

Guidelines from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations about Scholarships for Studying in India

Please see <http://www.iccrindia.org/scholarships.htm>

From time immemorial, India has been a centre for learning. Thousands of years ago, great scholars used to teach through the scriptures. A variety of subjects such as philosophy, religion, medicine, literature, drama and arts, astrology, mathematics and sociology were taught and masterpieces on these subjects were written. Under the Buddhist influence, education was available to virtually everyone who wanted it and some world famous institutions arose out of the monasteries, such as Nalanda, Vikramshila and Takshashila. Nalanda, which flourished from the 5th to 13th century AD, was especially noteworthy. It had at one time about 10,000 resident students and teachers on its roll, including Chinese, Sri Lankan, Korean and other international scholars.

During the 11th century, the Muslims established elementary and secondary schools, "Madrasas" or colleges, and even universities at cities like Delhi, Lucknow and Allahabad, mostly using Arabic as the medium of instruction. During the medieval period, there was excellent interaction between Indian and Islamic traditions in all fields of knowledge like indology, religion, philosophy, fine arts, painting, architecture, mathematics, medicine and astronomy.

With the arrival of the British, English education came into being with the help of the European missionaries. In 1817, Hindu College was established in Kolkata. The Elphinstone Institution was set up in 1834 in Mumbai. In 1857 three universities were set up at Kolkata, Chennai and Mumbai. Since then, Western education has made steady advances in the country. With 354 universities and thousands of colleges affiliated to them, 428 engineering colleges and technological institutes, more than a 100 medical colleges, scores of agricultural institutes and many other specialised centres of learning and research in every subject and discipline, India can claim its position as one of the

leading countries providing quality higher education to its people as well as to students and scholars from countries all over the world.

Today Indian universities and institutes of higher education and research have made a significant contribution to transmission of knowledge and enquiry into frontiers of science and technology. In the field of traditional subjects such as arts and humanities as well as in pure sciences, applied physics and chemistry, mathematics and in areas of technology, the universities and higher institutes have been playing a leading role in transforming the country into a modern industrialised, technologically advanced state. The ushering of the Green Revolution and the tremendous progress in dairy development have made India a major food-producing country on one hand; on the other hand, its development of space technology, production and launching of indigenous satellites, development of peaceful nuclear energy have brought it into the forefront of technologically advanced nations to which a large number of developing countries looks for training and guidance.

Indian universities and institutes of higher learning have been playing their role to promote the needs and aspirations of higher education and research to Indian students and scholars. These Centres have been extending their cooperation and friendship towards students of other developing countries also, where facilities for higher studies and research are not adequate. In addition, a number of overseas students are also drawn to Indian educational institutions providing high-quality education at very competitive prices

Scholarship schemes being administered by ICCR: -

The I.C.C.R on behalf Government of India offers scholarships and fellowships to international students wishing to study in India in various programs and disciplines. Scholarships are available also for research work and non-formal courses (Religion, Classical Music, Dance and Crafts).

[Click here for details of scholarship schemes available for International Students.](#)

ICCR offers 1804 scholarships every year under its various scholarship schemes. International students from over 70 countries study in different universities and educational institutions spread all over India to pursue a variety of courses from undergraduate to post-doctoral level in various subjects.

How to apply for a Scholarship

Offer of scholarships are sent to the respective Governments through Indian diplomatic missions abroad. Nominations are received from the respective Governments in the Indian diplomatic missions concerned. These are forwarded to ICCR for final selection and placement. Direct applications from candidates cannot be considered by ICCR. International government nominees have to fill prescribed forms for Scholarships for Foreign Nationals that are available with Indian missions abroad. While filling in the forms, the candidate must specify the course he wishes to pursue such as i) certificate/diploma ii) undergraduate degree iii) postgraduate degree iv) doctoral research work only. Candidates are also advised to consult the Handbook of Indian Universities available with Indian missions abroad to ensure the availability of their choice of a course in India. The application forms should include the required number of copies of educational certificates along with three copies of passport-size photographs. In some cases, a no objection certificate from the candidate's employer or place of work is also required.

Scholarships are also given for learning Indian Classical Music, Dance, Painting and Sculpture.

- [Details of scholarship schemes](#)
- [Country-wise details of offer of slots under General Cultural Scholarship Scheme](#)
- [Terms & Conditions](#)
- [Guidelines For Missions \(Annexure-I\)](#)
- [Study Tour](#)

- [Scholarship Form for Foreign Nationals Pdf](#) | [Download](#)
- [Annexure-II Pdf](#) | [Download](#)
- [Welfare Activities For International Students](#)
- [Archives](#)

GUIDELINES FOR MISSIONS

- Six complete sets of application forms (properly tagged) to be submitted (one set may be retained by the Mission and five are required to be sent to ICCR). Special attention may kindly be made in respect of tagging of the sets.
- Applications should be properly filled-up and sent with complete supporting documents. The Missions should carefully scrutinize applications prior to forwarding them.
- Candidates should clearly mention the course and university to which he/she is seeking admission (he can consult the universities “handbook”).
- Certified copies of all documents should be accompanied with English translations, a syllabus of the qualifying examination should be enclosed with the application.

NOTE: a) Students applying for doctoral/post-doctoral courses or Architecture should include a synopsis of the proposed area of research.

b) Students wishing to study performing arts should enclose Video/Audio cassettes of their recorded performances wherever possible.

- Candidates nominated should have fluent knowledge of English.

The Mission should take care to scrutinize applications prior to forwarding them and verify the knowledge of English of the applicant. The Mission is required to certify so in the application form.

- The Mission is the final authority in forwarding the list of nominations for processing by ICCR. The maximum number of nominations sent should not

exceed double the number of slots on offer.

- In case of nominations by the local government a representative of the Mission must be associated while deciding the list of candidates whose nominations are to be forwarded to ICCR. Additionally, the Mission should either invite nominations directly through advertisement or through notices put up in its diplomatic premises. ICCR will not entertain applications which are sent to ICCR directly by the students or which are sent by local Embassies/High Commission in New Delhi.

No request will be entertained for accommodation of self-financing students. Against unutilized slots.

Priority will be given to students who have never studied in India before. Students who have formerly studied on ICCR Scholarship should be given second preference.

- No candidate should be nominated for MBBS/BDS and courses related to medicine.
- Candidates should be informed that Indian universities/educational institutions are autonomous and independent and hence their own eligibility criteria. Forwarding of applications is thus not a guarantee of admission. A scholarship is awarded only when admission is confirmed by ICCR.
- Mission should issue the appropriate visa only when the Council communicates confirmed admission for a particular student. Scholars for structured undergraduate and post-graduate courses should be issued Student Visas. M. Phil., Ph. D. Casual Research and Post-doctoral research scholars should be issued Research Visas.

The Mission should send to ICCR six sets of Research Visa approval forms along with photographs and synopsis of the scholars at the time of sending applications for M. Phil., Ph. D. Casual Research, Post-doctoral Research

Scholars.

Ministry of Home Affairs/Government of India guidelines stipulates that if a scholar arrives without the proper visa and his actual admission at the university/institute cannot materialize, he/she will be deported to his/her country for the required change in visas.

- Before their departure for India the scholars must be adequately briefed by our Mission about living conditions in India/ the details of Scholarships the type and duration of the course to which he/she is admitted.
- ICCR would not be able to entertain a subsequent change in course of study or university once admission of a scholar is confirmed and the scholar has arrived to join the course.
- Hostel accommodation is not guaranteed and is exception rather than an assured facility. The small accommodation allowance that ICCR gives, allows 2 to 3 students to “chum-up” and share a small flat. It is important that the students are aware of this situation.
- Scholars should be advised to carry some money to meet some incidental expenditure on arrival.
- The Embassy should ensure that the student is sufficiently briefed about the terms and conditions of the scholarship.
- All intending candidates must obtain a certificate that they are free from AIDS prior to their departure for India. Even in India, the applicant would have to go for AIDS test before the admissions is finally given to overseas scholars. In case any of the nominees is found HIV positive in India the scholar will be repatriated immediately and the Council would not bear any expenses on this account.
- According to the new rules, all students seeking admission to M. Phil and higher course now require Research Visa instead of Student Visa. The procedure for getting the approval for a Research Visa is quite tedious and can take more than 6 months. The students must apply in the enclosed proforma and submit the

application in 6 copies. Mission must note that it is quite impossible to convert a Student Visa into Research Visa once a student is already in India. It is better to keep a student waiting in his/her country while their request for a Research Visa is being processed rather than hastily send the student to India on some other visa.

We are emphasizing on this as we have seen such tendency on the part of some Missions.

- Please note in case of scholar pursuing science courses the expenditure on chemicals and other related incidental charges will be borne by the scholars themselves.

No Applications will be accepted after February every year for Processing.