



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

ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2021-22

**Scholarships for Higher Education for Young Achievers Scheme (SHREYAS)
(OBC & Others)**

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) and interest subsidy on educational loan.

1. National Fellowship for OBC

Budget:

The Budget Estimate for the year 2021-22 is Rs. 50.00 Crore.

Funding Pattern:

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.

Number of Units to be funded during the year:

- i. The total number of slots for NFOBC under the scheme is 2500 for 2021-22 including 1000 fresh slots. Out of 1000 fresh slots, 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 fresh slots will be over and above the OBC Students selected under the normal reservation policy of the Government.

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.

Process of Selection

- 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.

Monitoring Mechanism:

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.

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

Budget:

The Budget Estimate for the year 2021-22 is Rs. 50.00 Crore.

Funding Pattern:

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.

Interest subvention is provided quarterly to the Nodal Bank and it will be ensured that there is no slippage in payment of the interest subvention in any quarter.

No. of units to be funded during the year:

Total 2500 beneficiaries targeted for the year 2021-22.

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 disbursement 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.

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 Proforma issued by the competent authority must be taken by the

Banks.

iv. 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.

v. 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.

vi. 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.

Process of Selection

i. Recommendatory Committee headed by Joint Secretary in-charge of Backward Classes Division in the Department with representatives of Finance Division, representative of Nodal Bank and concerned Director/Deputy Secretary in the Department 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.

Timeline:

| S.N | Line of Action | | Timeline |
|-----|---|-----------|---|
| 1 | Opening of web-portal quarterly for subsidy claims submission | Mar-2021 | 1 st to 30 th April, 2021 |
| | | June-2021 | 1 to 15 July, 2021 |
| | | Sept-2021 | 1 to 15 Oct, 2021 |
| | | Dec-2021 | 1 to 15 Jan, 2022 |
| | | Mar-2022 | 1 to 15 Apr, 2022 |
| 2 | Recommendatory Committee Meeting | Mar-2021 | Thrid week of May,2021 |
| | | June-2021 | Last week of July,2021 |
| | | Sept- | Last week of |

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|--|--|----------|--------------|
| | | 2021 | October,2021 |
| | | Dec-2021 | Last week of |

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|---|--|-----------|--------------------------|
| | | | January,2022 |
| | | Mar-2022 | Last week of April,2022 |
| 3 | Release of Central Assistance as per demand of each qtr. | Mar-2021 | First week of June, 2021 |
| | | June-2021 | 1 to 15 August, 2021 |
| | | Sept-2021 | 1 to 15 November, 2021 |
| | | Dec-2021 | 1 to 15 February, 2022 |
| | | Mar-2022 | 1 to 15 May, 2022 |

Monitoring Mechanism:

- 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.
