

Eligibility Criteria for SPARC Institutions

The eligibility criteria for the Institutions to be involved in SPARC were framed initially in 2018-19 during the inception of the scheme and revised afterwards in the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) meeting held on 9th December 2021.

(A) Eligibility criteria of Indian Institutions:

(1) Top 100 Higher Education Institutions as per the NIRF* (National Institutional Ranking Framework, MoE) are eligible under SPARC.

(*The link for NIRF ranking: <https://www.nirfindia.org/Home>)

(2) All Central Universities and Institutes of National Importance* (including those having a NIRF ranking of more than 100) are eligible under SPARC.

(*The link for Central Universities list: <https://www.education.gov.in/central-universities>)

*The link for Institutes of National Importance list: <https://www.education.gov.in/institutions-national-importance>)

(B) Eligibility criteria of Overseas Institutions:

(1) Top 800 Overseas Higher Education Institutions based on the QS* (Quacquarelli Symonds) world ranking, from as many as 28 foreign countries* (the countries originally involved in SPARC), will be under the purview of SPARC.

(*The link for QS World ranking: <https://www.topuniversities.com/world-university-rankings>)

(*Link for all partner countries in SPARC: https://sparc.iitkgp.ac.in/partner_countries.php)

(C) Special Considerations:

As per the discussion held in the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) Meeting on 9th December 2021, to bring more Indian Institutions / Universities and Indian Investigators under the purview of SPARC the following points are suggested:

(1) In addition to above mentioned eligibility criteria, countries and institutions may be added with the approval of competent authority in the Ministry based on research requirements in upcoming areas.

(2) Priority may be given to the projects across the Institutes, involving high-ranking Indian Institutes in collaboration with lower-ranked Indian Institutes. This will enhance the involvement of a greater number of Indian institutions in the project proposal.