GUIDELINES FOR THE OVERSEAS SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR MINORITY STUDENTS (2026-27)

(Financial Assistance for Post-Graduate (PG) and Doctoral (Ph.D.) Studies Abroad)

1. Introduction The Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Minority Students - 2026-27 has been formulated with the objective of providing financial assistance to meritorious students belonging to notified minority communities in Kerala for pursuing higher studies in reputed foreign universities and institutions.

The scheme is intended to enable talented students from economically and socially disadvantaged sections of minority communities to pursue Post-Graduate (PG) and Doctoral (Ph.D.) programmes in reputed foreign universities and institutions of higher learning.

2. Objective of the Scheme the Scheme aims to provide financial assistance to meritorious students belonging to notified minority communities in Kerala for pursuing PG and Ph.D. studies in reputed foreign universities, thereby promoting higher education, advanced research and global academic opportunities.

3. Eligibility & Selection Criteria

- The applicant shall belong to any one of the notified minority communities in Kerala, namely Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Jain or Parsi.
- The applicant shall be a permanent resident of the State of Kerala.
- The available scholarship slots shall be allocated among the notified minority communities in proportion to their population as per the 2011 Census.
- Where eligible applications are not received from any particular minority community, the unutilised slots may, with the prior approval of Government, be reallocated to eligible applicants belonging to other minority communities to ensure optimal utilization of the sanctioned funds.

4. Academic Merit & Age Limit

- The applicant shall not exceed 40 years of age as on the date of application.
- Candidate must have secured a minimum of 60% marks or equivalent grade in their qualifying examination from a recognized Indian university.
- The applicant shall have secured confirmed and unconditional admission to a foreign university or institution of higher learning included in the current Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings. The Scheme shall be applicable only to institutions ranked within the first 600 positions.

5. Financial Limits & Candidate Prioritization

- The total annual family income of the applicant from all sources shall not exceed ₹8,00,000 (Rupees Eight Lakh only).
- First priority shall be given to applicants holding a valid Priority Ration Card and satisfying the prescribed income limit. Applicants holding non-priority ration cards who satisfy the income criterion may be considered against the remaining unallocated slots.

- The scholarship benefit shall be restricted to one member per family. A self certification will be required from the candidate to this effect.

6. Areas / Subjects Scholarship assistance shall be available for PG and Ph.D. studies in the following broad disciplines:

- Engineering
- Computer Science and Information Technology
- Management
- Pure Sciences
- Medicine & Allied Health
- Social Sciences
- Law & Legal Studies
- Agricultural Sciences

7. Financial Structure & Disbursement Mechanism The maximum financial grant awarded to an individual student is capped at 50% of the total estimated course cost or ₹10,00,000 (Rupees Ten Lakhs), whichever amount is lower.

Assistance may be provided towards the following admissible expenses:

- Tuition and course fees charged by the foreign institution;
- Official visa processing charges;
- Round-trip economy class airfare, limited to once per academic year;
- Monthly maintenance/living expenses;
- Mandatory student medical insurance; and
- Essential textbooks, study materials and other academic resources.

8. Procedure for Applying and Important Dates

The applicant shall first obtain an official offer/admission letter from the foreign institution along with a document specifying the tuition fee and food and accommodation charges.

Students must submit their applications online through the official portal: **www.mwdscholarship.kerala.gov.in**. The application process is as follows:

- **One-Time Registration (OTR):** Complete the One-Time Registration on the portal.
- **Basic Details & Qualification:** Fill in all basic personal details and academic qualification information.
- **Document Upload:** Upload scanned copies of the following mandatory documents:
    - Copy of SSLC Book
    - Community Certificate
    - Income Certificate
    - Mark list of the qualifying examination

- Degree Certificate of the qualifying examination
- Offer/Admission Letter from the foreign institution
- Study/Student Visa
- Aadhaar Card
- Bank Pass Book (Scheduled / Commercial)
- Any other document prescribed through the online portal

- **Hardcopy Submission: A printout of the submitted online application, along with the supporting documents mentioned above, must be sent by post/person to The Director, Minority Welfare Department, 4th floor, Vikas Bhavan Thiruvananthapuram-695033**
- **Last Date for Online Application: 30-11-2026**
- **Last Date for Receipt of Hardcopy by Post/Person: 07-12-2026**

9. Scrutiny, Approval and Disbursement

- The applicant shall be informed online regarding the provisional approval of the application, ordinarily within one month of completion of scrutiny.,
- The scholarship shall be released in three instalments:
  - **First Instalment (50%):** On verification of the offer/joining letter and valid student visa, and after execution of the prescribed legal agreement/bond.
  - **Second Instalment (30%):** On submission and verification of the first-year academic completion/continuation certificate issued by the foreign institution.
  - **Third Instalment (20%):** On successful completion of the academic programme and submission of the final course completion certificate.

10. Selection Committee

The final selection of candidates shall be made by a Committee chaired by the Secretary, Department of Minority Welfare, with the Director, Directorate of Minority Welfare as Convener, and the Managing Director of KSMDFC, Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary of Minority Welfare Department, and Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary of Higher Education Department as Members.

11. Mandatory Terms, Legal Bond & Recovery

- Every selected candidate shall execute the prescribed agreement on a ₹200 non-judicial stamp paper before release of the first instalment.
- The scholarship amount disbursed shall be liable to be recovered in full, together with applicable legal interest, in the event of discontinuation/abandonment of the course, violation of the regulations of the foreign institution, or renunciation of Indian citizenship during the scholarship period.

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DIRECTOR