

## **INSPIRE**

### **Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE)**

#### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

#### **1. Scholarship for Higher Education.**

Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) is a component scheme under Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE), which is a flagship programme of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), under the Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. It aims to engage young talents for the study of Science and Technology and pursue research as a career and to augment youth to undertake higher education in Science intensive courses by providing scholarships to deserving students.

Under this scheme SHE, 10,000 scholarships, each valued at Rs. 80,000/- are announced annually for students pursuing Bachelors and Masters level courses in Basic and Natural Sciences.

#### **2. Who can apply for SHE? What are the eligibility criteria for availing these scholarships?**

- (a) Students with aggregate marks within top 1% of their Class XII examination of any State/ Central Board in India are eligible. In addition, the student must be pursuing courses in Natural and Basic Sciences at the BSc, BS, and Int.MSc/MS level.
- (b) Those students who have secured ranks in the JEE of IIT, AIPMT (within top 10000 ranks), and are presently pursuing Natural and Basic Science courses in India at the BSc, BS, Int.MSc/MS level.
- (c) Students pursuing Integrated M.S. courses at IISERs, NISER and Department of Atomic Energy Centre for Basic Sciences, Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY), National Talent Search Examination (NTSE), Jagadish Bose National Science Talent Search (JBNSTS) scholars and International Olympiad medalists pursuing Bachelor/ Master level courses in Natural Sciences.

#### **3. What courses are eligible for the offer of INSPIRE Scholarship?**

The following subjects under Basic and Natural Sciences are within the scope of INSPIRE Scholarship for pursuing BSc/BS/Int. MSc/Int. MS course:

**(1) Physics, (2) Chemistry, (3) Mathematics, (4) Biology, (5) Statistics, (6) Geology, (7) Astrophysics, (8) Astronomy, (9) Electronics, (10) Botany, (11) Zoology, (12) Bio-chemistry, (13) Anthropology, (14) Microbiology, (15) Geophysics, (16) Geochemistry, (17) Atmospheric Sciences & (18) Oceanic Sciences.**

The student must be enrolled into the aforementioned BSc, BS, Int. MSc/Int.MS courses before applying for INSPIRE Scholarship.

Courses other than these subjects such as Engineering, Medicine, Military Science, Defense Studies, Agriculture, Psychology, Seed Technology, Anthropology, Home Science, Geography, Economics, Education (including B.Sc.-B.Ed. dual degree course), Bio-technology, Computer Science, Computer Applications, Bio-informatics, Instrumentation, Information Technology, Physical Education, courses in Distance Education mode at the Open Universities and other professional courses are **NOT** supported.

#### **4. How much is my SHE valued?**

The scholarship is valued at Rs. 80,000/- per annum. Each candidate will receive **annual scholarship @** total value of **Rs. 60,000/-** in cash. All the SHE scholars are required to undertake summer research projects under an active researcher in any recognized research centers across India. A summer time attachment fee of **Rs. 20,000/-** will be paid as **Mentorship** every year.

#### **5. What is the tenure of INSPIRE-SHE?**

Selected candidates will be supported for a maximum period of five years, starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> year BSc, BS, Int. MSc/Int.MS or until the completion of the course, whichever is earlier.

Continuation of the scholarship for the selected candidates is based on good academic performance in the examinations conducted by the University and upon the recommendation by the Head of the Institution.

#### **6. When should I apply for SHE?**

Only candidates who have completed their XII standard in the year 2013 and are currently enrolled in BSc, BS, Int. MSc/MS degrees, in Natural and Basic Sciences (in subjects listed above) can apply.

The call for applications will be advertised in major newspapers. Also check our website <http://www.inspire-dst.gov.in> for regular updates. The online application link can be found here: [www.online-inspire.gov.in](http://www.online-inspire.gov.in) or at [www.inspire-dst.gov.in](http://www.inspire-dst.gov.in).

### **7. How should I apply for the scholarship?**

One can apply for the scholarship through online or offline modes. However, online mode of application is preferred. To apply online, please follow this link [www.online-inspire.gov.in](http://www.online-inspire.gov.in). The guidelines for online applications are given here.

*.....LINK to the Guidelines.....*

### **8. What documents should I submit along with the application form?**

The following documents are mandatory.

- a) Application Form with photograph (*in case of offline applications*)
- b) Class XII Mark Sheets
- c) Class X Mark Sheet/Certificate (*for proof of date of birth*)
- d) Endorsement Certificate as per the prescribed format, signed by the Principal of the College/Director of the Institute/Registrar of the University
- e) Eligibility Note/Advisory Note (*if provided by the State/Central Board*)
- f) Certificate specifying Rank or Award in JEE (Main)/ JEE (Advanced)/ NEET/ KVPY /JBNSTS/ NTSE / International Olympic Medalists (if the candidate is eligible under this criterion)

Please note that incomplete applications will be summarily rejected. No claims or representations will be entertained regarding the same.

### **9. When will I be intimated of my selection?**

As we receive a large number of applications, the selection process on an average takes at least four months from the last date of submission of the application.

All selected candidates shall receive an Email notification informing that they are selected for the scholarship. The selected students are required to log into the online portal to download the offer letter.

### **10. I am selected for SHE but I have not received any official letter. What should I do?**

Please Log in to the online portal. If you are selected, the offer letter will be available in your dashboard.

### **11. In your letter you have pointed out that I should mention my registration number in all my correspondences. Where shall I find this number?**

The Registration number here refers to the Scholar's INSPIRE/SHE registration number provided by the DST (*not the scholar's B.Sc. or M.Sc. or University's registration number*). The INSPIRE/SHE registration number is indicated in the initial scholarship offer letter.

### **12. How will I receive my scholarship?**

For the 2011, 2012 & subsequent batch scholars, the scholarship will be transferred to the scholar's State Bank of India (SBI) bank account directly.

### **13. How to send the Bank Account details to the DST? [For 2011&subsequent Batches]**

The 2011, 2012 & subsequent batch scholars should open a regular Savings Bank Account in any branch of the **State Bank of India** (SBI) (ONLY). The account must be in your name only. Joint Accounts will not be accepted. Accounts in any other bank other than the SBI will not be accepted.

After opening the account in SBI, kindly fill in the SBI-Proforma available on the website and post it along with the first page of your SBI bank Passbook to the DST. Please do not forget to sign these documents. Non-attested documents shall be rejected.

### **14. What documents should I submit to receive the scholarship?**

For the release of the scholarship, one should submit year wise **Performance Report** and **Mark Sheet** of his/her BSc, BS, Int. MSc/MS course. The blank format of the Performance report can be found on our website [www.inspire-dst.gov.in](http://www.inspire-dst.gov.in) or in our online portal [www.online-inspire.gov.in](http://www.online-inspire.gov.in).

The Performance report must be signed by the Head of the Institution. The Head of the Institution here refers to (a) Vice-Chancellor/Registrar/Dean of Science in case of Universities and (b) Principal/Vice-Principal, Proctor and Officer-in-Charge in case of colleges. Attestation of the endorsement forms by officers other than those mentioned above (such as Head of the Department, Section officers, Student welfare officers, etc.) will **NOT** be accepted.

The Head of the Institution should clearly mention whether the scholarship should be continued or discontinued for that academic year.

A photocopy of the Mark Sheets (annual/two semesters) received from the University must be enclosed along with the Performance Report. Provisional mark sheets and result sheets downloaded from the internet shall not be accepted.

**15. When should I submit the documents?**

The annual Performance Reports and Mark sheets (annual/two semesters) should be submitted as soon as the results of the respective examinations are announced. The scholarship will be released only after the receipt of the Performance Report and mark sheets.

**16. When will I receive the scholarship?**

Initially, the scholarship will be released only after the receipt of I year BSc, BS, Int. MSc/MS Performance Reports and mark sheets. Provided your academic performance is satisfactory, two years of scholarship (i.e. Rs. 1,20,000/-) shall be released during your second year of your B.Sc./Int. M.Sc. course.

In the following years, the scholarship will be released after the receipt of yearly Performance Reports and Mark sheets.

**17. I am an INSPIRE scholar currently pursuing my first year BSc/BS/Int.MSc/Int.MS course. I have discontinued my course. Will my scholarship be continued?**

The offer of INSPIRE Scholarship will be summarily withdrawn if you discontinue the course. Even if you rejoin the course in the following academic year, the offer of INSPIRE Scholarship will stand withdrawn. No representations in this regard shall be entertained.

**18. I have received my scholarship for the first and second year. What documents should I send to receive my scholarship for the third year?**

You should send the following documents to continue the scholarship.

(a) **Performance report** for second year BSc/BS/Int. MSc/Int.MS course signed and attested by the Head of the Institution and (b) Self-signed copy of **marks sheet** of your BSc/BS/Int. MSc/Int.MS annual/Semester examination.

**19. I am an INSPIRE Scholar and I have sent all the relevant documents for the continuation of my scholarship. I am yet to receive my scholarship amount. What should I do?**

Please note that it usually takes eight to 10 weeks to release the scholarship after the receipt of relevant documents. If you have NOT received the scholarship even after three months of sending the relevant documents, please write to [she.inspire-dst@nic.in](mailto:she.inspire-dst@nic.in).

Generally DST will withhold the scholarship due to any of the following reasons:

- (a) Scholar has not submitted his/her Performance Reports/Mark Sheets
- (b) Failure or poor performance in B.Sc. or M.Sc. examinations.
- (b) Scholar has not informed about M.Sc. enrollment (as applicable).

The scholarship will be released as soon as the above mentioned concerns have been addressed.

**20. I have failed in my BSc/ BS/ Int. MSc/Int.MS course. Will the scholarship be continued?**

For continuation of Scholarship at any stage at B.Sc. or M.Sc. level, you need to consistently perform better and secure minimum First class or CGPA  $\geq$  6.0 (on a 10 point scale or its equivalent) in the University level examination.

If you have failed or secured a CGPA score of less than 6.0 (on a 10 point scale or its equivalent) in the BSc/BS/Int. MSc/Int.MS examination, the scholarship for that academic year shall be forfeited. The scholarship will be resumed in the next year only if your academic performance is satisfactory.

**21. I could not attend my annual/semester University examination. Will the scholarship be continued?**

In such a case, one year of scholarship will be forfeited. The scholarship will be resumed in the next year, provided your academic performance is good (see above question).

**22. I am an INSPIRE Scholar and have completed my B.Sc. in Natural Sciences and I wish to pursue my M.Sc. What documents should I send to extend my scholarship?**

After three years of B.Sc. program, students may join M.Sc. course (Natural and Basic Sciences only) anywhere in the country and provide us with proof of enrollment in the M.Sc. course. The blank format of the same can be found in this link: [http://www.inspire-dst.gov.in/MSc\\_enroll\\_certf.pdf](http://www.inspire-dst.gov.in/MSc_enroll_certf.pdf). Please note that M.Tech. courses are NOT supported.

The following subjects under Basic and Natural Sciences are within the scope of INSPIRE Scholarship for pursuing M.Sc. course:

(1) Physics, (2) Chemistry, (3) Mathematics, (4) Biology, (5) Statistics, (6) Geology, (7) Astrophysics, (8) Astronomy, (9) Electronics, (10) Botany, (11) Zoology, (12) Bio-chemistry, (13) Anthropology, (14) Microbiology, (15) Geophysics, (16) Geochemistry, (17) Atmospheric Sciences & (18) Oceanic Sciences.

**23. I have completed my B.Sc. course. I wish to avail one year break from studies before joining M.Sc. course. Will my scholarship be continued?**

In such a case, the scholarship will NOT be continued.

**24. Can you explain the terms of Summer Projects to be undertaken by all the INSPIRE scholars?**

In order to inculcate scientific values and develop scientific temper, the scholars are required to enroll in a Summer Research Project every year during the summer holidays, in recognized research centers of their choice across India, preferably outside their parent institutions.

Under INSPIRE-SHE, **Rs. 20,000/-** per annum is provided as Mentorship to the INSPIRE scholar, to undertake Summer Research Programmes. The mentorship will be transferred to your bank account. After completion of the project, the scholar should send the following documents to the DST:

- (a) A letter attested by the Research Guide where the scholar is enrolled for the project and
- (b) A report outlining the objectives and results of the project.

The minimum tenure of the project must be six to eight weeks. The duration of the project must be clearly mentioned in the project report. The guidelines for the Summer Research Mentorship can be found in this link:

[http://www.inspire-dst.gov.in/Mentorship\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.inspire-dst.gov.in/Mentorship_Guidelines.pdf)

Note: Group projects are not acceptable.

**25. I am availing Scholarship from the State and Central Government. Am I eligible for INSPIRE/SHE Scholarship?**

One cannot avail more than one scholarship concurrently. It is therefore advised that the candidate choose the scholarship he/she wishes to avail and inform the DST at the earliest. If the scholar wishes to avail the INSPIRE/SHE Scholarship, documentary evidence (such as Scholarship surrender certificate) must be produced so as to ascertain that he/she is not availing scholarships from any other sources.

Please note that if the scholar is found to be availing scholarship from other sources, the offer of INSPIRE Scholarship will be summarily withdrawn and the scholar is liable to return the entire scholarship amount availed thus far from DST-INSPIRE.

**26. What is SMART CARD? (For 2008-2010 Batches only)**

The scholarship is given by means of SMART Card to the 2008, 2009 and 2010 Batch students only. Smart card is like any other ATM card, specially designed by the State Bank of India (SBI) to disperse the scholarships to the selected candidates. The scholars can withdraw their scholarship from the SBI ATMs across India. **The 2011, 2012 and subsequent batch students need NOT apply for the SMART Card as the scholarship will be released directly to their bank accounts.**

**27. What documents should I send to receive my SMART card? (For 2008-2010 Batches only)**

As soon as you receive your offer letter from the DST, the following documents should be sent by the selected scholars of 2008-2010 batches.

- (a) Filled e-Z application form. The blank format of the e-Z application form can be found here in this link <http://www.inspire-dst.gov.in>.
- (b) Self-attested copy of Proof of Residence (**Permanent address**).
- (c) Self attested copy of Proof of Photo Identity.

Please do not forget to self attest these documents. Non-attested documents shall be rejected and will inevitably delay the issue of the SMART card. Also write your INSPIRE registration number on top of the documents you are sending.

**28. What documents are acceptable for my Identity and Address proofs? (For 2008-2010 Batches only)**

The list of documents that are acceptable for the address and identity proof is given here. [www.inspire-dst.gov.in](http://www.inspire-dst.gov.in). You need to provide ONLY ONE document each for address and identity proof. Please do not forget to Self-attest these documents.

**29. Where should I send my completed e-Z forms? (For 2008-2010 Batches only)**

Completed e-Z forms along with the requisite documents should be sent to the following address: **Ms. Rupashree Dash**, Scientist 'B', INSPIRE Programme Division, Department of Science & Technology, Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi- 110016.

**30. I have sent my e-Z forms and all the necessary documents to the DST but I have not received my SMART card. What should I do? (For 2008-2010 Batches only)**

As we receive a large number of applications, the process of issuing the SMART card on an average takes at least two months from the date of receipt of the e-Z forms and the documents.

In case you have not received your SMART card even after three months, please write to [she.inspire-dst@nic.in](mailto:she.inspire-dst@nic.in).

**31. I have received my SMART card. What should I do next? (For 2008-2010 Batches only)**

Please fill the acknowledgement form we have enclosed and post it to

(1) AGM, Institutional Division, New Delhi Main Branch, Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001 and (2) **Ms. Rupashree Dash**, DST, Technology Bhawan, New Mehrauli Road New Delhi -110016.

Only after the receiving the acknowledgement receipts, the SBI will release the scholarship. Therefore, posting the hard copy of the acknowledgement to the SBI is a must.

Each SMART CARD has a maximum limit of only Rs 50,000 at any given time. 2008-2010 batch scholars are therefore advised check their balance periodically and make withdrawals after each re-charge and leave a balance of less than Rs 20,000. This helps SBI re-charge your next installments on your SMART Card. The subsequent installment(s) will be recharged in the next ten to twelve days.

**32. I have lost my SMART card and its PIN number. How to obtain a duplicate SMART card? (For 2008-2010 Batches only)**

(a) If your SMART Card is lost, kindly register a complaint with the local Police Station immediately and contact the SBI to block the SMART Card.

(b) Send a request for a duplicate card along with the photocopy of the registered FIR to **Dr. S.V. Prasanna**, INSPIRE Programme Division, Technology Bhawan, DST, New Mehrauli Road, New Delhi- 110016. E-mail: [she.inspire-dst@nic.in](mailto:she.inspire-dst@nic.in).

(c) If your SMART Card is damaged or not working, kindly return the defective card by Post to **Dr. S.V. Prasanna** at the above address. The duplicate card will be issued in four to six weeks after the receipt of the defective card.

(d) For loss of T-PIN and other issues, kindly write to **Dr. S.V.Prasanna** at [she.inspire-dst@nic.in](mailto:she.inspire-dst@nic.in).