

## Press Release

### **Scholarship Schemes offered by ICCR for the academic year 2025-26**

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has announced the following scholarship schemes for the academic intake 2025-26:

- Atal Bihari Vajpayee General Scholarship Scheme
- Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Cultural Exchange Scholarship Scheme
- Lata Mangeshkar Dance & Music Scholarship Scheme

2. The scholarships cover tuition fees, monthly stipend, house rent allowance, contingent grant, thesis and dissertation expenses. Airfare is also provided for the candidates selected under the Atal Bihari Vajpayee General Scholarship Scheme, the Lata Mangeshkar Dance & Music Scholarship Scheme. The list of universities / institutions empanelled with ICCR for these scholarships can be found at <https://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in/assets/site/docs/universities.pdf>.

3. Under the "Atal Bihari Vajpayee General Scholarship Scheme" (formerly known as the General Scholarship Scheme (GSS)) students can pursue undergraduate, postgraduate, research, and general courses at Indian Universities/Institutes. Malaysia is allocated 3 slots under this scholarship scheme.

4. Under the "Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Cultural Exchange Scholarship Scheme" (formerly known as the Cultural Exchange Programme (CEP) / Education Exchange Programme (EEP)) students can pursue undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral courses at Indian Universities/Institutes. Malaysia is allocated 2 slots under this scholarship scheme.

5. Under the "Lata Mangeshkar Dance & Music Scholarship Scheme" (formerly known as the ICCR Scholarship Scheme for Indian Culture) students can pursue study of Indian Culture in fields such as dance, music, theatre, performing arts, sculpture, Indian languages, Indian cuisine, etc., at Indian Universities/Institutes. ICCR provides 100 scholarships under this scheme, but there is no country-wise allocation for this scheme.

6. The **last date for submission of application is 30<sup>th</sup> April 2024**. Applicants may apply to 5 Universities/Institutes in the order of their preference of study.

8. A 500-word essay in English has to be submitted to ascertain the applicant's English Proficiency. Besides, applicants can also submit their TOFEL/ IELTS etc. Standardized Test scores, if available.

9. Interested students are advised to visit University/Institute website and do thorough research of the 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/Institutes in addition to the basic certificates mentioned in the application form. They should always refer to the Universities Handbook / University Grants Commission's website and the concerned University/Institute's website for the eligibility criteria, etc.

10. The general guideline to apply for the scholarship provided by ICCR are as follows:

- Applicants should have attained a minimum age of 18 years at the time of admission in Indian Universities / Institutes and not more than 40 years of age for undergraduate and postgraduate courses (as on the date of registering on the A2A portal).

- For PhD Programmes, applicants should have attained a minimum age of 18 years at the time of admission in Indian Universities/Institutes and not more than 50 years of age (as on the date of opening of the A2A portal).
- Medical-related courses (including nursing, physiotherapy, etc), fashion-related courses, law courses, and integrated courses e.g. BA-LLB, BSc-MSc, BTech-MTech courses are not included under these scholarship schemes.
- The application will not be considered without English translation of the documents, if the original documents are not in English.
- Compulsory personal medical insurance is a mandatory requirement for availing of ICCR's scholarship. 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 are advised to ensure that they must have medical insurance coverage on their own either before travel or immediately after reaching India, whatever is convenient to students. Students can purchase medical insurance from any of the insurance companies of their choice. However to facilitate students, A2A Scholarship Portal has two insurance companies for reference. Applicants are advised to be aware of the change in medical insurance policy. ICCR has uploaded the revised norms on its A2A Scholarship Portal.
- If stipulated by the University/Institute in their offer letter, the applicants must obtain an **Equivalence Certificate** from the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), by applying at **<https://evaluation.aiu.ac.in/student/login>** and bear the fees incurred on obtaining the certificate at own expense (non-reimbursable). For details about obtaining the Equivalence Certificate, students may contact AIU by telephone at +91 11 2323 0059 / 2323 1097 / 2323 2305 extn 210,234, 252; and by email to [studentinfo@aiu.ac.in](mailto:studentinfo@aiu.ac.in), [ds\\_international@aiu.ac.in](mailto:ds_international@aiu.ac.in), [evaluation@aiu.ac.in](mailto:evaluation@aiu.ac.in)
- It is essential for the applicants to familiarize themselves with living conditions at their destination/University, wherever possible.
- ICCR advises students to stay in 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.
- Students selected under the scholarship schemes must obtain their visa and register with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) via the **Study In India (SII) portal**.

11. Interested applicants can apply via ICCR's "A2A Scholarship portal" <<http://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in>>, which would be opened from 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 onwards.

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30 January 2025