Global competitiveness in the changing global knowledge economy calls for expansion and right-sizing of the Research and Development base of the country. Need for special interventions for attracting youth to study of natural sciences and careers with research is well recognized. INSPIRE is a Program launched by the Government of India to strengthen the National Science and Technology base. It is being implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST). INSPIRE is one such innovative programs proposed by DST for attraction of young talent to science. The basic objective of INSPIRE would be to communicate to the youth population of the country the excitements of creative pursuit of science and attract talent to the study of science at an early stage and build the required critical human resource pool for strengthening and expanding the Science & Technology system and R&D base. Government of India has approved this program in November 2008 at a total cost of ₹1979.25 Crores in the 11th Plan Period and Hon'ble Prime Minister launched the Program on 13th December 2008.

Motivating talented youth to take-up research as a personal undertaking by rubbing shoulders with global icons of science including Nobel Prize Winners, is the objective of INSPIRE Internship. This component of the program aims to work as a life-long catalysing experience for the 11th graders in science stream. Striking feature of the program is that it does not believe in conducting competitive exams for identification of talent at any level. It believes in and relies on the efficacy of the existing educational structure for identification of talent. The strength of the innovation infrastructure of a nation has enormous significance in the competition between emerging knowledge economies. The realization of Vision 2020 calls for action and a well designed innovation infrastructure.

Generation and nurturing of a human talent pool capable of utilizing and developing first principles in science is both a pre-condition and integral part of such an innovation infrastructure. An India specific model for attracting talent with an aptitude for research and innovation, for a career in basic & natural sciences is required. INSPIRE is an innovative program developed by the DST to attract talent to the excitement and study of science at an early age, and to help the country build the required critical resource pool for strengthening and expanding the S&T system and R&D base. It is a program with long term foresight.

This Program includes 3-components namely Scheme for Early Attraction of Talents for Science (SEATS), Scholarships for Higher Education (SHE) and Assured Opportunity for Research Careers (AORC).

One of the components of Scheme for Early Attraction of Talent for Science (SEATS) is INSPIRE Internship in which annually about 50,000 students of top 1% performers in Class X board examinations and pursuing science at plus 2 level will be given an exposure with leaders in science in the Science camps to experience the joy of innovations. In Chennai, Vel Tech Rangarajan Dr. Sagunthala R&D Institute of Science and Technology has been assigned with the responsibility for organizing this camp.

Intern Selection Criteria:
Based on top 1% on Class X Board examination & pursuing science at Class XI & Class XII.
Duration of the each Course: August 01st – 05th, 2018 (5 days)
Principal’s are advised to nominate the eligible students for the above science camp.
Eligibility:

Top 1% of students in their X Board Examination and pursuing science in Higher Secondary School Education i.e., 11th and 12th standard are eligible to participate in this program. In case number of students within 1% of respective State Education Board is more than the allocated number for that state, top rankers will be selected for INSPIRE Internship. The cut-off percentage for State and Central Boards Class X Examination is following.

Percentage Cut-off Marks of State & Central Boards in class X for eligibility of students to participate in the INSPIRE Internship Camps during 2018 as prescribed by DST, New Delhi.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S.No</th>
<th>Name of Board</th>
<th>Percentage Cut-off Marks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Tamil Nadu State SSLC</td>
<td>94.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>CBSE</td>
<td>CGPA -A1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>ICSE</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Viswa-Bharathi</td>
<td>95.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>AMU Board</td>
<td>86.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Marks Obtained

% - Marks = ----------------------------------------- X 100
Maximum Possible Marks

Mentors & their Role:

Mentors for INSPIRE Internship would be various Academy Fellows, Bhatnagar Awardees and Scientists of national & international repute. Mentors role would be to interact with the students through lectures related to scientific success stories and joys of innovation across all science streams which in turn would nourish the curiosity of children in science; help them to think out of the box and attract them at an early age of 16-17 years to enroll/pursue their academics/career in science. This will be followed by personal interaction in an exclusive set up at the camp.

Important Dates:

Science Camp Date: August 01st – 05th, 2018 (5 days)
Last Date for Application Submission: 28th July 2018
Publication of selected candidates list: 30th July 2018

Important to Note

- All expenses including lodging & boarding are to be borne by DST. Participating students and institutions have no financial liability on their parts.
- Students who have attended similar INSPIRE Internship Science Camp earlier elsewhere need not apply.
- Selected students must report to Veltech University hostel on 31st July, 2018 evening and all participating students must stay in hostel for entire 5 Days.

Contact Details

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