

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

SCSTDD- Government of Kerala Scholarship to SC/ST students for overseas studies-
Guidelines-formulated -orders- issued.

SCHEDULED CASTES/SCHEDULED TRIBES DEVELOPMENT(A)DEPARTMENT

G.O(Ms.) 81/2017 /SCSTDD

Dated,Thiruvananthapuram,04/10/2017.

Read;- 1.G.O.(P) 50/2009/SCSTDD dated 02/07/2009.
2.Letter No.Edn.A2-14789/2017 dated 25.08.2017 from Director, Scheduled
Caste Development Department.

ORDER

It is one of the high priorities of Government of Kerala to extend financial assistance to the students belonging to SC/ST categories for pursuing their higher studies abroad. Vide Government order read as first paper above there exists general guidelines in this regard.

However, Government have noticed that the existing guidelines entail more clarity to create a very conducive environment for the students to avail overseas scholarship in a transparent, hassle-free and easy way.

As per the letter read 2nd paper above, Director, Scheduled Caste Development Department furnished a comprehensive proposal for framing detailed guidelines for sanctioning overseas scholarship to assist academically brilliant SC/ST students seeking admission in reputed foreign universities.

Government have examined the matter in detail and are pleased to introduce fresh guidelines for the scheme "GOVERNMENT OF KERALA-SCHOLARSHIP FOR OVERSEAS STUDIES TO SC/ST STUDENTS" for achieving the above purpose.

The guidelines are as appended .

(By Order of the Governor),

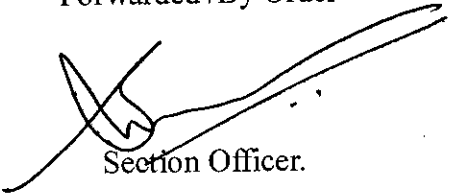
USHA.T.NAIR

Joint Secretary to Government.

To

The Director, Scheduled Castes Development Department
The Director, Scheduled Tribes development department
The Director, Technical education department
The Director, Collegiate education department
Registrar, All Universities.
Finance department
Higher education Department
The Principal Accountant General (G&SSA) Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram
The Principal Accountant General (R&SSA) Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.
The Information Officer, (Web& New Media), I&PRD,
Stock file/Office Copy.

Forwarded /By Order



Section Officer.

GUIDELINES FOR SANCTIONING GOVERNMENT OF KERALA SCHOLARSHIP FOR OVERSEAS STUDIES TO SCHEDULED CASTE AND SCHEDULED TRIBE STUDENTS

Introduction:

The GOVERNMENT OF KERALA SCHOLARSHIP FOR OVERSEAS STUDIES TO SC&ST (hereinafter called "the scholarship") is a merit cum means scholarship for higher studies outside India. This programme is envisaged to help the talented and meritorious students to pursue higher studies abroad which will allow them access to a broader area of knowledge and widen the scope of their activities. In the longer run, it should fetch them a better means and a career at par with the best in the world. So, the courses, the opportunities offered by institution they select, the acceptance of the course inside and outside our country, the expected terminal contribution to the individual and his family, etc., will weigh foremost in deciding the award of scholarship.

Students aspiring for overseas studies should start their preparation well in advance, preferably during the last year of their degree course. They must collect all relevant information about the course, the institution, the fee structure, living expenses including lodging and boarding in the country opted for higher studies.

Objectives:

The programme has the following broad objectives:

1. To provide opportunity for the talented and meritorious students to acquire skill, knowledge and international exposure in the area of their studies.
2. To provide opportunity to study subjects/ courses which are not in vogue in India but has great scope and potential for better employment.
3. To help students tide over financial hurdles in the process of seeking higher studies.
4. To give an impetus to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students to dream big and to set higher goals in their career path.

Eligibility norms:

In order to be eligible to apply for the scholarship, the applicant should satisfy the following conditions:

1. Must be a resident of Kerala and belong to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes of Kerala
2. Must have secured at least 55% mark in the qualifying examination if the candidate is SC and at least 50% mark if the candidate is ST.
3. Must be below 35 years of age as on the date of application
4. Must possess the required grades/scores in IELTS/GRE/TOEFL or other relevant tests applicable, if any.
5. Must have received an offer letter from the institution concerned regarding admission to the course.
6. **The scholarship shall be granted to a student only for one programme of study and shall be limited to the period for which it is sanctioned.** The period of study generally means the course duration including examinations but a maximum of one week overstay will be permitted in deserving cases.

Income Limit:

Three slabs are fixed based on the annual family income of the student. For this purpose, the income of parents and the applicant, taken together, shall be considered.

The slabs are as follows:

1. Students with an annual family income up to Rs.12,00,000/- will get full scholarship to meet all the expenses certified by the authorities concerned including accommodation and living expenses and air travel expenses in economy class.
2. Students with an annual family income between Rs.12,00,000/- and 20,00,000/- will get actual tuition fee certified by the authorities concerned, visa charges, air fare admissible, Medical Insurance Premium plus 50% of accommodation and living expenses.

3. Students with annual family income above Rs.20,00,000/- will be eligible only for actual tuition fee certified by the authorities concerned.
4. Income limit will not be applicable to Scheduled Tribe candidates.

Courses covered: Post Graduate Degree, Post Graduate Diploma considered equal to a Post Graduate degree, M Phil and equivalents, Ph.D and Post Doctoral programmes will be covered under the scheme.

Areas/ Subjects:

Category A

Scholarships will be available to undertake studies in the following areas/ subjects:

1. Pure Science
2. Management and Business Administration
3. Engineering
4. Medicine
5. Agricultural Science
6. Applied Science
7. Computer Science and Information Technology.
8. Language of the host country

Category B

Courses which are not available in India coming under the following subject areas will also be considered for the scholarship.

1. Social Science and Humanities
2. Commerce
3. Arts, Fine Arts, Music and allied subjects
4. Law

Institutions:

The Scholarship shall be limited to the courses in Universities or other institutions of higher learning which come in the first five hundred ranks as per Times Higher Education World University rankings. The latest available rank list in the year of application will be considered.

Procedure for applying for the scholarship:

- The candidate must first obtain a letter of offer of admission and an official document indicating the annual Tuition Fee and food and accommodation charges from the institution concerned.
- Within two weeks after the receipt of the above documents, the student can apply online for the scholarship. A print out of the application thus submitted online along with the following certificates should be forwarded in hard copy to the Director, SCDD or STDD, as the case may be.

Certificates required:

1. Copy of SSLC Book/ Birth Certificate
 2. Community Certificate
 3. Income Certificate
 4. Copy of the Mark List of the Qualifying Examination
 5. Copy of the Degree Certificate of the qualifying Examination.
 6. Copy of GRE, IELTS, TOEFL or other relevant score certificate, if applicable
 7. Copy of offer letter from the institution to which the candidate seeks admission
 8. Copy of Study/ Student Visa
 9. Copy of Aadhaar Card
 10. Copy of Bank Pass Book
 11. Any other document which will be specified in the online portal.
- All enquiries regarding the scholarship shall be with the Directors concerned.
 - Intimation will be given to the student online regarding the provisional approval of the application within ten days by the Director, SCDD or STDD, as the case may be.
 - Students who join the course before obtaining such provisional approval will be doing so at their own risk.
 - Applications submitted after taking admission in a foreign university/institution

will not be considered under any circumstances.

- The student will obtain a certificate from the institution with details of every item of expenditure and submit the same to the Director, SCDD/STDD online and send the hard copy by post within a month after joining the course.

Procedure for sanctioning Scholarship

- On receipt of the application, the Director shall verify the same and, if in order, issue an intimation, within ten days, to the student regarding provisional sanction of the scholarship.
- At the second stage, the Director shall sanction the first instalment of scholarship which will include one way economy class air fare, visa charge and tuition fee for the first year along with Rs. 5 Lakh in advance as living expenses. The maximum living expense will be limited to Rs.10 Lakh for the entire course and the advance adjusted in the second instalment.
- The second instalment will be sanctioned only on receipt of a certificate from the Head of the Institution regarding the accommodation and living expenses and the receipts for the fees remitted. The student should also submit progress reports on his studies duly signed by the Head of the Institution to the Director concerned.
- Based on the progress report and certificate of expenditure from the authorities concerned, the Director shall sanction the next instalments.
- The amount of scholarship will be decided based on the certificate from the institution and each instalment will be fixed considering the requirement at each stage. The amount will be credited to the bank account of the student in India.

Components of the Scholarship

The scholarship amount shall cover the following components.

1. To and fro air fare by the shortest route in economy class.
(for one journey each only)

2. Medical Insurance Premium
3. Tuition fee
4. Accommodation (on certification by the university/institution)
5. Living expenses (food, local travel, etc.)
6. Actual Visa Charges
7. Other non refundable expenses/ remittances to the Institution/University

Other Conditions

- Course of study or institution for which fund transfer has been initiated can not be changed.
- The total amount of scholarship initially fixed in Indian Rupees based on the certificate from the institution of study will not be revised and no additional amount will be sanctioned.
- The student will have to obtain report on his study/ performance from the Head of the Institution or in charge of the course and forward the same after each semester or after each half year, as the case may be.
- The student will have to refund the respective portion of the amount of scholarship availed by him from Government of Kerala if he/she gets any other scholarship, the components of which overlap this scholarship.
- An agreement detailing all other aspects in the prescribed format will be signed between the Director and the student.
- The students shall follow the instructions of the Indian Embassy and NORKA ROOTS in the foreign country. They shall stand advised to get in touch with them as soon as they begin to explore the possibility of this scholarship.
- The number scholarships to be awarded each year shall be decided by the Government of Kerala from time to time.