

**Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Higher Education**

The 'National Merit scholarship Scheme' was established by Department of Education for implementation from 2005-06. The Department of Higher Education has introduced a new scheme for meritorious students from low income families going to colleges/universities for implementation during the XI Five Year Plan period with an approved outlay of Rs. 1000 crore. This is a Central sector scheme titled "Central Sector Scheme for Scholarship for College and University Students".

OBJECTIVE:-

To provide financial assistance to meritorious students from low income families to meet a part of their day-to-day expenses while pursuing higher studies.

SCOPE:-

The Scholarships will be awarded on the basis of the results of Senior Secondary Examination(class XII) for higher studies in Degree/PG Colleges and also Professional Courses.

ELIGIBILITY:-

Students who are above 80th percentile of successful candidates in the relevant stream for a particular Board of Examination, in class XII of 10+2 pattern or equivalent and not belonging to the creamy layer. This is applicable to all categories of students both 'general and reserved'.

Students pursuing courses in which the duration is 5 years, would get scholarship of Rs.1000/- per month for the first three years and Rs.2000/- for the subsequent two years. Student changing their college/institute of study would be allowed to continue/renew the scholarship provided the course of study and the institution is recognized. A student will be eligible for the scholarship for a total duration not exceeding five years regardless of the course and stream of study. Good conduct and regularity in attendance as mentioned above are also required for continuance of the scholarship.

At present, reservations for the various categories are as follows: SC 15% ST 7.5% OBC 27% and horizontally 3% for physically handicapped in all the categories.

SELECTION PROCEDURE:-

The examining bodies will draw up a merit list of scholars likely to be eligible for scholarships within five weeks after the results of the examinations announced by the Boards/Universities/Authority for all students. The income of the students' parents will be taken into account before preparing the list.

The Boards/Universities/Authority in the State/Union Territory will write to the eligible students from the top of the merit list up to twice the number of scholarships available (to provide for possible refusal and ineligible cases) through a registered letter to confirm within 15 days whether he/she is prepared to accept the scholarship.

The candidate from whom replies are not received within 30 days of the State Board/CBSE/ICSE seeking their willingness will not be considered for scholarship and the award will be given to the next eligible candidates in the merit list.

The shortlisted scholars shall present the Entitlement Card, Income Affidavit form and statement of Particulars, duly filled –in to the Head of the Institution joined by him/her. The Head of the Institution will complete the Entitlement Card and send it to the concerned State Board, CBSE, ICSE, as the case may be.

On receipt of the 'joining report' along with the completed 'Statement of Particulars' and 'Income affidavit', the concerned Board will then compile the list of scholarship awardees of that Board on the basis of merit, eligibility criteria and reservation guidelines of the Central Govt. and send the same to the National Scholarship Division of MHRD, Department of Higher Education which will arrange to pay the scholarship to the scholar through a designated bank. The name, Address for communication and details of bank account of the student in which the scholarship is to be paid, is to be furnished by the board along with the list.

If the concerned Board does not receive the joining report from the candidate duly signed by the Head of Institution, within 30 days from the date of closure of admission in the institution, the case for award of scholarship to him/her will not be considered. The scholarship will then be offered to the next eligible candidate in the merit list.

RATE OF SCHOLARSHIPS:-

The rate of scholarship would be Rs. 1000/-p.m. at Graduation level for first three years of College and University courses and Rs.2000/- per month at post-graduation level. Students pursuing professional courses would get Rs.2000/- per month in the 4th and 5th year. The scholarship would be paid for 10 months in an academic year.

PARENTAL INCOME CEILING:-

At present, the income-ceiling is Rs.4.5 lakh (Rs.6 lakh from academic year 2013-14) per annum. A fresh income certificate each year will not be called for, provided the scholar fulfills all other terms and conditions stipulated for the renewal. Scholarship will be paid only to those students whose parent's/guardian's income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 4.5 lakh (Rs.6 lakh from academic year 2013-14) per annum, for all categories under the scheme.

PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP:-

Scholarship will be paid to the selected students directly by the Central Government into a Bank Account opened by them.

The payment of scholarship will start from the month the admission is obtained.

The scholarship will be paid for a period maximum of up to 10 months in an academic year.