

**High Commission of India
Canberra**

Subject- Announcement of 640 ICCR Scholarships slots under the Atal Bihari Vajpayee General Scholarship Scheme (41201) (formerly known as General Scholarship Scheme) for the academic year 2025-26

ICCR is pleased to announce 640 scholarships slots under **Atal Bihari Vaipayee General Scholarship Scheme (A1201) (formerly Known as General Scholarship Scheme)** at Indian Universities/ Institutes for the academic year 2025-26.

2. The applications from interested international students for academic year 2025-26 will be invited online through ICCR's **A2A Scholarship Portal** <https://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in>, which will be operational from 20th February 2025. Once the student has obtained admission on A2A portal and the Mission/Post has decided to award scholarship to that particular student, he/she (student) may be advised to register on SII portal for obtaining Unique ID and further process including obtaining visa and registration with FRRO (**VISA and FRRO registration are to be processed on SII portal**). Also a '**Timeline for the admission process**' has been set which is given below for reference. Missions are requested to adhere to the timeline:-

20 February 2025	Opening of Portal for Inviting Applications from Interested Candidates.
30-April-2025	Last date of application to be submitted by students.
31-May-2025	Last date of Universities to inform the decision (if confirmed, intimation to Missions; if rejected, intimation to students).
15-June-2025	Last date for allocating scholarship and generating Offer Letters by Indian Mission abroad.
22 June-2025	Last date of acceptance by students.
01-July-2025	Based on the number of acceptances in the first round (if acceptances are less than the scholarship seats allocated) Indian Mission to offer scholarship to other students who were not considered in the first round.
10-July-2025	Second-round students to convey their acceptances.

3. There are 131 Universities/Institutes on board with ICCR for the AY 2025-26. The list of Universities/Institutes will be reflected in application Portal when opened.

4. Nauru has been granted TWO (2) slots under Atal Bihari Vajpayee General Scholarship Scheme (A1202) for the Academic year 2025-26

Annexure

Highlights of admission process under the Atal Bihari Vajpayee General Scholarship Scheme (41201) (formerly known as General Scholarship Scheme) for the academic year 2025-26 1A12011

1. Applicants have the option to apply to 5 Universities / institutes in the order of their preference of study. The admission, as far as possible, shall be given as per applicant's preference. However, there may be a scenario when students do not get admission in their preferred Universities / institutes due to limited number of seats on offer. Students should therefore be prepared to receive admission from any of their five preferences.
2. Since AY 2023-24, a 500-word essay in English has been introduced to ascertain English proficiency. Besides, students can also submit their TOFEL / IELTS etc. Standardised Test scores, if available. ICCR is also requesting Universities / institutes to conduct interview of the applicants online, if so required. There will be no separate English test by Missions, as was earlier.
3. Rejected candidates will be intimated by Universities.
4. ICCR has introduced disbursement of all scholarship payment to students through PFMS w.e.f. February, 2021.
5. Before issuing offer letter to any student, student needs to obtain the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) equivalence also (if required). This would be stipulated by the concerned University / Institute in their Provisional Confirmation letter for the applicant (uploaded on Portal). In case AIU equivalence is required the student may apply for the same at the link <https://evaluation.aiu.ac.in/student/login> and bear the fees incurred on obtaining the certificate at own expense (non-reimbursable). For any further details/queries, students may contact AIU at (+911123230059 / 23231097 / 23232305 Extn. 210, 234, 252, E-mail id: studentinfo@aiu.ac.in, ds_international@aiu.ac.in, evaluation@aiu.ac.in).
6. The guidelines of all schemes are available on the Portal.
7. These scholarship slots include return economy class air-fares to the airport nearest to the place of study and 3rd AC Train fare from airport to the place of study, if so required.
8. Interested students are advised to visit respective University / institute website regularly courses offered, eligibility criteria and general information about the University / institute before applying for admission. The students should ensure that they are eligible for the course and meet the eligibility criteria and should submit relevant documentation as required by the Universities, in addition to the basic certificates mentioned in the application form. They would be also advised to refer to the University's Handbook/ University Grants Commission's website etc.
9. It may be noted that for BE / B. Tech courses, Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics (PCM) are compulsory in 11 and 12 Grades and it is a mandatory requirement for Engineering courses. Mark sheets for each i.e., level 10 and 10+2 equivalent level of school should be uploaded along with the transcripts in English. It may also be noted that incomplete application can be summarily rejected by Universities. Students should be advised to thoroughly check their applications and attach requisite documents before submission of the application.

10 The applicant's age for availing scholarship is as under:-

For Undergraduate / Postgraduate courses - between 18 to 40 Years and **(18 years as on date 01.07.2025)**

For PhD Programmes - 50 Years Maximum.

11. The admissions in Medical/ Paramedical (Nursing / Physiotherapy / anesthesia etc.) / fashion / law courses / integrated courses such as BALLS (5 Years) / B Sc & M Sc (5 Years) etc. are not admissible.

12. Please note that for Science courses, the expenditure on laboratory chemicals and other related incidental charges will be borne by the scholars themselves.

13. It is compulsory for all ICCR scholarship students to procure Medical Insurance policy with minimum sum assured for Indian Rupees Five Lakhs per annum. Applicants that when they travel to India, they must have medical insurance coverage on their own either before travel or immediately after reaching India, whichever is convenient. Students can purchase medical insurance from any of the insurance companies of their choice. However to facilitate students, Portal has two insurance companies for referral purpose.

14. To automate the entire manual work process of ICCR's scholarship division, ICCR has launched an application, 'Gyan Setu- connecting Culture through Knowledge' on 6 February 2023. Since the inception of Gyan Setu app, all the scholarship dues to the Universities/Institutes as well as to the Students, are being released through this app only.

- (i) Students are directed to report their arrival on the Gyan_Setu web application on an immediate basis.
- (ii) Students are required to coordinate with their respective Universities/institutes regarding updation of their details such as joining report on the app.
- (iii) ***Submission & Verification of Documents/Confirmation of Admission-To*** submit the original documents and verify the details mentioned in the A2A Portal during the admission process with their original **documents** including Passport, previous degree certificates, country's unique identification number, in order to **confirm the admission** of students and get the ***Hostel Accommodation as soon as the admission is confirmed.*** **PLEASE NOTE-** The details entered in the Portal, if in case, does not match with the original documents, the admission of the said student be termed as **CANCELLED**.

15. In order to get their scholarship dues, they should ensure the submission of the following details **on Gyan Setu App within 15 days of their arrival in India,** else payment of their scholarship dues might get delayed.

- i. Passport No
- ii. Joining Report (including joining date and duration of the Course)
- iii. Bank Account No.
- iv. **e-FRRO registration no.**

16. ICCR advises students to stay in the campus hostel, if available. However, students are allowed to stay in private accommodation if the concerned institute does not insist on staying in their hostel.

17. Undertaking from the student that the course and the University as conveyed is acceptable and that he / she will not request for change at the time of admissions.

18. Undertaking from the student that they have read the terms and conditions / Guidelines of ICCR scholarship as specified in the Scholarship Manual 2024-25 (The one time undertaking will be applicable even when scholarship manual is updated (as per para 36 like provisions), available on Portal.

19. Detailed guidelines on the process of applying for ICCR Scholarships are available on the Portal.