

**Ministry of Social Justice &
Empowerment
Department of Social Justice &
Empowerment**



सत्यमेव जयते

**GUIDELINES
UNDER
CENTRAL SECTOR SCHEME OF
NATIONAL OVERSEAS
SCHOLARSHIP FOR SC ETC.
CANDIDATES FOR SELECTION
YEAR
2020-21**

I. Objective of the Scheme

The Central Sector Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship is to facilitate the low income students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Denotified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans category to obtain higher education viz., Master degree or Ph.D courses by studying abroad thereby improving their Economic and Social status.

II. Scope

a) In each Selection Year, 100 fresh awards, subject to availability of funds, will be given under the Scheme. The Scheme provides financial assistance to the selected candidates for pursuing Masters level courses and Ph.D. courses abroad in the Institutions/Universities accredited by the Government/ an authorized body of that country in any fields of study.

b) The following is the category wise distribution of slots for various groups eligible for scholarship under the scheme:

S. No.	Category	Numbers
a)	Scheduled Castes	90
b)	Denotified, Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes	06
c)	Landless Agricultural Labourers and Traditional Artisans	04
	Total slots	100

c) 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.

d) 30% of the awards for each year shall be earmarked for women candidates. However, in case, adequate women candidates are not available as per the stipulations of the scheme, then the unutilized slots will be utilized by selecting suitable male candidates.

e) Bachelors Level courses in any discipline are not covered under the Scheme.

f) Candidates already staying/ studying abroad are not eligible for scholarship under the Scheme.

g) Candidates having unconditional offer of admission to top 1000 ranked foreign Institutes/Universities as per the latest available QS ranking only will be selected for grant of scholarship during the first three rounds of selection out of a total of four rounds in the selection year. During the fourth cycle of selection

priority will be given as follows :

- i. Candidates having unconditional offer letter of admission from Top 1000 QS Ranking Institutions applying in the fourth cycle.
- ii. Candidates having unconditional offer letter of admission from other recognized Institutions who have applied for scholarship under the scheme during the previous cycles or current cycle.
- iii. Candidates submitting proof of applying in any recognized institution applying for scholarship under the scheme in any of the cycles.

However, any financial condition mentioned in the offer of admission such as deposit of fee or any other amount, or proof of source of funds, shall not be a bar for consideration of application under the Scheme guidelines.

III. Minimum Qualification

In order to be eligible for scholarship, at least 60% of marks or equivalent grade in the qualifying examination would be required. In case of Ph. D courses, the qualifying exam would be Master's Degree and for Master's Degree courses, the qualifying examination would be Bachelor's Degree.

IV. Age

Not more than 35 (Thirty Five) years, as on first day of April, 2020.

V. Income Ceiling

Total family income from all sources shall not exceed Rs. 8.00 lakh per annum in the preceding year, i.e., 2019-20.

VI. Family

Under the Scheme, for determination of family income, the family will be considered as following:

"The candidate applying for scholarship, his/her parents and siblings below the age of 18 years and also his/ her spouse and children below the age of 18 years."

Note: In case of married women, income of the in-laws and her spouse and children below the age of 18 years will be considered.

VII. Maximum Number of children in a family for the award

Not more than two children of the same parents/guardians will be eligible for scholarship under the scheme and a self-certification will be required from the candidate to this effect. An awardee cannot be considered for the award for a second time as the award can be given only once. The second child of the same parents/guardians will be considered only if slots are still available for that cycle in which the applicant has applied.

VIII. Application Procedure

- a. The scheme will be advertised in the newspapers/ other media giving summarized information about the Scheme. The candidates shall, after assessing their eligibility and suitability, as per the eligibility conditions of the Scheme, can apply online to this Ministry on the portal, i.e., www.nosmsje.gov.in.
- b. The portal shall be opened for calling of applications from April, 2020 for a period of 30 days and only online applications received shall be considered for award in the first cycle of selection. In case the slots remain unfilled, the portal will be again opened every quarter for a period of 30 days (i.e. from 1st July, 2020 to 30th July, 2020, 1st October, 2020 to 30th October, 2020 and 1st January, 2021 to 30th January, 2021) until all the slots are filled. Once all the 100 slots are filled, the portal will not be reopened for submission of applications.
- c. Online applications complete in all respects only shall be considered for award. All the incomplete applications will be summarily rejected. However, the rejected candidates will have the option to apply in subsequent phases of selection.

IX. Selection Procedure

- a. Initially, only candidates who have obtained unconditional offer of admission from one of the foreign Institutions/ Universities which are in the list of top 1000 ranked institutions/ universities from the academic session 2020-21 and onward shall be considered for award of scholarship for studying in that Institution/University subject to fulfillment of other eligibility conditions of the Scheme. No request for change of Institution/University shall be entertained.
- b. For every cycle of selection, merit list of the eligible candidates shall be drawn up on the basis of the rank, as per the latest available QS ranking, of the foreign Universities/ Institutions where the candidate has secured admission and scholarships shall be awarded in order of merit. The candidates holding an offer letter from the higher ranked University/ Institution will be ranked higher in the merit list. In case of a tie between the QS rankings of two or more candidates their position in merit will be decided on the basis of the marks/grades secured by the candidate in the qualifying examination for the higher studies for which the scholarship has been applied for.
- c. If, even after the third cycle of selections sufficient candidates have not been selected for award of scholarship, in the fourth cycle of selections such candidates who have either obtained unconditional offer of admission from, or have applied but not yet secured admission in, any foreign institute/ university shall also become eligible for award of scholarship, even if the institution/university does not figure in the top 1000 QS ranking. The merit list will be drawn in the following order during the 4th cycle of selection:
 - i. The candidates already holding an unconditional offer letter from the top 1000 QS ranked foreign institutions/ Universities will be given preference and will be placed at the top of the merit list of the fourth cycle in the order of the QS ranking of the Institution they have secured admission in. If there is any tie that shall be resolved in the manner prescribed in b) above.

- ii. In case slots still remain vacant, such eligible candidates who have secured unconditional offer of admission in any foreign institution/ university and have applied for scholarship under the Scheme in any cycle shall be considered next. The merit of such candidates shall be based on the marks/ grades secured by the candidate in the qualifying examination for the higher studies for which the scholarship has been applied for.
- iii. If slots still remain vacant, candidates who have applied for, but have not yet secured unconditional offer of admission in any foreign University/ Institution, and applied for scholarship under the Scheme in any cycle shall be considered next. The merit of such candidates shall also be based on the marks/ grades secured by the candidate in the qualifying examination for the higher studies for which the scholarship has been applied for.
- d. The online applications of the eligible candidates shall be placed before the Selection-cum-Screening Committee for making their recommendations for selection and ranking of the eligible candidates for scholarship.
- e. The selected candidates who have already secured admission in foreign University/ Institution shall be issued provisional Award of Scholarship letters and Provisional Assurance letters shall be issued to such candidates who are yet to secure admissions in the foreign Universities/ Institutions.
- f. In case a candidate is given an award under the scheme, he/she shall be required to join the said course within a period of one year from the date of award letter failing which the award would stand automatically cancelled. The award will be admissible from academic year 2020-21 and no past claim will be entertained.
- g. In case a provisional assurance is given to the candidate, the same will be valid for a period of one year from the date of communication of the Assurance. The candidate given provisional Assurance will be required to obtain unconditional offer of admission in or join an accredited foreign University/ Institution within a period of one year from the date of the communication. On expiry of the specified period of time, the assurance will automatically get cancelled and no request for extension of assurance will be considered.

X. Mandatory Conditions

The candidates are required to make their own efforts in seeking admission in programmes/ fields specified in the Scheme in the latest available top 1000 QS ranking Institutions/ Universities.

- i. The candidate is not eligible for scholarship under this scheme to pursue the same level (Masters/Ph.D.) of course for which he/she has already acquired the qualification from any University/Institution either in India or abroad.
- ii. Employed candidates are required to provide a "No Objection Certificate" (NOC) from the Employer to this Ministry.
- iii. All administrative matters like study leave, salary etc. will be directly resolved by the candidate with his/her employer and as per rules of the serving organization. This Ministry will not take any responsibility or render any assistance in this regard.
- iv. It will be for the candidate to obtain the appropriate visa for a country wherein

he/she intends to study further with the award from the Scheme, and the Visa issuing authorities may 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. In case the candidate is applying for admission in any University in the United States of America, the candidate is required to obtain **J-1 VISA only**. The State Department of USA keeps a list of Designated Sponsor Organizations for J-1 visas for students. Candidates going to USA should apply in the J-1 Visa sponsoring Universities/colleges only. In case a candidate has applied for admission on F-1 Visa or has already obtained F-1 Visa, such candidate is not eligible for scholarship under the Scheme. Government of India will render no assistance to the candidate for obtaining Visa.

- v. The candidate will give an undertaking that he/she will allow his/her University to share information with concerned Indian Mission abroad and the Ministry. The candidate has also to give an undertaking that he/she is not in receipt of any scholarship from any government/ other organization including University/ College for the course he/she is applying under this scheme.
- vi. The 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.
- vii. 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. The selected candidates have to provide solvency certificates for both the sureties issued by Revenue department of the concerned State Government.
- viii. In case the selected candidate obtains admission in an accredited University/Institution abroad and joins the University/Institution before execution of bonds as mentioned in clause X(vii) and is not in a position to return to India then he/she may execute a Power of Attorney (POA) for any of his/her representative in India to act for and on his/her behalf to execute legal Bonds/agreements/undertakings with the Government of India. All such applicants are required to get the POA attested/validated by Indian Embassy/ High Commission in the country where he/she is pursuing studies.
- 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. However the extension of stay abroad beyond completion of the course or duration of the scholarship under the Scheme, whichever is earlier

- will only be permissible as mentioned in clause X(xvii).
- x. 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.
 - xi. In case the awardee was a Government Servant before going abroad, on return to India he/she 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.
 - xii. 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.
 - xiii. No scholarship will be disbursed/ paid to the candidates who complete their education abroad without completing the required procedure/formalities under NOS Scheme.
 - xiv. 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.
 - xv. The candidates shall not change the course of study or research for which scholarship has been sanctioned. However, when situations arise where an awardee pursuing Ph.D in a University/Institution where one is initially registered finds 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/ Institution as notified in the scheme, 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.
 - xvi. In case of exigency at home where the awardee is required to return to India for some time to attend to it, the awardee is permitted to return to India for the specific purpose, after having informed the Indian Mission 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 the 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.

xvii. All candidates after having availed of the award under the Scheme are required to return to India. However, the candidates are allowed to stay abroad after completion of the course for a period of 02 (two) years without any financial support 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 Ministry and the Indian Mission abroad about the employment details. The awardee after having returned to India is also required to immediately intimate to this Ministry in writing about having returned to India.

XI. Role of Indian Mission

- i. Indian Mission will make payments of tuition fees/maintenance allowance/other allowances to the students studying in their jurisdiction as per the existing arrangements and sanction orders.
- ii. 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.
- iii. 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 receive 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.
- iv. Monitoring the progress of the students as mentioned in para-XII.
- v. The Indian Missions are required to intimate to this Ministry about the return of the awardee to India.

XII. Monitoring

- i. The Indian Missions abroad will obtain bi-annual 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 that are not seen to be up to the mark as reflected in their said bi-annual progress reports and they may also be reminded that financial assistance under the Scheme is not extendable beyond the stipulated period under the Scheme.

- ii. The payment of Maintenance Allowance is linked with furnishing of progress report. For first semester/six months, the maintenance allowance may be paid to the scholarship awardee in the first instance as an advance. Thereafter, the maintenance allowance for the next semester/six months may be paid only after receipt of the satisfactory progress report of the awardee for first six months/ semester.
- iii. Provision of Administrative Expenses:- For proper monitoring and implementation of the Scheme and portal www.nosmsje.gov.in, a Programme Monitoring Unit (PMU) may be set up under the Scheme by engaging a small team of suitable persons. For meeting up such administrative expenses @1.5% of the Budget Allocation may be made which may inter alia include engagement of the suitable persons or technical experts, development of further modules of the portal, travelling, organising meetings/Conference etc., any other essential expenditure required for implementation, evaluation or improvement of the Scheme etc.

XIII. Financial Assistance

S. No.	Type of Assistance	United States of America (USA) & other countries except UK	United Kingdom (UK)
1.	Annual Maintenance Allowance	15400 US Dollars	9900 Great British Pound
2.	Contingency Allowance	1500 US Dollars	1100 Great British Pound
3.	Tuition Fees	Actual as charged	
4.	Visa Fees	Actual visa fees in Indian Rupees	
5.	Medical Insurance Premium	Actual as charged	
6.	Incidental Journey Allowance & Equipment Allowance	20 US Dollar for each or its equivalent in Indian Rupees	
7.	Poll Tax	Actual as charged	
8.	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.	

Note: (i) The Contingency allowance is allowed for books/essential apparatus/ study tour/ travel cost for attending subject related conference, workshops etc./ typing and binding of thesis etc and the fees charged by the University/ Institutions which are directly related to the studies of the Scholarship Awardees such as Student Service Fees, Student Amenity Fees, Student Service and Amenity Fees, Registration Fees, Examination Fees, Enrollment Fees, Library Fees etc. However, the fee for English or any other Language courses either before joining of the course or during the course is not allowed.

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

(iii) The awardees are permitted to supplement their prescribed allowances by undertaking Research/ Teaching Assistant-ship.

XIV. Duration of Award with Financial Assistance

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

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

Master's 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.

XV. 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.

XVI. 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.

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 giving NOC to the applicant. 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. Litigation

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 litigation 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 and 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 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 merit Scholarship for Post Graduate Studies, Research or Training abroad (excluding attending seminars, workshops conferences) from a foreign Government/organisation or under any other Scheme, where the cost of passage is not provided, will be eligible to apply.

ii) The Candidate should possess a Masters' 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. Prospective candidates can contact this Ministry for obtaining application form for applying for the passage grant.
