

THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, INDIA

5, Lajpatrai Road, Prayagraj - 211002

NASI Distinguished Professor Scheme for the year 2025 (with fellowship & without fellowship)

The NASI invites nominations/applications for the NASI Distinguished Professor program (with fellowship and honorary) to enable NASI Fellows active in research and teaching to continue working in a recognized University/ Research Institute/ R&D Centre in India after superannuation for the year 2025.

Nominations/applications from the NASI Fellows are invited by April 15 and processed within the same financial year.

Submission of Nomination:

The nomination/application should have a concise proposal (<2 pages), an updated CV, a list of publications, and possibly an endorsement letter (which can also be submitted even later) from their intended host institution. The eligibility age will be calculated as of December 31st in the year of the nomination/application.

Submission Method: The nominations/applications are invited from NASI Fellows by April 15 via email to council@nasi.ac.in or send the hard copy to the official address of NASI. They will be processed within the same financial year.

The named scheme will be decided by the Search-cum-Selection Committee.

Host Institution: The endorsement letter must confirm that the host institution will provide the facilities and resources for the nominee, which can be submitted even after receiving the sanction letter.

The format of the endorsement letter is enclosed as Appendix 1.

NASI Distinguished Professors (with fellowship)

The Academy has established Chairs to honour distinguished retired scientists for their lifetime achievements and impactful contributions to Science, Engineering and Medicine. These Chairs are collectively named '**NASI Distinguished Professors.**'

Each Chair represents a prestigious acknowledgement of excellence and dedication to advancing knowledge in these fields. Associated with leading research institutions, universities or R&D centres across India, the recipients will continue to inspire and mentor the next generation of researchers while contributing to the scientific community. A search-cum-selection committee will recommend nominees to the Council for approval.

Eligibility

- Superannuated Fellows of NASI (retired at pay level 15 or above) residing in India (as Indian citizens or OCIs) without any salary, besides their pension will be eligible.
- The maximum age limit for the NASI Distinguished Professorship program is 75 years (on 31st December in the year of nomination/application).
- Fellows currently holding positions that provide a regular fellowship or salary are not eligible.
- Distinguished Honorary Professors may be nominated for the Distinguished Professorship, provided they are below 75.

Number of Chairs

- Starting in 2025, 10 Chairs will be available, with no more than three awarded annually.
- Four of these Chairs are named (MN Saha Distinguished Professor, ICMR Chair in Public Health Research, JC Bose Distinguished Professor Chair, and NASI Distinguished Woman Scientist Chair), while the remaining six will be designated as 'NASI Distinguished Professors'. These Chairs will be filled as they become vacant and allocated by the Search cum Selection Committee.

Duration

The Chairs have a tenure of three years, which may be extended for an additional two years based on a review during the initial term. Selected Distinguished Professors are required to assume the position within six months from the date of the offer letter.

Honorarium and Contingency Grant

- The Professorship carries a consolidated honorarium of Rs 1.25 lakh per month.
- A contingency grant of Rs 3.00 lakhs per annum will be provided.

Utilization of Contingency Grant

- The contingency grant may be utilized for:
 - Small research equipment, desktop computers, laptops, printers, scanners, stationery etc.
 - Manpower for Secretarial assistance (within the contingency grant).
 - Work-related travel (including international), registration fees for conferences, per diem, and accommodation, as per the norms of the host institute.
- All items purchased from the contingency grant will become the property of the host institute upon completion of the tenure.

- If the NASI Distinguished Professor wishes to retain any items purchased using the contingency grant, they may pay 10% of the cost to the host institute, provided the items were purchased within the first two years of the Professorship.

Leave

Distinguished Professors should follow the leave rule of the host institutes.

Selection Process

- A search-cum-selection committee (SCSC) consisting of the president (Chair), one past president, both the general secretaries and a member, preferably among the council members, will send recommendations of the selected nominees for the council's approval. If any SCSC member is an applicant, the President can replace them with any suitable person.
- The recipient will be announced at the subsequent Council Meeting. The award offer will remain valid for six months from the date of issuance by the Academy.

Obligations

- **Working Facilities:** The host institution shall provide all necessary working facilities to the NASI Distinguished Professors. The funds will be disbursed to the institution by NASI.
- **Financial Accountability:** The host institution must submit an audited statement of accounts and a utilization certificate to NASI annually.
- **Intellectual Property Rights (IPR):** The IPR arising from the awardee's work will be governed by the host institution's policies.
- **Acknowledgement:** All publications resulting from the work undertaken during the Professorship must acknowledge the NASI Distinguished Professorship.
- **Annual Reporting:** The recipients must submit a report of their work, an audited Utilization Certificate, and a statement of expenditure to NASI. Continuation of the grant for subsequent years is contingent upon submitting these reports.
- **Final Report:** At the end of the three-year tenure, awardees must submit a report.
- **Account Settlement:** The final adjustment and settlement of accounts must be completed within 60 days after the end of the Professorship tenure.

- NASI Meetings: Awardees may be invited to deliver a talk during one of the NASI meetings upon completion of their tenure (3+2 years) as NASI Distinguished Professors.
- Outreach Activities: Distinguished professors are encouraged to participate actively in outreach programs to inspire school and college students and foster interest in science and engineering.
- Regulation Amendments: These regulations may be revised or amended at any time by the Council of NASI.
- Capacity Building: The recipients are encouraged to mentor young researchers at the host institution, contributing to capacity-building efforts in their field of expertise.

NASI Distinguished Honorary Professors (without fellowship)

The programme is for well-known senior NASI Fellows, including NASI distinguished professors, and the recipient will be designated as “NASI Distinguished Honorary Professor.”

Eligibility

Superannuated NASI Fellows (retired from pay level 15 or above), at any age, even beyond 75 years, residing and working in India (Indian citizen/OCI) are eligible. The person should be a well-known researcher who enjoys respect among peers, reflected by national/international recognition.

Number of Positions

A maximum of 10 Chairs for the first term (initial five years) will be available starting in 2025, with no more than three awarded in any year. The number of positions will be determined annually by the NASI Council, depending on the availability of funds for the contingency. There is no limit of numbers for the second/third term or even first term without contingency.

Tenure & Selection

- Term: The initial term is five years with contingency and is extendable further without contingency.
- Selection: An SCSC consisting of the president (Chair), one past president, both the general secretaries and a member, preferably among the council members, will send recommendations of the selected nominees for the council's approval. The SCSC can recommend suitable people for this position without contingency directly after getting the consent letter from the person (*no limit in numbers*). If any SCSC member is an applicant, the President can replace them with any suitable person.

Financial Commitment

- Contingency grant (only for the first five-year term): Rs. 2,00,000 annually, released through the host institution. From the second term onward, the person can carry the designation without any contingency grant.
- Grant utilization: For small equipment, Laptop, stationary, travel, registration fees, per diem, accommodation, etc., as per host institution norms.
- Purchased items: Property of the host institution after tenure unless retained by the Fellow by paying 10% of the cost (if purchased within the first two years).

Obligations

- It is the same as for the Distinguished Professor.