

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT**

**Central Sector Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship
for OBC candidates**

**Regulations governing the Central Sector Scheme of National Overseas
Scholarship for OBC candidates**

The Scheme

The Scheme provides financial assistance to the finally selected candidates for pursuing Master level courses and Ph.D abroad in the following specified fields of study:-

- a) Engineering;
- b) Management;
- c) Agricultural Science; and
- d) Medicine.

Twenty five awards per year are available under the Scheme with following distribution:

Discipline wise:

	Fields of study	No. of seats each year
a)	Engineering	7
b)	Management	6
c)	Agricultural Science	6
d)	Medicine	6
	Total	25

The Scheme may be reviewed to increase the slots, if required.

As the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment endeavours to encourage women candidates, 30% of the awards for each year shall be earmarked for women candidates. However, in case adequate women candidates are not found available as per the stipulations of the Scheme by the Selection Committee, the unutilized slots will be utilized by selecting suitable male candidates.

I. MINIMUM QUALIFICATION

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 hold 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 hold 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 family income from all sources of the employed candidate or his/her parents/guardians, shall not exceed Rs.3,00,000/-(Rupees three lakh only) per annum (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. MAXIMUM NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN A FAMILY FOR THE AWARD

Not more than one child of the same parents/guardians will be eligible for award of this scholarship 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 one individual can be awarded for once. The award can be given only once.

V. OTHER MANDATORY CONDITIONS

- i. Candidates who are employed, 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 prospective awardee will be 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.
- iii. The award of this scholarship is valid for one year from the date of communication of selection, i.e. the candidate, if selected, shall be required to obtain admission in, and join any of the notified university/institute within one year. Failing this, the award would get automatically cancelled. No request for extension of time shall be allowed.
- iv. The candidates are required to make their own efforts in seeking admission in any of the notified Universities/institutions in programmes/fields specified in the Scheme. However, approval of Government of India for acceptance of the university/institute for admission will be required.
- v. The candidate who has already taken admission in foreign University/Institution will be given preference. Other candidates will have to ensure that they get admission in the foreign University/Institution within a period of one year from the date of letter communicating award of scholarship to him/her.
- vi. In case there is a tie between two or more candidates, the candidate senior in age (as per the date of birth mentioned in the matriculation/secondary school certificate) will be given preference.
- vii. The candidate will not change the course of study or research for which scholarship has been sanctioned.
- viii. 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/- (Rupees Fifty Thousand) whichever is more. Each of the surety bond 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.

- ix. 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.
- x. The candidate will have to execute another bond with this Ministry and the Indian Mission abroad, for 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.
- xi. In case a married candidate takes a decision to take his/her 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 the spouse and children.
- xii. 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.
- xiii. In case of exigency at home where the awardee is required to return to India for attending 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 recovery proceedings will be initiated against him/her.

- xiv. All candidates after having availed of the award under the Scheme are ordinarily required to return to India. However, permission for staying for one year after completion of the course may be considered, for reasons to be recorded in writing, without any financial support. The decision would rest with the 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.
- xv. The awardee on return to India must remain in India for at least five years and 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.
- xvi. 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.
- xvii. 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.
- xviii. In case the awardee has received over payment 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.
- xix. The decision of the Government of India will be final in all such issues, as may come up during course of time.
- xx. 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 this Ministry such 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 up to 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.

- xxi. The candidates shall not change the course of study or research for which scholarship has been sanctioned. However, 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 is no immediate replacement thereof or the university/ institution 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/ institution, 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/ institution and that the total period of award will remain unchanged even on such a transfer/change, which will be permitted only once during the whole period of award.
- xxii. The candidate before going abroad to pursue the course for which he 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 his/her acquiring the requisite qualification from any of Indian university. This Ministry on receiving such a declaration from the candidate will appropriately decide as to whether candidate can be awarded scholarship under the Scheme or otherwise and departure of the candidate for abroad will depend on the decision.
- xxiii. 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.
- xxiv. 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 reimbursement 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.

- xxv. The Indian Missions are required to intimate to this Ministry about the return of the awardee to India.
- xxvi. 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 15,400/- (US Dollars Fifteen thousand four hundred only) has been prescribed for all levels of courses covered under the Scheme.

(II) ONLY FOR UNITED KINGDOM

The annual maintenance allowance of GBP 9900/- (Great Britain Pound Nine thousand nine hundred only) has been prescribed.

B. EARNINGS FROM RESEARCH/TEACHING ASSISTANCESHIP

The awardees are permitted to supplement their prescribed allowances by undertaking Research/Teaching Assistantship up to US Dollars 2400/- (Two Thousand Four Hundred) per annum and for awardees in United Kingdom, Great Britain Pound (GBP) 1560/- (GBP 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 1500/- (One thousand five hundred only) 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) 1100/-(GBP One thousand one hundred only) per annum.

VII. INCIDENTAL JOURNEY ALLOWANCE & EQUIPMENT ALLOWANCE

The prescribed Incidental journey allowance is US \$ 20/-(US Dollar Twenty) or its equivalent in Indian Rupees and the prescribed equipment allowance is US \$ 20/-(US Dollar Twenty) per annum.

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 up to 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 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.

- ii. For the courses of higher studies not available in India, due preference would be given while making selection of candidates by the Screening Committee.
- iii. Students who have already taken admission in one of the notified foreign Universities/Institutions from the academic session 2013-14 onwards and are pursuing higher studies may be considered for the award on a first-come-first-served basis, subject to fulfilment of other conditions of the Scheme.
- iv. The list of Institutions/Universities abroad would be notified by the same Committee accredited for National Overseas Scholarship for Scheduled Castes (SC) etc. of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

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

Modification/Relaxation in the guidelines of the scheme, except the financial norms, may be considered and decided by the Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment. Financial parameters may be changed in consultation with the Department of Expenditure.

XX. PASSAGE GRANTS

- i. Applications on plain paper in the prescribed format are also invited for the award of five passage grants in a year to Other Backward Classes (OBC) candidates 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 or an equivalent degree in Engineering, Management, Medicine and Agricultural Sciences disciplines. The eligibility conditions otherwise will be same as contained in the Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship for OBC 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.

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