പതിനാറാം കേരളനിയമസഭ

രണ്ടാം സമ്മേളനം

നക്ഷത്രചിഹ്നമിടാത്ത ചോദ്യം നമ്പർ: 759 14-10-2026-ൽ മറുപടിയ്ക്ക്

പട്ടികജാതി-പട്ടികവർഗ്ഗ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക് വിദേശപഠനത്തിനുള്ള ധനസഹായം

ചോദ്യം ഉന്നയിച്ച അംഗങ്ങൾ	മറുപടി നൽകിയ മന്ത്രി
ശ്രീ. പഴകുളം മധു	ശ്രീമതി കെ. എ. തുളസി (പട്ടികജാതി, പട്ടികവർഗ്ഗ - പിന്നോക്ക ക്ഷേമ വകുപ്പ് മന്ത്രി)

(എ) പട്ടികജാതി-പട്ടികവർഗ്ഗ വിഭാഗങ്ങളിലെ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക് വിദേശപഠനത്തിന് അനുവദിക്കുന്ന ധനസഹായത്തിന്റെ മാനദണ്ഡങ്ങൾ എന്തൊക്കെയാണെന്ന് വ്യക്തമാക്കുമോ;

മറുപടി:

കേരളത്തിലെ സ്ഥിരതാമസക്കാരായ പട്ടിക ജാതി പട്ടികവർഗ്ഗ വിഭാഗത്തിൽപ്പെട്ട വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക് വിദേശത്തെ പ്രമുഖ സർവ്വകലാശാലകളിൽ (Times Higher Education റാങ്കിംഗിൽ ആദ്യ 500-ൽ ഉള്ളവ) ബിരുദാനന്തര ബിരുദം, എം.ഫിൽ, പി.എച്ച്.ഡി, പോസ്റ്റ് ഡോക്ടറൽ തുടങ്ങിയ ഉന്നതപഠനം നടത്തുന്നതിനായി കേരള സർക്കാർ പട്ടികജാതി-പട്ടികവർഗ്ഗ വികസന വകുപ്പ് വഴി നടപ്പിലാക്കുന്ന പദ്ധതിയാണ് ''ഉന്നതി സ്കോളർഷിപ് ഫോർ ഓവർസീസ് സ്റ്റഡീസ്''. G.O.(P) No.5/2023/SCSTDD. തീയതി 01/08/2023 പ്രകാരം മാനദണ്ഡങ്ങൾ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. പ്രസ്തുത സർക്കാർ ഉത്തരവ് അനുബന്ധമായി ചേർത്തിട്ടുണ്ട്.

പ്രസ്തുത പദ്ധതി, പട്ടികജാതി-പട്ടികവർഗ്ഗ വികസന വകുപ്പും ഓവർസീസ് ഡെവലപ്മെന്റ് ആന്റ് എംപ്ലോയ്മെന്റ് പ്രൊമോഷൻ കൺസൾട്ടന്റ് ലിമിറ്റഡും (ODEPC) സംയുക്തമായി നടപ്പിലാക്കി വരുന്നു. സർക്കാർ ഉത്തരവിലെ മാനദണ്ഡങ്ങൾ അനുസരിച്ച് വിദ്യാർത്ഥി, ബന്ധപ്പെട്ട വെബ് സൈറ്റിൽ പേര് രജിസ്റ്റർ ചെയ്യുകയും, ODEPC മുഖാന്തിരം നടത്തുന്ന സ്ക്രീനിംഗിനു ശേഷം നടപടി അനുസരിച്ച് സ്കോളർഷിപ് (സെലക്ഷൻ/അപ്പീൽ) കമ്മിറ്റിക്ക് വിധേയമായി തെരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെടുന്ന വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കാണ് വിദേശ പഠന സ്കോളർഷിപ് അനുവദിക്കുന്നത്.

35 വയസ്സിൽ താഴെ പ്രായമുള്ളവരും യോഗ്യതാ പരീക്ഷയിൽ കുറഞ്ഞത് 55% മാർക്ക് നേടിയവരുമായ (സർക്കാർ/ പൊതുമേഖലാ ജീവനക്കാരല്ലാത്ത) കേരളീയരായ പട്ടികജാതി-പട്ടികവർഗ്ഗ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക് അപേക്ഷ സമർപ്പിക്കാം. ഒരു കുടുംബത്തിൽ നിന്ന് ഒരു വിദ്യാർത്ഥിക്ക് മാത്രം അനുവദിക്കുന്ന ഈ പദ്ധതിയിൽ, IELTS/GRE/TOEFL പരീക്ഷകളിൽ 6.5 ഗ്രേഡുള്ളവർക്കും കേരളത്തിൽ ലഭ്യമല്ലാത്ത കോഴ്സുകൾ തിരഞ്ഞെടുക്കുന്നവർക്കും പ്രത്യേക വെയ്റ്റേജ് ലഭിക്കും.

പട്ടിക വർഗ്ഗ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക് വരുമാനപരിധി ബാധകമല്ല. പ്രതിവർഷം 50പട്ടിക വർഗ്ഗ വിദ്യാർത്ഥി കൾക്ക് വിമാനടിക്കറ്റ്., ട്യൂഷൻ ഫീസ്, താമസം, വിസ, ഹെൽത്ത് ഇൻഷുറൻസ് എന്നിവയടക്കം പരമാവധി 25 ലക്ഷം രൂപ വരെ (ലിവിംഗ് എക്സ്പെൻസിന് പരമാവധി 10 ലക്ഷം രൂപ) ധനസഹായം ലഭിക്കും

പട്ടിക ജാതി വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക് വാർഷിക വരുമാനത്തിന്റെ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ മൂന്ന് സ്ലാബുകളായിട്ടാണ് ആനുകൂല്യം അനുവദിക്കുന്നത്.

വാർഷിക വരുമാനം:

(1) 12 ലക്ഷം രൂപ വരെ - 25 ലക്ഷം രൂപ

(വിസ, എയർ ടിക്കറ്റ്, ഹെൽത്ത് ഇൻഷ്വറൻസ്, ട്യൂഷൻ ഫീസ്, ജീവിത ചെലവ്, താമസ ചെലവ്)

(2) 12 - 20 ലക്ഷം രൂപ വരെ - 20 ലക്ഷം രൂപ

(ട്യൂഷൻ ഫീസ് (15 ലക്ഷം രൂപ വരെ), വിസ, എയർ ടിക്കറ്റ്, ഹെൽത്ത് ഇൻഷ്വറൻസ്, ജീവിത ചെലവ്, താമസ ചെലവ് എന്നിവയ്ക്കായി 5 ലക്ഷം രൂപ)

(3) 20 ലക്ഷത്തിനു മുകളിൽ – 15 ലക്ഷം രൂപ

(ട്യൂഷൻ ഫീസ് 15 ലക്ഷം രൂപയിൽ നിജപ്പെടുത്തി നൽകുന്നു.) തെരഞ്ഞെടുക്കപ്പെടുന്ന വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക് ഉത്തരവിൽ നിഷ്കർഷിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വരുമാന പരിധിയുടെ അടിസ്ഥാനത്തിൽ 50% തുക വിസ, എയർ ടിക്കറ്റ്, ഹെൽത്ത് ഇൻഷ്വറൻസ്, ട്യൂഷൻ ഫീസ് എന്നിവയ്ക്കായി മുൻകൂറായി ODEPCയ്ക്ക് അനുവദിക്കുന്നു. വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ ട്യൂഷൻ ഫീസ് ODEPC യൂണിവേഴ്സിറ്റിയ്ക്ക് നേരിട്ടും ലിവിങ് എക്സ്പെൻസിനുള്ള തുക വിദ്യാർത്ഥിയുടെ വിദേശബാങ്ക് അക്കൗണ്ടിലേയ്ക്കും അനുവദിക്കുന്നു.

(ബി) ഈ സർക്കാർ അധികാരത്തിൽ വന്നശേഷം പ്രസ്തുത പദ്ധതി പ്രകാരം എത്ര വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്ക് ധനസഹായം അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള ജില്ല തിരിച്ചുള്ള കണക്ക് ലഭ്യമാക്കുമോ;

മറുപടി: ഈ സർക്കാർ അധികാരത്തിൽ വന്നശേഷം പ്രസ്തുത പദ്ധതി പ്രകാരം ധനസഹായം അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ ജില്ല തിരിച്ചുള്ള കണക്ക് ചുവടെ ചേർക്കുന്നു.

പട്ടിക വർഗ്ഗ വികസന വകുപ്പ്

വർഷം	ജില്ല		അനുവദിച്ച തുക
2026-27	തിരുവനന്തപുരം	4	5250000
	കോട്ടയം	1	1250000
	കാസറഗോഡ്	1	1250000
	ഇടുക്കി	2	2500000
	കണ്ണൂർ	1	1250000
	ആകെ	9	11500000

പട്ടിക ജാതി വികസന വകുപ്പ്

ജില്ല	വിദ്യാർത്ഥികളുടെ എണ്ണം	അനുവദിച്ച തുക
തിരുവനന്തപുരം	15	18000000
കൊല്ലം	8	9750000
പത്തനംതിട്ട	1	1250000
ആലപ്പുഴ	12	14500000
കോട്ടയം	10	12500000
ഇടുക്കി	9	11250000

എറണാകുളം	29	34500000
തൃശ്ശൂർ	17	19750000
പാലക്കാട്	6	7250000
മലപ്പുറം	4	5000000
കോഴിക്കോട്	8	9750000
വയനാട്	1	1000000
കണ്ണൂർ	7	8500000
കാസർകോഡ്	3	3250000
ആകെ	**130**	**156250000**

(സി) വിദേശപഠനത്തിനായി അനുവദിച്ച ധനസഹായത്തിന്റെ ആകെ തുക എത്രയാണെന്നും ഇതിൽ പട്ടികജാതി-പട്ടികവർഗ്ഗ വിഭാഗങ്ങൾക്കായി പ്രത്യേകം അനുവദിച്ച തുക എത്രയാണെന്നും വ്യക്തമാക്കുമോ?

മറുപടി: പട്ടിക വർഗ്ഗ വികസന വകുപ്പ്

2026-27 സാമ്പത്തികവർഷം പട്ടികവർഗ്ഗ വിഭാഗത്തിന്റെ വിദേശപഠന ധനസഹായത്തിനായി 600 ലക്ഷം രൂപ ബജറ്റിൽ വകയിരുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. 2026-27 വർഷം 9 പട്ടികവർഗ്ഗ വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കായി 1,15,00,000/- രൂപ അനുവദിച്ച് നൽകിയിട്ടുണ്ട്.

പട്ടിക ജാതി വികസന വകുപ്പ്

2026-27 സാമ്പത്തികവർഷം പട്ടികജാതി വിഭാഗത്തിന്റെ വിദേശപഠന ധനസഹായത്തിനായി 4950 ലക്ഷം രൂപ ബജറ്റിൽ വകയിരുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ആയതിൽ നാളിതുവരെയായി പട്ടികജാതി വിഭാഗങ്ങൾക്കായി 15,94,81,696/-രൂപ അനുവദിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്.

സെക്ഷൻ ഓഫീസർ

അനുബന്ധം

നമ്പർ	വർഷം	ഗ്രാമത്തിന്റെ പേര്	അനുവദിച്ച തുക	പ്രവൃത്തിയുടെ നിലവിലെ സ്ഥിതി
1	2021-22	കള്ളാംതോട്	99,99,907/-	പൂർത്തീകരിച്ചു
2	2021-22	കുന്നംകാട് ഗ്രാമം	97,83,922/-	പൂർത്തീകരിച്ചു
3	2023-24	ആലയംകോട് വെളുകൊട് നഗർ	98,70,464/-	53% പൂർത്തീകരിച്ചു ഭവന പുനരുദ്ധാരണം, റോഡ്, കിണർ മെയിന്റനൻസ്, സ്ട്രീറ്റ് ലൈറ്റ്, മിനി മാസ്റ്റ് ലൈറ്റ് എന്നിവ പൂർത്തീകരിക്കാൻ ഉണ്ട്
4	2024-25	തെക്കേക്കര ചന്ദ്രത്തിൽ നഗർ	98,93,319/-	ആകെ 50% പൂർത്തീകരിച്ചു. റോഡ് വർക്ക് 70% പൂർത്തീകരിച്ചു. സൈഡ് പ്രൊട്ടക്ഷൻ, ഇലക്ട്രിക്കൽ വർക്ക് എന്നിവ ആരംഭിച്ചിട്ടില്ല
5	2025-26	വടക്കേകര തെക്കേകര നഗർ	98,94,221/-	ആകെ 70% പൂർത്തീകരിച്ചു. സൈഡ് പ്രൊട്ടക്ഷൻ 40%, റോഡ് 80% പൂർത്തീകരിച്ചു. ഇലക്ട്രിക്കൽ വർക്ക്, മോട്ടോർ ഷെഡ് എന്നീ പ്രവൃത്തികൾ കൂടി പൂർത്തീകരിക്കാൻ ഉണ്ട്.

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7525257

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA

Abstract

Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes Development Department – Government of Kerala UNNATHI Scholarship to students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities for overseas studies - guidelines revised - Orders issued.

SCHEDULED CASTES/ SCHEDULED TRIBES DEVELOPMENT (A) DEPARTMENT

G.O.(P) No.5/2023/SCSTDD **Dated, Thiruvananthapuram, 01/08/2023**

Read:- 1. G.O(Ms.)81/2017 /SCSTDD dated 04.10.2017
2. G.O(Ms.) 97/2018 /SCSTDD dated 17.12.2018
3. G.O(Ms.) 22/2019 /SCSTDD dated 19.03.2019
4. Letter No.Edn.-12522/2021-A2 (EDN A) dated 21.10.2022 from Director, Scheduled Castes Development Department.
5. Letter No.C1-12956/2022 dated 21.10.2022 from Director, Scheduled Tribes Development Department.
6. G.O(Ms.) 22/2023/SCSTDD dated 01/08/2023

ORDER

The critical importance of providing financial and logistical support to students from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes communities pursuing higher education, especially in prestigious foreign universities is an acknowledged priority of the Government. While operating the existing scheme, the need emerged to address specific gaps and bring clearer procedural details to establish a transparent and efficient system for offering overseas scholarships to the deserving candidates. This includes guiding students to renowned universities, offering counseling services, legal assistance, safety measures, medical insurance, safeguarding against exploitative agencies, and ensuring a smooth,hassle-free application process.

As per the letter read 4th and 5th paper above, the Director, Scheduled Castes Development Department and the Director, Scheduled Tribes Development Department furnished proposals for revising the guidelines for sanctioning scholarships to students seeking admission in foreign universities. Several consultative meetings were conducted to streamline the process for the benefit of the students and to structure it in a manner to extend the benefit to more students as well as target it towards the most vulnerable and deserving within the communities.

Government have examined the matter in detail and are pleased to revise the guidelines and revamp the scheme as "GOVERNMENT OF KERALA-UNNATHI SCHOLARSHIP FOR OVERSEAS STUDIES" as follows:

(A) The UNNATHI Scholarship for Overseas Studies is a merit-cum-means scholarship for pursuing higher studies abroad. This programme is envisaged to help the talented and meritorious students to pursue post-graduate level (or above) courses which will facilitate access to a broader area of knowledge and widen their career prospects. In the longer run, it should fetch better means, a career at par with the best in the world and mobility powered by knowledge. The choice of courses, the opportunities offered by the institution, the reputation and acceptance of the course within and outside our country, academic growth, job prospects, the expected terminal contribution to the individual and his/her family, etc., are relevant factors in the award of scholarship.

(B) Prospective students should begin preparations for overseas studies by the final year of their degree, gathering details about the desired course, institution, fee structure, and living expenses in the target country. The IEC component of this scheme in collaboration with ODEPC (Overseas Development and Employment Promotion Consultants - a government of Kerala Undertaking) and other sectoral agencies and Universities would actively reach out to the prospective students and enable them to take an informed decision.

(C) OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME

i. To provide opportunity for the talented and meritorious students to acquire skill, knowledge and international exposure in the area of their studies.
ii. To provide them an opportunity to study subjects/courses which have great scope and potential for better employment in the international market.
iii. To help students from financially weak and vulnerable backgrounds to pursue exemplary higher education, irrespective of the financial hurdles.
iv. To prevent intermediaries and unscrupulous agents from exploiting the students who choose to study abroad.
v. To provide a safe, secure and comfortable study experience for the students with legal aid and health insurance.
vi. To encourage students to dream big and to set higher goals in their career path.

(D) ELIGIBILITY NORMS & CONDITIONS:

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

i. Must be a resident of Kerala and belong to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes of Kerala.
ii. Must have secured at least 55% mark as per the University criteria in the qualifying examination.
iii. Must be below 35 years of age as on the date of application.
iv. The applicant shall not be a government employee or an employee of a public sector entity.
v. The scholarship shall be granted to a student for only ONE programme or course of study and shall be limited to the period for which it is sanctioned.
vi. Applications submitted after taking admission other than through the procedure laid down herein to any foreign university /institution will not be considered under any circumstances. The scholarship and assistance is limited to those students who apply under this scheme, following the procedures laid down herein.
vii. All candidates after having availed of the award under the scheme are normally expected to return to India. However, the candidates are free to stay back abroad after completion of the course, without any financial support from the government, if the candidate is able to obtain any employment and appropriate visa for his/her stay in the foreign country. In that case, the candidate will duly inform the Director of Scheduled Caste Development Department/Scheduled Tribe Development Department about the employment details and take a No Objection Certificate (NOC). The awardee after the course and having returned to India is required to immediately intimate the same to the concerned Director.

(E) SCHOLARSHIP PATTERN

Three slabs are fixed for students from the Scheduled Castes community 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 and the scholarship entitlements are as follows:

i. Students hailing from Scheduled Castes community, with an annual family income up to ₹ 12,00,000/- (Rupees Twelve Lakhs only) will be awarded full scholarship to meet all the expenses certified by the authorities concerned, including accommodation, living expenses, visa charges, health insurance and air travel expenses in economy class, limited in total to an amount of ₹ 25,00,000 (Rupees Twenty Five Lakhs only) for the entire course period, subject to the condition that the living expense component within the total will be limited to 10 Lakhs for the entire course. The total entitlement shall be ₹ 25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five lakh only). Total number of awardees will be 175.

ii. Students hailing from Scheduled Castes community, with an annual family income between Rs. ₹12,00,001/- and ₹20,00,000/- will be entitled to get the tuition fee component, limited to ₹15,00,000/- (Rupees Fifteen lakh only) certified by the authorities concerned. Accommodation and living expenses, visa charges, air fare admissible and health insurance premium component shall be limited to ₹ 5,00,000 (Rupees Five lakh only). The total entitlement shall be ₹20,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty lakh only). Total number of awardees will be 25.

iii. Students hailing from Scheduled Castes community, with an annual family income more than ₹20,00,000/- will be entitled to get the tuition fee component only,limited to ₹15,00,000/- (Fifteen lakh) certified by the authorities concerned. The total entitlement therefore shall be ₹15,00,000/- (Rupees Fifteen lakh only). Total number of awardees will be 25.

iv. For any specific year, with reference to the above enumerated categorisation, if eligible candidates are not available to the extent prescribed for any of the above listed categories, the vacant numbers in that category for that year will be added to next below enumerated category, subject to availability of funds. The number of candidates under the respective next enumerated category will increase commensurately. This has been so designed so that the more financially backward communities within the broad category do not fall behind. All efforts shall be undertaken by the departments as well as by ODEPC to reach out to the beneficiary communities to attract more candidates from the most vulnerable groups with lower income so that such shifting of numbers to the better-off categories is avoided as far as possible. Annual special drives shall be conducted to ensure that there are sufficient candidates in the targeted low-income categories without fail.

v. Students hailing from Scheduled Tribes community will be awarded full scholarship to meet all the expenses certified by the authorities concerned, including accommodation, living expenses, visa charges, health insurance and air travel expenses in economy class, limited in total to an amount of ₹25,00,000 (Rupees Twenty Five lakhs only) for the entire course period, subject to the condition that the living expense component within the total will be limited to ₹10 lakhs for the entire course. The total entitlement shall be ₹25,00,000/- (Rupees Twenty Five lakh only). Income limits will not be applicable to students from the Scheduled Tribe community. Total number of awardees will be 50.

vi. In addition to the above categories and numbers, 25 students belonging to Scheduled Castes community hailing from families with annual income above ₹20,00,000/- (Rupees twenty lakhs only) and 10 students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes community with no income limit

shall be provided with interest free education loan by the SC-ST Development Corporation and the interest component shall be borne by the Government. If there are not enough applicants from the Scheduled Tribes community who avail loan, the benefit of interest-free loan can be given to commensurate number of students from the Scheduled Castes community. The total number of awardees will be 35.

(F) 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. ODEPC on behalf of the respective Directors shall conduct due diligence, do necessary research and shall spare no effort in identifying the best courses and guiding the beneficiary students to the appropriate Universities under this scheme.

(G) 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 (500) as per Times Higher Education World University rankings (https://www.timeshighereducation.com) which is based on 13 calibrated performance indicators that measure an institution's performance across four areas: teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook. The latest available rank list at the time of application will be considered. ODEPC shall do necessary research and shall update the respective Directors of the ranking list and the trends related to different countries that have to be considered while advising the beneficiary student applicants.

(H) CALENDAR AND PROCEDURE FOR SELECTION

ODEPC (Overseas Development and Employment Promotion Consultants – a Government of Kerala Undertaking) shall function as the specialised nodal agency and give expert consultancy, advice and service to the respective Directors in operationalising this scheme. The Directors shall enter into a detailed agreement with ODEPC and avail necessary professional and technical services, including setting up a portal, call-centre, mobilisation, selection, admission, travel, ground-handling and ancillary services in the country of study. ODEPC shall operate UNNATHI Overseas Scholarships separately and distinctly from their other overseas study services and maintain a distinct identity under this Department. All communications and IEC material shall prominently display UNNATHI Overseas Scholarships and a dedicated hotline number to facilitate the students shall be established to guide the students throughout the year.

i. The selection of students under this scheme shall be done thrice a year, i.e., Fall season (August to September) , Spring Season (February to March) & May -June intake.
ii. All such students desirous of applying for financial assistance for studies abroad shall apply online from 1 August to 30th September for Fall season and again from 1st February to 31 March for Spring Season of the year and 1st of May to 30th June for May-June intake.
iii. The mobilisation and selection of students under this scheme shall be done by the Scheduled Castes /Scheduled Tribe Development Departments led by the respective Directors, utilising the services of ODEPC.
iv. An online application system shall be displayed on the official pages of both these Departments and Unnathi (Kerala Empowerment Society). The technical team from ODEPC shall ensure data integrity and ensure that the application form access point is not displayed elsewhere.

v. Being of a younger age, being a girl child, being a child of a single parent, physical disability and academic merit shall be given weightage in selection. The marking criteria adopted for ranking shall be published in advance, on the application portal itself.

(I) INDICATIVE REQUIREMENTS AT VARIOUS STAGES

i. IELTS Score card with the overall 6.5 and no band less than 6 (if required).
ii. Copy of SSLC Book or equivalent certificate.
iii. Birth Certificate.
iv. Caste/Community Certificate.
v. Income Certificate.
vi. Copy of the Mark List of the Qualifying Examination.
vii. Copy of the Degree Certificate or the qualifying Examination.
viii. Copy of GRE, IELTS, TOEFL or other relevant score certificate, if applicable.
ix. Copy of offer letter from the institution to which the candidate seeks admission.
x. Copy of Study/Student Visa.
xi. Copy of Aadhaar Card.
xii. Copy of Bank Pass Book.
xiii. Any other document which will be specified in the online portal.

(J) SPECIFIC ROLE OF ODEPC

A separate and detailed agreement with all relevant aspects mentioned in this Government Order and other operational details shall be signed between the Department Directors and Managing Director, ODEPC. The following tasks are specifically assigned to ODEPC:

i. Process applications thrice a year, i.e. (1) Fall season (August to September), (2) Spring Season (February to March) & (3) May -June intake for selection of students to be done under the Government norms and conditions issued from time to time.
ii. Handle enquiries regarding the scholarship by publishing a hotline – Unnathi Overseas scholarship helpline number that shall function throughout the year.
iii. Provide educational support and career guidance to all students who belong to the Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe communities in general, seeking to avail this scholarship or otherwise throughout the year.
iv. Facilitate to operate a single window of online application on the official websites of the concerned Departments and Unnathi (Kerala Empowerment Society) and provide all back-end support for the same.
v. Conduct parent-student counselling sessions well in advance to the intake seasons to help students and their parents understand the entire process of going abroad, including that of overseas student visa application and to help students make the right decisions to realise their aspirations.
vi. Accept applications online through the designated three websites for preliminary screening based on the priority criteria published (being of a younger age, being a girl child, being a child of a single parent, physical disability and academic merit) and prepare a DRAFT LIST of prospective candidates which shall be provisionally in excess to the intake plan and authenticated by the concerned Directors.
vii. Ensure that the applications are called for and the entire cycle of process is conducted meticulously for each intake season without backlog.

viii. Undertake a thorough screening of eligible applicants in the DRAFT LIST based on their language proficiency, academic eligibility, choice of country of study and University entry requirements, ranking the prospective candidates who meet the eligibility for overseas education through a fair and professional process.

ix. Prioritize each student's skills and interests and guide them to make an informed choice about the right career direction and assist them to match their eligibility with appropriate courses and institutions.

x. Assess the authenticity and credibility of international Universities/institutions that students opt to study and guide them to the best institution possible.

xi. Screen and prepare the candidates' ranked list for that particular intake season, based on English language proficiency, academic documents, skills and interests, and on that basis suggest suitable courses, country of study and appropriate entry requirements, University options and produce the SELECT LIST for that particular intake season to the respective Departments for approval and submission to the SCHOLARSHIP (SELECTION /APPEAL) COMMITTEE.

xii. Once the SCHOLARSHIP (SELECTION /APPEAL) COMMITTEE has approved the FINAL LIST, proceed with the procedures of course counselling, scholarship assistance, University admissions, visa and tickets for the students who have been included.

xiii. To help the students from the SELECT LIST who did not make it to the FINAL LIST to apply again for the next intake season with better qualifications and preparation by providing intensive training for those who have not cleared the requisite English language examination wherein the fee component shall be given by the Departments concerned.

xiv. To Ensure that every student meets the admission requirements set by Universities by helping students with various aspects of their admissions, including documentation, Statement of Purpose Guidance, lodging of applications and communication with the University.

xv. Assist in travel documentation and help apply for the student visa.

xvi. Assist students to obtain the required health insurance, as per the visa regulations to support them with any medical costs they may incur while studying overseas.

xvii. To make upfront payments, if necessary, with regard to visa processing, air tickets or academic fees once the selection of the student is finalised and approved by the relevant committees and to act as a single point of fund release under this scheme for the Departments.

xviii. Arrange continued mentorship and counseling for the students selected for the scholarship, in collaboration with the Departments, ensuring long term psycho-social support for the families.

xix. To receive the student at the airport and arrange for transportation to the University/ Institution through ground-handling partners in the respective countries.

xx. Provide confidential advice to students on issues related to the University or the education imparted, or when students are in need of any legal advice or guidance related to any discrimination or any other complaints they might have during the scholarship period.

xxi. Track each student during the first year of overseas education and provide the Departments with insight into the students' enrollment status and academics, and if a University has objection to student enrollment tracking or if the data would be unavailable, convey the same to the Departments at the time of the students being considered for the scholarship.

xxii. Maintain a dedicated online page to serve the entire cycle of services under this scheme and the link to the same shall be displayed prominently on the Department portals and of Unnathi (Kerala Empowerment Society), ensuring that the data and its scrutiny shall be accessible in real-time to the respective Directors and the CEO of Unnathi with appropriate log-in credentials.

xxiii. Ensure that Data security is of highest priority and that no third-party has any access to student data.

xxiv. Arrange the student to execute a bond with the Director to avail this scholarship subject to the conditions herein and for maintaining good behaviour.

xxv. Facilitate and support overseas students under this scholarship scheme to associate and co-operate amongst themselves and function as a live communication channel providing feedback to the Departments.

(K) SCHOLARSHIP (SELECTION /APPEAL) COMMITTEE

A Scholarship (Selection/Appeal) Committee is hereby constituted with the following members:

Additional Chief Secretary/Principal Secretary/Secretary/Special Secretary to Government	Chairman
Director, Scheduled Tribe Development Department	Member
Director, Backward Classes Development Department	Member
Managing Director, ODEPC	Member
Director, Scheduled Castes Development Department	Convenor

The SELECT LIST of the students for each intake season prepared by ODEPC under the general control and direction of the respective Directors, shall be published in public domain for a week (7 days) and placed for approval before the Scholarship (Selection/Appeal) Committee. The Committee shall scrutinize the SELECT LIST and also consider appeals and objections to the same. A second and final appeal shall lie to the Hon'ble Minister, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Department. The approved FINAL LIST shall be issued to the Directors concerned for notification and for commensurate fund release to ODEPC based on the agreement entered between them.

(L) COMPONENTS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship amount shall in general cover the following components as per the eligibility assessed in detail and recommended by ODEPC, subject to scrutiny by the respective Directors:

i. One way flight tickets of economy class. Return air ticket will be issued if the candidate is travelling back to India within 1 month after the date of course completion.

ii. Medical Insurance Premium.

iii. Tuition fee.

iv. Accommodation (on certification by the university/ institution).

v. Living expenses (food, local travel, etc.)

vi. Actual Visa Charges.

vii. Other non refundable expenses/ remittances to the Institution/ University.

viii. Pick up from Airport to the place of accommodation.

ODEPC shall function as the single nodal point of disbursal of the various components of the scholarship and shall maintain the bills, vouchers and bank transaction details for departmental scrutiny at any point of time.

(M) PROCEDURE FOR FUND DISBURSAL

i. On receipt of the approved FINAL LIST with relevant documents, the respective Directors shall verify the same and, if in order, issue an intimation within ten days to the student regarding provisional sanction of the scholarship that shall be disbursed via ODEPC.

ii. The amount of scholarship entitlement under these guidelines shall be estimated and submitted by ODEPC based on the certificate from the institution and each installment will be fixed considering the requirement at each stage and the same shall be scrutinised and approved by the concerned Director for release of funds to ODEPC.

iii. The Director concerned shall transfer 25% of the eligible amount, in advance to ODEPC towards the first installment and the rest of the amount shall be transferred to ODEPC after submitting the fund utilisation certificate for the first tranche.

iv. ODEPC shall disburse the fee component directly to the Universities/Institutions and the living expenditure shall be remitted to the student's foreign bank account in the country of study. These funds shall not be transferred to any other account or entity under any circumstances.

v. Based on the requisition raised by ODEPC, the Director shall release the second installment to ODEPC which includes funds towards one-way economy class air fare, visa charges and tuition fees for the first year along with advance as living expenses as per the eligibility. Air tickets and visa shall be arranged by ODEPC and the expense shall be billed accordingly.

vi. The living expenses shall be released by ODEPC to the student on receipt of a certificate from the Head of the Institution or on the basis of a rent receipt from a credible accommodation provider regarding the accommodation and living expenses.

vii. The student should submit progress reports through designated channels to ODEPC on his studies, duly signed by the Head of the Institution to ensure steady flow of scholarship funds.

viii. Based on the report of ODEPC validating the progress report and the certificate of expenditure, the Director shall sanction the subsequent installments.

ix. ODEPC shall make upfront payments, if necessary, with regard to visa processing, ticketing or academic fees and ensure that the student is not put to any inconvenience on

account of procedural delay in fund release from the Department and shall function as a fund-cushion.

x. The Directors shall ensure that there is no delay in fund release and shall closely liaison with ODEPC for the smooth execution of the scholarship scheme.

(N) DEFAULT BY THE SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEE

In case a student pursuing studies abroad under this scheme violates any of the terms and conditions of the bonds executed by him/her OR the educational Institution/University reports adversely about his/her studies or conduct OR the candidate illegally leaves for any other country OR absconds OR joins any other University or course/programme OR returns to India without intimation, he/she will be declared a defaulter and he/she will be liable to refund the entire amount spent on him/her along with interest, as per existing rules. An appeal in any such action shall lie to the SCHOLARSHIP (SELECTION /APPEAL) COMMITTEE which may take a final decision in the matter.

(O) 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 benefits under this scheme. An appeal in any such punitive action shall lie to the SCHOLARSHIP (SELECTION/ APPEAL) COMMITTEE which may take a final decision in the matter.

(P) OTHER MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

i. Based on the request from ODEPC, the Director concerned shall issue a scholarship guarantee letter/ financial guarantee letter in the name of any candidate for procuring the unconditional offer letter from the University or institutions, if required.

ii. Course of study or institution for which fund transfer has been initiated cannot be changed unless the concerned University/ Institution does it as an internal arrangement AND there is no change in scholarship entitlement amount AND there is no loss to the Government AND the course is superior AND ODEPC recommends it.

iii. 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 under any circumstances.

iv. 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 through the designated channels of ODEPC after each semester or after each half year, as the case may be.

v. If the students avails any other scholarship, it will be deducted from the scholarship amount if the student's actual fees is below the sum of the scholarships.

vi. An agreement detailing all other aspects in the prescribed format shall be signed between the Managing Director, ODEPC and the student.

vii. The students shall follow the instructions of the Indian Embassy or Government of Kerala in the foreign country. They are advised to get in touch with them as soon as they begin to explore the possibility of this scholarship.

viii. The Director of Scheduled Castes Development Department, the Director of Scheduled Tribes Development Department and the Managing Director of ODEPC shall designate a

Nodal Officer each from their respective organisations who shall closely liaison and operationalise the scheme smoothly.

ix. The SCHOLARSHIP (SELECTION/APPEAL) COMMITTEE – shall review/audit the distribution & issues related to Overseas Scholarship annually.

x. The total number of scholarships for the current year, as elaborated earlier, shall be 310, limiting the expenditure within the budget provisions; whereas the number of scholarships to be awarded each year shall be decided by the Government from time to time.

The Government Order read as 6th paper above cited stands cancelled.

(By order of the Governor)
PRASANTH N I A S
SPECIAL SECRETARY

To

The Additional Chief Secretary, Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes Development Department
The Secretary, Higher Education Department
The Director, Scheduled Castes Development Department
The Director, Scheduled Tribes Development Department
The Director, Backward Class Development Department
The Director, Technical Education department
The Director, Collegiate Education department
The Managing Director, Overseas Development & Employment Promotion Consultants (OQDEPC) Ltd , Thiruvananthapuram
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

Forwarded/by Order

Section Officer