

Government of Odisha

Higher Education Department

No. HE-SLR-POLOCY-0005-2024 - 66528 /H.E., Dated 05.12.2025

NOTIFICATION

Sub: Guidelines for the “Bidesh Sikhyabruti” Scholarship Scheme for SC & ST Candidates

1. Background

The Government of Odisha, with a vision to promote equitable and inclusive higher education, has initiated a dedicated scholarship scheme titled **“Bidesh Sikhyabruti”** under the umbrella of the **Mukhyamantri Medhabi Chhatra Protsahan Yojana (MMCPY)**. This transformative initiative is designed to provide **financial assistance to meritorious students belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities** of Odisha, enabling them to pursue **Postgraduate (PG) and Ph.D. studies** in internationally acclaimed institutions abroad.

By addressing the financial constraints that often hinder global academic aspirations, the scheme intends to create a cadre of globally competent professionals, researchers, and leaders from Odisha’s marginalized communities. This initiative directly aligns with the State’s vision of fostering human development through education and contributes to the national objective of inclusive socio-economic growth.

2. Objectives of the Scheme

The “Bidesh Sikhyabruti” scheme has been conceptualized with the following core objectives:

- Promotion of Higher Education Abroad:** To facilitate and encourage SC/ST students of Odisha to gain access to global academic institutions, thereby enhancing their academic and professional competitiveness.
- Bridging Educational Inequity:** To reduce the disparity in access to global educational opportunities by supporting students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds.
- Development of Future Leaders:** To empower students from SC/ST communities to become skilled professionals, researchers, and academicians who can contribute meaningfully to state and national development agendas.

3. Scope and Nature of the Scheme

The “Bidesh Sikhyabruti” scheme is a **State-sector scholarship** programme targeted exclusively at SC and ST students domiciled in Odisha. A student will get this benefit only once either for PG or Ph.D. Course.

The scheme is structured to support **50 students per year**, distributed across various streams and disciplines. The support under this scheme is comprehensive and includes tuition fees, living expenses, and other incidental costs associated with studying abroad.

4. Eligibility Conditions

To be eligible for the Bidesh Sikhyabruti scholarship, applicants must fulfil the following criteria:

- a. **Domicile Requirement:** The applicant must be a **permanent resident of Odisha**.
- b. **Category:** The scheme is applicable only to candidates belonging to the **Scheduled Caste (SC) or Scheduled Tribe (ST)** categories of Odisha.
- c. **Admission Requirement:** The applicant must have unconditional offer of admission to **Top 200 QS-ranked foreign Institutes/ Universities as per the latest available QS Ranking at the time of submission of application for scholarship**.
- d. **Income Criteria:** The annual **gross family income** (without deductions) should not exceed **Rs. 12,00,000 /-**. This includes income of all members of the family and from all type of sources including pensionary benefits. The applicant shall declare that he/she is not a regular employee of any Central/ State/ PSU/ Autonomous Body at the time of application for the Bidesh Sikhyabruti.
- e. **Exclusivity of Benefit:** The applicant should not be availing **any other scholarship or financial assistance** from State/Central Government/ PSU or any other organization including private institutions or persons at the time of receiving support under this scheme. The applicant should not avail any other scholarship or financial assistance from any other Govt or PSU for the same purpose and course. If a student receives any financial assistance, fellowship, grant, fee waiver, or stipend from a foreign university/institution or any other national/international funding agency, in future, for the purpose of pursuing higher studies abroad, he/she shall not be eligible to receive scholarship under the Bidesh Sikhyabruti Scheme of Government of Odisha. In case such assistance is obtained after the sanction of the scholarship, the Government reserves all rights to cancel the award.
- f. **Clean Record:** Applicants shall **be debarred** from availing the financial assistance under this scheme, if any disciplinary action or criminal charges are reported by the Indian Embassy/High Commission in the concerned country during the period of the financial support.

g. Candidates already staying or studying or having completed studies abroad by utilizing any other scholarship from State Government, other agency, or through own funds are not eligible to apply under this scheme.

Course-wise Eligibility and Duration:

Sl No.	Course	Maximum duration of Fellowship support	Marks & Educational Qualification	Maximum Age
1	Ph.D.	2 years	Minimum 65% in relevant master's degree	40 years
2	Master's Degree	1-2 years	65% in relevant bachelor's degree	35 years

5. Number of Scholarships and Course Categories

The scheme will support **50 students per year**, with flexibility in stream allocation to ensure optimal utilization:

Sl No.	Stream	Category	Intake/Year	Break up
1	Engineering and all Technical courses	ST/SC	10 Students	4 for PG; 6 for Ph.D
2	Medical/Agriculture/Architecture/Other Professional courses		10 Students	4 for PG;6 for Ph.D
3	Courses under Higher Education Department, Government of Odisha		30 students	10 for PG; 20 for Ph.D
	Total		50 Students	30 for General Studies;20 for Technical/Professional studies

[Note: The stream-wise numbers are flexible, i.e., less students under any one stream or course can be compensated by taking more students from other streams or courses; total intake remaining constant at 50]

6. Scholarship Amount (in lakhs per annum):

The scheme offers **comprehensive financial support**, covering tuition, living, and miscellaneous costs as follows:

Category of Allowance	PG Courses	Ph. D Courses
Tuition Fees (Subject to actual expenses)	15.00	15.00
Living Expenses	7.00	7.00
Misc expenses (for travel, insurance and other misc expenses)	3.00	3.00
Total (Approx.)	25.00	25.00

An upper ceiling of a **Rs.25 lakhs per course per student per year** is fixed for both PG and Ph. D courses. Financial assistance for PG courses shall be provided for 1 year or 2 years depending on the duration and for Ph.D courses it will be for 2 years. Beyond 2 years there would not be any further extension of the assistance from the Department

[Note: Benefits are subject to a ceiling of Rs. 50 Lakhs per student per course. A student can avail this scholarship either for PG or for Ph. D course and only once in lifetime.]

7. Application Procedure

- The scheme will be advertised in the newspapers/other media giving summarized information about the Scheme. The candidates, after assessing their eligibility and suitability, as per the eligibility conditions of the Scheme Guidelines, can apply to this Department through the designated online portal i.e., <https://scholarship.odisha.gov.in> uploading the requisite documents including caste and income certificates, proof of admission, academic record and any other documents as may be required by the selection committee.
- Online applications complete in all respects only shall be considered for award. All the incomplete applications will be summarily rejected. The candidates are required to submit documents as annexed at **Annexure I**.
- No request for change of Institution/University shall be entertained.
- Grievances in connection with results will be entertained for up to 30 calendar days from the publication of the Result in the portal.

8. Selection Process and Role of OSHEC

- The applicants for financial assistance shall be considered only if they have obtained Offer Letter/Admission Letter/ work Order from one of the foreign Institutions/ Universities which are in the list of top 200 QS ranked institutions/ universities for the same academic session.

b. For every selection, merit list of the eligible candidates shall be drawn up on the basis of the rank, as per the latest available QS ranking, of the foreign Universities/Institutions from where the candidate has received the offer of admission. The candidates holding an offer letter from the higher ranked University/ Institution will be ranked higher in the merit list. In case of a tie between the QS rankings of two or more candidates, their position in merit will be decided on the basis of the marks/grades secured by the candidate in the previous qualifying examinations and then income criteria (preference will be given to the candidates with lesser annual income) for the higher studies for which the scholarship has been applied for.

c. The online applications of the eligible candidates shall be placed before the Selection-cum-Screening Committee (i.e., OSHEC) for making their recommendations for selection and ranking of the eligible candidates for scholarship.

d. The selected candidates who have already secured admission in foreign University/ Institution shall be issued provisional Award of Scholarship letters.

e. Students may be allowed a maximum time period of one-year intake deferrals, from the date of issuance of provisional award letter to join University/Institute abroad failing which the award would stand automatically cancelled and no correspondences in this regard will be entertained thereafter.

f. In case, the Selected awardee/applicant of Bidesh Sikhyabruti fails to submit proof of admission in foreign Institution and mandatory 6 monthly duly signed academic progress from Principal Investigator(PI)/HOD/Head of the Institution after the disbursement of the scholarship, the Government of Odisha has absolute right to:

- Recover the entire amount of scholarship released along with interest.
- Initiate criminal proceeding against the awardee for misappropriation.
- Debar the candidature for availing any future scholarship or financial assistance from the Government of Odisha

g. The timelines for selection of candidates under the guidelines is placed at **Annexure-II**.

h. The **Odisha State Higher Education Council (OSHEC)** shall be the **nodal agency** responsible for managing the selection process. OSHEC shall constitute a **Selection Committee**, comprising:

- Chairperson from OSHEC
- Officials from:
 - Higher Education Department
 - SD&TE Department
 - Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment Department

- Health & Family Welfare Department
- Subject matter experts and academicians
- The Committee shall:
 -
 - Conduct initial scrutiny of applications.
 - Verify documents including university/Institutional ranking/accreditation and admission offer.
 - Conduct **personal interviews**.
 - Prepare a **merit list** based on academic performance, income, and institutional ranking.
 - Submit final recommendations to the Higher Education Department for approval and award of Bidesh Sikhyabruti scholarship.

9. Mandatory Conditions:

- i. The candidate is not eligible for scholarship under this scheme to pursue the same level (Masters/Ph.D.) of course for which he/she has already acquired the qualification from any University/Institution either in India or abroad.
- ii. It will be the responsibility of the candidate to obtain appropriate visa for a country wherein he/she intends to study further with the award from the Scheme. The Visa issuing authorities may see that only such type of visa be issued which permits the candidate to pursue specified course abroad and thereafter the candidate returns to India. Government of Odisha will render no assistance to the candidate for obtaining Visa.
- iii. The candidate will give an undertaking that he/she will allow his/her University to share information with concerned Indian Mission abroad and the Higher Education Department, Government of Odisha. The candidate has also to give an undertaking that he/she is not in receipt of any scholarship from any government/ other organization including University/College for the course he/she is applying under this scheme. The selected candidate will also be required to give an undertaking to Higher Education Department, Government of Odisha and the Indian Mission abroad, as per prevailing laws of the foreign country, that the extension of stay abroad beyond completion of the course or duration of the scholarship under the scheme, whichever is earlier will not be permissible.
- iv. The candidates shall not change the course of study or research for which scholarship has been sanctioned. However, when situations arise where an awardee pursuing Ph.D in a University/Institution where one is initially registered finds his/her guide has left and there are no immediate replacements thereof or the University/Institutions has discontinued their search support facilities in the area where the awardee was pursuing Ph.D. research; the Indian Missions abroad in such cases are authorized to allow the awardee to change the University/ Institution as notified in the scheme, after the Missions are satisfied about such a need, however, subject to the

condition that the credits if any earned by the awardee in the initial University/Institution are accepted for transfer by the second University/ Institutions and that the total period of award will remain unchanged even on such a transfer/change, which will be permitted only once during the award.

10. Guidelines for Foreign Institutions

- a. Preference will be given to candidates admitted to **Top 200 universities** as per **latest QS World Rankings**.
- b. Institutions must be **accredited and recognized** by the host country's national regulatory body.
- c. Disbursements will be subject to **verification from the admitting institution** via official communication.

11. Disbursement and Fund Release

- a. Confirmation from the admitting institutions will be sought for through official emails before each disbursement.
- b. Disbursement shall be made to the students through their registered **bank accounts** after receipt of confirmation from the concerned Institutes/ Universities.
- c. Disbursement will cease if the student drops out or receives any assistance from foreign institution as mentioned in Exclusivity of benefit criteria .
- d. Maximum duration of fellowship support is 02 years and maximum of Rs.50 lacs per student per course shall be allowed.
- e. Rs 25.00 lakhs is to be paid directly to the student under following categories: -
 - Maximum of 15.00 lakhs (upper limit) for Tuition Fees subject to actuals. This amount is the differential course fees to be paid by the students after deduction of scholarship waiver (Received, if any) offered to her/him by the admitting universities. This amount shall be paid either upfront or on an annual basis depending on the college requirements.
 - Rs 7.00 lakhs for Living Expenses - Shall be paid in 04 quarterly instalments.
 - Rs 3.00 lakhs for Miscellaneous Expenses (incl. to and fro Airfare Travel costs, Insurance Costs, VISA processing fees. and other similar incidental expenses etc.) - Rs 2.00 lakhs during the beginning of 1st year of the course and Rs 1.00 lakhs after completion of first year of course, i.e. during the beginning of the second year)
- f. Students must submit an annual undertaking that the entire scholarship amount will be forfeited if they avail any other scholarship benefit from the Government of India or Government of Odisha or any other Organization except Kalinga Sikhya Sathi Yojana.

12. Monitoring and Evaluation

- a. Students must submit **academic progress reports annually**.
- b. The scheme will be **monitored by OSHEC and reviewed annually** by the Higher Education Department.
- c. A detailed **annual report** shall be submitted to the **Finance Department and Planning & Convergence Department**.
- d. Selected students shall also submit a declaration that the **entire scholarship will be forfeited** if they receive another scholarship concurrently.

13. Supplementary Support

- Selected students in need of higher monetary requirement may avail Educational Loan claiming Interest Subvention under **Kalinga Sikhya Sathi Yojana (KSSY)**.

14. Modification/ Relaxation to any clause of the Scheme:

- a. Under special circumstances, Modification/Relaxation in the guidelines of the scheme of BideshSikhyabruti, except financial norms may be considered and decided by the Department. Financial parameters may be changed in consultation with the Finance Department.

ORDER: Ordered that the Notification be published in an extraordinary issue of Odisha Gazette for general information of public. Ordered also that the copy of the Notification be forwarded to all Departments of the Government/All Heads of Department/All Collectors/Registrar, Odisha High Court.

By order of the Governor



Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government

Higher Education Department

Annexure-I

A. List of Document Required at the Application Stage

1. 10th Board Certificate.
2. **Resident Proof:** An official residency certificate issued by a competent authority, specifically from the designated Tahasildar or Additional Tahasildar. [e-certificate]
3. **Annual Income Verification:** An authoritative annual income certificate for the current fiscal year, which must be issued by a Revenue Officer not below the rank of Tahasildar or Additional Tahasildar. [e-certifiacte]
4. **Caste Certificate:** A valid caste certificate by a Revenue Officer not below the rank of Tahasildar or Additional Tahasildar. [e-certiifcate]
5. Passport Size Photo.
6. Scanned Signature of the candidate.
7. Qualifying Degree/Provisional Certificate
8. Mark sheet of qualifying examination
9. Valid Documents regarding admission in Foreign University (Application, Registration or Admission related document)
10. Aadhaar Card

B. In case of selection of the candidate, then issued provisional award letter under the Bidesh Sikhyabruti Scheme, the candidate is required to submit the following:

1. Attestation form
2. Self-Declaration/Undertaking Regarding Total Annual Family Income.
3. Self-Declaration regarding any pending case/ Non-Conviction of offense.
4. Copy of Passport and VISA
5. Any University fee waiver documents (if any)

Further course of action will be processed by this Department for granting of confirmation of Award Letter, after submission of above documents and verification of offer letter by concerned Embassy and original documents as sought by the Department.

[Note: - Candidate is required to visit this Department personally on any working day by taking prior permission/ appointment with all documents submitted along with application form in original for verification purposes.]

Annexure-II

1. The portal will be opened twice in a year during the month of **July/August** and **December/ January** of each academic year for receiving application.
2. The application received will be forwarded to the Selection-cum-screening committee for recommendation/rejection of applications which will take approx. 20-30 days.
3. On the basis of the recommendations received from the Committee, final list for selection/rejection will be submitted for the approval of Hon'ble Minister (Higher Education Department).
4. A list of selected/waiting/ rejected candidates will be uploaded on the online portal.
5. Individual email/messages will also be sent to all registered applicants in due course of time. Incomplete applications will be rejected summarily.

[Note: - The above timeline is tentative.]

Memo No. 66529 /HE, Date 05.12.2025

Copy forwarded to the Gazette Cell In-charge, Gazette Cell, Commerce Department for kind information and necessary action. They are requested to publish the Notification in an extraordinary issue of Odisha Gazette for general information and to supply 200 copies to this Department.

Arande
5/12/25

Joint Secretary to Government

Memo No. 66530 /HE, Date 05.12.2025

Copy forwarded to all Departments of Government / All Directorates under Higher Education Department/ Director of Treasuries & Inspection, Odisha, Bhubaneswar/Accountant General (A&E), Odisha, Bhubaneswar/ Treasury Officer, Special Treasury No. II, OLA Campus, Bhubaneswar for information and necessary action.

Arande
5/12/25

Joint Secretary to Government

Memo No. 66531 /HE, Date 05.12.2025

Copy forwarded to the P.S. to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Odisha/ P.S. to Hon'ble Minister, Higher Education/OSD to Chief Secretary/ P.S. to D.C.-cum- ACS, P&C Department/P.S. to Commissioner-cum-Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department /all Officers of Higher Education Department/ All Desk Officers & Section Officers of Higher Education Department / (Guard) for information.

Ards
4/12/25

Joint Secretary to Government

Memo No. 66532 /HE, Date 05.12.2025

Copy forwarded to the IT section with a request to upload a copy of the Notification in the official website of Higher Education Department for information of general public concerned.

Ards
4/12/25

Joint Secretary to Government