



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

Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS) (OBC & Others) - 2021-22 to 2025-26.

1. Background:

The scheme Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme- SHREYAS, has been proposed to implement during the 2021-22 to 2025-26 by placing two ongoing Central Sector schemes for OBC and others namely – (i) National Fellowship for OBC (ii) Dr. Ambedkar Central Sector Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs).

The main objective of the schemes is Educational Empowerment of OBC & EBC students by way of awarding fellowship (financial assistance) in obtaining quality higher education and interest subsidy on educational loan for overseas studies.

2. National Fellowship for OBC Students

A. Scope of the Scheme:

The scheme is designed to provide a total number of 1000 Junior Research Fellowships per year to undertake advanced studies and research leading to M.Phil. /Ph.D. Degrees, who have qualified in the following tests:

- i. National Eligibility Test) – Junior Research Fellowship (NET-JRF) of UGC (for Humanities/Social Sciences) or
- ii. UGC-Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (UGC-CSIR) NET-JRF Joint Test (for Sciences)

The scheme covers all universities/institutions recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC) and are implemented by the UGC itself on the pattern of the scheme of UGC Fellowships being awarded to research students pursuing M.Phil. and Ph.D. These 1000 slots will be over and above the number of OBC students selected under the normal reservation policy of the Government for UGC Fellowship.

B. Implementing Agency

The UGC is the nodal agency for implementing the scheme.

C. Eligibility

- i. Eligibility conditions are as per notification for UGC-NET and CSIR-UGC-NET examinations. The other Backward Class (OBC) candidates qualifying for the award of NFOBC will be eligible to receive fellowship subject to finding placement in the University/IITs/Institutions. The validity period of the offer is 3 years with effect from the date of issue of JRF Award letter. However, in case of candidates who have already joined M.Phil. /Ph.D. the date of Commencement of fellowship shall be from the date of declaration of result of NFOBC or date of their joining, whichever is later.
- ii. Students belonging to Other Backward Class (OBC) category once considered eligible for the fellowship shall not be entitled to any other benefits from Central or State Government or any other body like UGC offering similar benefit to avoid duplication and increase coverage. Only those, doing regular and full time M.Phil. /Ph.D. course of a University/research Institution shall be eligible for the fellowship.
- iii. After two years, if the progress in the research work of the awardee is found satisfactory, his/her tenure will be extended for a further period of three years as Senior Research Fellow (SRF). The research work will be assessed as per the UGC norms. The total period of award of JRF and SRF shall not exceed a period of 5 years.
- iv. At least 5% of the total seats should be reserved for students with disabilities while making selection of candidates for award of fellowships by the UGC.
- v. Employees of any University/Educational Institution/Central/State/UT Government shall be excluded from availing the fellowship, even if they are on study leave of Extra Ordinary Leave (EOL) to pursue M.Phil./Ph.D.

D. Number of Fellowships

- i. The total number of slots for NFOBC under the scheme is 1000 per year. Out of 1000 slots available under this scheme, 750 will be allocated for the subjects under National Eligibility Test – Junior Research Fellowship (NET-JRF) of UGC and remaining 250 UGC-Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (UGC-CSIR) NETJRF joint test (for Science streams).
- ii. These 1000 slots will be over and above the OBC Students selected under the normal reservation policy of the Government.

E. Duration of Fellowship

Name of course	Maximum Duration	Admissibility of JRF and SRF	
		JRF	SRF
M. Phil.	2 years	2 years	Nil
Ph.D.	5 years	2 years	Remaining 3 years
M.Phil. + Ph.D.	5 years	2 years	Remaining 3 years

F. Rate of fellowship

- i. The rates of fellowship for JRF and SRF will be at par with the UGC Fellowships. Presently these rates are as follows:

Fellowship in Science Humanities and Social Science	@ Rs.31,000/- p.m. for initial two years (JRF) @ Rs.35,000/- p.m. for remaining tenure (SRF)
Fellowship in Engineering & Technology	
Contingency for Humanities & Social Sciences	@ Rs.10,000/- p.a. for initial two years @ Rs. 20,500/- p.a. for remaining tenure
Contingency for Sciences, Engineering & Technology	@ Rs. 12,000/- p.a. for initial two years @ Rs. 25,000/- p.a. for remaining tenure
Escorts/Reader assistance (All subjects)	@ Rs. 2,000/- p.m. in cases of physically and visually handicapped candidates

- ii. The House Rent Allowance (HRA) will be on the UGC pattern and will be payable to those students who are not provided with hostel accommodation. In case hostel accommodation offered by the University/institution is refused, the student will forfeit his claim of HRA, other facilities such as medical facilities, leave including maternity leave will be governed as per the guidelines of the UGC in case of their fellowship programme.

G. Selection Procedure for Fellowship for OBCs (JRF)

- i. UGC is the nodal agency for implementing the scheme.
- ii. The selection for the award of NFOBC to students will be made on the basis of merit in each UGC-NET-JRF and CSIR-NET-JRF examination and will be made twice in a year.
- iii. The qualified candidates have to enrol in Universities/institutions/colleges recognized under:
 - a. Under Section 2 (f) of the UGC Act, 1956 i.e. Universities established under Central, Provincial or State Acts or any other institution recognized by UGC. Under Section 12 (B) of the UGC Act, 1956 i.e. Universities declared fit to receive grants from Government.
 - b. Grant-in-Aid Deemed Universities under Section 3 of UGC Act i.e. Institution for higher education notified by Central Government to be deemed University, in consultation with UGC.
 - c. Universities/Institution funded by State/Central Government.
 - d. Institutions of National Importance as notified by Ministry of Human Resource Development. (mhrd.gov.in/institutions-national-importance)
- iv. The decision of the UGC in regarding to awarding the fellowship shall be final and no appeal could be filed against it.

H. Monitoring & Evaluation

A dashboard to monitor progress, geographic spread, discipline wise students enrolled,

sanctions, completion of courses etc. shall be put in place by UGC on its portal to be accessed by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment via login credential. Further,

- i. The merit of the candidates selected shall be maintained
- ii. The dashboard will show the category-wise and stream-wise number of students and also regularity of the payment. The database of the entire scholarship scheme should also be made available in the open domain
- iii. The research productivity of the scholars should be monitored regularly.

The expenditure on evaluation/monitoring of the fellowship programme shall be met out of the funds provided for the scheme. The remuneration and overhead expenses for evaluation and monitoring shall not exceed 3% of the total allocation of the scheme. Award of SRF done after appropriate evaluation of performance in carrying out the research work by the candidate in the Junior Fellowship phase.

I. Aadhaar Seeding:

Payment of fellowship and any other admissible allowance shall be made to beneficiaries through their bank account on DBT mode. The Ministry of Social Justice vide notification number 428 dated February 16, 2017 has notified Aadhaar as identify document under Section 7 of Aadhaar Act, 2016 for all scholarship/ fellowship schemes.

J. Procedure for release of grant by UGC

- (i) The fellowship amount shall be disbursed to the awardee on Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) basis. The process of updating monthly confirmation with respect to the awardees by the host institution and payments thereof is being implemented on a dedicated web portal <https://scholarship.canarabank.in/AdminLogin.aspx>.
- (ii) Bank account number of the beneficiaries will be validated through PFMS for creating of beneficiary ID.
- (iii) Video tutorial and guidelines for operating the web portal is available on UGC website and may be referred for use.
- (iv) Genuineness of the OBC certificate furnished by the awardee shall be verified by the concerned University/Institution before the details are updated on the web portal.
- (v) The concerned University/Institution shall also ensure that the awardee is not availing any other fellowship/project from any other organization at the time of selection and fulfills all the other conditions as laid in the guidelines.
- (vi) The fellow will undertake regular full time research work under the approved guide in a subject selected by him/her and approved by the university/selection committee.
- (vii) In case any candidate is found to have obtained fellowship through fraudulent means or provided incorrect information the university/institution may cancel his/her fellowship under intimation to the UGC.

K. Resignation and Transfer

(i) If any Fellow resigns or relinquishes the fellowship before the end of the tenure, information may be submitted by the concerned university/institution on the designated web portal itself and stop payment link may be used at the time of monthly confirmation.

(ii) Transfer of research place will be allowed only once during the entire tenure. Transfer can be made by the concerned university/institution itself on the designated web portal through the concerned link available therein.

L. Cancellation of Award:

The fellowship is liable to cancellation, in case of:

- i. If the scholar is found to be ineligible to receive the fellowship, at any point of time during the entire duration of the fellowship.
- ii. If it is found that the fellowship has been availed/is claimed by furnishing false/wrong/misleading information.
- iii. If any adverse report is received from the institution.
- iv. Misconduct/misbehavior/corrupt practices.
- v. Unsatisfactory progress of research work.
- vi. Violation of terms and conditions of these guidelines.
- vii. Plagiarism or unethical practices, in any form.
- viii. Candidate is already availing scholarship/fellowship from any other source.
- ix. Candidate is found employed during the M.Phil. /Ph.D. research.

3. Dr. Ambedkar Central Sector Scheme of Interest Subsidy on Educational Loans for Overseas Studies for Other Backward Classes (OBCs) and Economically Backward Classes (EBCs)

A. Scope of the Scheme:

This is a Central Sector Scheme to provide interest subsidy to the student belonging to the OBCs and EBCs on the interest payable for the period of moratorium for the Education Loans for overseas studies to pursue approved courses of studies abroad at Masters, M.Phil. and Ph.D. level.

B. Conditions for Interest Subsidy

- i. The Scheme is applicable for higher studies abroad. The interest Subsidy shall be linked with the existing Educational Loan Scheme of Indian Banks Association (IBA) and restricted to students enrolled for course at Masters, M.Phil and Ph.D level.
- ii. The interest subsidy under the scheme shall be available to the eligible students only once, either for Masters or Ph.D levels. Interest subsidy shall not be available to those students who either discontinued the course mid-stream due to any reason, or those who are expelled from the institutions on disciplinary or academic grounds.
- iii. If a student violates any condition of the scheme, the subsidy will be discontinued forthwith.
- iv. If a student is found to have obtained the subsidy by false statement/certificates, the subsidy will be withdrawn/ cancelled forthwith and amount of the subsidy paid shall be recovered with penal interest, apart from taking criminal action as per law.
- v. The students obtaining benefits under this Scheme shall not be given the interest subsidy if he gives up Indian citizenship during the tenure of the loan.
- vi. The nodal bank will maintain a separate account and records relating to the funds received from the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and these will be subject to inspection/ audit by the officers of the Ministry, or any other agency designated by the Ministry and C&AG.
- vii. The scheme should have complete database of all the beneficiaries and a Dashboard for monitoring the regularity of disbursal of the interest component. There should be regular monitoring of the payment of interest amount into the accounts of the loanees.
- viii. The Nodal Bank shall place all relevant details of financial and physical achievements on its website and implement the scheme as per the Memorandum of understanding to be signed between the designated Banks and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

ix. Whereas the number of slots can be fixed depending on the budget available, it must be ensured that there is no slippage in payment of the interest subvention in any quarter.

x. The Nodal Bank will lay down the detailed procedure for processing and sanctioning of interest subsidy to eligible students in consultation with the Ministry.

xi. The Scheme will be evaluated at regular intervals by the Ministry or any other agency designated by the Ministry and the cost of the evaluation study will be borne by the Ministry.

xii. The term and conditions of the Scheme can be changed at any time at the discretion of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to improve procedure and achieve more effective implementation. However, there should not be financial implications.

xiii. The scheme shall be available on preferential basis for the professional courses first.

C. Eligibility

- i. The students should have secured admission in the approved courses at Masters, M.Phil or Ph.D levels abroad for the courses listed at Para- M.
- ii. He/She should have availed loan from a scheduled bank under the Education Loan Scheme of the Indian Banks Association (IBA) for the purpose.
- iii. For the candidate applying under the OBC category, OBC Caste certificate in the prescribed Performa (as per Annexure-I) issued by the competent authority must be taken by the Banks.

D. Income Ceiling

- i. For OBC candidates, total income from all sources of the employed candidate or his/her parents/guardians in case of unemployed candidate shall not exceed present Creamy Layer criteria.
- ii. For EBC candidates, total income from all sources of the employed candidate or his/her parents/guardians in case of unemployed candidate shall not exceed Rs.5.00 lakh per annum.
- iii. Under this Scheme, Income certificate produced by the student for availing Educational Loan viz. ITR/Form 16/Audited Accounts/Income certificate issued by the authority of State Government/UT Administration is acceptable to determining Income ceiling.

E. Recommendatory Committee

- i. Recommendatory Committee headed by Joint Secretary in-charge of Backward

Classes Division with representatives of Finance Division, representative of Nodal Bank and concerned Director/Deputy Secretary as convener will examine and recommend the applications for award of interest subsidy on quarterly basis.

- ii. Out of the total outlay in a year, a minimum of 50% amount will be earmarked for Interest Subsidy to the girl candidates.

F. 'FUNDS-LIMITED' Nature of the Scheme

Due to budgetary constraint, in practice, it has not been possible for the Central Government to provide assistance for giving subsidy on interest to all eligible students. The funds will be released to the applicants on first- come first-served basis, subject to a maximum amount to be worked out every year based on total budget made available that year, under the scheme. At the beginning of the each financial year, region-wise notional allocation of funds should be made by the Ministry.

G. Rate of Interest Subsidy

- i. Under the scheme, interest payable by the students availing the education loans of the IBA for the period of moratorium (i.e. course period, plus one year or six months after getting job, whichever is earlier) as prescribed under the Education Loan Scheme of the IBA, shall be borne by the Government of India.
- ii. After the period of moratorium is over, the interest on the outstanding loan amount shall be paid by the student, in accordance with the existing Educational Loan Scheme as may be amended from time to time.
- iii. The candidate will bear the Principal installments and interest beyond moratorium period.

H. Implementing Agencies

The Scheme will be implemented by the Nodal Bank as per MoU between the Banks and the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.

I. Administrative Expenses

- i. A provision not exceeding 3% of the annual budget allocation for the scheme will be made to meet the administrative and allied costs viz. expenditure for office equipments, including computers and accessories, advertisements, engagement of personnel, third party evaluation etc.
- ii. This provision will also be used for evaluation and monitoring of the scheme, through outside reputed institutions/agencies engaged by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. Administrative cost of the Banks will be shared as per provision in the MoU.

J. Monitoring and Transparency

- i. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment shall monitor the performance of the scheme.

- ii. For this purpose, a web enabled monitoring mechanism shall be put in place by Nodal Bank.
- iii. The Nodal Bank will be required to furnish quarterly financial and physical progress reports to the Ministry.
- iv. The Nodal Bank will maintain year-wise details of the students receiving interest subsidy, indicating institute, location of the institute, course, gender, new or renewal, permanent address and parents address.
- v. The Nodal Bank will place relevant physical and financial details on their official website.

K. Minor Modifications/Changes

Minor Modifications/Changes in the Scheme with no financial implications may be made by the Competent Authority.

L. Evaluation

The monitoring of the financial and physical performance of the scheme will be periodically evaluated by the assigning evaluation/impact studies to reputed institutions/agencies by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India.

M. *Indicative Subjects/Disciplines covered under the Scheme (for Masters, M. Phil and Ph.D)

The subjects/disciplines in which courses may be undertaken for the grant of interest subsidy are listed below:-

- i. Arts/Humanities/Social Sciences
- ii. Commerce
- iii. Pure Sciences
- iv. Engineering
- v. BioTechnology/Genetic Engineering
- vi. Industrial Environmental Engineering
- vii. Nano-Technology
- viii. Marine Engineering
- ix. Petro-chemical Engineering
- x. Plastic Technology
- xi. Cryogenic Engineering
- xii. Mechatronics

- xiii. Automation Robotics including artificial intelligence
- xiv. Laser Technology
- xv. Low Temperature Thermal Dynamics
- xvi. Optometry
- xvii. Art Restoration Technology
- xviii. Dock and Harbour Engineering
- xix. Imaging System Technology
- xx. Composite Materials Engineering including Decentralized power Distribution (for Solar Heat) system, Energy Storage Engineering, Energy Conservation, Energy Efficient Habitat.
- xxi. Packaging Engineering/Technology
- xxii. Nuclear Engineering
- xxiii. Information Technology including Computer Engineering, Software, Software Quality Assurance, Networking/Connectivity Engineering, Communication system under Hazardous or PostDisaster conditions, Multimedia Communication.
- xxiv. Industrial Safety Engineering
- xxv. Agriculture & Agro Technology
- xxvi. Agronomy
- xxvii. Medical
- xxviii. Floriculture & Landscaping
- xxix. Food Sciences & Technology
- xxx. Forestry & Natural Resources
- xxxi. Horticulture
- xxxii. Plant Pathology
- xxxiii. Energy Studies
- xxxiv. Farm Power & Machinery
- xxxv. Veterinary Sciences
- xxxvi. Soils & Water Management
- xxxvii. Plant Breeding & Genetics

xxxviii. Small-scale Rural Technology

xxxix. Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences

xl. MBA

xli. MCA

xlii. Any other Subject----*

* Subject may be deleted or added by the Ministry from time to time as situation demands.

Annexure-I

**FORM OF CERTIFICATE TO BE PRODUCED BY OTHER BACKWARD
CLASSES APPLYING FOR APPOINTMENT TO POSTS UNDER THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

This is to certify that Shri/Smt/Kumari son/daughter of village/town in District/Division in the State/Union Territory — belongs to the community which is recognized as a backward class under the Government of India, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment's Resolution No. dated . *Shri/Smt/Kumari and/or his/her family ordinarily reside(s) in the District/Division of the State/Union

Territory. This is also to certify that he/she does not belong to the persons/sections (Creamy Layer) mentioned in Column 3 of the Schedule to the Government of India, Department of Personnel & Training O.M.NO.36012/22/93-Estt(SCT) dated 8.9.1993**.

District Magistrate/Deputy Commissioner etc.

Dated:

Seal

*The authority issuing the certificate may have to mention the details of Resolution of Government of India, in which the caste of the candidate is mentioned as OBC.

**As amended from time to time.

Note:The term "Ordinarily" used here will have the same meaning as in Section 20 of the Representation of the People Act,1950.