

ICCR Scholarships Academic Year 2026-27
Guidelines for Indian Missions/Posts Abroad

1. Wide publicity -

- a) Publicize scholarship schemes prominently on the Mission's official website, other related web media and social media platforms (Facebook, X, Instagram, Youtube, LinkedIn, any local platforms, etc.) popular among the young generation and potential aspirants for studying in India
- b) Share scholarship announcements with local newspapers, education supplements, Radio and Television channels.
- c) Expenditure on publicity of scholarship schemes may be met by the Missions/Posts through their own resources.
- d) Circulate scholarship information among potential candidates through schools, colleges, universities, institutes and higher education councils/academies, local governments in the host country.

2. General guidance to students in the application process –

- a) Guidelines for students have been categorized according to the scholarship process from registration on the Portal till their final return to their home country. Officer(s) handling the scholarship work at the Mission/Post may go through these guidelines carefully to help students in the scholarship process. The guidelines for students can be accessed by the Mission/Post on the A2A Portal.
- b) Guidelines for the students are the integral part of the guidelines for the Missions/Posts.
- c) Mission/Post is required to guide students throughout the application process, such as registration on the portal; filling up the application form; selection of course and University/Institution; uploading documents of academic qualification; acceptance process; uploading medical fitness, travel itinerary, uploading visa and travel details, etc.
- d) Mission/Post may contact at E-mail: parth.vocman@gmail.com; iccr@vocman.in Whatsapp Mobile: +91-8800040728 for any technical issues related to the A2A Portal. These contact details can be shared with students if Mission/Post deems it appropriate.
- e) Universities/Institutions are autonomous and independent bodies and have their own eligibility criteria. It is, therefore, for the student to satisfy himself/herself about the course, the University/Institution and the eligibility criteria to secure admission. Decision on admission is solely that of the respective University/Institute, and queries on this should not be directed to ICCR.

- f) ICCR does not interfere in the admission process of the Universities/Institutions, and any clarifications with regard to eligibility conditions may be taken up directly with the concerned University/Institution by the Mission/Post/Student.
- g) Mission/Post may note that Universities/Institutions upload provisional admission confirmation at their own pace and before the date of closure of the portal for them. Therefore, it is the prerogative of the Mission/Post to offer a scholarship to a student upon receipt of the confirmation from any of the selected universities or wait for admission confirmation by other universities selected by the student.
- h) Applicants have the option to exercise five choices of courses/ Universities/Institutions in the order of preference. The scholarship, as far as possible, shall be offered as per the applicant's priority of universities/institutions. However, there may be a scenario when a student does not get admission in University/Institution as per his/her top choices due to any reason whatsoever. Students should, therefore, be prepared to accept admission in any of the courses/universities opted by them as subsequent choices.
- i) Mission/Post may interact with the students and further give them an overview about various cities of India, its culture, language and weather conditions so that the students may make an informed choice on the course/university/institution.
- j) Mission/Post may conduct special sessions for the students on the application process, including the selection of courses/universities in virtual/offline mode, according to local suitability. Such sessions may be conducted and led by India-based Officer(s) of the Mission/Post.

3. Selection Process –

- a) Selection of candidates for the award of scholarship is the sole discretion of the Mission/Post. Mission/Post can accept or reject any application at any stage without assigning any reason whatsoever. No communication in this regard from the student or any other entity on his/her behalf shall be entertained unless if Mission/Post deems it appropriate.
- b) Mission/Post may not consider admission confirmation as the only criterion for the award of scholarship and is advised to devise its own criteria/mechanism to select the best and meritorious students available for the award of scholarship. Such a criterion could be based on the elements like number of applications received vis-à-vis number of slots available, level of course, discipline/stream selected, academic merit, general aptitude, affinity to India and Indian culture, English proficiency, priorities of the Mission/Post, etc.

- c) Mission/Post should not award the scholarship to a student for the same level of course that he/she had already pursued in India. In case a student has already availed a scholarship or studied in India for UG level course, he/she should not be considered for a UG course again. However, at the discretion of the Mission/Post, a candidate could be considered for the award of scholarship for the second time for a higher level of course in deserving cases, subject to the availability of a vacant slot that cannot be filled up by any other eligible candidate available for the award of scholarship.
- d) Applicants with PIO/OCI status should have completed his/her schooling (upto XII standard) abroad (i.e. not in India) and have not been studying in India in the preceding five academic years to be eligible to avail ICCR scholarships for Ph.D. level courses and for three years for PG level courses.
- e) Mission/Post may note that Universities/Institutions have their own age criteria for various courses. However, Mission should ensure that the selected student meets the following Minimum/Maximum Age criteria as on **1st July 2026**, as prescribed by ICCR for foreign students for the award of scholarship under various levels of courses -

18 Years – Minimum Age for any level of courses

35 Years – Maximum Age for UG, PG, Certificate and Diploma level courses

40 Years – Maximum Age for Ph.D. level courses

No upper age limit for courses in Hindi, Sanskrit, any of the Indian performing arts courses (such as Kathak, Bharatnatyam, Vocal/Instrumental music, etc.) unless prescribed by the concerned institution

- f) Mission/Post may match the Date of Birth filled in by the applicant on the A2A Portal with the Date of Birth mentioned in the valid passport uploaded by the applicant. Applications with falsification of date of birth in any manner should not be recommended by the Mission/Post. Students may be informed that in case falsification of date of birth is found after joining of the course, the student will be liable to go back to his/her home country on his/her own expenses and required to refund the entire amount incurred on him/her on account of any expenses, such as air ticket, any payment of stipend and other scholarship dues, fees of the institutions etc. Provision has been kept in the guidelines for students that a forgery complaint could be registered under the relevant provisions of BhartiyaNyayaSanhita 2023 (BNS 2023) in such cases of falsification.
- g) Missions may note that the Medical Science, Para-medical courses like Nursing, Physiotherapy, anesthesia, Lab technicians, etc., Law courses, and Integrated Courses such as 5-year BALLB, 5-year B.Sc.-M.Sc. or in any other discipline are not considered for the award of scholarship. Such applications for pursuing courses in these fields may be rejected by the Mission/Post at its level.

- h) Universities/Missions confirm provisional admission only on the A2A Portal. Sometimes students receive the provisional admission confirmation directly from the University/Institution, or forge the admission confirmation with their names and approach the Mission/Post for the award of the scholarship. Under no circumstances should provisional admission confirmations other than those uploaded on the A2A portal be considered by the Mission/Post for the consideration of the award of scholarship. Such cases may be referred to the concerned universities/institutions and ICCR for further action at their end.
- i) Mission/Post may verify the authenticity of the documents and educational certificates in original provided by the student for securing the admission and ensure that the student is eligible for the course according to the eligibility criteria for which the scholarship is being offered.
- j) Some of the Indian Universities/Institutions confirm the provisional admission with a pre-condition of submitting the AIU Equivalence Certification. In such cases, Mission should ensure that the student obtains the same through an online application with AIU directly by paying the requisite fee. Mission should ensure that student should not come to India to join the course without completing the AIU Equivalence Certificate requirement. Students may be guided to apply for the AIU Equivalence Certificate online through the web-link – <https://evaluation.aiu.ac.in/Student/Login>
- k) After scrutiny of the applications with regard to eligibility criteria and other pre-conditions as deemed appropriate, Mission/Post may prepare a Select List of students for each scholarship scheme if the country is covered in more than one scheme up to the number of scholarship slots allocated under various scholarship schemes as also a Reserve List in order of priority/merit upto the number anticipating the likely decline by students and rejection by Mission/Post on any other grounds such as medical fitness.
- l) Mission/Post may note that ICCR under its Lata Mangeskar Scholarship Scheme of Art and Culture provides 100 slots globally without any country-specific allocation. Out of 100 slots, ICCR has earmarked 25 slots for Yoga Courses (One Year Diploma Course) and 75 slots for courses in the performing and visual arts. Mission/Post can recommend upto a maximum of two candidates for the One Year Diploma Course in Yoga and 10 candidates for the courses in the disciplines of Performing/Visual Arts. Any additional requirement in either of the two categories beyond the prescribed limit can be sent to ICCR for consideration against the availability of any vacant slots. Slots under this Scheme will be provided on first-come-first-served basis.

- m) In order to maximize the utilization of slots, Missions/Posts are required to strictly adhere to the timelines for scrutiny of applications and selection of candidates by generating offer letters and receiving acceptance from the students for the first round of selection. Mission/Post may assess and indicate the likely utilization of slots or availability of vacant slots by 15 May 2026, so that ICCR can initiate the process of re-appropriation of vacant slots in consultation with Missions/MEA for the selection of candidates in the second round.

4. Processing of applications on the A2A portal –

- a) After short-listing of the candidates, the Mission has to generate an offer letter to the selected candidates for their acceptance on the A2A portal.
- b) Only the selected candidates are required to submit the Medical Fitness Certificate as part of the acceptance process. Upon receipt of the offer of scholarship, the student is required to submit the Medical Fitness Certificate along with test reports/vaccination certificates issued by a reputed Hospital/Lab or from the hospital/lab prescribed by the Indian Mission. Mission should ensure that the student is sound in physical and mental Health, not suffering from any chronic contagious/non-communicable diseases, having undergone mandatory and obligatory vaccinations, etc. Mission/Post has to satisfy itself about the physical and mental fitness of the selected student and may devise its own mechanism to ensure the medical fitness of the student according to local suitability.
- c) Mission/Post may also sensitize the selected students about the physical and mental fitness and the need for submission of authentic documents as the Universities/Institutions also conduct health check-ups upon joining and in case the student is found medically unfit, he/she has to return back to his/her home country on his/her own expenses and required to refund the entire expenses that would have been incurred by the Indian Mission/Post or ICCR, such as air-ticket or any allowances paid to him/her or fee/charges paid/payable to the University/Institution.
- d) Special attention is being paid to medical fitness due to the increasing number of cases of foreign students suffering from homesickness, violent behavior, other psychiatric diseases, chronic contagious/non-communicable diseases, etc. Such students had to return to their home countries. Mission/Post should pay special attention to this aspect of the scholarship process.
- e) While accepting the offer, the student is required to submit an Undertaking on the A2A Portal accepting the offer and to abide by all the rules and regulations, including the terms and conditions of scholarships as per the guidelines.

5. Pre-departure formalities –

- a) Mission/Post may note the provision of an air ticket in the Scholarship Scheme under which the candidates are being selected for scholarship. In case the provision of an air ticket is there, Mission/Post may issue the air ticket to the student, debiting the expenditure to ICCR, quoting the name of the Scholarship Scheme and send a copy of the Debit Note along with supporting vouchers for settling the expenditure through MEA.
- b) An air ticket may be provided up to the nearest airport to the place of study. Onward travel, if not covered by air, can be undertaken by a 3 Tier AC Train Journey or by Bus/Coach. Costs on Train/Bus travel for the sectors not covered by air journey, will be reimbursed to the student upon submission of a claim along with original train/bus tickets with the concerned ICCR ZO/SZO.
- c) The travel itinerary of the student should be made in a way that the student reaches India at the beginning of the week on working days so that he/she can initiate the admission process and complete the time-bound process of registration with FRRO. Travelling of student in the end of the week or during the weekend should be avoided as far as possible.
- d) While fulfilling transit visa requirements and country-specific travel formalities, such as yellow fever and/or other mandatory vaccination or any immigration requirements on his/her own costs, are the liabilities of the student, Mission/Post may ensure that he/she fulfills all such requirements before issuing the air-ticket/visa. Students may be forewarned that if they are unable to travel to India due to such issues and are unable to utilize the air ticket provided by the Mission/Post, they are required to reschedule their travel to India to join the course at their own cost.
- e) Visa may invariably be endorsed on a gratis basis to all the recipients of scholarships for the duration of the course, with multiple entries following the usual checks provisioned under the Visa Manual.
- f) Mission/Post may issue the visa to students in the correct category, i.e. Student Visa (S-1) to students selected for UG, PG and Diploma level courses and Research Visa (S-5) to students selected for Ph.D. courses. Mission/Post may pay special attention to this aspect as the category of visa cannot be amended or altered once the student reaches India, and due to the wrong category of visa, he/she cannot register with FRRO. In such a scenario, the student is left with no other option but to return to his/her country for the re-issuance of a visa.
- g) Registering on the SII Portal is a mandatory requirement for any student to get a Student/Research Visa from the Mission/Post. Mission/Post may guide students on the registration process of the SII Portal and grant a visa only after he/she provides the Unique ID created by them on the SII Portal.

- h) Mission/Post may guide the student on the visa application process, including registration on the SII Portal, filling out the visa application, visa categories, etc.
- i) Mission/Post may endorse the visa and issue the air ticket to the student immediately after completion of all the formalities. An air ticket may be issued according to the date/time-frame for joining the course indicated by the University/Institution on the provisional admission confirmation. In case the date/time-frame for joining of the course is not indicated in the provisional confirmation, the same may be verified through e-mail from the University/Institution/ICCR.
- j) Mission/Post should direct the student to upload their visa and travel details on the A2A Portal to enable the concerned University/Institution to arrange airport facilitation at the nearest airport to the place of study.
- k) While issuing the air ticket, Mission should make the student understand the applicable baggage allowance on the sectors he/she is travelling, especially in those cases where baggage is different on the international and domestic sectors in India and guide them to plan their baggage accordingly. It should be made clear to the student that ICCR does not reimburse any expenses incurred by him/her due to excess baggage charges on any sector while travelling to India.
- k) Mission/Post may organize a pre-departure orientation session in online/offline mode as per the local suitability to guide them on important issues such as terms and conditions of scholarship, norms of scholarship allowances, academic schedule, formalities to be completed on arrival, a brief overview of Indian culture, regularity in attendance, progress in academics, etc.
- l) Mission/Post may forewarn the students to be careful about the use of social media and not to violate social media guidelines of the Government of India. They may be directed to refrain from prohibited activities as detailed in the guidelines and may disturb social, cultural or religious harmony, such as any kind of political or religious activities, any kind of protests, running for university/college elections, political/commercial campaigns, etc.
- m) Mission/Post may also sensitize the students on the living conditions in India and the accommodation options available for them at the Hostel of the University/Institute and private accommodations in the vicinity. ICCR pays a fixed monthly amount on account of House Rent Allowance and does not facilitate the provision of accommodation to students. The student has to hire accommodation on his own and pay charges for the same (hostel or private accommodation). Students should be guided to make their accommodation choices carefully as defined in the guidelines for students.

- n) Mission/Post should guide students on the mandatory requirement of carrying their documents in original as listed below as also in the prescribed guidelines for the purpose of admission in the University/Institution –
- 1) ***Offer letter issued by the Indian Mission***
 - 2) ***Original documents related to academic qualification from School education onwards, and those were uploaded in the A2A Portal in the application process along with a notarized English translation, in the original in case the same are in a language other than English.***
 - 3) ***Certified copy of the transcript/syllabus of the last qualifying examination on the basis of which the admission is granted. For example, for admission in the UG course, the transcript/syllabus of High School, for PG course, the transcript/syllabus of UG course and similarly for Ph.D. The course, transcript/ syllabus of Masters Course is required to be brought.***
 - 4) ***Medical Fitness Certificate along with test reports and vaccination certificates***
 - 5) ***English Proficiency Certificates, if any***
 - 6) ***Synopsis of the research topic by students selected for Ph.D. courses***
 - 7) ***AIU Equivalence Certificate, if applicable***
 - 8) ***Joining Report Form downloadable from the A2A Port***
 - 9) ***Passport-size photographs, which will be required for various purposes***
 - 10) ***Any other document which can be relevant for admission at the University/Institution***
- o) Mission/Post should inform the student to carry self-financial support of around 1500 USD in cash or through a valid debit/credit card acceptable in India to meet his expenses on the initial settlement as the release of first payment on account of scholarship allowances takes about 2-3 months from the date of arrival in India for completing procedural formalities like admission, hiring of accommodation/hostel, registration with immigration authorities, opening of bank account, completion of Joining Report by the student/university for submission with concerned ICCR Zonal/Sub-Zonal Office. Mission/Post may sensitize the students that scholarship allowances are paid only through bank transfer to their Indian bank account to be opened after arrival in India. No cash transaction is made with the student under any circumstances whatsoever.
- p) Mission/Post should sensitize the students that ICCR pays monthly scholarship allowances as per its norms to the student directly through bank transfer, and Tuition fee and other admissible compulsory fees directly to the University/Institution. ICCR does not pay for charges such as caution money, refundable security deposits, fees/charges for registration with FRRO/other authorities, lab charges, costs on chemicals or other lab materials for practical examination, library membership fees, penalty/fines/late fees levied by the University/Institution, immigration authorities or any other local authorities.

q) Norms for scholarship allowances are as follows –

Level of Course	Monthly Stipend	Monthly House Rent Allowance		Annual Contingent Allowance	One time thesis/ dissertation allowance
		Grade I Cities	Other Cities		
UG	INR 18000	INR 6500	INR 5500	INR 5000	*INR 7000
PG	INR 20000			INR 7000	*INR 7000
Ph.D.	INR 22000			INR 12500	INR10000

****only applicable to students in those courses where Project Report is to be submitted as per the prescribed course requirement.***

- r) Mission/Post should sensitize students to strictly follow immigration rules as prescribed by local authorities and ensure timely renewal of their registration with FRRO and other local authorities, intimate/update any change in address, mobile number, etc. to the concerned local authorities and the University/Institution. Any violation of such rules attracts heavy penalties/fines, which are to be borne by the student.
- s) Mission may share the important contact details (e-mail, address and phone/mobile numbers) with the students, such as ICCR Zonal/Sub-Zonal Office, University/ Institution, Nodal Officer of the Indian Mission/Post, etc., for contacting in emergency situations or for seeking guidance.
- t) All the above guidelines and rules are well defined in the guidelines for students, and Missions/Posts should go through them carefully to guide students accordingly. Mission/Post may ensure that the selected students have gone through the prescribed guidelines thoroughly and verify the same by having interaction during the Orientation Session.
- 6. AYUSH Scholarships-** AYUSH Scholarship Schemes is governed by a separate set of terms and conditions prescribed by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, which will be shared separately and will be uploaded on the A2A Portal. Provision in the guidelines for students has been kept that they may apply for AYUSH Courses only after the announcement for AYUSH Scholarship Scheme is made by the Indian Mission.
- 7. Allocation of Slots –** Allocation of slots under different scholarship schemes will be communicated separately to the Missions.
