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DFRL to offer five industry-sponsored seats for M Sc (Food Technology)

Bengaluru: Going by the demand for candidates across India, Mysuru's Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL) will offer five seats to industry-sponsored candidates for the M Sc (Food Technology) programme it is offering in tandem with the Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT), a deemed university in Pune.

An interview is slated to take place on August 16, 2017. Following this, the eligible candidates can seek admission. Self-sponsored candidates are not eligible for this course.

“Although the duration for industry-sponsored candidates is shorter, this course will provide the much-needed impetus for career growth prospects,” stated T Anand, course coordinator, DFRL, in a telecon with F&B News.

The move to start this programme was driven by the Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), mandating a post-graduate degree for all food inspectors and food analysts in the country.

DFRL has commenced this two-year (full-time) programme this year. It already has six candidates. One is from the Navy, three are from

the Army and two are DFRL staff, who will take a sabbatical to complete it.

It was R K Sharma, director, DFRL, who ensured that this post-graduate course would be conducted following the instructions from the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Ministry of Defence.

Since DFRL researches and develops food products for the Armed Forces, who are located in remote and tough terrains, the quality of the products is of utmost importance.

So far, personnel from the Armed Forces, upon receiving a diploma in food analysis and quality assurance from DFRL, have been testing the food for its pathogens and microbial safety.

“Over 40 officers have undergone the training. Now, with FSSAI insisting on masters’ degrees for food inspectors, whose key responsibility is to clear food that is safe for consumption, the new course will give them the much-needed knowledge and practical exposure,” Sharma added.

The minimum qualification is B Sc/B Tech in Food Technology/Food Science/ Biotechnology/Home Science or any branch of science. The fee structure is Rs 65,000 per semester. During the first two semesters, classes will be held at DIAT, and during the third and fourth semester, they would be conducted at DFRL.

The costs of accommodation and food at both the institutions need to be borne for by the candidates.

The food industry, too, is scouting for qualified candidates equipped with post-graduate degrees. Such qualified candidates have a headstart in their professions. Therefore, the MSc (Food Technology) degree is expected to place the candidate on the growth path right from the start.