposal Submission and Evaluation Process

7.1 Call for Applications

IIEDC will announce seed funding calls at least **twice per academic year**.

7.2 Submission Requirements

Applicants must submit:

- Executive summary
- Detailed project proposal
- Problem statement and need analysis
- Innovation and uniqueness
- Prototype plan and technical details
- Budget estimation and financial plan
- Team profile and roles
- Expected outcomes
- Risk assessment
- Timeline chart (Gantt or PERT)
- IP ownership declaration
- Endorsement letter from mentor/HOD



IES UNIVERSITY, BHOPAL

Approved by All India Council of Technical Education, Pharmacy Council of India, Madhya Pradesh Private University Regularity Committee

IES Campus Kalkheda, Ratibad Main Road, Bhopal (M.P.) – 462044

7.3 Evaluation Committee

Proposals will be reviewed by a **Seed Funding Evaluation Committee (SFEC)** comprising:

- Chancellor of University
- Pro-Chancellor of University
- Vice-Chancellor of University
- Dean/Director of concerned School
- Chairperson of IIEDC
- External industry expert
- Finance nominee
- IPR expert (as applicable)
- Incubation center representative

7.4 Evaluation Criteria

Projects will be assessed on:

- Novelty and innovation
- Feasibility and technical soundness
- Market need and commercial potential
- Team competency
- Societal or environmental impact
- Scalability
- Budget justification
- Alignment with national and institutional priorities

7.5 Approval Process

- Committee may approve, reject, or suggest modifications.
- Approved proposals receive a sanction letter within 15 working days.
- Applicants may seek one-time revision submission if required.

8. Utilization Guidelines for Seed Funding

Funding may be used for the following purposes:

8.1 Permissible Expenditure

- Raw materials and consumables
- Fabrication, machining, or 3D printing
- Electronic components, circuits, and sensors
- Software licenses (essential for prototype)
- Field trials and validation studies
- Hiring skilled technical assistance (temporary)



IES UNIVERSITY, BHOPAL

Approved by All India Council of Technical Education, Pharmacy Council of India, Madhya Pradesh Private University Regularity Committee

IES Campus Kalkheda, Ratibad Main Road, Bhopal (M.P.) – 462044

- Patent filing and IPR support
- Business registration and compliance expenses
- Marketing validation studies
- Travel for competitions, exhibitions, or field studies

8.2 Non-Permissible Expenditure

- Personal salaries
- Entertainment, hospitality, or celebrations
- Purchase of laptops or mobile phones for individual use
- Travel unrelated to project
- Cash payments without receipts
- Repayment of loans or past expenses

8.3 Asset Ownership

Any non-consumable items purchased belong to IES University and shall be tagged accordingly.

9. Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Management

IES University encourages protection of intellectual property and supports innovators through:

9.1 IP Ownership

- For student/faculty projects funded under seed grant, **joint ownership** between innovator and IES University is applicable.
- For incubated startups, ownership may be transferred according to MoU terms.

9.2 Revenue Sharing

For IP generated with university support, the revenue distribution will follow the institutional IPR policy, typically:

- 70% to innovator(s)
- 30% to IES University/IIEDC

9.3 Confidentiality

Teams must sign NDAs for sensitive information shared with evaluators, mentors, or reviewers.

10. Monitoring, Reporting & Review Mechanism

10.1 Progress Monitoring

Seed-funded projects will be monitored through:



IES UNIVERSITY, BHOPAL

Approved by All India Council of Technical Education, Pharmacy Council of India, Madhya Pradesh Private University Regularity Committee

IES Campus Kalkheda, Ratibad Main Road, Bhopal (M.P.) – 462044

- Monthly progress reports
- Quarterly presentations
- Milestone-based reviews
- Site visits by committee members

10.2 Review Indicators

- Prototype quality and functionality
- Budget utilization efficiency
- Team performance and commitment
- Adherence to proposed timeline
- Commercial viability indicators

10.3 Submission of Final Report

On project completion, a detailed final report must be submitted, covering:

- Prototype description
- Validation results
- Financial statement
- IP details (if any)
- Future plan (startup, licensing, or publication)

11. Incubation Support and Post-Funding Assistance

11.1 Incubation Benefits

Seed-funded innovators and startups will receive preferred access to:

- Incubation space
- High-end laboratories and workshops
- Testing and prototyping facilities
- Mentorship from industry experts
- Technical and business advisory services

11.2 Startup Registration Support

Guidance for:

- Startup India registration
- MSME registration
- DPIIT certification
- Company incorporation (LLP/Private Ltd.)



IES UNIVERSITY, BHOPAL

Approved by All India Council of Technical Education, Pharmacy Council of India, Madhya Pradesh Private University Regularity Committee

IES Campus Kalkheda, Ratibad Main Road, Bhopal (M.P.) – 462044

11.3 Access to External Funding

Eligible startups may be referred to:

- State government startup funds
- Venture capitalists and angel investors
- Corporate innovation programs
- CSR-based funding bodies
- National programs (DST, DBT, AICTE, DRDO, MSME)

12. Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards

All applicants receiving seed funding must commit to:

1. Honesty in reporting data and expenditure.
2. Ethical treatment of human/animal subjects, if applicable.
3. Plagiarism-free, original innovation.
4. Transparency in communication and progress updates.
5. Compliance with university and government regulations.
6. Respectful, professional conduct within teams.

Projects violating ethical norms may face immediate cancellation.

13. Roles and Responsibilities of Key Stakeholders

13.1 Innovators/Project Team

- Submit high-quality proposals.
- Utilize funds judiciously.
- Maintain detailed documentation.
- Adhere to timelines.
- Deliver prototypes and outcomes.

13.2 Mentors/HODs

- Provide technical guidance.
- Review and endorse proposals.
- Support execution and evaluation.

13.3 IIEDC

- Overall administration of seed funding scheme.
- Conduct trainings, workshops, and awareness programs.
- Maintain records and track outcomes.
- Submit annual report to university authorities.



IES UNIVERSITY, BHOPAL

Approved by All India Council of Technical Education, Pharmacy Council of India, Madhya Pradesh Private University Regularity Committee

IES Campus Kalkheda, Ratibad Main Road, Bhopal (M.P.) – 462044

13.4 Seed Funding Evaluation Committee (SFEC)

- Evaluate proposals fairly and transparently.
- Approve budgets and monitor progress.
- Provide corrective recommendations.

14. Suspension, Termination, and Recovery of Funds

IES University reserves the right to:

- Suspend funding due to non-performance.
- Terminate projects violating rules.
- Recover misused funds through legal or administrative action.

Grounds for action include:

- Falsified data or documents
- Misuse of funds
- Non-cooperation by project team
- Unexplained delays beyond permissible limits

15. Incentives and Recognition for Innovators

To motivate participants, IES University will offer:

- Certificates of achievement
- Innovation awards during annual events
- Priority for national competitions
- Eligibility for startup internships
- Recognition on university website and newsletters
- Special recommendations for jobs or higher studies

16. Policy Review and Amendments

This policy shall be reviewed every **three years** or earlier if required, based on:

- Changes in government policies
- Performance analysis
- Feedback from innovators and stakeholders
- Recommendations from academic and industry advisors

Amendments will be approved by the Academic Council and Board of Management.



IES UNIVERSITY, BHOPAL

Approved by All India Council of Technical Education, Pharmacy Council of India, Madhya Pradesh Private University Regularity Committee

IES Campus Kalkheda, Ratibad Main Road, Bhopal (M.P.) – 462044

17. Conclusion

The Seed Funding Policy of IES University is a significant step toward fostering a vibrant culture of innovation, research, and entrepreneurship. By empowering students and faculty to pursue creative problem-solving, develop prototypes, launch startups, and contribute to socio-economic development, the university positions itself at the forefront of India's innovation landscape.

This policy not only supports early-stage ideas but also strengthens interdisciplinary collaboration, research commercialization, and industry engagement. Through structured funding mechanisms, transparent evaluation, continuous monitoring, and robust incubation support, IES University ensures that innovations born within its campus translate into impactful societal and economic outcomes.

The university remains committed to nurturing the next generation of innovators, researchers, and entrepreneurs who will lead the nation toward a technologically advanced and sustainable future.