

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT

Regulations governing the Central Sector Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for SC etc. candidates with effect from Financial Year 2007-2008 to Financial Year 2011-2012 (Plan).

The Scheme

The Scheme provides financial assistance to the finally selected candidates for pursuing higher studies abroad in specified fields of Master level courses and Ph.D. in the field of Engineering, Technology and Science. The awards under the Scheme, however, are not available in disciplines of Agriculture, Medical Sciences and subjects relating to Indian Studies. Thirty awards per year are available under the Scheme with following distribution: -

(i)	Scheduled Castes	27
(ii)	Denotified, Nomadic and Semi- Nomadic Tribes	02
(iii)	Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans	01
	Total	30

If for any specific year, successful candidates are not available to the extent prescribed for each of the above listed categories, the awards for that year will become open for candidates belonging to other categories mentioned above as per merit grades attained by such candidates. Bachelor Level Courses in any discipline are not covered under the Scheme.

As the endeavour is to encourage women candidates, therefore, 30% of the awards for each year shall be earmarked for women candidates from the selection year 2007-2008 to 2011-2012. However, in case adequate number of women candidates are not found available as per the stipulations of the Scheme or found unsuitable for selection by the Selection Committee, then the unutilized slots are to be utilized by selecting suitable male candidates.

The under mentioned courses have been approved for undertaking studies under the Scheme (The award may also be given for a specialty or super specialty under the broad disciplines mentioned below and in such cases the Ministry reserves the right to decide the programme of studies that could be considered for award of scholarship).

1. Bio-technology/Genetic Engineering
2. Industrial Environmental Engineering.
3. Nano-Technology
4. Marine Engineering.
5. Petro-Chemical Engineering.
6. Plastic Technology.
7. Cryogenic Engineering.
8. Mechatronics.
9. Automation Robotics including Artificial Intelligence.
10. Laser Technology
11. Low Temperature Thermal Dynamics.
12. Optometry.

13. Art Restoration Technology.
14. Dock and Harbour Engineering.
15. Imaging System Technology.
16. Composite Materials Engineering including De-centralised Power Distribution (for solar heat) system, Energy Storage Engineering, Energy Conservation, Energy Efficient Habitat Engineering.
17. Packaging Engineering./Technology.
18. Nuclear Engineering.
19. Information Technology including Computer Engineering, Software, Software Quality Assurance, Networking/Connectivity Engineering, Communication System under Hazardous or Post-disaster conditions, Multi-media Communication.
20. Industrial Safety Engineering.

The aforesaid specified subjects shall be in operation only for the selection year 2007-2008 and for the subsequent selection years (2008-2009 to 2011-2012), a revised list of subjects shall be adopted after having consulted the Ministry of Human Resource Development.

I. Minimum Qualifications

For Ph.D. - First class or 60(sixty)% marks or equivalent grade in relevant Masters' Degree. Preference would be given to the experienced candidates, especially to those who are on lien with their existing post and employer.

For Masters' Degree: - First Class or 60(sixty)% marks or equivalent grade in relevant Bachelors' Degree. Preference would be given to the experienced candidates, especially to those who are on lien with their existing post and employer.

II. Age

Below 35(Thirty Five) years, as on First day of the month of the Advertisement of the Scheme.

III. Income Ceiling

Total income from all sources of the employed candidate or his/her parents/guardians, shall not exceed Rs.25,000/-(Twenty Five Thousand) per month, (excluding such allowances as are not treated as part of total income for the purpose of income tax) as certified by the employer. A copy of latest tax-assessment as well as latest monthly salary slip from the employer is also required to be enclosed with the application.

IV. One child in a family and one time Award

Not more than one child of the same parents/guardians will be eligible and to this effect a self-certification will be required from the candidate. The awardee cannot be considered for the award for second or subsequent times as the individual can be awarded for once.

V. Other Mandatory Conditions

(i) Candidates who are in employment must forward their applications through their employer along with a 'No Objection Certificate' (NOC) by the employer to this Ministry so as to reach the Ministry on or before the last date of receipt of applications as specified in the advertisement of the Scheme.

(ii) The finally selected candidates are required to obtain admission and join only an accredited university/ institution abroad within three years from the date of communication of selection. On expiry of this specified period of time, the award will automatically get cancelled and come to an end. No request for extension of time for availing the award is permissible under the Scheme.

(iii) The selected candidate is required to execute a bond on a non-judicial stamp paper before a notary-public with two sureties who will execute surety bonds separately for the actual amount to be spent by Government of India on the candidate or Rs.50,000/- (Fifty Thousand) whichever is more. Each of the surety bonds shall specify and cover for the estimated expenditure in Indian Rupees that would be incurred as travel expenses, fees, maintenance and contingency allowances, stipends, scholarship and other miscellaneous expenses, on the awardee during the entire period of study abroad and shall become payable by the sureties jointly or/and severally in case the awardee is declared a defaulter by the Ministry under the provisions of the Scheme. The language of the bond as decided by the Government of India will be acceptable to the candidate.

(iv) The selected candidate will also be required to execute a bond with this Ministry and the Indian Mission abroad, as per prevailing laws of the foreign country, that the extension of stay abroad beyond completion of the course or duration of the scholarship under the Scheme, whichever is earlier will not be permissible. The candidate/awardee shall not seek any extension of stay abroad beyond the duration for which the scholarship is awarded. The language of the bond as decided by Government of India will be acceptable to candidate.

(v) The candidate shall not change the course of study or research for which scholarship has been sanctioned.

(vi) The candidate will have to execute another bond with this Ministry and the Indian Mission abroad, which he/she will sign a Record Release Consent Form in the manner prescribed by Government of India and it will be acceptable to the candidate.

(vii) The selected candidates can though pursue their respective studies in an accredited university/ institution in a country of their choice with which India has diplomatic relations, but this will be subject to prior written approval of the Government of India, whose decision will be final and not challengeable. The candidates are required to make their own efforts in seeking admission in accredited Universities/ institutions in programmes/fields specified in the Scheme.

(viii) In case the married candidates take a decision to take their spouse and children with them or join them subsequently during the period of study, it is entirely for them to assess their financial potential and availability of passport, visa etc., as no financial assistance of any kind as well as any other support coverage is provided under the Scheme for their spouse and children.

(ix) All administrative matters like study leave, salary etc. will be directly sorted out by the candidate with his/her employer and as per rules of the serving organization. This Ministry will not take any responsibility or render assistance in this regard.

(x) In case of exigency at home where the awardee is required to return to India for sometime to attend to it, the awardee is permitted to return to India for the specific purpose, after having informed the Indian Missions and the educational institution where one is pursuing studies about it. The awardee will, however, be required to bear to and fro journey expenses for the visit and shall also not be entitled to receive maintenance allowance under the scheme, from the Indian Mission, for the period of being away from the place of his/her educational institution abroad and the maintenance allowance shall be resumed by the Indian Mission only from the date of his/her resuming same course at the same institution. The awardee after having dealt with the situation at home, is required to return to the place of his/her educational institution, as early as possible; failing which, he/she shall be liable to be declared a defaulter and the recovery proceeding will be initiated against him/her.

(xi) All candidates after having availed of the award under the Scheme are required to return to India and under no circumstances they will be issued 'No Obligation to Return to India' Certificate by any concerned authority in Government of India. The awardee after having returned to India is also required to immediately intimate to this Ministry in writing about having returned to India.

(xii) The awardee on return to India has to remain in India for at least five years and is also required to serve the Government, if he/she continues to be in Government service after return to India, as one was before going abroad with award under the Scheme.

(xiii) It will be for the candidate to obtain the appropriate visa for a country wherein one intends to study further under award from the Scheme and the Visa issuing authorities may kindly see that only such type of visa be issued which only permits the candidate to pursue specified course abroad and thereafter the candidate returns to India. Government of India will render no assistance to a candidate for obtaining Visa.

(xiv) Selected candidates are required to furnish all such documents and enter into such agreements before their departure as shall be decided by the Government of India from time to time.

(xv) In case the awardee has received overpayment through Indian Mission abroad or any other Government agency, he/she is liable to refund the same to Government of India and his/her employer (if any) is authorized to recover the excess amount from his/her dues, on request from Government of India, and refund the same to Government of India.

(xvi) The decisions of Government of India will be final in all such issues, as may come up during course of time.

(xvii) The Indian Missions abroad will obtain six monthly progress reports from the university/institution where the awardee is pursuing his/her studies for which the award was given under the Scheme. The Missions will inform to this Ministry such serious adverse developments in case of the awardee which requires decision towards further continuation of the award or otherwise. The Missions will, however, keep on advising such awardees to put serious efforts in improving their

achievements who are not seen to be upto the mark as reflected in their said six monthly progress reports and they may also be reminded that financial assistance under the Scheme is not extendable beyond the stipulated period under the Scheme.

(xviii) There may arise situations when an awardee pursuing Ph.D. in a university/ institution where one is initially registered with, finds a serious situation where his/her guide has left and there are no immediate replacements thereof or the university/ institutions has discontinued the research support facilities in the area where the awardee was pursuing Ph.D. research; the Indian Missions abroad in such cases are authorized to allow the awardee to change the university/ institutions, after the Missions are satisfied about such a need, however, subject to the condition that the credits if any earned by the awardee in the initial university/ institution are accepted for transfer by the second university/ institutions and that the total period of award will remain unchanged even on such a transfer/change, which will be permitted only once during the award.

(xix) The prospective awardee is selected by the Selection Committee constituted by this Ministry, for a particular subject from within the specified subjects for pursuing Masters' Programme or Ph.D. and candidate is given three years time from the date of communication about his/her selection for the award.

(xx) The candidate before leaving for abroad to pursue the course for which one was selected under the Scheme, is required to give a declaration to this Ministry that he/she has not already acquired the qualification in the meanwhile or has not submitted the final thesis leading to active possibility of acquiring the qualification, from the Indian university. This Ministry on receiving such a declaration from the candidate will appropriately decide as to whether candidate can be awarded under the Scheme or otherwise and departure of the candidate for abroad will depend on the decision.

(xxi) In case the awardee is unable to complete the course successfully and that if the guide/head of the department of the candidate certifies that the candidate has not been found wanting in his/her commitment/dedication/attention to studies then the Ministry shall have the right to exempt him/her from the penalty clause of "Defaulter under the Scheme". The Indian Missions in all such cases will provide the return air passage to India by shortest route and economy class.

(xxii) When the awardee overstays abroad for more than one month after successful completion of the course and then of his/her own returns to India at own cost, he/she will not be entitled to refund of return passage booked by him/her. In normal circumstances, immediately after successful completion of the course, the Indian Missions abroad books the return journey, for the awardee as provided in the Scheme, and thus, the overstaying awardee without any specific purpose for more than a month after the course is over, will forfeit his/her claims of return passage at Government expense through Indian Missions abroad.

(xxiii) The Indian Missions are required to intimate to this Ministry about the return of the Awardee to India.

(xxiv) This Ministry, if necessary, in consultation with other Departments/ Agencies, will take decision on such issues concerning awardees arising out of such situations and circumstances which are of unforeseeable nature and, thus, not covered under this written Scheme and the decisions of the Ministry will be final and binding on the awardees.

VI. Financial Assistance

A. Quantum of Annual Maintenance Allowance

(i) For United States of America and other countries except United Kingdom

The annual maintenance allowance of US Dollars 14,000/-(Fourteen Thousand) has been prescribed for all levels of courses covered under the Scheme.

(ii) Only for United Kingdom

The annual maintenance allowance of 9000/-(Nine Thousand) Great Britain Pound(GBP) has been prescribed.

B. Earnings from Research/Teaching Assistanceship

The awardees are permitted to supplement their prescribed allowances by undertaking Research/Teaching Assistantship upto US Dollars 2400/-(Two Thousand Four Hundred) per annum and for awardees in United Kingdom, Great Britain Pound (GBP) 1560/-(One Thousand Five Hundred Sixty) per annum and beyond these prescribed ceilings, their annual maintenance allowance under the Scheme will be correspondingly reduced by the Indian Missions abroad.

C. Quantum of Annual Contingency Allowance

(i) For United States of America and other countries except United Kingdom

The prescribed contingency allowance for books/essential apparatus /study tour/travel cost for attending subject related conferences, workshops etc./ typing and binding of thesis etc. is US Dollars 1375/-(One thousand three hundred seventy five) per annum.

(ii) Only for United Kingdom

The prescribed contingency allowance for books/essential apparatus /study tour/travel cost for attending subject related conferences, workshops etc./ typing and binding of thesis etc. is Great Britain Pound (GBP) 1000/-(One thousand) per annum.

VII. Incidental journey allowance & equipment allowance

The prescribed Incidental journey allowance is US \$ 17/-(seventeen) or its equivalent in Indian Rupees and the prescribed equipment allowance is Rs.1200/-(One thousand two hundred).

VIII. Poll Tax

Actual will be paid, wherever applicable.

IX. Visa Fees

Actual visa fees in Indian Rupees will be paid.

X. Fees and Medical Insurance Premium

Actual as charged

XI. Air Passage

Air passage from India to the nearest place to the educational institution and back to India, by economy class and shortest route in arrangements with the national carrier, will be provided.

XII. Local Travel

(i) Second or Coach class railway fare from the port of disembarkation to the place of study and back. In case of far flung places not connected by rail, bus fare(s) from the place of residence to the nearest railway station, actual charge of crossing by ferry, air fare to the nearest rail-cum-air Station and/or second class railway fare by the shortest route to the port of embarkation and back will be permissible.

(ii) For attending interviews by the candidates at the place decided by the Government of India, the second-class fare/ordinary class bus fare from the city of their place of residence to the city in which the interviews for selection have been decided by the Government of India will be permissible.

(iii) The mode of disbursement of above listed financial assistance will be decided by Government of India and Indian Missions abroad.

XIII. Duration of Award with Financial Assistance

(i) The prescribed financial assistance is provided upto completion of the course/research or the following period, whichever is earlier: -

Ph.D. -- 04 years (Four years)

Master Degree -- 03 years (Three years)

(ii) The extension of stay beyond prescribed period for levels of courses as mentioned above, may be considered without financial assistance of any kind except the air passage to return to India, if and only if recommendation of the competent concerned authority in the educational institution/ university as well as the Indian Mission abroad is received certifying that such an overstay for a specified period, is absolutely essential for facilitating the candidate to complete the course. The final decision in this regard will, however, rest with the Government of India alone.

XIV. Jurisdiction of the Scheme

The jurisdiction of the Scheme is upto providing prescribed financial support to the selected candidates for pursuing higher education in the specified subjects. The Scheme does not cover employment aspects of the awardee and also does not provide for any kind of assistance to the awardee in seeking employment anywhere, after his/her having availed of the award.

XV. Default under the Scheme

In case a candidate pursuing studies abroad violates any of the terms and conditions of the bonds executed by him/her and that the educational institution/ university intimates the Indian Mission abroad about his/her adverse reports on studies and/or conduct and/or that the candidate leaves for any other country or absconds or joins any other university or course/programme or/and returns to India in case of exigency without intimating the Indian Mission abroad, he/she will be declared defaulter and will become liable for refund of entire amount spent on him/her along with the interest which will be 12% per annum and in case an awardee fails to repay the amount within six months from the date on which a demand for such refund is made, penal interest at the rate which is 2.5% higher than the above normal rate of interest on the outstanding amount would be charged. If the awardee fails to repay such amount along with interest thereon in the manner decided by Government of India, his/her sureties who have executed bonds, will be liable to pay the entire amount failing which the District Collector of the concerned district will realize the amount as arrears of land revenue.

XVI. Selection Procedure

(i) The Scheme will be advertised in the newspapers giving summarized information about the Scheme. The candidates shall after assessing their eligibility and suitability, as per conditions of the Scheme, apply to this Ministry (employed candidates through proper channel), in the prescribed application form which will form a part of the advertisement. The last date of receiving applications will also be mentioned in the advertisement. Thereafter, all applications received up to the last date of receiving applications, as notified in advertisement, will be put before the Screening Committee. The candidates short listed by the Screening Committee will be required to present themselves for personal interview before the Selection Committee. The merit list prepared, on the basis of assessment of individual candidates, by the Selection Committee will finally and decisively complete the selection procedure to decide the merit. In case of tie-up of two or more candidates, the one who is eldest in age (as per the date of birth) will be placed above the others, as per respective dates of birth as recorded in Secondary School Certificate.

(ii) The constitution of Screening and Selection Committee will be decided by Government of India. The Chairperson and Members of these Committees will be entitled to be paid airfare and the rate of Dearness Allowance be as admissible to the Secretary to the Government of India. If the Chairperson and Members of these Committees are from Delhi/New Delhi then a suitable compensation package inclusive of traveling allowance will be payable to them, for each day of their participation in proceedings of the meetings. There will be no departmental representative in the Selection Committee and the concerned Department will lend only administrative and logistic support to them including services like tea, coffee, cold drinks, lunch, snacks etc. which may be arranged from anywhere.

XVII. Furnishing of False Information

If any candidate has furnished any false information/document and is established as false, he/she will be debarred from the award and if he/she has availed of it or is availing, an action will be initiated for recovery of the amount spent with 15% compound interest thereon. Such candidate will also be black listed for future and the employed candidate will also have to face departmental action for such act, for which the Government of India will take up the matter with the respective employers. The respective employers are, therefore, also requested to carefully go through contents of application of their employees before forwarding the same to this Ministry. The employers are also free to insist on candidates employed by them to execute such bonds with them, as they deem fit and necessary and in accordance with their rules and regulations in such cases.

XVIII. Litigations

Any litigation on matters arising out of this Scheme in India will be subject to sole jurisdiction of the courts situated in Union Territory of Delhi. The litigations arising abroad will be attended to by the Indian Missions abroad.

XIX. Relaxation to any Clause of the Scheme

The Central Sector Plan Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for SC etc. candidates with effect from Financial Year 2007-2008 to Financial Year 2011-2012 has the approval of Hon'ble Union Minister for Social Justice Empowerment on the recommendation of the Standing Finance Committee (SFC), headed by the Secretary, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. There is no clause in this Scheme as approved by the said Committee, under which relaxation of any of norms of the Scheme can be considered and decided by any authority.

XX. Passage Grants (2007-08 to 2011-12)

(i) Applications on plain paper in the prescribed format are also invited for the award of five passage grants in a year to Scheduled Castes (four grants), and Denotified, Nomadic and Semi Nomadic Tribes (One grant), which are open throughout the year. Only those candidates who are in receipt of a merit scholarship for Post Graduate Studies, Research or Training abroad (excluding attending seminars, workshops conferences), from a foreign government/ organization or under any other Scheme, where the cost of passage is not provided, will be eligible to apply.

(ii) The candidates should possess a Master's or an equivalent degree in Technical, Engineering and Science disciplines. The eligibility conditions otherwise will be same as contained in the Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for SC etc. candidates.

(iii) The candidates who have already reached abroad will not be considered for passage grants. For selected candidates, air passage to the destination abroad and back to India, will be provided by economy class and shortest route through arrangement with the national carrier. The prospective candidates can contact this Ministry for obtaining application form for applying for the passage grant.
