Indian Microgravity Experiments (iMEx-2026) AO

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is eligible to submit proposals under this AO?

Eligible entities are as specified in the AO, typically including Indian academic institutions, government laboratories, private research organisations, start-ups, MSMEs, and industry units that meet the stated criteria.

2. Can multiple institutions collaborate on a single proposal?

Yes. Collaborative proposals involving multiple institutions are encouraged, subject to the terms outlined in the AO.

3. Who can apply?

Indian start-ups, MSMEs, industry units, private R&D laboratories, government laboratories, academic institutions, and other eligible entities may apply independently if they meet the requirements specified in the AO.

4. Can students be part of the experiment team?

Yes. Students may participate as team members under the guidance of an eligible Principal Investigator.

5. What types of experiments are within the scope of this AO?

The AO covers experiments that address scientific or technological questions influenced by reduced gravity, as described in the AO document.

6. Can technology demonstration experiments be proposed?

Technology-demonstration experiments may be proposed if they align with the objectives of the AO and are appropriate for the specified platforms.

7. Is this AO only for space-station–type experiments?

Not necessarily. The AO may include ground-based or reduced-gravity demonstrations, as specified in the announcement. Experiments that can be carried out on appropriate terrestrial platforms subject to scientific feasibility may also be submitted

8. Can theoretical or simulation-driven proposals be considered?

Experiment-driven proposal backed may be backed by Theoretical or simulationbased components may be included, as per AO guidelines.

9. What kinds of phenomena are typically suitable for microgravity studies?

Phenomena influenced by gravity—such as transport processes, phase behaviour, interfaces, biological responses, or material behaviour—are typically suitable.

10. What level of experimental maturity is expected?

Proposals should present a clear question, rationale, and feasible experimental approach appropriate to the stage defined in the AO. The proposal should demonstrate feasibility, a measurement strategy, and expected outcomes at a level appropriate to the AO.

11. What are common weaknesses to avoid in proposals?

Common weaknesses include unclear hypotheses, lack of microgravity relevance, overly broad objectives, infeasible experimental plans, and inconsistent resource requirements (mass, power, form-factor)

12. What constitutes a scientifically meaningful microgravity hypothesis?

A meaningful hypothesis clearly explains the role of gravity and predicts measurable changes under reduced-gravity conditions.

13. What are the main evaluation criteria for proposals?

Proposals are typically evaluated based on scientific merit, relevance to microgravity, feasibility, and team capability, as specified in the AO.

14. How is scientific merit balanced with feasibility?

Both aspects are considered together to ensure that selected proposals are meaningful and executable.

15. Is diversity of domains considered during selection?

Domain diversity may be considered where it aligns with AO objectives.

16. How the outcome of evaluation would be communicated?

Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be communicated through individual emails.

17. What happens after a proposal is selected?

Selected proposals typically proceed to refinement, technical reviews, and execution of the planned activity.

18. What is the typical timeline after selection?

Timelines depend on the nature of the experiment, platform availability, and readiness.

19. What facilities or platforms may be used for experiments?

Facilities or platforms will be determined based on experiment requirements. Nonorbital platforms may include drop towers, sounding rockets, or parabolic flights.

20. Will technical guidance be provided during development?

Technical interactions, reviews, or guidance may be provided as part of AO execution.

21. How are safety and regulatory requirements handled?

All experiments must comply with applicable safety, ethical, and regulatory requirements of the selected microgravity platform. The Principal Investigator shall ensure compliance.

22. What types of support are provided to selected teams?

Support may include access to facilities, technical interactions, or other assistance as defined in the AO.

23. What responsibilities do participating teams have?

The responsibilities of the Principal Investigator typically include conceptualisation, design, development, realisation, testing and qualification, handover for integration, data analysis, and publication.

24. Who owns the data and results from the experiments?

Data ownership and usage rights will be governed by the terms specified in the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs). ISRO/DoS will propose a data sharing policy at appropriate time.

25. Are participants allowed to publish their results?

Publication is permitted, subject to approvals, and applicable agreements. Guidelines will be defined in MoU

26. How do ground demonstrations connect to future flight opportunities?

Ground demonstrations help validate concepts and build technical maturity, which may support future opportunities.

27. How can participants build long-term engagement with future microgravity research opportunities?

Participants may continue through iterative experiments, collaborations, and future opportunities.

28. Can participation contribute to technology development, space heritage, or future commercial opportunities?

Participation may contribute to technical knowledge, capability building, and experience that can support future scientific, technological, or commercial activities.

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