

NATIONAL TALENT SEARCH SCHEME

Information Brochure (2019)



शैक्षिक सर्वेक्षण विभाग

Educational Survey Division

राष्ट्रीय शैक्षिक अनुसंधान और प्रशिक्षण परिषद

National Council of Educational Research and Training

Sri Aurobindo Marg, New Delhi 110 016

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National Talent Search Scheme

1. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) was established by the Government of India in the year 1961 with a view to bringing about qualitative improvement in school education in the country. No sooner the Council was set up than it mounted a number of programmes in this direction. One such programme was to identify and nurture the talented students. This programme took up the shape of a scheme called National Science Talent Search Scheme (NSTSS) in the year 1963 which provided for the identification of talented students and awarding them with scholarships. During the first year of the implementation of the scheme, it was confined to the Union Territory of Delhi wherein only 10 scholarships were awarded to the Class XI students.

In the year 1964 the scheme was extended to all the states and the union territories in the country with 350 scholarships for the students of Class XI. These scholarships were awarded on the basis of a written examination, a project report and interview. The written examination comprised the Science Aptitude Test and an Essay on a given scientific theme. The candidates were to submit the project report at the time of the written examination. A stipulated number of candidates selected on the basis of these three components were then subjected to personal interview. The performance of the candidates on these four components was eventually employed for the purpose of awarding scholarship. These scholarships were awarded for pursuing education only in basic science up to doctoral level.

Consequent upon the introduction of 10+2+3 pattern of education, the NSTS scheme also underwent a change in the year 1976. It was no longer confined to only basic sciences but was extended to social sciences, engineering and medicine as well. It was renamed as National Talent Search Scheme (NTSS). Since the education system in the country was undergoing a change, the scheme was made open to the students of Classes X, XI and XII and separate examinations were conducted for each class. The number of scholarships was raised to 500. The selection procedure was also changed. Now the candidates were subjected to two objective type written tests namely the Mental Ability Test (MAT) and the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). A stipulated number of candidate qualifying these two tests were subjected to face-to-face interview. The final awards were made on the basis of composite scores obtained in the MAT, the SAT and the interview.

The number of scholarships was again enhanced from 500 to 550 in the year 1981. These 50 scholarships were exclusively meant for scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) candidates. The number of scholarships was once again escalated to 750 in the year 1983 with a provision of 70 scholarships especially for SC/ST candidates. This arrangement continued until the scheme was decentralised in the year 1985.

An experience of over two decades of the scheme brought it to the forefront that a large number of scholarships were restricted to certain pockets of the country and many areas remained unrepresentative. In the light of this, the scheme was recast in 1985.

The scheme, which until now was completely centralized, was partially decentralized and was confined to only Class X. Under the new arrangement the selection of candidates for the awards became a two-tier process. The states and the union territories were entrusted with the responsibility of conducting the first tier screening examination known as State Level Talent Search Examination. Each State and Union Territory was to select and recommend a stipulated number (as per state quota) of candidates for the national level examination to be conducted for about 3000 candidates by the NCERT. The number of scholarships, however still continued to be 750 including 70 for SC/ST candidates.

The state and the union territory quota was to be computed proportionately on the basis of the student enrolment at secondary level with a minimum of 10 for a union territory and 25 for a state and a maximum of 500 for either of the two. This quota was to be reviewed every three years.

The states and union territories had complete autonomy to design and conduct their written examinations. However, they were advised to follow the national pattern which comprised MAT and SAT. The MAT, which consisted of 100 multiple choice type questions, was to be attempted by all the candidates. The SAT consisted of 200 questions containing 25 multiple choice type questions each on eight subject areas namely Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, History, Geography, Civics and Economics. The candidates could choose any four out of these eight subjects and had to answer a total of 100 questions in the SAT.

A stipulated number of candidates who qualified at the national level examination were called for face-to-face interview. The award of scholarships was finally determined on the basis of the candidates' scores obtained in all the three components namely the MAT, the SAT and the Interview.

A crucial modification in the scheme was again made in the year 1995 when the provision of choice in the SAT was abolished and all the subjects were made compulsory. These subjects were Science, Social Science and Mathematics with 40, 40 and 20 questions respectively. In the year 2000, the number of scholarships was raised from 750 to 1000 with the provision of reservation for SC and ST candidates based on the national norms of 15 per cent and $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent respectively.

Yet another change in the scheme brought in 2006. The scheme was modified by shifting the scheme from Class X to Class VIII. The National Talent Search Examination held at the end of Class VIII from the year 2007 onwards. However, the NCERT conducted two more examinations for Class X students in the selection year 2007 and 2008 in order to give on opportunity to those who were presently in Classes X and IX. The class VIII MAT and SAT consisted of 90 questions each. SAT had 35 questions for Social Science, 35 for science and 20 for Mathematics. Quota for a state was computed proportionally on the basis of student enrolment in Classes VII and VIII. The amount of Scholarship has been enhanced to Rs 500/- per month for all the students studying in Class IX onwards (irrespective of the class/course) except for Ph.D., wherein it was paid as per UGC norms. The criterion of parental income for deciding payment of scholarship was discontinued. Book grant was also discontinued.

From the year 2008, examination, a provision of 3 per cent reservation for Physically Challenged (PC) Students has been made. Once again in 2013 NTS Exam was shifted to class X and Language Test (English/Hindi) was included as an additional component along with Mental Ability Test and Scholastic Test. Language Test was qualifying in nature and the scores of language test were not included in deciding final merit. In the year 2014 negative marking was introduced for the first time at the stage II national level examination, wherein 1/3 marks were deducted for every wrong answer and no marks were deducted for unattempted questions.

In the year 2014-15 the rates of scholarships were increased from Rs. 500 to the following rates for various stages of education.

- a) Scholarship of Rs. 1250/- per months for class XI and XII.
- b) Scholarship of Rs. 2000/- per month for UG and PG.
- c) Scholarship for students pursuing Ph.D in accordance with UGC norms.

In 2015 minimum qualifying marks for SC/ST/PH candidates were increased from 32% to 35%. In 2017 4% reservation to Physical Challenged Category was implemented for group of students, with benchmark disabilities of which, one per cent each shall be reserved for persons with benchmark disabilities under clauses (a), (b) and (c) and one per cent for persons with benchmark disabilities under clauses (d) and (e) namely:

- (a) blindness and low vision;
- (b) deaf and hard of hearing;
- (c) locomotor disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy;
- (d) autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness;
- (e) multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness in the posts identified for each disabilities.

In the year 2018 negative marking was abolished, there was increase in time duration of test and increase the number of question in MAT and there was change in reporting time for students at the examination hall from 8 am to 9 am on the day of examination. In the same year initiative for downloading E-Admit Cards from NCERT website was implemented.

From the year 2018-19 reservation to Other Backward Class (OBC) will be implemented in the NTS scheme. *Besides, There will be reservations for OBCs @27% from the year 2019 as per central norms subject to the income limit notified by the Government of India from time to time for determination of the creamy layer for the purpose of OBC Reservation vide its letter No. 15-19/2014.Sch-4 dated November 2, 2017.*

2. PRESENT SCHEME

The scholarship under the present scheme awarded to the candidates for pursuing courses in science and social science up to doctoral level and in professional courses like medicine and engineering up to second-degree level subject to the fulfillment of the conditions provided in this brochure. As on date 1000 scholarships are awarded in the country with reservation of 15 percent for SC, 7.5 percent for ST and 27 percent for other backward classes and 4 percent for group of students with benchmark disabilities.

Further details of the scheme are given in the subsequent pages.

3. SELECTION PROCEDURE

Identification of talent comprises two-stage selection process. While the individual State/UT conducts the first stage selection, the second stage selection at the national level is carried out by the NCERT.

3.1 STATE LEVEL EXAMINATION

Each State/UT conducts its own examination. They have the autonomy to lay down their own norms for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the candidates. This examination is primarily used to recommend a given number of candidates for the second level test to be conducted by the NCERT. This number is based on the enrolment of students at Classes IX and X in different States/UTs. The candidates are to be recommended on the basis of the merit in the written examination conducted by the States/UTs. The details of the number of candidates for different States/UTs as applicable are notified separately.

The state level screening examination is conducted in all State/UT's on first Sunday of November except in Nagaland, Andaman and Nicobar Island, Meghalaya and Mizoram where it will be conducted on first Saturday of November every year until and unless some special circumstances occur.

The addresses of the Liaison Officers of each State/UT are given in Appendix with whom information about state level examination may be sought.

3.1.1 Eligibility

All students studying in Class X in any type of recognized school including Kendriya Vidyalaya, Navodaya Vidyalaya, and Sainik School etc. will be eligible to appear at the State Level Examination from the State in which the school is located. However, no domicile restriction shall be imposed. The state may impose any other eligibility condition for appearing in the screening examination like any qualifying percentage of marks in the previous annual examination etc. Students registered under Open and Distance Learning (ODL) are also eligible

for scholarship provided the students are below the age of 18 years (as on 1st July of that particular year) the students is not employed and they are appearing in class X for the first time.

3.1.2 How to apply

The students studying in Class X in the country ought to be on the lookout for any advertisement in the newspapers or circulars in the school by the respective Government of their State/UT for the above said examination and act as per the requirement given in the State advertisement/circular. Any other information/query about the details of the state level examination may be had from Liaison Officers of the State/UT agencies, the addresses of which are given in the Appendix.

The filled in application by the student be submitted to the State Liaison Officer duly signed by the Principal of the school before the due date as advertised/circulated by each concerned State/UT.

3.1.3 Medium of Examination

The medium of the test shall be as announced by the State/UT.

3.1.4 Fee

State may impose any fee for examination and/or for application form.

3.1.5 Examination

State level examination may have two parts: Part-I Mental Ability Test (MAT) and Part-II Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) for nominating the required number of candidates for the second level test to be conducted by the NCERT.

The scheme of testing is given below—

Examination Date	Paper	Test	Timings	Number of Questions	Number of Marks	Time Duration	Qualifying	Selection Criteria
1st Sunday of November (In all the States/UTs of the country except Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Andaman & Nicobar exam where will be held on 1 st Saturday November month every year)	Paper-I	Mental Ability Test (MAT)	09.30 am to 11.30 am (All candidates except visually Challenged Candidates)	100	100	120 Minutes	32% SC, ST and PWD and 40% for Others (General& OBC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only candidates qualifying in both the papers separately will be considered for merit • Selection of the awardees will be made on the basis of total Marks scored in MAT & SAT based on merit • There will be No Negative Marking
			09.30 am to 12.00 noon (Only visually Challenged Candidates)					
	Paper-II	Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)	13.30 pm to 15.30 pm (All candidates except visually Challenged Candidates) 13.30 pm to 16.00 pm (Only visually Challenged Candidates)	100	100	120 Minutes		
* If there is any change in pattern for Stage-II examination then the same will be communicated later on through NCERT website www.ncert.nic.in . Candidates are advised to keep track of updates on NCERT website.								

3.1.6 Results

The State/Union Territory will prepare a merit list of the candidates ensuring the minimum qualifying marks in both the tests separately. These marks are 40 per cent in the case of General and OBC category candidates and 32 per cent in the case of SC/ST/physically challenged candidates.

The result of State Level Talent Search examination is declared in months of January/February by the States/UTs themselves. This examination is used only to recommend the candidates for second level NTS examination conducted by the NCERT. The marks of the State level Examination are not added to the National Level Examination for award of scholarship. No correspondence will be entertained by the NCERT with regard to first level examination conducted by the State/UT. The candidate having any query/ complaint/

clarification with regard to the State Level Examination shall have to correspond only with the state examination agencies.

3.2 NATIONAL LEVEL EXAMINATION

There is no fee of any kind for appearing in the National Level Examination.

3.2.1 Eligibility

The National Talent Search Examination is open for students of Indian nationality whether they study in India or abroad at Class X level.

3.2.1.1 Candidates Studying in India

Only the candidates selected by the States/UTs on the basis of their screening examination shall be eligible to appear in the National level examination to be conducted by the NCERT on the **Second Sunday of May each year** (unless otherwise notified). The NCERT will convey the roll number, the venue, the date and time for the national level examination to all such candidates directly through its portal **www.ncert@nic.in**.

3.2.1.2 Candidates Studying Abroad

Students of Indian nationality studying abroad at the Class X level may also compete for Talent Search Award under the following conditions:

- (i) The Indian students studying abroad in Class X or equivalent class shall be exempted from the first level-screening test and shall be permitted to appear directly at the second level examination conducted by the NCERT.
- (ii) A candidate shall be eligible to appear in the second level NTS examination only if he or she has obtained at least 60 per cent marks (in aggregate) at the previous annual examination.
- (iii) A candidate will have to appear in the NTS examination at a centre in India at her/his own cost.
- (iv) A candidate desiring to appear in the NTS examination may request through the Head of the Institution where he or she is studying along with an attested copy (by the Head of the Institution) of the mark sheet of Class IX. The request should reach the Head, Department of Educational Survey Division, NCERT, New Delhi-110016 latest by 31st December of the concerned year.
- (v) The Council shall allot roll numbers to the eligible candidates and inform them about the date, time and the venue of examination along with other relevant instructions.
- (vi) No request for change of Centre shall be entertained.

- (vii) If a candidate is selected, the scholarship shall be paid for pursuing studies in India only.
- (viii) Change of center will be permitted in genuine cases and as per instructions issued from NCERT.

3.2.2 Syllabus

There is no prescribed syllabus for the NTS examination. However, the standard of items shall be conforming to the level of Classes IX and X. A separate booklet called ‘Learn about the Test’ containing sample items for both the Tests- MAT and SAT is available in print as well as on the NCERT website www.ncert.nic.in.

3.2.3 Scheme of Testing

The scheme of testing is given below—

Examination Date	Paper	Test	Timings	Number of Questions	Number of Marks	Time Duration	Qualifying	Selection Criteria
2 nd Sunday of May every year (In all the States/UTs of the country)	Paper-I	Mental Ability Test (MAT)	09.30 am to 11.30 am (All candidates except visually Challenged Candidates)	100	100	120 Minutes	32% marks SC, ST and PWD and 40% for Others (General &OBC) Category separately in both papers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be No Negative Marking • Only candidates qualifying in both the papers separately will be considered for merit • Selection of the awardees will be made on the basis of total Marks scored in MAT & SAT based on merit
			09.30 am to 12.00 noon (Only visually Challenged Candidates)					
	Paper-II	Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)	13.30 pm to 15.30 pm (All candidates except visually Challenged Candidates)	100	100	120 Minutes		
			13.30 pm to 16.00 pm (Only visually Challenged Candidates)					

*If there is any change in pattern for Stage-II examination then the same will be communicated later on through NCERT website www.ncert.nic.in. Candidates are advised to keep track of updates on NCERT website.

3.2.4 Written Examination

The written examination shall consist of two paper; Paper-I Mental Ability Test (MAT) and Paper-II Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Both the tests will be administered on the same day

3.2.5 Mental Ability Test

There shall be 100 multiple-choice type items, with four alternatives. Each item will carry one mark. Candidates are required to answer the items on a separate OMR sheet as per instructions given in the test booklet and on the OMR sheet.

3.2.6 Scholastic Aptitude Test

The scholastic Aptitude Test will consist of 100 multiple-choice items of one mark each. Each item shall have four alternatives, out of which only one will be the correct answer. There shall be 40 items from Science, 40 from Social Science and 20 from Mathematics, Candidates are required to answer the items on a separate OMR sheet to be provided at the examination centre as per instructions.

Important Note: Students are allowed to take away question booklets of both the tests (Mental Ability Test and Scholastic Aptitude Test) after the examination.

3.2.7 Medium

The tests will be available in the following languages: Asamiya, Bangla, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Marathi, Malayalam, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu. The candidate has to mention his option regarding the language in which he/she want to take the test in the application form. Accordingly, the question booklet in that language shall be made available to the candidate at the centre. After exercising this option, no request for the change of medium will be entertained.

3.2.8 Allotment of E-Admit Cards

The NCERT shall upload the E-Admit Cards for the second level examination on its website. In case there is any change of address prior to the National Level Examination, it shall be obligatory on the part of the candidate to communicate the same to the state examining authority, which in turn shall inform the NCERT for change of address after the candidate has download the admission letter for second level examination. The same may be communicated to the NCERT directly.

3.2.9 Venue, Date and Time of the Test

The admission letter shall have all the information about the venue, the roll number, the date and time of the test. Candidates can download their E-Admit cards themselves before 21 days of examination.

3.2.10 Submission of Photograph

The admission letter issued to the candidate shall contain E-Admit Card to be filled in by the candidate. She/he shall have to paste an attested passport size photograph at the appropriate place in the E-Admit Card. This shall have to be submitted to the Centre Superintendent on the day of the National Level Examination.

The Centre Superintendent, at his own discretion in special cases, may admit a candidate without photograph. However, a candidate shall have to submit an attested photograph to the Centre Superintendent immediately after the examination, which he shall forward to the NCERT.

3.2.11 Centre of Examination

Generally the candidate belonging to a particular state shall be allotted the centre in the same state. Normally there is only one centre in each state for the National Level Examination. The conduct of examination at the centers shall be done under the supervision of the Centre Superintendent appointed by the NCERT. An independent observer for each centre is also appointed by the NCERT.

3.2.12 Change of Centre

Only in exceptional cases under special circumstances, like transfer of the parents of the candidates, the centre of examination may be changed on a written request received to the NCERT within 15 days of the download of the E-Admit Card prior to at least 21 days of examination. However, it may be noted that **in such cases only the English medium test booklet shall be provided to the candidate at the changed centre.**

3.2.13 Conduct of Examination

The Centre Superintendent shall conduct the examination on the date and time of examination as announced by the NCERT. He/she will follow instructions for the conduct of the examination as supplied by the NCERT. For various eventualities like the late coming, malpractice, use of helper (in cases not covered by the instruction from NCERT, the Centre Superintendent shall follow the rules prevalent for the Board Examination of the State concerned.

3.2.14 Marking

Each item in both the tests shall carry one mark each. A candidate shall get one mark for correct response. There will be **no negative marking** in either of the tests. Nevertheless, candidates are advised not to resort to blind guessing, which may not be of any help to them.

3.2.15 Processing of Result

The scoring of the OMR-sheets for both the MAT and the SAT shall be done through the computer. All possible precautions are taken and necessary checks applied while processing the result to ensure zero error results.

3.2.16 Declaration of Result

The final award shall be declared on the basis of combined scores of MAT and SAT. Only the selected candidates shall be informed by registered letter and through NCERT website www.ncert.nic.in. Marks obtained by the candidates in written examination will be revealed to all the candidates individually through NCERT website.

3.2.17 Rechecking

Since the NCERT applies rigorous checks and counterchecks before the declaration of result, no request for re-evaluation or rechecking of scripts will be entertained. Candidates will be provided facility to have access to their scanned OMR sheets which will be placed on NCERT website along with final scoring key so that they can calculate their own score.

4. RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR DISBURSEMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP

The awardees studying in Sciences, Social Sciences, Humanities, Languages Commerce, vocational studies and fine arts are eligible to receive scholarship up to Ph.D. level whereas the awardees studying professional courses in medicines, engineering, technology, management and law, are eligible to receive the scholarship up to second degree level. Scholarships will be paid subject to fulfillment of the following conditions

4.1 GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

- (i) An Awardee is eligible for the scholarship provided if she/he:
 - (a) takes up studies in approved courses.
 - (b) maintains good conduct as certified by the Head of the College/Institution and continues his/her studies as a regular student.
 - (c) does not absent herself/himself without proper leave.
 - (d) takes up studies on a whole time basis.
 - (e) does not take up any job with salary/remuneration/stipend.

- (ii) (a) If an awardee is getting scholarship from other sources on regular basis, then he has to choose only one of the scholarship. In such cases the NTS scholarship will be temporarily discontinued for that year/period. His/her scholarship will be once again resumed if he/she approaches once again to NCERT for seeking NTS scholarship after fulfilling other conditions. All the students must also give an undertaking each year that they are not receiving scholarship or award from any other institutions. Further no student who is employed is eligible for payment of scholarship and accordingly, every student has to provide a certificate that he or she is not employed.
- (b) Fee waiver/one time grant/subsidy in fee and residential accommodation will not make a student ineligible for scholarship.
- (iii) No scholarship shall be available for studies abroad for any course.
- (iv) An awardee can submit his claim bills any time during the course of study. However, the claim bills are to be submitted for each class/year separately.
- (v) In case any awardee leaves her/his course of study within one month of registration/admission, no scholarship shall be paid to him/her.
- (vi) In case awardee is not able to appear at the examination due to serious illness, one should send the medical certificate through the Head of the Institution within three months of his/her falling ill. The duration of illness should be clearly certified by a specialist, who is a Registered Medical Practitioner. The facility will be available to the awardee to continue the same course in which one is studying provided the principal or the head of the institution certifies that the overall performance of the awardee during the year is 60 per cent or above.
- (vii) The NTS awardee is allowed one shift in the course of study till one month after the end of the first year of undergraduate courses, within the same institution or in another institution. However, she/he will not be awarded scholarship for the first year of the new course. Thus, in this case she/he will have to lose the scholarship for one year. It would resume in the next year provided all the requirements are met.
- (viii) Scholarship shall be deemed to be discontinued with any gap of one academic session in studies at any time due to any reason.
- (ix) Scholarship once discontinued on the basis of the rules of disbursement of scholarship cannot be revived under any circumstances.
- (x) Awardees have to secure an aggregate of 60% marks or equivalent grade in order to be eligible for scholarship every year. If a student secured less than 60% in a year the scholarship is forfeited for that year. If a student fails to secure minimum 60% or equivalent grade for two consecutive or non-consecutive years. He or she will be ineligible for payment of scholarship and will be discontinued forever.

- (xi) For seeking scholarship the awardee has to pass in all subject (core subject) in first attempt. If an awardee fails in any core subject, his/her NTS scholarship will be discontinued forever.
- (xii) All rules are subject to change from time to time, as and when required, which will be binding on all awardees.

4.2 ELIGIBILITY AND OTHER CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUATION OF SCHOLARSHIP AT HIGHER SECONDARY STAGE

- (i) The award of scholarship to the selected candidates shall commence subsequent to their clear promotion to Class XI.
- (ii) The scholarship at the higher secondary stage or equivalent Classes XI to XII is payable for a maximum period of two years for studies in India only.
- (iii) Student pursuing diploma or certificate courses will be provided scholarship, at this stage provided if they are not employed.
- (iv) Awardees have to secure an aggregate of 60% marks or equivalent grade in order to be eligible for scholarship every year. If a student secured less than 60% in a year the scholarship is forfeited for that year. If a student fails to secure minimum 60% or equivalent grade for two consecutive or non-consecutive years. He or she will be ineligible for payment of scholarship and will be discontinued forever.
- (v) In case an institution does not conduct an examination at the end of Class XI, the scholarship for the second year will be continued on the submission of a certificate to this effect from the Head of the Institution.
- (vi) In case the performance is reported in grades, then equivalent to 60% aggregate will be taken into account.

4.3. ELIGIBILITY AND OTHER CONDITIONS FOR CONTINUATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS AT FIRST DEGREE LEVEL COURSES

- (i) The awardee must obtain a minimum of 60 per cent marks at the end of +2 stage or equivalent examination for continuation of the scholarship at the first degree level course in Basic Sciences, Social Sciences or a professional course in engineering, medicine, management or law.
- (ii) The scholarship to SC/ST/PH awardees will be paid after getting selected through Joint Entrance Examination (JEE), IIT and admitted in the one-year preparatory course for B.Tech. The scholarship will continue in 1st year subject to fulfillment of all the conditions laid down by respective IITs.

The continuation of scholarships in the second and subsequent years shall be subject to the following conditions :-

- (iii) Withdrawal in non-core subject as per institutional rules of exemption is considered for payment of scholarship.
- (iv) (a) At least 60 per cent marks in aggregate at the internal examinations. However, the scholarship to MBBS candidates for internship will be given, only if one secures 60 per cent or more marks in the final degree.
- (iv) (b) Awardees have to secure an aggregate of 60% marks or equivalent grade in order to be eligible for Scholarship every year. If a student secured less than 60% in a year the Scholarship is forfeited for that year. If a student fails to secure minimum 60% or equivalent grade for two consecutive or non-consecutive years. He or she will be ineligible for payment of scholarship and will be discontinued forever. In case the result is not declared in terms of marks and grades are given, these should be equivalent to at least 60 percent and above.
- (iv) (c) In case an Institution/University does not conduct an annual examination after such a class, a certificate from the principal/head of the institution would be acceptable to this effect that the overall performance of the awardee is 60 per cent or above.
- (iv) (d) In case of IITs and other institutions, which follow semester system of examination, the marks or an equivalent Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) at the end of an academic year will be considered.

4.4 ELIGIBILITY AND OTHER CONDITIONS AT SECOND DEGREE LEVEL COURSE

- (i) Awardees have to secure an aggregate of 60% marks or equivalent grade in order to be eligible for Scholarship every year. If a student secured less than 60% in a year the Scholarship is forfeited for that year. If a student fails to secure minimum 60% or equivalent grade for two consecutive or non-consecutive years. He or she will be ineligible for payment of scholarship and will be discontinued forever. In case the result is not declared in terms of marks and grades are given, these should be equivalent to at least 60 percent and above.
- (ii) An awardee shall be eligible to receive the scholarship in the second year only if he/she secures at least 60 per cent marks at the end of the first year. In case there is no university examination or grades are awarded, suitable certificate from the head of the institution will be acceptable.
- (iii) In case an institution has semester system of examination at this stage, the marks, grades or CGPA as the case may be, obtained by an awardee in the examination conducted at the end of an academic year, will be considered for continuation of her/his scholarship during the next year.

- (iv) The scholarships at this stage will also be available for doing a diploma course in management or specific branch of medicine or surgery provided the minimum qualification for entrance to such courses is a degree in the concerned discipline.

4.5 ELIGIBILITY AND OTHER CONDITIONS AT M.PHIL./PH.D STAGE

- (i) An awardee shall be eligible to receive scholarship during the pre-doctoral/M.Phil. courses provided these are an institutional requirement for Ph.D. work. The continuance of scholarship after this pre-requisite course shall be subject to the successful completion of it.
- (ii) An awardee will be eligible to receive scholarship for doing research work leading to Ph.D./D.Phil. degree provided he/she passes M.A./M.Sc./ M.Com./M.Phil course in the first attempt securing a minimum of 60 per cent marks or its equivalent grade after aggregating the marks for all the years in the university examination of the course. An awardee must begin research/pre-doctoral work within six months of the declaration of M.A./M.Com./M.Sc. result. The date of joining should be intimated to the NCERT immediately thereafter with a certificate from the concerned supervisor indicating the field of work.
- (iii) At the end of two years, there would be an assessment of the quality of work done, by two independent experts on the basis of which the scholarship may be continued or discontinued.
- (iv) The scholarship shall be continued during the second and fourth year only if the guide certified that the work during the first and the third year respectively has been of high quality.
- (v) The change of topic/ guide/ Institution shall be allowed with the prior approval of both the guides and the NCERT.
- (vi) An awardee can take up a teaching assignment for a short period not exceeding a total period of six months only within the tenure of four years with the prior permission of the NCERT only if his/her supervisor certifies that his/her assignment is not prejudicial to his/her progress. No scholarship shall be paid for this period, which of course shall be counted as part of the total period of four years.
- (vii) The scholarship shall commence from the month of commencing the research work as certified by the Guide. However, regular registration documents must be submitted within six months of commencing the research work. In case of pre-doctoral/M.Phil. courses, scholarship will be awarded from the month of admission.
- (viii) An awardee will be entitled to the scholarship for Ph.D. up to a period of four years ordinarily. If he/she submits the thesis/dissertation before four years period is over but continues to work on the same problem on which he/she has written the thesis/dissertation under the same supervisor, he/she will be entitled to the scholarship up to the viva-voce or the end of four years whichever is earlier. The supervisor has to certify in such cases that continuation of the Ph.D. research work after submission of the dissertation/thesis is necessary and has been undertaken

4.6 CONTINGENCY GRANT FOR PH.D. WORK

- (i) The grant shall be utilised with the approval of the supervisor.
- (ii) All purchases shall be according to the rules of the institution.
- (iii) The grant may be utilised on apparatus, chemical, equipment, books, journals, photostat copies, microfilms, typing, postage and field work/travel (within India only) needed in connection with the approved research project with the approval of the supervisor and the university where the scholar works.
- (iv) The grant shall not be used for payment of examination or any other fees.
- (v) On termination of the scholarship, the apparatus and other non-consumable articles purchased out of the contingency grant will become the property of the institution/university where a scholar works. The university may, if he/she desires, allow the scholar to retain with him/her the books purchased out of the contingency grant.
- (vi) For all expenditure out of the contingency grant, a certificate from the supervisor to the effect that the expenditure incurred was in furtherance of the approved research project shall be necessary.
- (vii) Travel allowance for approved field work/travel in connection with the research work (including attending of relevant academic/research conferences and symposia) shall be admissible according to the rules applicable to the teaching staff of the University.
- (viii) The contingency grant for the first year of the research will be released to the head of the university concerned along with the scholarship for the first year. The contingency grant for the subsequent years will be released only on receipt of account of expenditure incurred duly certified by the supervisor and head and utilization certificate in the prescribed proforma submitted through the institution/university.
- (ix) The amount left unspent at the end of each year of the scholarship tenure will be adjusted against the contingency grant payable for the subsequent year. The year for the purpose is to be reckoned from the date of joining the research. Similarly any amount left unspent out of the contingency grant on the date of expiry/termination/relinquishment of the scholarship will be refundable to the NCERT.

4.7 RATES OF SCHOLARSHIP

The rates of scholarship at different stages are given as under:

Sl.No.	Stage	Rate of Scholarship
1.	Higher Secondary level	Rs. 1250/- p.m.
2.	Graduate and Post Graduate	Rs. 2000/- p.m.
3.	For Ph.D. degree (four years)	As per UGC norms

4.8. MODE OF PAYMENT

The payment of scholarship shall be made direct to the awardees. The scholarship amount will be either directly transferred to their joint account through e-banking or will be sent through bank draft wherever above mentioned e-banking facilities are not available.

- (i) The payment of scholarship shall be made to the awardees on the receipt of the claim bill on a prescribed Performa sent to the NCERT duly signed by the Principal/ Head of the Institution and accompanied by the mark sheet of the previous annual examination.
- (ii) The Payment of scholarship to the awardees will be made for a maximum period of 12 months in a one academic session subject to the condition for the maximum period of duration of the specific course.
- (iii) The bank will transfer the amount of scholarship to the awardees on annually basis. NCERT will pay the scholarship from July to June (for manually) and from April to March (for online) for a particular academic session.
- (iv) The payment of scholarship during leave shall be governed by relevant leave rules.

4.9 LEAVE RULES APPLICABLE TO ALL THE AWARDEES

- (i) Leave must be got sanctioned from the Head of the Institution/ Department before it is availed of. Any absence from studies/research without leave shall lead to discontinuation of scholarship.
- (ii) Generally no leave with scholarship shall be granted to awardees except on medical grounds.
- (iii) Medical leave up to a maximum of four months in an academic year shall be admissible, if recommended by a competent medical authority, as under:
 - (a) Full scholarship if the absence does not exceed two months;
 - (b) Half scholarship for a further period of two months;
 - (c) No scholarship for the absence beyond four months.
- (iv) For married men/women, scholarship will be admissible at full rates up to 15/135 days respectively, for absence on grounds of maternity.
- (v) The awardees working at the Ph.D. level shall, however, be allowed casual leave with scholarship up to a maximum of 30 days in an academic year. The Ph.D. Supervisor will grant this leave.
- (vi) Applications for medical leave, including maternity leave, should be referred to the NCERT within a fortnight of the illness/confinements.

5. NURTURANCE PROGRAMME

The Council may arrange Nurturance Programme for the benefit of the awardees at various institutions of higher learning in the country. The awardees shall have to attend these nurturance Programme in their Own Interest.

Note: For additional information, the candidates may contact at the following address:

The Head
Educational Survey Division,
NCERT, Sri Aurobindo Marg,
New delhi-110016
NCERT Website: www.ncert.nic.in