

GUIDELINES FOR POST GRADUATE MERIT SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR UNIVERSITY RANK HOLDERS IN GENERAL & HONOURS COURSES AT UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL.

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INTRODUCTION

Higher Education has played a very vital role in the history of nation building all over the world. It is amply clear that no rise in general standards of living and culture is possible without strengthening the higher education system in the country. It obviously calls for a multi-pronged strategy. There is a need to modernize our higher education system, and equally important to continuously attract young and talented students to pursue higher education. It is being increasingly observed that the brighter lot is not pursuing Post-Graduate education in our institutions of higher learning. To emerge as a powerful nation, there is an urgent need to bring in talented boys and girls in the fold of Post-Graduate education by way of providing them good incentives in the form of scholarships. The UGC, therefore, introduced a Post-Graduate Merit Scholarship Scheme for University rank holders both in General and Honours Courses at Undergraduate level.

The scholarship may be tenable **for a period of two years to enable the rank holders of each university at undergraduate level to pursue their Master's Degree.** All the universities/degree awarding institutions would be required to issue rank certificates to the toppers of the university both in General and Honours Courses namely B.A., B.Sc., and B.Com. The purpose of this scheme is to attract talent for pursuing post-graduate studies besides strengthening the basic subjects, General as well as Honours, at Undergraduate level. The awardees under this scheme can pursue their Postgraduate programme in any area of specialization in any institution of higher learning in the country.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME

The objectives of the scheme are:

- a) To promote and nurture talent
- b) To reward meritorious students with outstanding performance at the undergraduate level for pursuing postgraduate studies.
- c) To promote study in basic subjects both General as well as Honours at undergraduate level.
- d) To build up academic excellence at postgraduate level across the colleges and universities in the country.

ELIGIBILITY / TARGET GROUP

While in General Courses the First and Second Rank holders admitted in any Postgraduate Programme would be awarded the scholarship, in Honours Courses the scholarship would be awarded only to the First Rank holders. These awardees will have to submit the proofs of their merit position at undergraduate level as well of their admission in postgraduate programmes. The scholarship would, however, be subjected to securing a minimum of sixty per cent marks at undergraduate level. The scheme is applicable to such students who have taken admission in regular, full-time Master's Degree course in any recognized university or a Post-Graduate college. This scholarship is available to the student for first PG Degree only. Age limit for the students is 30 years at the time of admission in PG course.

Following subjects have been identified for the award of scholarships who have passed at Undergraduate level:

S.No.	Subjects
01.	B.Sc.(General) (Common for all subjects)
02.	B.A.(General) (Common for all subjects)
03.	B.Com.(General)
04.	B.Sc. (Botanay) (Hons)
05.	B.Sc. (Chemistry) (Hons)
06.	B.Sc. (Mathematics) (Hons)
07.	B.Sc. (Physics) (Hons)

08. B.Sc. (Statistics) (Hons.)
09. B.Sc.(Zoology) (Hons)
10. B.A. (Economics) (Hons)
11. B.A.(English) (Hons)
12. B.A. (Geography) (Hons)
13. B.A. (Hindi) (Hons)
14. B.A. (History) (Hons)
15. B.A. (Philosophy) (Hons)
16. B.A. (Political Science) (Hons)
17. B.A. (Psychology) (Hons)
18. B.A. (Sanskrit) (Hons)
19. B.A. (Sociology) (Hons)
20. B.A. (Urdu) (Hons)
21. B.Com.(Hons)

NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS AND TENURE OF SCHOLARSHIP

The rank holders would be considered only from those universities wherein at least 1000 students have appeared in the examination in the General courses and 100 in Honours courses at undergraduate level in the aforesaid programmes.

The total number of scholarships in the first academic year would be 1800 per year for General Courses and 575 for Honours Courses. The duration of the scholarship will be two years. The tenure of the scholarship will not be extendable beyond two years, under any circumstances.

MONITORING / OPERATION OF THE SCHEME

The Scholarship will be awarded by the UGC and will be informed to the concerned Universities to the awardees pursuing Master's programmes. The selection will be purely merit based. The awardees will be issued a bank card through which he/she could withdraw the amount of scholarship on the last day of each month. The Scholarship amount will be remitted to the University/Institution where the student is pursuing PG course.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE UNDER THE SCHEME

The financial assistance for the scheme will be provided by the UGC to all the eligible Universities/institutions which are under Section 2(f) and 12(B) of UGC Act. The Universities in turn will be responsible to submit all documents such as Statement of Expenditure and Utilisation Certificate etc. to the UGC to settle the accounts.

Each awardee under the scheme will be provided a scholarship of Rs.2,000/- p.m. for a period of two years. The second year grant will be released after receiving Utilisation Certificate and statement of expenditure along with the progress report of the first year. No other additional grant will be payable in lieu of hostel charges and medical charges etc.

OTHER CONDITIONS

- The student who is awarded Post-graduate Scholarship will not be debarred from accepting any other Scholarship.
- Students desirous of leaving the studies mid-way without completing the PG degree will have to take prior approval from the UGC by submitting an application along with justification through the concerned university. Any student who discontinues studies without prior approval of the UGC will have to refund the whole amount and the concerned institution will be responsible for this.
- The university / college / institution has to submit a certificate of completion of the PG course in respect of each student availing this scholarship.
- No extension is permissible beyond two years.

CANCELLATION OF SCHOLARSHIP

The UGC may terminate the scholarship of any student in case of:

- a) Misconduct of the awardee, if any, reported by the University/Institution.
- a) Unsatisfactory progress report (i.e. if the candidate scores less than 60% marks in the first year of Master's programme)
- c) Candidates being found ineligible at a later date shall face the penal action and will also be liable to refund the entire scholarship amount paid.

DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED

The candidate is required to submit an application indicating name , address, date of birth, UG certificate, Percentage of marks at UG level along with following certificates-

- a) Attested copy of university undergraduate degree
- b) Matriculation certificate
- c) Rank certificate from the university

CERTIFICATES TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE CONCERNED UNIVERSITY/INSTITUTIONS TO THE UGC

Every year University/Institution will submit a compiled statement for the following:

- a) Statement giving the names of the students selected for the scholarship along with their bank account details
- b) Progress Report to be submitted after the first year of the award giving percentage of marks obtained by the candidates
- c) Utilization certificate.