2020 Tibetan Scholarship Program Announcement India and Nepal

The U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), is pleased to announce the opening of the 2020 Tibetan Scholarship Program (TSP). The TSP, sponsored by ECA, is administered through a Cooperative Agreement with The Tibet Fund (TTF), in collaboration with the Central Tibetan Administration's (CTA) Department of Education (DoE). Approximately six (6) applicants from India and one (1) from Nepal will be selected to participate in the TSP. Applications will be accepted from eligible Tibetan refugees residing in India and Nepal for up to two-year Master's Degree programs in the United States, _pending the availability of funds._ The application form is available alongside. The deadline to apply for the TSP is **March 16, 2019 by 5:00 pm.**

A.   TSP APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS:

1. Applicants should be born on or after January 1, 1984. You are required to submit a copy of your birth certificate as a proof of your age.
2. Applicants must have completed at least four years of academic work after Class XII, including three years bachelor's degree from a recognized university. The fourth year can be your Bachelor of Education credentials or your Master's degree first year academic credentials. Partial computer courses, vocational training and diplomas from recognized academic institutions in India and Nepal will be taken into consideration.
3. Competitive applicants must have scored a minimum of 55% in their Bachelor's degree and 55% in Master's degree if completed.
4. Applicants who have completed or are pursuing a M. Phil / Ph. D degree are not eligible for the TSP.
5. Applicants are not required to submit Class X and XII academic credentials.
6. The final selection panel will be chaired by the designated Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassies in India and Nepal for all viable candidates nominated by the CTA's DoE and the TSP Student Selection Committee (SSC) in Nepal.
7. During the pre-selection process, TSP applicants will not be required to submit TOEFL scores along with the application package
8. The TSP applicants in India will take the Institutional TOEFL test (ITP) on the same day after the General Written Test in Tibetan (GWTT) in Delhi and Bangalore. The TOEFL ITP test aims to assess the applicant's English language ability before they sit for the final interview.
9. **TOEFL ITP test at a Glance:** _Level 1 (intermediate to advanced): 2 hours_

Section	Number of Questions	Administered Time	Score Scale
Listening Comprehension	50	35 minutes	31 - 68
Structure and Written Expression	40	25 minutes	31 - 68
Reading Comprehension	50	55 minutes	31 - 67
Total	140	115 minutes	310 - 677

10. Once the required academic credentials and other criteria are fulfilled, the CTA's DoE and TSP SSC in Nepal will notify the respective applicants for document verification process/ GWTT and TOEFL ITP test.
11. The venue for the reporting and document verification of the applicants will be notified by CTA DoE and TSP SSC staff via e-mail and telephone call. There will be two venues in India for document verification, GWTT and TOEFL ITP test for India. The venue for applicants from northern India will be in Delhi and applicants from the south will be in Bangalore. The exact location will be confirmed by the CTA DoE after March 16, 2019. The venue for applicants from Nepal will be in Kathmandu.

12. Applicants must secure a minimum of 30 points out of 50 on the GWTT in order to move to the next level. The GWTT consists of multiple-choice questions and a section of translation. The test can be taken either in Tibetan or English, however, in translation part, the translation will be from English to Tibetan.
13. The ITP test locations and requirements will vary by country. The duration of the TOEFL ITP test is two hours and will be paper based. Competitive applicants should obtain an approximate score of 550 on TOEFL ITP.
14. The CTA DoE and The Tibet Fund expect to receive the ITP scores from the Educational Testing Service (ETS) within 30 days.
15. Once the applicants take the GWTT and TOEFL ITP, the CTA DoE will finalize a list of the top 30 applicants from India, from the total pool of qualified applicants. The top 30 applicants will be selected based on their academic performance and passing of the GWTT and TOEFL ITP test.
16. These 30 applicants from India will be invited to sit for the final interview in Dharamsala, coordinated by CTA DoE in coordination with the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi. The final applicants from Nepal will be interviewed and selected in Kathmandu, by the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal coordinated by TSP SSC Nepal.
17. After finalizing the interview markings, the panel will select approximately six candidates from India, and one from Nepal, based on their total application and interview.
18. Approximately six selected applicants from India, and one, from Nepal will take the TOEFL ibt. To be accepted into the program, applicants score approximately 85 out of 120 in the TOEFL ibt. In the event any of the final applicants cannot score approximately 85 on TOEFL ibt, the next alternate applicant will be called upon to take the TOEFL ibt test.
19. The Final Selection Panel will develop a list of five alternate candidates from India and two from Nepal.
20. We encourage the alternate candidates to take the TOEFL ibt, in the event a selected candidate is not able to participate in the program.
21. While taking the TOEFL, the applicants are requested to notify ETS to forward a copy of the score to the Tibet Fund by using the TTF's institutional code 9892.
22. The final selected participants will be required to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) as determined by their field of study and the graduate program requirements of the U.S. host institutions.

B. **SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS & CRITERIA FOR AWARDING SCHOLARSHIP:**

1. **Photo:** Applicants must submit one (1) passport size photo (attach on application).
2. **Resume and a Short Essay:** The applicant must submit a copy of his/her resume and a short essay, no more than 500-700 words, explaining why you are applying for the Tibetan Scholarship Program (TSP), what you hope to achieve from it, and how you will contribute to your community upon your return.
3. **Green Book (GB) and Registration Certificate (RC)/Refugee Certificate (RC):**

   TSP Applicants in India:
   - ➤ **TSP Applicants in India:** Applicant must have a valid Green Book (GB) and a valid Registration Certificate (RC). Applicant and his/her parents' Green Book contribution must be paid till 2018. Upload copies of RC and GB. If applicant's parents are in Tibet/separated/deceased, a letter from the concerned Tibetan Settlement Officer must be furnished to this effect.

4. **TSP Applicants in Nepal:**
   - Applicants who reside in Nepal must have a valid Refugee Certificate (RC).
   - If an applicant does not possess an RC, then he/she can submit either one of their parent's RCs with the applicant's name stated in the document.
   - Applicant and his/her parents' Green Book contribution must be paid till 2018.
   - In addition, the applicant must obtain a letter from his/her respective Tibetan Settlement Officer, certifying that he/she is a Tibetan refugee residing in Nepal.

5. **U.S. Visa**: *Participants will be required to apply for a J-1 exchange visitor visa from the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi or Kathmandu. Selection as a TSP candidate does not guarantee approval for an exchange visa. Applicants who have prior visa denials from the U.S. Embassy must inform The Tibet Fund, the CTA's DoE and the Tibetan Student Selection Committee in Nepal.*

6. **Academic Certificates**: Applicants must submit their college and university academic records (Degree, and Mark sheets).

7. **No Objection Certificate**: If you are working in an organization, you will need to submit a "*No Objection Certificate*" to apply for the scholarship.

8. **Program:** Applicants should choose one program of study from the following fields. The fields of study specified below were identified based on the needs of the Tibetan community by the Central Tibetan Administration (in consultation with the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs DOS's BECA).

   Fields of Study:

   - Computer Science/Cyber Security
   - International law
   - MBA
   - Intelligence Studies
   - Psychology
   - Education
   - Journalism
   - Neuroscience
   - International Relations
   - Science
   - Environmental Studies
   - Library Science and Information
   - Public Health
   - Gender Studies

9. **Application Deadline**: Interested applicants are responsible for submitting all application materials and other relevant documents to their respective jurisdictions ***on or before* Saturday; March 16, 2019 by 5:00 pm.** Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

10. ***Applicants from India***: Applicants must apply online using the online application link **https://goo.gl/forms/4czCibZ8Z8q9fSQN2** and upload all the required documents combined in PDF files organized in order as below:

PDF 1:	PDF 2:
1. Application Form 2. Resume 3. Essay	1. Birth Certificate 2. Copies of applicant's RC 3. Copies of applicant's GB (1st & last page of payment made) 4. Copies of Parents' GB/Settlement Officer's letter 5. Bachelor's Degree Marks sheet (year 1,2,3 and 4 accordingly) 6. Master's Degree Marks sheet/B.Ed./Diploma Certificate 7. No Objection Certificate (if any)

The CTA's Department of Education (DoE) who will administer the TSP selection process in India separately. The pre and post selection will be administered by CTA's DoE and the Tibet Fund in coordination with the U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Section in India.

11. ***Applicants from Nepal:*** Applicants must submit a paper application and all supporting documents to the TSP SSC Nepal, who has been appointed to administer the TSP selection process in Nepal separately. The pre and post selection of TSP Nepal candidates will be administered by TSP SSC Nepal under the direction of The Tibet Fund in coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal.

12. **Points System:** The following scoring system will be used to calculate each eligible candidate's total score. Please see section below for details on the point system.
   a) Academic Performance with maximum allotted points of 10:
   b) Marking Scheme:
      I.   Applicants with three years of Under Graduate Degree and a year of Diploma / Bachelor of Education OR Four Years Under Graduate Degree will receive maximum of 5 points based on UG academic performance.
      II. Applicants with three years Under Graduate Degree and first year of Master's Degree will receive maximum of 5 points only based on UG academic performance.
      III. Applicants who have completed both Undergraduate and Master's degree will receive a maximum of 10 points based on your academic performance. (5 points for Undergraduate and 5 points for Master's Degree)
   c) The following Marking scheme will be followed:

Academic Performance in Bachelor's Program (Percentage Scored)	Points Allotted	Academic Performance in Master's Program (Percentage Scored)	Points Allotted
55 - 60	1	55 - 60	1
61 - 70	2	61 - 70	2
71 - 75	3	71 - 75	3
76 - 80	4	76 - 80	4
81 - 100	5	81 - 100	5

For questions related to TSP application process in India, please send your queries to the attention of: The Tibet Fund's TSP Program Coordinator - Tenzing Choephel Chumeego at tchoephel@tibetfund.org or the CTA's DoE Scholarship Section head - Sonam Sangmo at doe.lobyon@tibet.net (or) scholarship@tibet.net.
For questions related to TSP application process in Nepal, please contact Tsering Topgyal at tspsscnepal@ymail.com

Scholarship Section Department of Education Central Tibetan Administration Gangchen Kyishong Dharamsala, 176215 Distt. Kangra, H.P. India Tel: 01892-226695, 222721, 222572 doe.lobyon@tibet.net scholarship@tibet.net	Tsering Topgyal Vice Chairman TSP – Student Selection Committee Nepal Snow Lion Foundation PO Box no. 1313 Kathmandu, NEPAL Tel: +977-1-5000036/5000002 tspsscnepal@ymail.com

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