

## **ANNUAL ACTION PLAN (AAP) FOR SHREYAS**

The Umbrella Scheme of SHREYAS conceptualized by bringing together the four existing small Central Sector Schemes of Free Coaching for SC and OBC students, Top Class Scholarship for SC students, National Overseas Scheme and National Fellowship Scheme for SC students is to be implemented from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The total aggregate proposed outlay of SHREYAS is Rs. 1850 crore approximately for the period from 2021-22 to 2025-26 with the provision of intra-transfer of funds based on exigencies arising out of increased demand in any of the component schemes.

2. Based on the inter-se convergence of the component sub-schemes of the Umbrella Scheme and also with other Central Govt. Schemes, the Annual Action Plan has been attempted to chalk out programme of implementation beyond physical and financial targets with clear measurable systemic and procedural improvements, monitoring mechanisms, induction of measures to improve effectiveness of various components of the component sub-schemes etc. The sub-scheme wise AAP is as under;

### **AAP for National Overseas Scholarship Scheme for 2022-23**

The Central Sector Scheme of National Overseas Scholarship is to facilitate the low income students belonging to the Scheduled Castes, De-notified Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic Tribes, Landless Agricultural Laborers and Traditional Artisans category to obtain higher education viz., Masters degree or Ph.D courses by studying abroad thereby improving their Economic and Social status.

#### **a) Target to be achieved**

##### **1. Total Number of Slots with various category**

There are 125 slots/seats, subject to availability of funds, per year are available. The category wise details are as under:-

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>No. of Slots</b>
(i)	Scheduled Castes	115
(ii)	Denotified, Nomadic and Semi- Nomadic Tribes	06
(iii)	Landless Agricultural Laborers and Traditional Artisans	04
	<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>

2. 30% of the awards for each year shall be earmarked for women candidates.

## **b) Strategy to be followed**

An **online scholarship portal** has been launched w.e.f 2019-20. Applicant can apply for scholarship only through the online portal specially designed for the purpose. The web address of the portal is <http://nosmsje.gov.in/>.

The important eligibility criteria are as follows:

1. In order to be eligible for scholarship, at least 60% marks or equivalent grade in the qualifying examination would be required.
2. Family Income from all sources less than Rs. 8,00,000 (Rs. Eight lakh per annum) in the preceding year.
3. Only candidates who have obtained unconditional offer of admission from one of the foreign Institutions/ Universities which are in the list of top 500 ranked institutions/ universities from the academic session 2022-23 and onward shall be considered for award of scholarship for studying in that Institution/University subject to fulfillment of other eligibility conditions of the Scheme.
4. Not more than 35 (Thirty Five) years, **as on first day of April for selection year.**
5. In case of Scholarship for Masters Degree abroad, minimum required qualification is Graduation Degree whereas for Ph.D, the minimum qualification requirement is Masters Degree.

For the first round of each Selection Year, family income for last completed financial year will be taken into account for the purpose of selection. For the second round, the family income for the previous completed financial year will be taken into account for purpose of selection. For example, for the selections for the financial year 2022-23, online portal for inviting applications of NOS Scholarship for first round will be opened from 15 February 2022 to 31 March 2022 and family income for financial year 2020-21 will be taken into account for purpose of selection. The portal for second round will be opened from 1st September 2022 to 15th October, 2022 and for that family income for financial year 2021-22 will be taken into account for purpose of selection.

### **Financial Assistance**

S. No.	Type of Assistance	United States of America (USA) & other countries except UK	United Kingdom (UK)

1.	Annual Maintenance Allowance	15400 US Dollars	9900 Great British Pounds
2.	Contingency Allowance	1500 US Dollars	1100 Great British Pounds
3.	Tuition Fees	Actual as charged	
4.	Visa Fees	Actual visa fees in Indian Rupees	
5.	Medical Insurance Premium	Actual as charged	
6.	Incidental Journey Allowance & Equipment Allowance	20 US Dollar for each or its equivalent in Indian Rupees	
7.	Air Passage	Air passage from India to the nearest place to the educational institution will be reimbursed after tickets bought with informed arrangements and back to India return ticket to be arranged by the Indian Mission, by economy class and shortest route, will be provided.	

**c) Guidelines to be adopted;**

Detailed guidelines have been formulated for the smooth functioning of the scheme. The NOS scheme guidelines are reviewed from time to time and changes for simplifying the procedures and making the process more transparent are made. This year onward, however, it was felt that the overseas scholarship for studying abroad is not needed for the topics/courses concerning Indian Culture, Heritage, History & Social studies on India, considering that Indian Universities are fully and well equipped to guide research based on such topics and most of the resources for these particular subjects are available within the country. These courses anyhow require frequent field visits to India during the course of studies and can thus be better undertaken in India itself and such students may avail of scholarship/fellowship under the other scholarship schemes being implemented by this Department as per their eligibility. This would provide more opportunities to other applicants covered under NOS (SC)etc. for studying abroad in other subjects for which the foreign universities are better known and equipped and would thus help bring into the country more knowledge on such subjects where resources in India are still not sufficient. Also, the selection of candidates from sub fields of Humanities/Social Sciences is still open to candidates who are aspiring to study Law, Economics, Psychology and other subjects which require international exposure.

**d) Interaction with the States to get the proposals in time ;**

National Overseas Scholarship (NOS) Scheme is a central sector scheme. No selections are made under this scheme State-wise. Candidates having unconditional offer of admission to top ranked foreign Institutes/Universities as per the latest available QS rankings are selected for grant of scholarship under this scheme

**e) Timelines for opening or closing of the Portal, selections of candidates and disbursement of scholarship.**

i) The candidates, after assessing their eligibility and suitability, as per the eligibility conditions of the Scheme Guidelines, can apply online to this Ministry on the portal, i.e., [www.nosmsje.gov.in](http://www.nosmsje.gov.in)

ii) The selection year period would be April-March of each year. The portal shall be opened for calling of applications for the first round from 15th February to 31st March of 2022 (before the beginning of selection year) and only online applications received shall be considered for award of selection. In case the slots remain unfilled, the portal will be opened again for the second cycle from 1st of September for a period of 45 days in each selection year. Once all the 125 slots are filled, the portal will not be reopened during the year for submission of applications.

iii) The application received will be scrutinized in the Section in 30 days.

iv) Thereafter, the scrutinized applications will be placed before the Selection-cum-screening committee for recommendation/rejection of candidates which will take approx 15 days.

v) On the basis of the recommendations received from the Committee, final list for selection/rejection will be submitted for the approval of Hon'ble Minister (SJ&E) which will take approx 5 days.

vi) After approval of HMSJE, provisional award letter to the candidates will be issued.

vii) Verification of offer letter by concerned Indian Mission: (15 days)

- viii) The candidate is required to submit the following (10 days );
  - (a) Self declaration/undertaking regarding total Annual Family Income
  - (b) Self declaration regarding any pending case/Non-conviction of offense
  - (c) Copy of Passport etc.
- ix) After receiving of Embassy verification report and documents/information from the candidates, file will be processed for IFD approval (10 days)
- x) After IFD concurrence, the file will be processed from Administrative approval and thereafter, final award letter will be issued (5days)
- xi) After getting final award letter, candidate is required to visit Ministry for verification of documents and submitting of Bonds, solvency etc (30 days)
- vi) The same procedure will be followed for the second round, if required, which will commence from the first week of September with the opening of portal for a period of 45 days.
- vii) A list of selected/waiting/rejected candidates will be uploaded on the online portal.
- viii) Individual email/messages will also be sent to all registered applicants in due course of time. Incomplete applications will be rejected summarily.

Note :- The above timeline is tentative

**How is scholarship disbursed?** The Tuition Fees is paid by the concerned Indian Mission/ Embassy to the University/ institution where candidates get admission. The payment of Maintenance Allowance is linked with furnishing of progress report. For first semester/six months, the maintenance allowance may be paid to the scholarship awardee in the first instance as an advance. Thereafter, the maintenance allowance for the next semester/six months may be paid only after receipt of the satisfactory progress report of the awardee for first six months/semester.

**f) Timelines for authorization of funds to MEA during 2022-23**

Rs. 20.00 crore in the 1st quarter

Rs. 15.00 crore in 3rd quarter

Rs. 1.00 crore for settlement of Airlines bill

Total Budget is Rs.36.00 crore.