

**Global Climate and Environmental Research Fellowship (GCERF)
HOST INSTITUTION MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

between
National Academy of Sciences
and
The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur

Section I: Participating Parties

This Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) is entered into by and between the National Academy of Sciences (“NAS”) located at 2101 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20418, and The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur (IITK/Host Institution), located at P.O. IIT Kanpur, Kalyanpur, Kanpur, U.P.-208016, India. NAS and the IITK/Host Institution may be referred to individually as a “Party” and collectively as the “Parties.”

NAS point of contact:

Dr. Dalal Najib
Senior Director, International Networks, Cooperation, and Security
National Academy of Sciences
dnajib@nas.edu
202-445-4806

IITK/ Host Institution point of contact:

Prof. Sachchida Nand Tripathi
Dean, Kotak School of Sustainability
Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur
snt@iitk.ac.in
[Phone]

Section II: Background and Purpose of Agreement

NAS is developing the Global Climate and Environmental Research Fellowship (“GCERF”), a new initiative designed to support U.S.-based researchers in conducting collaborative climate and environmental research with partner institutions outside the United States. The fellowship model centers on placing U.S.-based researchers at international host institutions for a defined period of in-residence collaboration.

The purpose of this MOU is to establish the framework for collaboration between NAS and the Host Institution in support of GCERF. Through this collaboration, the Parties intend to support

immersive, in-person research experiences that enable fellows to contribute to ongoing research at the Host Institution while building sustained professional relationships with counterparts abroad.

The Parties recognize a shared interest in advancing climate and environmental research, strengthening international research collaboration, supporting early- and mid-career research talent, and developing fellowship placements that align with host institution priorities, research strengths, and local context. This MOU is intended to define the roles, responsibilities, and areas of cooperation between the Parties as they work together to shape and implement GCERF fellowship placements.

Section III: Scope and Objectives of the Agreement

The scope of this MOU is limited to the Parties' collaboration in the design and implementation of placements for up to **two Fellows** at the Host Institution with additional placements possible based on the availability of funds and mutual agreement in writing. The fellowship placements will involve U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are selected for temporary in-residence placement at the Host Institution for a period of up to **six months**. The fellowship is intended to further the professional development and training of the fellows. Fellows are not employees of NAS or the Host Institution and are not entitled to employee benefits provided by either Party.

Section IV: Terms of Agreement

i. Responsible activities of each Party

a. NAS Role:

The primary responsibilities of NAS are:

Program Design and Administration

- Provide overall program leadership and administrative oversight for GCERF.
- Establish the core fellowship structure, eligibility parameters, application process, review process, and general program requirements.
- The term of each fellowship is a maximum of Six (6) months (the "Term").
- Coordinate with the Host Institution to identify suitable fellowship placement opportunities aligned with the Host Institution's research priorities and the education and training of fellows.
- Work with the Host Institution to develop fellowship placement descriptions and related recruitment materials.

Recruitment, Review, and Selection

- Lead recruitment of prospective fellows, including outreach to eligible U.S.-citizens and permanent residents.
- Manage the fellow application process.
- Coordinate the review and selection process in consultation with the Host Institution. NAS will make the final fellowship award decision after consultation with the Host Institution.

- Provide the Host Institution with relevant application materials for candidates under consideration, subject to applicable privacy, confidentiality, and program requirements.
- Incorporate Host Institution input regarding candidate fit, placement alignment, and technical qualifications into the selection process.

Fellow Support and Program Activities

- Provide fellows with pre-departure information and orientation materials, as appropriate.
- Communicate program expectations to selected fellows, including expectations regarding in-residence participation, research engagement, professional conduct, and compliance with applicable host institution policies.
- Support fellow participation in NAS-led professional development activities, subject to program design and available funding.
- Serve as a point of contact for fellows regarding NAS program requirements, fellowship administration, and program-related questions.

Monitoring, Communication, and Relationship Management

- Maintain regular communication with the Host Institution regarding fellowship implementation, fellow progress, and any issues requiring coordination between the Parties.
- Coordinate with the Host Institution to address concerns that may arise during the fellowship period.
- Support periodic review of the partnership and fellowship model to identify lessons learned and opportunities for improvement.
- Promote, as appropriate and subject to applicable approvals, the visibility of GCERF and the Parties' collaboration.

b. Host Institution Role:

The primary responsibilities of the Host Institution are:

Placement Design and Selection

- Identify specific research projects, groups, and principal investigators for fellow placement along with any areas of desired fellow expertise
- Collaborate with NAS to finalize institution description for use in program recruitment materials
- Participate in the review and selection of fellows, including assessing candidate fit and ranking top applicants, interviewing candidates, and identifying of appropriate host institution project placements.

Research Supervision and Integration

- Facilitate the integration of fellows into the intellectual life of the institution
- Provide point of contact to coordinate research collaborations with individual projects

- Designate a primary mentor/supervisor to oversee each fellow's research and day-to-day engagement
- Ensure the fellow is effectively integrated into an existing research project or team
- Provide access to relevant facilities, resources, and institutional activities

Administrative and On-Site Support

- Coordinate and support the appropriate visa process for the fellow, including
 - Work with fellow to issue necessary documentation to obtain appropriate visa
 - Support fellow interfacing with Indian Embassy on visa-related questions
 - Provide designated point of contact for visa-related questions
- Support fellows in fulfilling obligations related to taxation and payment under India law, including
 - Facilitate any required tax withholdings and payment to appropriate Indian authority as applicable
 - Provide designated point of contact for tax-related questions
- Support fellows' medical care by providing information before arrival on how fellows can access medical care for common situations such as:
 - Routine and preventive care
 - Acute illness and minor injury care
 - Emergency and hospital care
 - Chronic condition and prescription support
 - Mental health and counseling services
 - Reproductive, sexual, and prenatal health
 - Dental, vision, and other specialty care
- Provide designated point of contact to support fellows in accessing and navigating local medical facilities:
 - Accessing to the local Health Center at Host Institution
 - Identifying and locating appropriate facilities for specific needs
 - Providing language support
 - Making appointments (as needed)
 - Accessing after-hours care
 - Understanding payment and/or reimbursement requirements
 - Navigating medical referral processes if applicable
 - Communicating with emergency contacts if needed
 - Other general support navigating the local health system
- Provide or facilitate access to housing and meals by:
 - Host Institution shall provide furnished housing during the Term with a minimum of 1-bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, area to study
 - Provide access to visiting faculty on-campus meal plan and cafeteria.

- Support onboarding and orientation, including navigation of local administrative systems (e.g., registration, banking, healthcare access)
- Serve as a primary point of contact for addressing on-site needs during the fellowship Term.

ii. Other terms and conditions

- a. **Institutional Policies:** Fellows hosted under this MOU shall be expected to comply with applicable Host Institution policies, procedures, and requirements while in residence, including policies related to research conduct, workplace conduct, health and safety, information technology, laboratory access, and other relevant institutional requirements. NAS shall communicate this expectation to fellows prior to placement.

The Host Institution shall inform NAS and the fellow of applicable institutional policies and procedures relevant to the placement, including any requirements that must be completed before the Fellow begins work on site.

- b. **Research Outputs, Publications, and Acknowledgment:** The Parties anticipate that fellowship placements may contribute to research outputs, publications, presentations, policy-relevant products, or other forms of scholarly or professional dissemination. Any such written outputs shall be handled in accordance with applicable Host Institution policies and any additional written arrangements agreed to by the Parties. Nothing in this MOU transfers ownership of intellectual property between the Parties.

The Host Institution shall acknowledge the Global climate and Environmental Research fellowship (GCERF), the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the Host Institution, and any relevant funders or collaborators in publications, presentations, communications, or other products resulting from fellowship activities.

- c. **Branding and Communications:** NAS approval is required prior to the use of NAS names, logos, branding, or other institutional identification on materials, announcements, publications, webpages, press releases, or other products derived from or related to this collaboration.

The Host Institution's approval is required prior to the use of its name, logo, branding, or other institutional identification on materials, announcements, publications, webpages, press releases, or other products derived from or related to this collaboration.

The Parties shall coordinate in advance regarding any public communications related to fellowship placements, selected fellows, or joint activities.

d. Financial and In-Kind Contributions

The financial responsibilities of each Party are as follows:

NAS to cover expenses for:

- Overall fellowship administration and related program activities
- Recruitment, selection, and placement of fellows
- Pre-departure orientation in the United States
- Fellow stipend
- Fellow travel expenses, which are subject to NAS's travel policies
- Fellow visa fees
- Fellow travel accident and travel emergency insurance
- Staff site visits as needed

Host Institution shall cover expenses for:

- Fellow housing
- Access to facilities and research resources
- Access to Health Centre free of charge
- Local Faculty host at IIT-K
- Research project placement identification and support
- Local fellow and administrative support (as outlined in section Section IV.i.b. of this MOU)

Nothing in this MOU obligates either Party to provide funding beyond the foregoing program requirements during the Term.

- e. **Information Sharing and Confidentiality:** The Parties may share information reasonably necessary to support fellowship recruitment, selection, placement design, fellow support, and program administration. Each Party shall handle such information in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, institutional policies, and any confidentiality obligations that may apply.

The Parties shall not disclose confidential, proprietary, or sensitive information received from the other Party except as authorized by the disclosing Party or as required by law.

- f. **Dispute Resolution:** Any dispute arising from the interpretation or application of this MOU shall be addressed through good-faith consultation between the Parties. The Parties shall seek to resolve disputes through mutual agreement. In the event that a dispute cannot be resolved through such consultations, the dispute shall be finally resolved by arbitration in accordance with UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. The seat of arbitration shall be mutually agreed upon by the Parties. The arbitration proceeding shall be conducted in English, and the arbitral award shall be final and binding on the Parties. Each Party shall bear its own costs of the arbitration unless the arbitrator

otherwise directs. This MOU shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the country in which defendant Party is established.

- g. **Modification:** This MOU constitutes the entire agreement between the Parties with respect to its subject matter and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous discussions, communications, understandings, and agreements, whether written or oral, concerning such subject matter. This MOU may be modified only by written agreement of the Parties.
- h. **Termination:** Either Party may terminate this MOU by providing written notice to the other Party at least 30 days in advance. In the event of termination, the Parties shall cooperate regarding the orderly completion or early termination of any active placement and their respective financial and administrative responsibilities associated with that placement, and shall seek to minimize disruption to fellows, host research teams, and ongoing activities.

iii. **No Agency**

This MOU shall not be construed to create an association, joint venture, employment relationship, agency relationship, or legal partnership between the Parties, nor shall it impose any partnership obligation or liability on either Party. Neither Party is authorized to act as an agent, representative, or legal partner of the other Party.

iv. **Effective Date**

This MOU shall be effective upon execution by the Parties as of the date of the last signature below (Effective Date). This MOU will remain in effect from Effective Date to April 30, 2028, unless extended, modified, or terminated earlier by written agreement of the Parties.

v. **Force Majeure:**

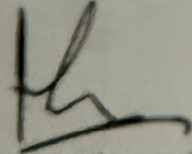
Each Party shall be excused from performance of the MOU only to the extent that the performance is prevented by conditions beyond reasonable control of the affected Party. The Party claiming excuse for the delayed performance will promptly notify the other Party and will resume its performance as soon as performance is possible.

Section V: Authorized Signatures

Elizabeth J. Molyé
Senior Contract Manager
Office of Contracts and Grants
National Academy of Sciences
Telephone: (202) 334-1403
E-mail: emolye@nas.edu

Elizabeth J.
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 Digitally signed by Elizabeth J.
Molyé
Date: 2026.09.14 16:08:36 -04'00'



Prof. Manindra Agrawal
Director
Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
Telephone:
Email: manindra@iitk.ac.in

Revised: 09/14/2026 DRAFT