



# GAABESU Research Awards – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## Goals

### **Q1. What are the GAABESU Research Awards?**

A1. GAABESU Research Award is different from other types of awards. This award is to provide incentives to the IEST's undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) students for carrying out research in IEST, Shibpur or at any national/international institutions and publishing the results of their research in a reputed technical conference or in a journal.

### **Q2. Why did GAABESU create this new category of awards?**

A2. GAABESU inherited an existing alumni scholarship program and expanded it further to help financially the needy students to continue their education at IEST, Shibpur by providing merit-cum-need based scholarships. GAABESU expanded the scholarship program with Alumni Fellowship in Excellence, based on academic excellence and extracurricular activities. The research award is exclusively to promote academic research among IEST, Shibpur students.

## Students

### **Q3. What are the requirements for research awards for a student?**

A3. It is expected that a present IEST, Shibpur UG/PG student will carry out the research either at IEST or any other external institution maintaining full time student status at the institute. The student needs to apply formally and include a poster/paper presented or accepted at a national or international conference or in a journal. A student can also apply if s/he applied for any patent based on her/his work as a student at IEST, Shibpur.

### **Q4. If students work in a team, can they all apply?**

A4. Yes, if they only worked on a single project, we recommend they apply separately but mention that they worked on a single project. If their project is selected as a winner, total prize money will be distributed among the members of the project. If a student doesn't apply, s/he will not receive the prize

money. If students work on a team project and, in addition, they have worked on a different project, each will be considered as an individual participant and the prize money will not be shared.

**Q5. Can I apply if I have done a summer project outside of IEST Shibpur?**

A5. Yes, as long as you are a full-time student at IEST, you can apply with your project done outside of IEST.

**Q6. What are the benefits to the students?**

A6. Winners will receive prize money which they can use to attend a conference, to buy books or pay the subscription to a journal or purchase any equipment to perform their research. They will be coached by an experienced alumni for oral presentation. They will have a chance to present their research to our global alumni community.

**Q7. Is it for UG students?**

A7. No, we have one award exclusively for PG. If we don't have any PG applications, we award it to two UG students. We intend to expand PG awards subject to donations.

**Q8. What factors are considered to select a winner?**

A8. 25% for academic grades at IEST and 75% for research. A first author in a paper gets higher points than being 2nd or 3rd author. A refereed journal paper gets higher points than a conference poster/paper. No points are awarded for JEE rank nor HS (or equivalent) grades.

**Q9. Is there any income limit for research awards?**

A9. No, we don't consider family income for the research awards. We don't even need your family income information as these awards are exclusively for research accomplishments.

**Q10. Can I apply for scholarships, alumni fellows and research awards in the same academic year?**

A10. Yes, as a full-time student, you can apply to all awards. In case you are selected for more than one category of GAABESU award, you will be asked to select one as you can only receive one award in an academic year from GAABESU.

## Donors

**Q11. How much money do I need to donate to initiate a new research award?**

A11. The amount varies based on the inflation and return on investment. Funds donated in INR are invested as Fixed Deposits in India while funds donated in USD are invested at Vanguard (Mutual Funds Company in USA). Return of these investments is used to award a research award. Please contact the GAABESU Office for the donation amount and payment information.

**Q12. What are the benefits for the donors?**

A12. The donors in India donating in INR will receive 80G Income tax benefit. The donors in the USA donating in USD will receive 501(C) income tax benefit. The donor can name the award honoring his/her loved one. The donor will be invited to present the award at the annual award ceremony in person or by his/her family members.

**Q13. Who can be a donor for a research award?**

A13. Any alumnus or his/her family member as an individual or any alumni chapter/a batch as a group can sponsor a research award. The amount will be the same irrespective of whether it is donated individually or as a group.

## Process & GAABESU

**Q14. How are the funds managed to run the program perpetually?**

A14. USD funds are invested in mutual funds in the USA and INR funds are invested in Fixed Deposit in India. The interest and dividend are only used to award annually conserving the principal.

**Q15. Who reviews the applications and selects the winners?**

A15. GAABESU forms a selection committee comprising of distinguished alumni involved in research in India and Abroad to review each application and grade them. Final selection is done taking the average of these grades. In recent years, Deans and Directors from IITs/IISERs, Directors of CSIR Research Institutes and Distinguished Researchers, Professors/Deans in the USA and Canada have served in these selection committees. Committee members are changed on a regular basis.

**Q16. What is the overall application process?**

A16. Beginning of each academic year, GAABESU announces the number of awards and the amount for each award. GAABESU seeks applications electronically. Once applications are collected by the GAABESU office, they are circulated to the committee members for adjudication and winners are selected based on the ranking. Finally, on a selected day, the winners present their research to the alumni community and collect the awards as well as the prize money from the GAABESU Office.

*Last updated in January 2023. Please contact GAABESU Office via email [gaabesu@gmail.com](mailto:gaabesu@gmail.com) for any questions or comments.*