# The 2025-2026 UAE Scholarship List: A Curated Database for Indian Students

## Executive Summary & Introduction

### The UAE as a Global Education Hub

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has strategically positioned itself as a significant and competitive global hub for higher education. Through substantial investment in academic infrastructure and partnerships with world-renowned institutions, the nation has cultivated a dynamic educational ecosystem designed to attract top-tier international talent.1 This strategic focus is a core component of the UAE's national development and its vision for a diversified, knowledge-based economy. For students from India, the UAE offers a compelling proposition: geographic proximity, a multicultural environment, and access to high-quality, internationally recognized degree programs, particularly in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and artificial intelligence.2

### Purpose and Scope of this Report

Financial considerations represent one of the most significant hurdles for students planning to study abroad. Recognizing this challenge, this report serves as a comprehensive, pre-vetted database of scholarship opportunities specifically curated for Indian students seeking to pursue undergraduate, master's, or doctoral studies in the United Arab Emirates for the 2025-2026 academic year. The information contained herein has been meticulously compiled and verified from official university, government, and foundation sources to provide a reliable and actionable resource. The primary objective is to demystify the funding landscape in the UAE and save prospective students and their families countless hours of research, thereby empowering them to make informed financial planning decisions.

### How to Use This Report

This document is structured to function as both an analytical guide and a practical database. Section 2, *Navigating the UAE Scholarship Ecosystem*, provides critical context and analysis of the prevailing trends and structural characteristics of financial aid in the UAE. It is recommended that users review this section first to understand the unique aspects of the application process. Section 3, *The 2025-2026 Scholarship Database*, is the core of this report, presenting detailed information in a filterable table format for easy comparison. Finally, Section 4, *Strategic Recommendations for Maximizing Scholarship Success*, offers actionable advice derived from the data to help applicants build the most competitive profile possible.

## Navigating the UAE Scholarship Ecosystem: Key Insights for Indian Applicants

The scholarship landscape in the United Arab Emirates possesses distinct characteristics that differentiate it from those in North America or Europe. Understanding these structural nuances is essential for Indian applicants to effectively position themselves for funding opportunities. The following analysis details the key trends and models that define financial aid in the UAE's higher education sector.

### The Predominance of Merit-Based, Institution-Led Funding

The primary source of financial aid for international students in the UAE is not broad, government-led programs, but rather merit-based scholarships offered directly by the universities themselves.1 Institutions such as Khalifa University, New York University Abu Dhabi, and the American University of Sharjah are the principal providers of these awards.7 This model reflects a strategic approach by the UAE to empower its leading universities to compete for and recruit top-tier global talent directly.

The eligibility criteria for these scholarships consistently and heavily emphasize academic excellence. Phrases such as "outstanding academic performance," "excellent results," and specific high-grade point averages (GPAs) are standard prerequisites across the board.2 This institutional-level, merit-centric approach creates a highly competitive environment where a student's academic profile is the single most important determinant of financial support. For Indian applicants, this means that achieving high marks in secondary school or undergraduate studies, and securing strong scores on any required standardized tests, is not merely a component of the application but the central pillar upon which scholarship eligibility is built.

### The Tiered Scholarship Model: A System of Performance-Based Rewards

A notable feature of the UAE's scholarship system is the widespread use of tiered funding models, particularly at technology-focused institutions like Khalifa University and IIT Delhi - Abu Dhabi.2 Under this structure, the level of financial support—such as a 100%, 75%, or 50% tuition waiver—is determined at the time of admission based on the applicant's academic standing relative to other candidates.7

Crucially, these scholarships are not guaranteed for the full duration of the degree program. Instead, they function as a performance-based contract, with renewal contingent upon the student maintaining a specified minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA).9 For example, at IIT Delhi - Abu Dhabi, students in Tier I must maintain a CGPA of 8.00/10.00 to retain their 100% tuition waiver, while those in Tier II need a CGPA of 6.00/10.00 for their 50% waiver.13 A drop in academic performance can result in a reduction or complete loss of funding for subsequent semesters. This model incentivizes sustained academic excellence and requires students to be mindful of their performance throughout their studies. For Indian students and their families, this necessitates a more dynamic approach to financial planning, including preparing for the contingency that the level of scholarship support may change over the course of their degree program.

### The "International" vs. "Resident" Distinction: A Critical Nuance for Applicants from India

While many scholarships in the UAE are broadly categorized for "international students," applicants must pay close attention to nuanced eligibility criteria that distinguish between students applying from abroad and those already residing within the UAE. This is particularly relevant for the large Indian expatriate community in the region. Some scholarships are explicitly designated based on the applicant's location at the time of application. The American University of Sharjah, for instance, offers two distinct flagship awards: the President's Scholarship, for applicants from *outside* the UAE, and the Chancellor's Scholarship, for applicants *in* the UAE.9

Furthermore, certain admission tracks that are heavily linked to scholarship opportunities may favor students with a history of education within the UAE. At IIT Delhi - Abu Dhabi, two-thirds of the available seats are filled through the Combined Admission Entrance Test (CAET), which is open to Indian expatriates who have completed at least five years of their schooling in the UAE.14 This reflects a dual strategy by UAE institutions: attracting new global talent while simultaneously creating pathways to retain the talent pool that exists within its significant expatriate population. Indian students applying directly from India must therefore carefully vet the eligibility requirements of each scholarship to ensure they are applying for opportunities for which they qualify, such as the AUS President's Scholarship, and be aware that they may be competing in a different applicant pool than their counterparts already based in the UAE.

### Automatic Consideration vs. Separate Application

The application process for most university-based scholarships in the UAE is notably streamlined. The majority of institutions, including Khalifa University and the American University of Sharjah, automatically consider all eligible applicants for merit scholarships upon their submission of a complete admission application.1 This approach reduces the administrative burden on high-achieving students and allows the institutions to proactively identify and reward talent. The primary focus for the applicant, therefore, should be on crafting an outstanding and comprehensive admission application, as this single submission often serves a dual purpose.

However, there are important exceptions to this rule. Need-based financial aid, particularly at American-model universities like NYU Abu Dhabi, typically requires a separate, detailed financial application. To be considered for NYU Abu Dhabi's extensive need-based aid, which can cover the full cost of attendance, international students, including those from India, are required to submit the CSS Profile application administered by the College Board.15 This additional step is critical and has its own set of deadlines that must be met. Consequently, applicants must carefully review the process for each specific institution to ensure they complete all necessary steps, whether it is a single integrated application or a multi-part process.

## The 2025-2026 Scholarship Database

The following table provides a comprehensive and filterable list of major scholarship opportunities available to Indian students for the 2025-2026 academic year in the United Arab Emirates. It is designed to serve as a primary resource for identifying and comparing funding options. Each entry is compiled from official sources and includes critical information on eligibility, financial coverage, and application procedures to facilitate strategic planning.

### How to Use This Database

This table is structured to allow for easy sorting and comparison. Students should first identify their intended **Level of Study** (Undergraduate, Master's, or PhD) and **Eligible Fields of Study**. Next, carefully review the **Eligibility for Indian Students** column to confirm whether the scholarship is open to all international applicants, those residing outside the UAE, or those with prior education in the UAE. Pay close attention to the **Key Academic Requirements** and **Application Deadline(s)**, as these are strict and non-negotiable. The **Financial Coverage Details** column provides a summary of benefits, including specific stipend amounts in AED where available. Finally, the **Application Link / Process Summary** column clarifies whether the scholarship requires a separate application or is granted automatically with admission.

**The 2025-2026 UAE Scholarship Database for Indian Students**

| Scholarship Name | Providing Institution | Level of Study | Eligible Fields of Study | Eligibility for Indian Students | Key Academic Requirements | Financial Coverage Details | Application Deadline(s) for 2025-2026 Intake | Application Link / Process Summary |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Khalifa University Graduate Scholarship | Khalifa University | Master's, PhD | STEM Fields (Aerospace, Engineering, AI, etc.) 18 | Yes, as international students. 5 | **MSc:** BSc with min. 3.0/4.0 GPA. **PhD:** MSc with min. 3.25/4.0 GPA. GRE Quantitative ≥150. IELTS ≥6.5 or TOEFL iBT ≥91. 19 | **Tiered System:** **MSc (Tiers I & II):** 100% tuition waiver. **(Tier III):** 50% waiver. **PhD:** 100% tuition waiver + Stipend (AED 20,000/month, with potential for an additional AED 20,000/month). **All Tiers:** Textbooks, Health Insurance, Flights, Visa Fees. 5 | **Fall 2025:** April 14, 2025. **Spring 2026:** September 15, 2025. 19 | Automatic consideration with admission application. [Official Link](https://www.ku.ac.ae/scholarships-postgraduate) |
| NYU Abu Dhabi Financial Aid | New York University Abu Dhabi | Undergraduate | All Programs | Yes, as international students. 15 | Based on holistic admission review. 23 | **Need-Based:** Can cover up to 100% of costs, including tuition, housing, meal plan, health insurance, personal expenses, and flights. 8 | **ED I:** Nov 1, 2025. **ED II:** Jan 1, 2026. **RD:** Jan 5, 2026. **CSS Profile Deadlines:** ED I: Nov 10; ED II: Jan 10; RD: Feb 1. 28 | Requires submission of CSS Profile with admission application. [Official Link](https://nyuad.nyu.edu/en/apply/undergraduate/scholarships-and-financial-aid/apply-for-financial-aid.html) |
| President's Scholarship | American University of Sharjah (AUS) | Undergraduate | All Programs | Yes, for applicants from outside the UAE. 9 | Min. 95% high school average. Strong extracurriculars & leadership. 9 | **100% of tuition & lab fees**, application fee waiver, monthly stipend, on-campus housing, round-trip tickets, medical insurance. 9 | First Thursday of March 2025. 9 | Separate application required after admission. [Official Link](https://www.aus.edu/admissions/scholarships/scholarships-for-newly-admitted-students) |
| Chancellor's Scholarship | American University of Sharjah (AUS) | Undergraduate | All Programs | No, for applicants *in* the UAE only. 9 | Min. 95% high school average. Strong extracurriculars & leadership. 9 | **100% of tuition & lab fees**, application fee waiver, on-campus housing, medical insurance. 9 | First Thursday of March 2025. 9 | Separate application required after admission. [Official Link](https://www.aus.edu/admissions/scholarships/scholarships-for-newly-admitted-students) |
| Merit Scholarships | American University of Sharjah (AUS) | Undergraduate | All Programs | Yes, as international students. 9 | Min. 90% high school average. 9 | **10% to 30% of tuition & lab fees**. 9 | Automatic consideration with admission application. | Automatic consideration with admission application. [Official Link](https://www.aus.edu/admissions/scholarships/scholarships-for-newly-admitted-students) |
| Graduate Assistantships | American University of Sharjah (AUS) | Master's, PhD | All Programs | Yes, as international students. 30 | Min. CGPA of 3.25. Admitted in good standing. 30 | Tuition waiver for up to 9 credit hours/semester and/or a stipend of up to **AED 20,000 per semester**. 30 | Varies by program. | Apply with admission to the graduate program. [Official Link](https://www.aus.edu/admissions/scholarships/graduate-assistantships) |
| IITD-AD Scholarship (JEE Advanced Track) | IIT Delhi - Abu Dhabi | Undergraduate | Computer Science & Engg., Energy Science & Engg., Chemical Engg. 31 | Yes, for JEE (Advanced) qualified students. 32 | Qualify JEE (Advanced) 2025. 31 | **Tuition fee same as IIT Delhi (India)**, monthly stipend of **AED 2,000**, housing fee waiver, annual travel allowance up to **AED 4,000**. 12 | Applications for AY 2025-26 are closed. AY 2026-27 info to be updated. 14 | Apply through IITD-AD portal after JEE results. [Official Link](https://abudhabi.iitd.ac.in/undergraduate-scholarship-jee-adv) |
| IITD-AD Scholarship (CAET Track) | IIT Delhi - Abu Dhabi | Undergraduate | Computer Science & Engg., Energy Science & Engg., Chemical Engg. 31 | Yes, for Indian expatriates with 5+ years of schooling in UAE. 14 | Qualify CAET 2025. Min 75% in PCM and 80% aggregate in Grade 12. 14 | **Tiered System:** **Tier I (Top 5 students per program):** 100% tuition waiver. **Tier II (Next 5 students):** 50% tuition waiver. Maintained by CGPA (8.0 for Tier I, 6.0 for Tier II). 12 | CAET Session 1: Feb 16, 2025. CAET Session 2: April 13, 2025. 31 | Apply through CAET portal. [Official Link](https://abudhabi.iitd.ac.in/undergraduate-scholarship-caet-int) |
| MBZUAI Graduate Scholarship | Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence | Master's, PhD | CS, CV, ML, NLP, Robotics, Statistics & Data Science 4 | Yes, as international students. 33 | BSc/MSc in STEM with min. GPA of 3.2/4.0. IELTS ≥6.5 / TOEFL iBT ≥90. GRE mandatory for PhD. 33 | **100% tuition waiver**, on-campus accommodation, health insurance, UAE visa. **Stipend:** MSc: **AED 8,000/month**; PhD: **AED 10,000/month**. 3 | **Regular Deadline:** Jan 15, 2025. **Late Deadline:** May 31, 2025. 36 | Automatic consideration with admission application. [Official Link](https://mbzuai.ac.ae/study/admission-process/) |
| UAEU Undergraduate Scholarships | United Arab Emirates University | Undergraduate | Lab-based vs. Non-lab based programs | Yes, as international students. 38 | Min. 90% in Grade 12 for 50% waiver; Min. 95% for 75% waiver; Min. 97% for 100% waiver. Specific EmSAT & English proficiency scores required. 38 | **Tiered System:** **25% to 100% tuition fee discount** based on high school grades and program type. Does not cover housing or other fees. 38 | Applications for AY 2025-26 are open. Apply via the electronic admission system. 38 | Apply via the university's electronic admission system. [Official Link](https://www.uaeu.ac.ae/en/admission/undergraduate-scholarships.shtml) |
| UAEU PhD Fellowship | United Arab Emirates University | PhD | UAE priority sectors (Energy, Transport, Health, Water, Tech, Space) 39 | Yes, all nationalities. 39 | MSc with 3.3 GPA. No other financial sponsorship. 39 | **Full Package:** Full tuition waiver, monthly stipend, health insurance, potential bonus from research projects. **Basic Package:** Full tuition waiver, health insurance, option for paid GTA/GAA roles. 39 | Deadline is the same as the admission application deadline for the graduate program. 39 | Complete admission application and separate PhD Fellowship form. [Official Link](https://www.uaeu.ac.ae/en/cgs/scholarship.shtml) |

## Strategic Recommendations for Maximizing Scholarship Success

Securing a scholarship in the UAE's competitive academic landscape requires more than meeting baseline eligibility criteria. It demands a strategic approach tailored to the specific priorities of the nation's educational institutions. The following recommendations provide a framework for Indian students to enhance their applications and maximize their chances of receiving significant financial support.

### Aligning with the UAE's Strategic Vision

The distribution and value of scholarships in the UAE are not arbitrary; they are closely aligned with the nation's long-term economic and technological ambitions. A significant concentration of the most generous scholarships is found at specialized institutions focused on STEM, artificial intelligence, and other strategic sectors, such as Khalifa University and Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI).3 The UAE government has made a substantial investment in these fields to build a sustainable, knowledge-based economy, and the scholarship programs are a primary tool for attracting the human capital necessary to achieve this goal.

Therefore, selection committees are not merely looking for academically gifted students; they are seeking future innovators and leaders who can contribute to this national project. For Indian applicants, this presents a clear strategic imperative. Application materials, particularly the Statement of Purpose for Master's programs and the research proposal for PhD programs, must be explicitly tailored to demonstrate an alignment with the UAE's strategic priorities. For example, a student applying for a PhD in engineering at Khalifa University should frame their research interests in the context of the UAE's renewable energy or space exploration goals. Similarly, an application to MBZUAI should connect proposed AI research to potential applications within the UAE's key industries, such as logistics, finance, or healthcare. Demonstrating a clear understanding of and a desire to contribute to the UAE's vision can significantly differentiate an application from others with similar academic credentials.

### The Critical Role of Standardized Tests: Beyond Minimum Scores

In a merit-based system that attracts a global applicant pool, standardized test scores serve as a crucial, objective metric for comparing candidates from diverse educational backgrounds. Universities in the UAE frequently cite minimum required scores for exams such as the GRE, IELTS, TOEFL, and the local EmSAT as firm eligibility criteria.1 For Indian students, whose national curriculum and grading systems may differ from those of other applicants, these test scores provide a standardized benchmark of their abilities.

However, in such a competitive environment, simply meeting the minimum score is insufficient to secure a top-tier scholarship. The minimum score functions as a threshold for consideration, not a target for achievement. An application with a GRE or IELTS score that merely meets the cutoff will likely be outcompeted by one that is in the top percentile. The inclusion of the EmSAT exam in some requirements also signals a move towards standardizing evaluation metrics within the UAE's own educational framework, a point that applicants already in the region should note.1 The actionable advice for Indian students is to treat standardized tests as a primary component of their scholarship application strategy. Preparation should begin early, with the goal of achieving scores that are not just "eligible" but are demonstrably excellent and place them well above the minimum requirements.

### Financial Planning for Partial and Tiered Scholarships

While many scholarships in the UAE are marketed as comprehensive, applicants must adopt a nuanced and cautious approach to financial planning. A "fully funded" offer in the UAE context is often contingent on sustained academic performance. The tiered scholarship systems at institutions like IIT Delhi - Abu Dhabi and Khalifa University explicitly link funding levels to a student's CGPA.9 A decline in academic performance can lead to a significant reduction in the tuition waiver, shifting a substantial financial burden back to the student.

Even in cases where a 100% tuition waiver is secured, students must carefully manage their living expenses within the confines of the provided monthly stipend. Therefore, a successful financial strategy involves more than just securing the initial award. Applicants should create a detailed budget for the entire duration of their program, modeling different financial scenarios. This should include planning for potential changes in scholarship tiers—for example, calculating the financial impact of a scholarship dropping from a 100% waiver to a 50% waiver. Students should have a robust contingency plan and be prepared to show proof of funds not only for their initial visa application but also for potential future semesters where their scholarship support may be reduced. This report's detailed breakdown of stipend amounts and waiver percentages provides the necessary data for this critical long-term financial planning.

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