SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME FOR DIASPORA CHILDREN [SPDC] FOR HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN INDIA

GUIDELINES FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-23



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
AKBAR BHAWAN, CHANAKYAPURI,
NEW DELHI – 110 021

1. INTRODUCTION.

Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India introduced "Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children" (SPDC) in the academic year 2006-2007 for the children of Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs)/ children of Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs) and Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), to assist them in pursuing Under-graduate courses in Indian Universities/Institutes and promote India as a centre of higher studies. The SPDC was subsequently extended to the Children of Indian Workers in Emigration Check Required (ECR) countries (*Afghanistan, Bahrain, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malaysia, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and Yemen)* in 2015-16.

Under the SPDC, financial assistance for under-graduation in India for specific Professional and Non-Professional courses (*except Medical and related courses*) as listed in **Appendix-A,** is provided towards tuition fee, admission fee and post admission charges. Scholarships under the SPDC is granted in the first year of the under-graduate courses and shall not be granted in second and subsequent years of under-graduate courses.

2. NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS.

Every year 150 scholarships are offered under the SPDC. Out of these 150 scholarships, 100 are earmarked for the children of NRIs/PIOs/OCIs and 50 are earmarked for the children of Indian workers in all the ECR countries subject to fulfilling all the eligibility criteria. Further, out of the 50 scholarships earmarked for children of Indian workers in ECR countries, 1/3rd (17) slots are reserved for children of Indian workers in ECR countries who are pursuing studies in India, subject to fulfilling all the eligibility conditions. Apart from that, 50% slots in all the categories are earmarked for female students. Category-wise and Gender-wise reservation under SPDC are as follows:-

Category	NRIs/PIOs/OCIs	Children of Indian workers in ECR

			countries			
			Children studied in Abroad		Children studied in India	
Gender	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Number of Slots	50	50	16	17	9	8
Total	100		33		17	
Grand Total	150					

Note:- If the slots are not filled up in any of the category, the remaining slots shall be made available to applicants from other category under SPDC.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA.

(i) **Category.** SPDC is awarded to the following two categories:-

(a) Children of NRIs/PIOs/OCIs.
(b) Children of Indian Workers in ECR countries - those studied outside India and those studied in India.

Definitions about these categories are given below:

(a) **Person of Indian Origin (PIO)/ Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) :** "Persons of Indian Origin" (PIOs) shall mean the persons who are citizens of other countries (except Pakistan and Bangladesh) who at any time held an Indian Passport, or who or either of his/her parent or any of his/her grandparent was a citizen of India by virtue of provisions of the Constitution of India or Section 2 (B) of Citizenship Act, 1955 (Act No. 57 of 1955). Applicants are required to provide documentary evidence towards proof of Indian nationality or Indian origin.

To apply under the category "Persons of Indian Origin (PIOs)" applicants must submit proof of Indian origin, preferably a valid PIO card or OCI card issued by

the Government of India. Those who are not holding a valid PIO card or OCI card are required to submit declaration certifying about Indian origin in the prescribed format attested by the Head of Indian Mission/Post concerned. Format is at ***Appendix-B***.

(b) **Non-Resident Indian (NRI) :** As defined in Income Tax Act, 1961 an individual is Non-Resident Indian, when he/she is "not a resident" or who is "not ordinarily resident". A person is treated as "not ordinary resident" when any of the following conditions is satisfied:-

If he/she has not been resident in India in nine out of ten preceding years;

(OR)

If he/she has not been in India for a period of 730 days or more during the preceding seven years.

To apply under the NRI sub-category, applicant's are required to submit a copy of the NRI certificate with the application.

(c) **Indian Workers in ECR countries**. Indians who are working in ECR countries. To apply under this category, the applicants are required to submit a valid work permit and proof of stay in the country of residence for last two years.

(ii) **Age.** The SPDC is open to the applicants in the age group of **17 to 21 years as on 31st July in the year to apply for SPDC.** Date of birth as recorded in the Secondary Education Board/University Certificate of Class 10th or equivalent, or as mentioned in the Birth certificate issued by appropriate Government authorities of respective countries will be taken as authentic for this purpose.

(iii) **Academic Qualification**. Candidates from all the categories must have passed grade 11th and 12th from abroad. However, to apply under the category of children of Indian workers in ECR countries, who have studied in India, the candidate must have passed grade 11th and 12th or equivalent examination from a system of education recognized by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU). Applicants who have not passed the qualifying examination from a foreign country except in the case of children of Indian workers in ECR countries studied in India, shall not be eligible for SPDC.

The candidate must have secured a minimum of **60%** aggregate marks or equivalent grades in aggregate of all the subjects in the Senior Secondary (10+2) or equivalent examination.

The candidate must have studied the prescribed essential subjects in the Senior Secondary (10+2) or equivalent examination to pursue a particular course of study. Courses covered under SPDC for under-graduation are given at ***Appendix-A.***

(iv) **Parents Income.** Income criteria shall be applicable to all the categories of candidates.

(a) **NRIs/PIOs/OCIs category**. The total household monthly income of the parent(s) of the candidate/applicant should NOT exceed an amount equivalent to US Dollar Five Thousand (US$ 5000).

(b) **Category of Children of Indian Workers in ECR countries**. The total household monthly income of the parent(s) of the candidate/applicant should NOT exceed an amount equivalent to US Dollar Three Thousand (US$ 3000).

(c) The applicant's parent(s) is required to provide self-attested salary certificate issued from the employer based

in a foreign country. In case the parent(s) is self-employed, an Income Tax Return (ITR) should be provided. In case the self-employed parents is not eligible to file an ITR then a self-certification declaring that the total household income does not exceed the set income limit, must be provided.

(d) In case information about family income is found incorrect, scholarship will be revoked and the amount already disbursed will be recovered. Legal action may also be initiated against the defaulter.

(v) Candidates securing admission in undergraduate courses in any of the following category of institutions are eligible to apply for SPDC:-

(a) Central Universities of India offering Under Graduate Courses.

(b) 'A' Grade Institutions accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and recognized by UGC.

(c) National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Schools of Planning and Architecture and Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) through DASA Scheme.

(vi) Admission of candidates is strictly restricted to the institutes as given above and courses as mentioned in ***Appendix 'A'.***

(vii) Candidates availing scholarship/financial assistance/any other assistance under any other Scheme sponsored and/or funded by State Government/Central Government of India shall not be eligible for assistance/scholarship under SPDC. Candidates/parents/Guardians are required to sign a declaration as at ***Appendix 'C'***.

(viii) Children of Indians residing in Nepal shall be eligible for SPDC on fulfillment of following two criteria :

(a) Both the parents should be registered in the Indian Mission/Post in Nepal for a minimum period of two years.

(b) The applicant has completed at least two years of schooling of classes 11th & 12th in Nepal prior to applying.

(c) Criteria fixed for NRI sub-category will be applicable on the Children of Indians residing in Nepal.

Note: (i) The ward of any employee of Govt. of India, Financial Institutions, Banks, PSUs and any other body of the Govt. of India living/working abroad will not be covered under SPDC.

(ii) Eligibility of candidates, in doubtful cases, will be decided by the Ministry of External Affairs.

4. HOW TO APPLY.

Applicants/candidates who have passed the qualifying examination (10+2) and has secured admission in an undergraduate course in the designated Institutions in India as mentioned above and fulfill other eligibility criteria can apply for scholarship under SPDC and submit the required documents on the SPDC portal (https://spdcindia.gov.in).

5. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION FORM.

(i) The online scholarship Application form is available at ***https://spdcindia.gov.in.*** All candidates are required to save the information filled while completing the online application Form.

(ii) Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi shall not be responsible for any delay in submitting the Application form.

(iii) Mere applying does not guarantee any scholarship/admission in any institution.

(iii) The following documents/transcripts/certificates have to be uploaded with the application Form:

(a) Authenticated transcripts of marks/grades secured in the qualifying examination i.e. 12th Standard/ Grade.

(b) Pass certificates must be uploaded of the 11Th and 12Th standard examination.

(c) To apply under the categories at Para 3(i)(b)&(c), copy of the valid work permit of the parent(s) for the ECR country must be uploaded with the application.

(d) In the case of PIOs/OCI, copy of PIO/OCI card or declaration about proof of Indian origin (attested by Head of Indian Mission) (valid for next 5 years) must be uploaded with the application.

(e) In the case of NRIs, copy of the NRI certificate must be submitted with the application.

(f) Incomplete/ineligible applications in any respect will be rejected.

(g) Annual Self attested salary certificate of applicant's parents duly signed by the employer based in a foreign country .

(h) Declaration that candidate is not receiving any other scholarship or financial assistance or any other assistance under any other Government of India or State Government Scheme.

6. HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM.

(i) The application form must be filled in ENGLISH language.

(ii) ONLY one application per candidate is allowed.

(iii) Applicants must ensure that they fulfill all the eligibility requirements for application, i.e. education, age, residence and physical fitness, etc. Grant of scholarship benefit is subject to verification of facts from original certificates /documents.

(iv) Dimension of the Passport size Photograph to be uploaded:-

Width: 100 px to 200 px
Height: 120 px to 230 px
Dimension: 200 x 230 pixels (preferred)
Size of File: 20 to 50 Kb.

(v) Ensure that the size of the scanned image is not more than 50KB. Upload your recent photograph (20-50 kb) in the appropriate place in the application form.

(vi) **Name.** Enter the name exactly as given in the records of the High School/College. The same name should be used in all future correspondence.

(vii) **Gender.** Please select the appropriate box provided.

(viii) **Date of Birth.** Enter the date, month and year of your birth as per the English calendar and as recorded in the high school university certificate.

(ix) **Category.** There are 2 categories of applicants i.e. (a) Children of PIOs/OCIs/NRIs; and (b) Children of Indian Workers in ECR countries-those studied outside India and

those studied in India. Only one choice is to be given. Please select the appropriate category.

(x) **Citizenship.** Please select your appropriate citizenship option.

(xi) **Country of residence.** Please select your country of residence.

(xii) **Country where you appeared for the Senior Secondary (10+2) Examination.** Enter the Name of the country from where the last requisite examination is qualified.

(xiii) **Name and Address of Parent/Guardian.** Enter the complete name of your parent(s), if parents are not alive you may mention the name of your guardian in case the applicant is below 18 years. In case of guardian, indicate how you are related to the guardian.

(xiv) Enter your complete postal address, telephone/fax number/email address abroad and in India, the address to which all correspondence is to be sent. Update these details online.

(xv) **Details of Institute where admission has been taken.** Enter complete details of the Institute/ University in India where admission has been confirmed. Submit complete details of the course undertaken, duration of the course (Year/ Semester) only for the Academic part of the Course, please do not include internship period.

(xvi) **Passport Details.** Provide details of Passport and enclose a copy of the same.

(xvii) **Details of study Abroad.** Provide the details of your Class 11th and 12th abroad. Upload Mark-sheets/Certificates of both the classes.

(xviii) **Declaration by Applicant (*Appendix 'B'*).** The declaration must be signed (Upload scan signature) by the candidate with date and place.

(xix) **Declaration by Parents (*Appendix 'C'*).** The declaration signed (Upload scan signature) by the parent/guardian with date and place.

(xx) In case of any clarification, the applicant may contact the so1oia2@mea.gov.in.

7. Last Date for submission of Completed Application form online on SPDC portal (http://spdcindia.gov.in) is 30 November, 2022.

8. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION.

(i) **Visa Status.**

All selected Persons of Indian Origin (excluding OCIs) must obtain a valid student visa issued by the Indian Missions/Posts abroad. Visa can be obtained by producing the admission offer letter received from respective Institute.

(ii) **Medium of Instruction.** English is the medium of instruction in all Institutes.

9. SHORTLISTING & SELECTION PROCESS.

Selection process will be based on Merit-cum-Means basis, meaning, where two candidates secure equal MARKS, preference will be given to applicant/prospective student who comes from lower income family.

(i) **Receipt/Registration of Applications.** Applicant shall submit application form online on the SPDC

portal (*https://spdcindia.gov.in*) and upload the required documents on the portal itself. Only online application forms will be accepted.

(ii) **List of SPDC Awardees.** A List of candidates awarded scholarship in each category would be drawn up by the Selection Committee. The decision of Committee in this regard shall be final and binding on all concerned.

(iii) Shortlisted candidates shall give their consent about acceptance of scholarship through e-mail to Ministry of External Affairs / its designated Agency within 07 days of publication of list of shortlisted candidates.

(iv) **Confirmation of Scholarship.** Thereafter, candidates (names displayed in Selection List) shall submit an undertaking (***Appendix 'D'***) duly stamped & signed by the respective Institution (within 15 days of display of merit list) that as per the requirements of SPDC Guidelines, the Institute shall submit required documentation online from time to time. These documents shall comprise of the amount of tuition fee, hostel fee and other fees charged (per annum), Progress Report of the Student for calculation of scholarship amount and Bank details of the Institution for online transfer of scholarship funds. ***Appendix 'D'*** shall be received in MEA/its designated Agency:

By email (scanned version) within 15 days at spdcindia@mea.gov.in.

By post/ in person (Original) within 22 days of the display of merit list to Section Officer (OIA-II), Ministry of External Affairs, Room no. 1025, Akbar Bhawan, Chankyapuri, New Delhi – 110021 or its designated agency.

Confirmation of scholarship benefit to these candidates will depend upon the consent of their Institution **(*Appendix 'D'*)** to comply with the guidelines of SPDC Scheme.

10. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.

All decision of MEA regarding short listing of candidates under SPDC shall be final and binding. Disputes if any, relating to the short listing of candidates under SPDC shall be subject to Delhi Jurisdiction only.

11. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (SCHOLARSHIP).

(i) **In the First Year.** Partial financial assistance to the extent of 75% of the total **Institutional Economic Cost (IEC)** subject to a maximum of US $ Four Thousand (US$ 4,000) per annum whichever is less would be made by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to the applicants selected for the SPDC scheme. IEC includes Tuition fee, Hostel fee & other institutional charges (*Food charges are excluded*).

(ii) **For Second and Subsequent Years.** The parameters for continuation of scholarship to selected applicants for the second and subsequent years of study are as follows:

Students securing 50% and above marks in aggregate in an academic year with clear pass marks in all subjects of study, will be eligible to receive the maximum admissible scholarship i.e. 75% of IEC or US$ Four Thousand (US$ 4,000) whichever is less in the following year of study.

Students, who secure less than 50% marks in aggregate in an academic year and have obtained clear pass marks in all subjects of study, will be eligible to receive 90% of the maximum admissible scholarship in the following year of study.

Students, who did not secure clear pass marks in all subjects but have been promoted by the Institute/University to the

next academic year, will be eligible to receive 50% of the maximum admissible scholarship in the following year of study.

Students, who have not been promoted to the next academic year by the Institute/University, will NOT be eligible for grant of any further scholarship.

The students who have been getting scholarship from previous years awarded will be scholarship as per their respective guidelines. Existing beneficiaries shall continue to get the scholarships till the completion of their courses, if otherwise eligible.

12. DISBURSEMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP.

Admissible amount of scholarship shall be remitted by Ministry or through its designated agency directly to the concerned Institute/University on annual basis.

[Please note that the total expenditure likely to be incurred in pursuing various courses of study will be higher than the scholarship amount provided, the expenses in excess, of the scholarship assistance being provided by MEA, shall have to be borne by the Candidate or by his/her parents/ guardians. It is in their interest to ensure that they have the adequate financial resources to meet these expenses for the entire period of study.]

13. FURNISHING FALSE INFORMATION DECLARATION.

In case, any information, certificate or declaration, as furnished by the applicant is found to be false or furnished willfully to hide material fact(s), the grant of scholarship to him/her will be withdrawn forthwith and no further correspondence will be entertained on this matter. The amount of scholarship already paid to such candidate would be recoverable from the

candidate/parents/guardian besides initiating suitable legal action against the applicant. The decision of MEA will be final in this regard.

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List of Under-graduate Courses covered under SPDC

Sl. No.	Existing Course name	Description
1.	Engineering/Architecture/ Technology	B.E./B.Arch./B.Tech
2.	Humanities/ Liberal Arts	B.A. in Humanities/Liberal Arts
3.	Commerce	B.Com.
4.	Management	BBA/BBM
5.	Computers	BCA/I.T.
6.	Journalism	Degree in Journalism
7.	Hotel Management	Bachelor in Hotel Management (BHM)
8.	Agriculture/Animal Husbandry	B.E./B.Sc.
9.	Sciences	B.Sc
10.	Law	LLB
11.	Ayurveda	Graduation in Ayurveda
12.	B.Sc. Nursing	B.Sc. Nursing
13.	B.PT	Bachelors in Physiotherapy
14.	B.Pharmacy	B.Pharma

Appendix 'B'

DECLARATION

(For applicants who do not possess any documentary evidence of Indian Origin)

I _____ (complete name), born on _____ (Date of birth), daughter/ son of _____ (Complete name) do hereby state that I am of Indian origin because of the following reasons:

_____
_____
_____
_____

Signature of the Applicant

Complete Name: _____
Date: _____
Place: _____

(Countersigned and stamped by Head of Indian Mission)

Complete Name_____
Place: _____
Date: _____

Appendix 'C'

Declaration by Parent/ Guardian

Mr./Ms. _____ is my son/daughter/ward admitted at _____ for the course of _____ .

I Mr./Ms. _____, hereby give an undertaking to pay regularly all his/her dues to the institute for Tuition fees, hostel fee, and all other fees till the completion of his/her course of studies. I also undertake the responsibility for his/her good conduct. In case of any delay in release of scholarship funds, fee payment to the Institution shall be made by me. I shall not hold MEA responsible if the Institute does not allow my son /daughter / ward to sit in Examination for any financial/ performance conduct related matter.

I undertake that the expenses towards fee/study cost and living expenses over and above the assistance provided by Government of India under Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children shall be borne by me.

I, hereby, also declare that my son/daughter/ward is not receiving any other scholarship sponsored by State Government or Central Government of India.

Place: _____

Date: _____

(_____)

Signature of Parent/ Guardian

Mobile No. _____

(Country Code/Area Code)

Email (Mandatory) _____

Appendix 'D'

(On Institution letterhead)

UNDERTAKING

We _____ hereby Confirm that Mr./Ms. _____ is a bonafide student of this Institution, and has been admitted to the Course _____ (course of study) for Academic Year 2021-22 from _____(Month/Year) to _____ (Month/Year).

We understand that this student has applied for Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) and in the event of his being shortlisted for the scholarship; we shall comply with the documentation required and send to Ministry of External Affairs in due course of time.

_____

Signed and stamped by Authorized Signatory

Complete Name _____

Designation _____

Date: ----------

Place: ----------

Countersigned by the applicant

(Complete Name:)

Date: ----------

Place: ----------