

THE KERALA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME

GUIDELINES

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY MUSEUM CAMPUS

VIKAS BHAVAN.P.O.,

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM - 695033

OBJECTIVE OF THE SCHEME

Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Prime Minister of India, launched the Kerala State higher Education Scholarship Scheme and awarded the first batch of scholarships to six students at a function held at Thiruvananthapuram on 3rd January, 2010. The launching of the scholarship scheme was part of a series of initiatives taken by the Kerala State Higher Education Council to bring about qualitative changes in higher education in the State, against the background of the greater role being played by education, particularly higher education, in development. Higher Education which creates and disseminates cutting edge knowledge holds the key to inclusive development in a knowledge driven economy. It also generates intellectual and social capital, necessary for sustainable development. There is increasing awareness regarding the need for improving access, equity and excellence in higher education all over the world. At the same time, the tendency towards privatization and commercialization of higher education is also on the increase. The gap between demand and supply in higher education is one of the major sources of unrest in the present day world. This is especially so in the State of Kerala, which has a long tradition of equitable access to education at all levels.

The motto of the Kerala State Higher Education Council is to promote equity and excellence in higher education. One of the important objectives of the Higher Education Council, as stated in the Act, is to address the growing concern for equity in Higher Education. The other is to improve the quality of higher education imparted in the State. There is a general perception that quality has suffered over the years, especially in respect of basic disciplines and fundamental research. One of the possible ways in which the twin issues of access and excellence could be addressed is to attract and retain talented students in academic streams like humanities, social sciences and science by instituting attractive merit-cum-means scholarships. Act 22 of 2007, by which the Council is set up, empowers the Council to evolve schemes for providing equitable opportunities for higher education scholarship to the needy students.

SCOPE AND EXTENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

1000 general scholarships would be awarded to regular students pursuing the study of Sciences, Social Sciences, Business Studies and Humanities through fulltime aided courses at the undergraduate and post graduate levels in Government/Aided Colleges and Departments/Institutions under the Universities in Kerala. The scholarships may be extended subsequently, including other disciplines and students pursuing studies outside the State, depending on the funds made available through endowments.

The number of scholarships set apart for each university would be decided on the basis of the students' strength in first year of degree courses in Sciences/ Humanities/ Social Sciences/ Business Studies in the Govt./ Aided Colleges/Departments under each University, calculated on the basis of sanctioned strength of each stream, in all Government/Aided Arts & Science Colleges and University Departments (in Kerala) in the previous years.

The Scholarships would be given for a 5-year period starting with the first year of bachelor's degree and ending with the final year of postgraduate education. The quantum of annual scholarship would be substantially high to attract and retain talented students in the academic stream for at least five years. The annual scholarship given to a student would be increased incrementally from Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 60,000 as he/she moves from the first year degree course to the final year postgraduate course, as shown below:

UNDER GRADUATE/POST GRADUATE LEVEL

Name of Course	No. of Scholarships	Amount per annum
Under Graduate Course	3000	Rs. 12,000/- (First Year)
		Rs. 18,000/- (Second Year)
		Rs. 24,000/- (Third Year)
Post Graduate Course	1200	Rs. 40,000/- (First Year) Rs. 60,000/- (Second Year)
Total	4200	

Where the beneficiary is a physically challenged person, the scholarship amount would be 25% more than the usual amount to take care of his/her special needs. Only persons with 40% disability or more would be considered as physically challenged for the purpose of the award of the scholarship.

The following is a category-wise distribution of scholarship.

SC/ST – 10%	
BPL	– 10%
OBC*	- 27%
Physically Handicapped	– 3%
General Category	– 50%

**OBC candidates below the creamy layer are eligible for the Scholarship. The existing income ceiling is Rs. 6 lakhs per annum.*

If adequate number of awardees is not available in the SC/ST/Physically Challenged Category, the surplus will be added to BPL category and if adequate numbers are not available in this category too, the surplus will be added to general category.

MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA REQUIRED – CATEGORY AND STREAM WISE

No student will be awarded scholarship unless he/she fulfils the minimum criteria for the award of the scholarship. The minimum eligibility criteria and the required minimum percentage of marks (+2 marks) for scholarships are as follows.

ST - Pass Percentage	
SC	
Science, Humanities & Social Science	– 55
Business Studies	- 60
Physically Challenged	
All Subjects	- 45
BPL, OBC	
Science	- 60
Humanities & Social Science	- 55
Business Studies	- 65
General:	
Science & Business Studies	– 75
Humanities & Social Science	- 60

Scholarships under this scheme will not be awarded to a student who receives any scholarship/ stipend other than fee concession for a course of study. However, students belonging to SC/ST

category will be eligible for scholarship in addition to the lump sum grant given by the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe Development Departments.

The mere eligibility for award of scholarships does not confer on any candidate the right to receive a scholarship. Since the number of scholarships is limited, the award will be made on the basis of merit in each category in accordance with the criteria laid down by the Higher Education Council. The council will select the scholars in each University on the basis of their marks/ overall grade in the qualifying examination, considered stream wise. Where there is tie, it shall be resolved by taking into account the total marks/CGPA of the qualifying examination in the first instance and that of the SSLC examination subsequently. In case further distinction is required, a decision shall be taken by drawing lots.

PROCEDURE FOR THE SELECTION OF SCHOLARS AND AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS

The procedures followed right from the submission of application for selection and to the disbursement of scholarships would be simple, transparent and prompt. The application for scholarship should be submitted online by the student concerned in the format available on the website of Higher Education Council (www.kshec.kerala.gov.in). Applicants are also required to produce the relevant certificates/mark lists in original to the Principal of the college/Head of the university Department where he/she undergoes his/her course of study along with a printout of the filled-in application form. In case of SC/ST/Physically Challenged students and students belonging to BPL families, a certificate of such status obtained from a competent authority should be produced along with the certificates to prove educational qualifications.

The colleges/university departments will collaborate with the Council in processing the application forms to ensure accuracy and speedy delivery of scholarships. The Principals/ Heads of university departments will be responsible for administering the scholarships at the college/university level. They will certify the authenticity of the claims made by the applicants by verifying original documents and submit to the Council reports of such verification, as and when required. The Principals/Heads of university departments will also be responsible for monitoring the progress of the scholars and submitting such progress reports to the Council as and when required. All colleges/university departments and Principals/Heads of University departments will be provided with unique identification codes, in order to facilitate online administration of the scholarship scheme. Each college shall designate a nodal officer for the

implementation of this scheme. The nodal officer shall guide the students in all matters relating to the scholarship.

The timeline for the administration of scholarship would be as follows.

Last date of submission of application forms—15 days from the date of closing of admission in case of fresh applicants and 15 days from the date of re-opening of the institution in the case of renewal of scholarship.

Processing of application forms and publication of the draft list of provisionally selected scholars—within 15 days from the closing of applications.

Filing of objections, if any—next 7 days

Consideration of objections, and publication of final list of selected scholars—next 7 days

Disbursement of Scholarships—next 15 days

Thus, within a total period of two months, disbursement of scholarships would be completed and final report prepared.

The Higher Education Council will distribute the scholarships directly to the students through their bank accounts.

RENEWAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarships under this scheme are initially sanctioned for one year, but it is renewable for the next four years subject to the availability of funds and following conditions:

- i. Renewal of the scholarships during the second and third years of the degree course and first and second years of the post-graduate course will depend on continuance of the student in his/her course of study at the undergraduate level/post-graduate level with grades/marks as prescribed by the Council.

Minimum grade to be obtained for the renewal of Higher Education Scholarships:

- General Category: B grade or above
 - OBC/BPL/SC/ST/PH: C Grade or above
- ii. In the case of non-fulfilment of the above conditions, the scholarship will be suspended or cancelled by the Higher Education Council.
 - iii. (A) If an awardee is unable to appear for the annual/semester examination owing to illness, the scholarship will be renewed for the next year on the recommendation of the College Council/University Department Council. In such cases, the awardee shall submit a Medical Certificate issued by a Medical Officer of not below the rank of a civil surgeon of a Government Medical Institution.

(B) If an awardee fails to appear in University semester examinations due to participation in Republic Day parade (NCC) or National/State/University level competitions, he/she shall be condoned on production of relevant certificates forwarded by the Principal/Head of the institution.
 - iv. Each Scholar will have to submit application for renewal of the scholarship online in a format available in the website of the Higher Education Council (www.kshcec.kerla.gov.in). A copy of the filled-in application and relevant mark lists/certificates in original shall also be submitted to the Principal/Head of University department.
 - v. The application shall be scrutinized and certified by the Principal of the college/head of the university department and forwarded to the Higher Education Council within the time frame stipulated by the Council.
 - vi. For renewal of scholarships in cases where the examinations are conducted in the semester pattern, the following results should be considered to assess progress

In the case of UG Courses

- 1st semester result for first renewal

- 3rd semester result for 2nd renewal

In the case of PG Courses

- 1st semester result for renewal

ADMINISTRATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Executive Council is entrusted with the responsibility of administration of the scholarship fund and award of scholarships. Audited statements of annual accounts of the Scholarship Fund should be submitted by the Executive Council to the Governing Council for its approval and to the Advisory Council for its perusal. The audited statement of accounts with the observations of the Governing Council and the Advisory Council will also be sent to each member of the Advisory Committee of the Higher Education Scholarship Fund. The Advisory Committee would meet at least once a year to evaluate the progress in the implementation of the Scholarship Fund and suggest modifications, if necessary.

The Council will have the discretionary right to take decisions on aspects not covered/contemplated in the above guidelines, with a view to fulfilling the overall objective of promoting equity and excellence in higher education. In case of any dispute concerning any matter in respect of the scheme and its implementation, the decision taken by the Higher Education Council shall be final.



Contact:

0471-2301297

Email: hecscholarship@gmail.com