The Department of Science and Technology has established ten DST-IISc Centenary Chair Professorships at the Indian Institute of Science to attract world class researchers to visit the Indian Institute of Science in particular and India in general to conduct collaborative research and initiate cutting edge research and development at the Institute. The presence of these visiting professors at the Institute is expected to stimulate research in cutting-edge areas and further productive collaborations. Appointees to these prestigious DST-IISc Centenary Chair Professorship positions must be outstanding persons who have distinguished themselves in academic or professional work in the appropriate field.

Nomination for these Chairs may be made (after obtaining the consent of the nominee) by leaders of academic Institutes across the world (Presidents/Directors/Vice Chancellors/Provosts/Rectors/Deans), Fellows of recognized National Academies and distinguished professionals from the industry. The scientist chosen for the award will have to spend a minimum of one month at the Institute with no limits on the maximum time.

The current awardees of the DST-IISc Centenary Chair Professorship include Professors Venki Ramakrishnan (MRC, Cambridge), Uriel Frisch (CNRS), P.M. Ajayan (Rice University), Thomas D. Albright (Salk Institute) and Bruno Ricco (Università di Bologna).