

Australia–India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF) Early- and Mid-Career Researcher (EMCR) Fellowships: information for referees

The AISRF EMCR Fellowships provide Australian early- and mid-career researchers with funding to undertake collaborative research at leading institutions in India. The program helps researchers build strong, long-term partnerships, expand their international networks, and develop as future leaders in science. Fellows are expected to deliver projects of clear scientific merit and foster diversity and inclusion in science.

Applicants will provide you with this document, their proposal, and information about the AISRF EMCR Fellowships program to support the preparation of your report.

Referees are asked to address the following points in their report:

- Please describe your expertise and relationship to the applicant (including how closely your field aligns with the applicant's).
- Please outline your view of the scientific merit of the proposal and whether its expected outcomes will provide value to Australian science and the Australia–India research relationship.
- Do you think the proposed visit is feasible and well designed to achieve the project objectives (including an appropriate plan, timing and duration), and is the host researcher, organisation and location a good fit for the proposed collaboration?
- Does the proposed visit demonstrate meaningful engagement with India's research environment, scientific practices and systems, and support cross-cultural understanding and learning that will strengthen long-term collaboration?
- Does the applicant show potential to become a leader in the Australian science sector, considering their achievements relative to career stage?
- Please comment on the applicant's commitment to diversity and inclusion in research, and whether the project will create opportunities for contributions from people of varied backgrounds, particularly those underrepresented in science.
- Do you have any professional or personal connections with the applicant, such as joint publications or previous collaborations?

The signed referee report should be on institutional letterhead and sent electronically to the applicant in time for them to include it in their grant application. The deadline for applicants to submit proposals is **5 pm (AEST), Monday 20 July 2026**.

Thank you for your contribution to supporting this application.