

**GOVERNMENT OF KERALA****Abstract**

Backward Classes Development Department - Annual Plan 2025-2026 — Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Higher Studies - Administrative Sanction accorded — Orders Issued.

---

**BACKWARD CLASSES DEVELOPMENT (A) DEPARTMENT**

G.O.(Rt)No.6/2026/BCDD Dated,Thiruvananthapuram, 19-01-2026

---

- Read 1) G.O.(Rt) No. 11/2014/BCDD dated 24.01.2014.
- 2) Working Group meeting held on 06.12.2025
- 3) Letter No. BCDIR/305/2025-B1, dated 04/12/2025 from the Director, Backward Classes Development Department.

**ORDER**

As per Government Order read as 1st paper above, administrative sanction and detailed guidelines were issued for implementing the Overseas Scholarship Scheme under the Backward Classes Development Department. The Director, Backward Classes Development Department submitted proposal suggesting some modifications in the existing guidelines of the scheme. The proposal was placed in the Working Group meeting held on 6.12.2025 and after detailed discussion, the working group approved the proposal.

In these circumstances, Government are pleased to issue revised Administrative Sanction for implementing the Overseas Scholarship Scheme, with the following eligibility conditions:

1. **Name of the Scheme:** The scheme shall be known as the Overseas Scholarship Scheme for Higher Studies.
2. **Eligible Communities:** Students belonging to Other Backward Classes (OBC) of the State shall be eligible to apply. Other Eligible Community (OEC) students will be given preference, subject to the limits prescribed in this order. Since Minority Welfare Department is implementing Overseas Scholarship Scheme, Minority Community students shall not be eligible to apply under this scheme.
3. **Eligible Universities:** Only candidates who have secured admission to universities

ranked within the top 300 in the annual Times Higher Education World University Rankings shall be eligible to apply under this scheme. The university ranking shall be revised / updated by the Director, Backward Classes Development Department, every year.

4. **Eligible Disciplines:** Scholarship shall be admissible for higher studies in the following disciplines: - Medical and Allied subjects, Engineering, Pure Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Social Sciences, Law, Management, Computer Science including Advanced Computer Technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

5. **Level of Study:** The scholarship shall be restricted to candidates pursuing Postgraduate Degree programmes or Research (PhD) programmes in foreign universities.

6. **Number of Beneficiaries and Financial Assistance:** A maximum of 100 beneficiaries shall be selected every year under the following three-tier structure:

**(A) Full Scholarship**

Number of beneficiaries : 20  
 Maximum assistance: ₹10 lakh per beneficiary  
 Priority shall be given to candidates with the lowest annual family income.

**(B) Pre-Admission and Initial Living Expenses Grant**

Number of beneficiaries : 30  
 Maximum assistance : ₹5 lakh per beneficiary

**(C) Loan Interest Subsidy**

Number of beneficiaries : 50  
 Interest subsidy up to ₹1 lakh per beneficiary, limited to 75% of the total interest amount, subject to verification of loan documents, for education loans availed through Kerala State Backward Classes Development Corporation, other Government Financial Corporations, or Public Sector Banks. The eligible beneficiary list shall be submitted by the concerned financial institutions. After verifying the lists with the scheme guidelines, the interest subsidy will be transferred to the account of Financial institutions.

7. **Community-wise inclusion:** OEC students shall be included to the following extent: - 20% in the ₹10 lakh category - 25% each in the ₹5 lakh and ₹1 lakh categories.

8. **Eligibility Conditions:** Minimum qualification - 60% marks in the respective degree course for PG Courses and 60% marks in PG course for Research courses.

- Age limit — below 40 years
- Annual family income — upto Rs. 6 Lakh.
- Only one child from a family shall be eligible.
- The scholarship can be availed only once.

9. **Selection Committee:** A Selection Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary/Principal Secretary/Additional Chief Secretary, Backward Classes Development Department will complete the selection process. The Director, Backward Classes Development Department, and a nominee of Higher Education Department not below the rank of Additional Secretary/Joint Secretary shall be the members of the Selection Committee.

10. **Components of the Scholarship:** Air charges from India to the nearest place to the educational institutions and back to India, by economy class and shortest route in arrangements with the national carrier, Actual course fees, Maintenance allowance, (subject to a maximum of 10 Lakh)

11. **Method of Disbursement:**

- (i) The sanctioned scholarship amount shall be released in instalments, based on actual foreign study expenditure supported by genuine and verifiable bills and receipts.
- (ii) The scholarship shall be restricted to courses having a maximum duration of three years.
- (iii) The final installment shall be released only on production of the course completion certificate or equivalent supporting documents.
- (iv) Where bills or receipts are issued in a language other than English, a certified English translation shall be produced, indicating the equivalent value in Indian Rupees as on the date of receipt.
- (v) Scholarship shall not be assessed or sanctioned solely on the basis of bank statement entries.

10. **Advance Payment:** Beneficiaries selected under the Full Scholarship and ₹5 lakh Grant categories will be sanctioned 25% of the course fee, subject to a maximum of ₹2.5 lakh, as advance, based on a preliminary bond. Failure to produce requisite documents or to complete agreement formalities shall render the beneficiary liable to repay the availed amount with 18% penal interest.

11. **Agreement and Bond:** Selected candidates shall execute an Indemnity Bond. A bilateral agreement on stamp paper is required. An agreement executed on stamp paper, signed by the candidate and parents in the presence of two witnesses, shall be sufficient for advance payment and recovery in case of default. Further payments will be done only after completion of other formalities of executing final agreement.

12. **Adjustment of Assistance from Other Sources:** In the case of beneficiaries under the ₹10 lakh category, any scholarship, fee concession, or financial assistance received from the university or any other source shall be deducted from the maximum eligible assistance. This condition shall not apply to beneficiaries under the ₹5 lakh grant and ₹1 lakh loan interest subsidy categories.

13) **Other relevant mandatory conditions:**

1. The scholarship can be availed only once by the candidate under the Scheme.
2. The Candidates are required to make their own efforts in seeking admission in accredited University/Institution abroad.
3. The selected candidates can pursue their respective studies in an accredited university/institution in a country of their choice with which India has diplomatic relations, but this will be subject to written approval of the Government of Kerala.
4. The candidates are required to make their own efforts in seeking admission in accredited Universities/Institutions in programmes/fields specified in the Scheme.
5. The finally selected candidates are required to obtain admission and join in the accredited University/Institution abroad within one year from the date of communication of selection.
6. On expiry of this specified period of time, the award will automatically get cancelled and come to an end. No request for extension of time for availing the award is permissible under the Scheme.
7. The candidate shall not change the course of study for which scholarship has been sanctioned.
8. The candidate will have to execute a bond with this Department in the manner prescribed by Government to ensure that he/she will complete the course and within the guidelines of the scheme, and if not the entire Scholarship amount received shall be refunded in the manner prescribed by the Government.

This administrative sanction shall come into force with immediate effect. All previous orders inconsistent with this order shall stand dispensed with. The present list of rated Foreign Universities based on ranking is attached herewith.

(By order of the Governor)

VALSALA S D

JOINT SECRETARY

The Director, Backward Classes Development Department, Thiruvananthapuram.

The Member Secretary, State Planning Board, Pattom, Thiruvannanthapuram

The Principal Accountant General (Audit), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

The Accountant General (A&E), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram

The Finance (Welfare Wing) Department / The Higher Education Department.

The Planning & Economic Affairs Department

Web & New Media, I&PR Department (for publishing in Govt Website)

Stock file / Office Copy

Forwarded /By order

Section Officer