

FABA and Shantha Excellence Awards 2026

Application Guidelines

The Federation of Asian Biotech Associations (FABA), in partnership with Shantha Biotechnics and Dr. K. I. Varaprasada Reddy, invites applications and nominations for the FABA and Shantha Excellence Awards 2026. The Awards recognise young scientists, entrepreneurs, and doctoral researchers whose work is advancing biotechnology and the life sciences in India.

This document outlines the award categories, eligibility criteria, required documents, and the application process for both award tracks. Please read the relevant section carefully before applying.

Award Categories

Award	Cash Prize	For
Young Scientist Award	₹5,00,000	Innovators under 40 with breakthrough contributions in drug discovery or biotech product/prototype development
Doctoral Award — Male	₹1,00,000	Original doctoral research in life sciences with translational / real-world impact
Doctoral Award — Female	₹1,00,000	Original doctoral research in life sciences with translational / real-world impact

1. Young Scientist Award

Who Can Apply

Young scientists and entrepreneurs under the age of 40 years (as of 15th August) with innovative discoveries or technologies of commercial potential in the Pharma / Biopharma sectors.

Who Can Nominate

- Peer nominations — colleagues, mentors, and institutions may nominate young scientists and entrepreneurs whose innovations have significantly impacted the drug discovery sector.
- Self-nominations — individuals may nominate themselves if they are spearheading novel advancements in the drug discovery sector.

Eligibility Requirements

- Under 40 years of age as of 15th August.
- Outstanding contributions evidenced by peer-reviewed publications, patents, or developed prototypes/products/processes.

- A filled application describing the innovation, its development, application, and potential impact, submitted online in the prescribed format.

Documents Required for Application

1. Name (self-nomination, or nominee's name with nominator's name in brackets if applying on someone's behalf)
2. Email address and phone number
3. Age and educational qualifications
4. Current affiliation (university, institution, or industry name)
5. A brief self-description
6. A link to a document (max. 2 pages) describing the innovation, its development, application, and potential impact, including references to any publications and patents. The link must be accessible.
7. A link to the applicant's CV. The link must be accessible.

Award Benefits

- A cash prize of ₹5,00,000 to support further research, prototype, or product development.
- National recognition as a leader among young innovators.
- An opportunity to network with industry leaders and peers at the FABA annual conference.
- A platform to showcase research to potential collaborators and investors.

2. Doctoral Award (Male / Female)

Who Can Apply

Doctoral students in the life sciences pursuing translational research with basic or applied potential to address unmet needs.

Who Can Nominate

- Peer nominations — professors, colleagues, and research institutions may nominate doctoral students whose scientific innovations have the potential to significantly impact the life sciences sector.
- Self-nominations — doctoral students may nominate themselves if they are pioneering significant advancements in their field.

Eligibility Requirements

- Students pursuing a Ph.D., or those who have submitted their thesis, or those who received their Ph.D. award not more than 6 months prior, are eligible to apply.
- Applicants must include an endorsement letter from their Ph.D. supervisor or institutional head regarding Ph.D. registration, thesis submission, or award.
- A 1–2 page summary of the applicant's innovative discoveries, submitted online in the prescribed format.

Documents Required for Application

1. Name (self-nomination, or nominee's name with nominator's name in brackets if applying on someone's behalf)

2. Email address and phone number
3. Age and educational qualifications
4. Current affiliation (university, institution, or industry name)
5. A link to a brief description (max. 2 pages) of the innovative discoveries, including references to any publications and patents. The link must be accessible.
6. A link to an endorsement letter from the Ph.D. supervisor or institutional head concerning Ph.D. registration, thesis submission, or award. The link must be accessible.
7. A link to the applicant's CV. The link must be accessible.

Award Benefits

- A cash prize of ₹1,00,000 to further enhance research and development.
- National recognition as a pioneer among young innovators.
- Opportunities to network with industry leaders and potential investors at the FABA annual conference.
- A platform to showcase innovations to a broader audience, enhancing career and commercial prospects.

General Guidelines (Both Awards)

- Applications may be submitted either by the nominee (self-nomination) or by a nominator (e.g., supervisor, mentor, or institution).
- All fields in the application form must be filled with the nominee's details, regardless of who submits the form.
- The form submitter's identity is recorded via their name; no additional details of the nominator are required.
- There is no application fee. All applications are evaluated solely on merit by an independent jury of eminent scientists and industry leaders.
- Applicants must declare that the information provided is true and accurate, and consent to the processing of their personal data for the purposes of this award application.
- Incomplete applications may not be considered. Please review all information before submitting.

How to Apply

Applications are submitted online through the FABA application forms. Please have all required links (innovation summary / research summary, CV, and — for the Doctoral Award — endorsement letter) ready and accessible before starting the form, as these cannot be uploaded directly and must be shared as accessible links (e.g., Google Drive).

Young Scientist Award — Application Form: <https://forms.gle/H1OYDffytsSG4ddw7>

Doctoral Award (Male / Female) — Application Form: <https://forms.gle/FBLb5Zqk2aH4Bgfr8>

Important Dates

- Nomination Deadline: [to be announced]
- Announcement of Finalists: [to be announced]
- Award Ceremony: [to be announced]

Contact

For queries regarding the nomination process, please write to us at info@biofaba.org.in.

Federation of Asian Biotech Associations (FABA)

REC-120, First Floor, IDC Building, University of Hyderabad, Hyderabad 500032