NUA-O SCHOLARSHIP

SCHEME GUIDELINES

1. Introduction: -

The Government of Odisha remains steadfast in its commitment to fostering quality and inclusive higher education across the state. In its pursuit of making higher education accessible to all, various Scholarships, financial assistance and interest subsidy programs have been instituted.

It is noticed that specific targeted intervention in the form of inclusive financial assistance is required for left out students enrolled in general Degree and Post Graduate programs within government and government-aided institutions including Sanskrit Colleges under the Higher Education Department for universal support to all eligible studetns.

2. Objective:

The cardinal objective of this scheme is to provide universal financial assistance to students enrolled in Government and Non-Government Aided Institutions, including Sanskrit Colleges under the administrative control of the Higher Education Department. The scheme aims to support all eligible students pursuing higher education. By extending assistance to a broader student base, the scheme seeks to promote inclusivity, reduce dropout rates, and

increase the Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in the State. This revised objective reflects the government's commitment to ensuring equitable access to education for all and acknowledges the long-term societal benefits of supporting higher education for regional development and economic prosperity.

3. Scholarship Amount:

- a. Eligible students enrolled in undergraduate (UG) or postgraduate (PG) programs at recognized Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) will receive an annual scholarship.
- b. Male students will be granted Rs. 9,000/- per year, while female students will receive Rs. 10,000/- per year who meet eligibility criteria and maintain continuous enrolment and attendance.
- c. However, in the case of students belonging to the SC/ST community, this scholarship will be Rs. 10,000/- for male students and Rs. 11,000/- for female students who do not currently receive any other scholarship.
- d. The disbursement of the scholarship will occur once a year.
- e. The scholarship is applicable for a maximum duration of three years for UG courses and two years for PG courses.

4. Eligibility Criteria:

- a. Residency Requirement: Applicants must be permanent residents of Odisha.
- b. Educational Requirement: Students must have enrolled and regularly attending classes in UG or PG courses at any State University, Government and non-government aided colleges including aided Sanskrit colleges under the administrative control of the Higher Education Department.
- c. Admission through SAMS Portal: First-year admissions must have been completed exclusively through the SAMS portal. Subsequent re-admissions at the college_level are permitted.
- d. To maintain eligibility for this scholarship program and to continue to be 'recognized Higher Education Institutions,' institutions are prohibited from modifying their academic fees, course fees, tuition fees, examination fees, development fees, or any other fees under any name or form without explicit prior approval from the Government in the Higher Education Department, effective from the date of issue of this order.

5. Ineligible Courses and Criteria:

 a. Students enrolled in open universities or pursuing higher education through distance learning or correspondence courses, or undertaking self-financed courses under PPP

- mode, are ineligible to avail of scholarships under this scheme.
- b. Students currently receiving scholarships under any other schemes administered by the State or Central Government, except for the Vyasakabi Fakir Mohan Bhasabruti scheme, are ineligible.
- Students failing to obtain validation from their respective
 Principal or Educational institution are ineligible
- d. Any other categories specified by the Government from time to time will also be ineligible.

6. Auto-Exclusion Criteria:

Students falling under the following categories will be automatically excluded from the scholarship scheme:

- a. Students whose either of the parents is paying tax or liable to pay income tax.
- b. Students whose either of the parents is employed under regular establishments of the Central/State Government/ PSUs /Government Aided Institutions/ Autonomous Bodies or receiving grants as part of their salary directly or through block grants from any educational institution.

7. Modalities for Scheme Implementation:

a. The State Government has established a common digital interface accessible via https://scholarship.odisha.gov.in

(State Scholarship Portal) to serve as a one-stop portal for processing applications from eligible students across various scholarship schemes. Similarly, the SAMS portal automates the admission process for the first year of UG/PG courses.

 Eligible students will access benefits through the Common State Scholarship portal at

https://scholarship.odisha.gov.in.

- c. Disbursement will be made through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) into students' Savings Bank Accounts using the Integrated Financial Management System (IFMS).
- d. Students/parents must submit a self-declaration form confirming eligibility and not within the exclusion criteria as stated above.
- e. A potential list of beneficiaries will be compiled from students who have not yet received any scholarships, utilizing admission data sourced from the SAMS portal, and cross-referencing it with data of students benefiting from various scholarship programs available on the scholarship portal.
- f. The compiled list of potential beneficiaries will be uploaded onto the Odisha Scholarship Portal, from where it will be transmitted to institutions for validation.
- g. The potential beneficiary list is to be downloaded by the institution and publish in the notice board of the college for wider circulation of information and wide coverage.

- h. If any student's name is not included in the list of potential beneficiaries, they may apply through the scholarship portal after completing the registration process and submitting the required documents.
- i. Institutions will verify student data, ensure their continued enrolment and attendance in the college, and verify bank details before submitting validated applications to the Higher Education Department via the State Scholarship Portal.
- Eligibility will be evaluated through self-declaration following the outlined process below.

8. Self-Declaration by Students:

- a. To avail of the scholarship, students must make a selfdeclaration regarding the continuation of studies in the college mentioned, the absence of scholarships from any other scheme, or non-coverage under autoexclusion criteria.
- b. The self-declaration must be submitted in the prescribed format (Annexure-A/B) available at the institution level, duly filled and signed as per the instructions below.
- c. Students above 18 years old must submit selfdeclarations using Form A. For students below 18, a declaration from their parents/guardians using Form B is required.

- d. The declaration must include:
 - Residence particulars such as district, block, college name, etc.,
 - 2. Adhaar and mobile number,
 - 3. Bank account details: The applicant's bank account number and IFSC code. Students should ensure the accuracy of account details provided during admission in the SAMS portal through CAF and maintain the account in an operational condition. If the bank details in CAF do not belong to the student or are dormant or closed, students are advised to update them in the scholarship portal through the college by providing the correct information in the self-declaration form.
 - Declaration confirming eligibility conditions fulfilment and non-coverage under auto-exclusion criteria.
 - Continuation of studies and regular class attendance.
 - Institutions must receive self-declaration forms from students and issue acknowledgements.
 - Students/parents will be responsible for appropriate legal action if the self-declaration is found to be misleading/ erroneous.

- If the scholarship is availed through false selfdeclaration, the beneficiary will be subjected to appropriate legal action and recovery of paid scholarships.
- e. Based on student declaration information either in original or in duplicate received in person or through email or other digital modes, institutions must certify that the student has been admitted to their college and continuing classes regularly, and also validate other details, particularly bank account information.
- f. Thereafter the institution is required to update information in the portal as per self-declaration and forward applications to the Higher Education Department for scholarship disbursal through the portal itself.
- g. Validation by the institution and confirmation of eligibility through self-declaration, duly accepted by the institution, will be final. However, random application verifications will be conducted at the Higher Education Department to assess student eligibility.
- h. Once student eligibility is confirmed, scholarships will be disbursed by the Higher Education Department.

9. Disbursement Methodology:

- a. Scholarship Disbursement Process:
 - Scholarship funds will be transferred to the Savings Bank Accounts of eligible beneficiaries as provided in the declaration, utilizing the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism in IFMS.
 - ii. Disbursement will occur to the bank account mentioned in the CAF form provided in the SAMS portal during admission. In case of discrepancies such as closed or dormant accounts, students are required to update their bank account details in the scholarship portal.
 - iii. Institutions will download one sanction certificate from the scholarship portal for each eligible student in whose favour a scholarship is sanctioned. These Certificates will be distributed to students through institution-organized functions to ensure widespread awareness about the scheme.

10. Validation Timing:

Institutions will assess students' eligibility criteria by cross-referencing their declarations with the admission database. For second-year and third-year students, institutions will verify and certify re-admission status and regular attendance. Annually announced validation periods

will be adhered to by institutions, ensuring compliance with specified deadlines.

11. <u>Duration and Scope of Scholarship:</u>

Eligible recipients in the first year of admission will receive the scholarship for the complete duration of their courses. For subsequent years, students will be eligible for the remaining years of the course. For example, if a +3 Arts student was admitted in the academic year 2022-23, they will be entitled to the scholarship for the 2nd and 3rd years only. Claims for arrears or backlogs from previous years will not be entertained.

12. <u>Creation of Awareness and Facilitation</u>:

- a. An institutional-level nodal officer will ensure all students are adequately informed about the new scholarship scheme.
- b. The Head of the Institution will ensure proper awareness of the scheme among students and motivate them to submit their declarations on time.
- c. Information flexes will be prominently displayed within the institution to raise awareness among students.
- d. A student help desk for scholarships will be established to guide and assist students in making declarations. e. Details of the scholarship scheme will be shared with all students during student assemblies, and they will be advised to apply and submit the necessary documents.

- e. The Head of the institution will circulate one information sheet along with the list of potential beneficiaries regarding the scheme in each classroom and ensure all students are informed, obtaining their signatures as proof of information dissemination.
- f. Students will be provided with leaflets about the scheme.

13. Selection Process:

- After receiving applications on the state scholarship portal, college authorities will evaluate them based on eligibility criteria.
- b. The screening committee will verify the authenticity of information in the declaration. Eligible applications will be forwarded to the Higher Education Department through the State Scholarship Portal.
- c. The department will conduct due diligence randomly to evaluate applications and sanction scholarships to eligible students.

14. Renewal Procedures for the Scholarship: -

a. The scholarship will be renewable annually based on the student's academic continuity, regular attendance in the previous academic year, participation in college examinations, and continued eligibility.

- b. The system will facilitate renewal by transferring scholarship information to the educational institution for validation of the student's ongoing enrollment in subsequent years.
- c. Institutions must submit renewal applications through the State Scholarship portal, including the student's latest admission data from SAMS/ readmission data from the institution records and the previous year's attendance and examination appearance status.
- d. During the renewal process, students will be prompted for Aadhaar re-verification via a One-Time Password (OTP) sent to their registered mobile number.

15. Monitoring and Evaluation:

- a. To ensure effective implementation and transparency, students will conduct an annual social audit.
- b. Each college will establish a student committee for the scholarship, overseen by the concerned RDE, comprising a minimum of 7 students. These committees will raise awareness and conduct social audits of the scheme. Regular capacity-building training for the student committee members should be conducted.
- c. Institutions will share a list of students in whose favor the scholarship has been sanctioned with the student committee for eligibility assessment.

- d. Concerned RDEs will review the social audit findings and address identified issues to ensure successful scheme implementation.
- e. Regular audits and inspections will be conducted to ensure fair and transparent scholarship distribution.
- f. Scholarship recipients may be required to attend periodic reviews to assess their academic progress.

By order of Governor,

Commissioner-cum Secretary,

Higher Education Department, Govt of Odisha

ଛାତ୍ର / ଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ସ୍ୱରା ଘୋଷଣାନାମା ANNEXURE- A (କ)

(As mandate in NUA-O scholarship scheme) (ଯଦି ଛାତ୍ର/ ଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ବୟସ ୧୮ ବର୍ଷରୁ ଉର୍ଦ୍ଧ ହୋଇଥାଏ)

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<u>ଅଭିଭାବକଙ୍କ ସ୍ୱରା ଘୋଷଣାନାମ।</u> ANNEXURE- B (ଖ)

(As mandate in NUA-O scholarship scheme) (ଯଦି ଛାତ୍ର/ ଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ବୟସ ୧୮ ବର୍ଷରୁ କମ ହୋଇଥାଏ)

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| ମୁଁ ଘୋଷଣା କରୁଛି ଯେ ଉପରୋକ୍ତ ପିତାଙ୍କ/ ମାଏ ପୋର୍ଚାଲ ରେ ସୂଚନା ଅପଡେଟ କରାଯାଇଛି | ତାଙ୍କ/ ସ୍ନାମୀଙ୍କ/ ଅଭିଭାବକଙ୍କ ଘୋଷଣା ଉପରେ ଆଧାର କରି |
| ଯାଞ୍ଚକାରୀଙ୍କ ଦସ୍ତଖତ: | ନୋଡାଲ ଅଫିସରଙ୍କ ଦସ୍ତଖତ: |
| ତାରିଖ: | ତାରିଖ: |

Bank Account Number:

| | ment Receipt | | |
|---|--|--|--|
| ନିଲ୍ଲାବ୍ଲକ/ULB | SI. No | | |
| ମହାବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ ନାମ - | ପାଠ୍ୟକ୍ରମ ଓ ବର୍ଷ- | | |
| ଛାତ୍ର / ଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ନାମ – | ରୋଲ ନଂ- | | |
| ମୁଁ ଘୋଷଣା କରୁଛି ଯେ ଉପରୋକ୍ତ ଛାତ୍ର /ଛାତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ ଘୋଷ | ୟଣାନାମା ମହାବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟ /ବିଶ୍ୱବିଦ୍ୟାଳୟରେ ଦାଖନ | | |

ଯାଞ୍ଚକାରୀଙ୍କ ଦୟଖତ