

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

### **IKS Centers for Continuation and Center of Excellence**

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) on IKS Centers Funding**

### **General Questions**

**1. What are the funding mechanisms available for IKS Centers?**

The two funding mechanisms are:

1. Up to Rs. 5 Lakhs/year for existing IKS Centers (renewable annually for up to 4 years upon satisfactory performance).
2. Rs. 50 Lakhs/year for two years to establish a Center of Excellence (COE), with a maximum of three COEs being established annually.

**2. Who is eligible to apply for IKS funding under this Scheme?**

Only existing IKS Centers supported by the IKS Division are eligible to apply for this funding.

**3. Can new institutions apply for funding under this Scheme?**

No, only institutions with existing IKS Centers funded earlier by the IKS Division can apply. New Centers are requested to apply via the New Centers Scheme available in the Funding Opportunities Tab in our Website.

**4. What is the requirement for thematic focus areas?**

Each IKS Center must focus on a minimum of two and a maximum of four thematic areas.

**5. Can a proposal be submitted in languages other than English?**

Yes, proposals can be submitted in any Indian language included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution or in English.

### **Institutional Commitment & Grants**

**6. What is the minimum matching grant requirement from the institution?**

Institutions must provide a minimum matching grant of Rs. 5 Lakhs per year.

7. **Are higher matching grants encouraged?**  
Yes, higher matching grants strengthen the proposal and improve its chances of selection.
  
8. **Can the PI move to a different institution?**  
If the PI moves, the Co-PI may assume the role of PI with prior approval from the IKS Division. However, the IKS Center cannot be transferred to another institution.
  
9. **How is the funding utilized?**  
The funding supports **manpower (research fellows, project associates, interns), research supplies, facilities, outreach activities, travel for conferences (not international), and contingencies**. Institutional overhead is capped at **5% of the total budget**.  
Salary for PI and Co-PI are NOT supported through this funding.
  
10. **Can the funding be used for infrastructure development?**  
No. The IKS funding **cannot** be used for construction (brick-and-mortar) projects. Institutions must provide necessary facilities as part of their commitment (dedicated office space, furniture, computers, administrative support)
  
11. **What happens to the equipment purchased under the grant?**  
Any equipment (such as computers, printers, research tools) purchased under the grant **becomes the property of the host institution** after the project's completion.
  
12. **Can the grant be transferred to another institution?**  
No, funding cannot be transferred to another institution.
  
13. **How will the approved funding be communicated to the institution?**  
Once the project is selected, a formal intimation letter and sanction order will be issued by the IKS Division, detailing the total grant amount and the allocated budget as per the scheme guidelines.
  
14. **How should the organization handle financial accounting for the project?**  
The institution must maintain separate audited accounts for the project. Any interest earned on grant funds must be reported to the IKS Division and reflected in the Utilization Certificate (UC) and Payment & Receipt columns.

**15. What happens to unused grant funds?**

Any unspent balance must be returned to the IKS Division via RTGS, online transfer, or a demand draft in favor of the IKS Division, Ministry of Education.

**Project Implementation & Monitoring**

**16. How is the performance of IKS Centers evaluated?**

Performance is monitored through quarterly follow-ups, annual reports, and external expert reviews.

**17. What are the plagiarism policies for progress reports?**

All submitted progress reports must be original. Any report found to contain plagiarism will be rejected, and further funding will be discontinued.

**18. What happens if a center shows unsatisfactory progress?**

The IKS Division reserves the right to discontinue funding based on independent expert review.

**19. What reports are required after project completion?**

A detailed report, a 300-word summary, and photos, videos and other media must be submitted. These may be featured in the IKS annual report or website.

**20. Can the research outcomes be used for commercialization?**

Yes, research leading to practical solutions or products is encouraged, provided it aligns with the IKS Division's mission.

**Center of Excellence**

**1. What is an IKS Center of Excellence (COE)?**

A Center of Excellence (COE) is a specialized research hub within an existing IKS center that receives enhanced funding support to conduct high-impact research, develop solutions to societal challenges, and advance scholarly work in Indian Knowledge Systems.

2. **How many COEs will be established each year?**  
A maximum of three COEs will be established in any given year from the existing IKS centers.
  
3. **Who is eligible to apply for a COE?**  
Only **existing IKS Centers** who have **completed 2 years** of support by the IKS Division are eligible to apply for the COE grant. The scheme is primarily designed for established academic institutions engaged in research and academic programs.
  
4. **How many thematic areas should the COE focus on?**  
The COE should work on two thematic areas.
  
5. **What is the funding amount for a COE?**  
Each COE is eligible for funding of **₹50 Lakhs per year** for a period of **two years**.
  
5. **What is the required minimum matching grant from the institution for a COE?**  
Institutions must provide a **minimum matching grant of ₹5 Lakhs per year in actual funding**. Dedicated Center Space, Furniture, Computers, Administrative Staff & Support is mandatory. Recruitment of permanent dedicated faculty in the Center is strongly encouraged.
  
6. **How do institutions apply for a COE?**  
Eligible institutions must submit a comprehensive proposal via the IKS Division's online portal before the specified deadline through the same Application form for the Continuation of the Centers. The selected Centers through the evaluation process will be designated as a COE. A maximum of 3 Centers will be chosen as COE in any given year.
  
7. **How is the progress of a COE monitored?**  
COEs must submit **quarterly reports** and an **annual progress report**. An independent expert committee will review progress before approving continued funding.
  
8. **Can a COE continue beyond two years?**  
The initial funding is for **two years**. If a COE demonstrates **outstanding**

**performance**, it may be considered for extended support, subject to approval by the IKS Division and availability of funds.

9. **What happens if a COE does not meet performance expectations?**

If a COE **fails to show satisfactory progress**, as determined by an independent review, the IKS Division reserves the right to **discontinue funding** and disestablish the COE.

10. **What are the deliverables expected at the end of the COE project?**

COEs must submit:

1. A **detailed final report**
2. A **300-word summary** for public dissemination
3. **Photos, Videos, other Media and documentation** of research activities

11. **Can a COE use funds to hire faculty?**

No. COE funds **cannot** be used for PI or Co-PI salaries. However, they can support **research fellows, project associates, and interns**.

Hosting Visiting Faculty especially from Traditional Backgrounds relevant to the COE themes is permissible.