

Rules for Award for NEC Merit Scholarship
Scheme: "Financial Support to the Students of N.E.R for Higher Professional Courses"
(NEC Merit Scholarship)

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Secretary, North Eastern Council (NEC) is pleased to make the following rules to regulate the grant of NEC Merit Scholarship (*hereinafter* "scholarship") to the students of the North East (NE) Region undergoing studies in different disciplines at different levels in Institutions inside as well as outside the North-East but within the country as specified hereinafter. The rules may be called "Rules for award of NEC Merit Scholarship". These rules shall come into force from the Financial year 2020-21 and will supersede the previous rules on the above mentioned scheme.

2. SCOPE

2.1 These scholarships are available for studies in India only and shall be awarded by the North Eastern Council, Ministry of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India, Shillong to the eligible candidates of the North Eastern States.

3. ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

3.1 The scholarship is open only to a student who is a permanent resident of any of the North Eastern States.

3.2 For candidates belonging to Academic Year 2020-21 and onwards, the scholarship under this scheme shall be disbursed only through National Scholarship Portal (NSP). However, the students, who already have been receiving scholarship before these rules coming into force, shall continue to receive their scholarships as per the prevailing procedure till end of their scholarships tenure.

3.3 Once selected, the scholarship shall be available to a selected student for the prescribed duration of a course subject to fulfillment of renewal conditions, as specified under Para 6 of these rules. Extension of scholarship beyond the prescribed period of study will not be entertained.

Note 1:- [Student enrolled in integrated course will be entitled to receive the scholarship for the full duration of the course as per the admissible rates at para 7.1.]

Note 2: - [The scholarship for M.Phil. will be available for 2 years and for Ph.D scholarship shall be for 3 years.]

3.4 At the time of availing the scholarship, the student must not be in receipt of any other scholarship/financial assistance from any other source. A sponsored candidate under full employment during the period of study or working/in-service candidates shall not be eligible to receive the scholarship.

3.5 A student shall only be considered for scholarship in the year of commencement of his/her course. For subsequent year of course, only renewal will be allowed.

3.6 Scholarship shall be admissible to students who get admission in Diploma, Degree, Post-graduate or registration in M.Phil. / Ph.D courses of any institute recognized by the Government. The grant of scholarship for M.Phil and Ph.D would be after the registration of the students with the University. The Scholarship will not be available for internship or any practical training.

3.7 The scholarship shall be admissible to the students whose parent / guardian's annual income from all sources shall not exceed Rs 8.0 lakh. The income certificate issued by the competent authority shall be furnished by the candidate.

3.8 The student must fulfill the following eligibility criteria in the previous qualifying examination for consideration of scholarship:

Level	Qualifying examination
Diploma	HSLC/HSSLC/Secondary School Leaving /Senior Secondary Leaving certificate examination from a recognised State/Central board with minimum 60% marks in aggregate.
Degree	HSSLC/Senior Secondary Leaving certificate examination from a recognised State/Central board with minimum 60% marks in aggregate.
Post Graduate	Degree level examination in any discipline (BA/BSc/BE/B Tech/MBBS/LLB/BCA/BBA etc. of any recognized Institute/ University with minimum 60% marks in aggregate.
M.Phil./Ph.D	PG degree from any recognized University with minimum 60% marks in aggregate.

4. APPLICATION AND VERIFICATION PROCESS

4.1 Respective Department of the State Governments / NEC will announce the details of the Scheme and invite applications by issuing an advertisement in the leading newspapers and through the websites and other media outfits. The advertisement shall give pertinent details, about scheme, certificates etc. are required to be uploaded /submitted along with the application form and timelines. The advertisement will also be displayed prominently on National Scholarship Portal.

4.2 The applicants are required to fill up application form on National Scholarship Portal (NSP) (www.scholarships.in), within the prescribed date for receipt of application, following due procedure/guidelines mentioned thereon. They may also fill up the application form using NSP Mobile app or UMANG Mobile App. The applicants are, however, encouraged to apply at the earliest as it will provide them opportunity to make correction/updating etc. in their application, if suggested by the verification authority.

4.3 The applicant must be in possession of following documents at the time of application. He/She may be asked to upload a scanned copy of these documents as per requirement or extant rules /guidelines.

- a) Permanent Residential Certificate (PRC) issued by the Dy. Commissioner /Addl. Dy. Commissioners/ Sub-divisional officer of civil sub-divisions in NE States; except Sikkim where Certificate of Identification (COI) issued by the respective Deputy Commissioner in the Govt. of Sikkim to its Permanent residents. Certificate from any other authority will not be accepted. **(Mandatory)**

- b) Income Certificate issued by the Competent Authority (**Mandatory**)
- c) Bank Account Pass Book – Account must be in the name of applicant (**Optional**)
- d) Details of qualifying examination (**Mandatory**)
- e) Synopsis signed by the project guide / Director (Research) or any official authorized by the Institute/University in the case of M.Phil/Ph.D. candidates (**Mandatory**).
- f) Any other document as may be required under NSP guidelines.

4.4 There will be two level of verification of the application. First level of verification is at the institute level and Second level verification will be carried out by the domicile state of NE Region of the applicant.

4.5 The present institute of the applicant must have registered itself on NSP using assigned **U-DISE/AISHE/NCVT Code** and following the prescribed procedure, for verifying the applications on NSP. The application of students which could not be verified because their institute is not register on NSP, will not be considered for scholarship. All NE States must ensure that all institutes where the eligible candidates are studying are on-boarded on NSP timely.

4.6 The second level verification of applications will be done by the Nodal Officer nominated for the purpose by the respective NE State Governments.

4.7 It will be the responsibility of the designated Institute Nodal Officer to verify that the student fulfils the eligibility conditions under the scheme. He will be provided with an option to accept, reject or mark as defective to each application. The Nodal officers are advised to satisfy themselves that all details submitted by the candidate are correct. To ascertain the correctness, they may examine the uploaded documents and/or documents available in the records of Institute. They may also ask the student to produce original copy of the document, wherever required. They may also be provided with an option on NSP to return the application to the student for correction, if any error is noticed in the application. The Nodal offices are, however, requested to verify the applications at the earliest so that necessary opportunity may be provided to students to carry out any required correction in their applications or submit additional documents wherever required.

5. SELECTION FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND DISBURSAL

5.1 The merit lists will be drawn from among finally verified applications as per the scheme guidelines and after following the laid down procedure on the NSP.

5.2 Selection of students for M. Phil and Ph. D. will be done on the basis of topic of research/Synopsis which has relevance to the problems/issues related to NE Region. The Subjects/topics for M.Phil and Ph.D should invariably be directly, specifically and currently relevant to NE Region. Basic and theoretical research shall not be favoured in general.

5.3 The scholarship is purely on merit basis. The merit list will be prepared exclusively on the basis of marks obtained by the candidate in the qualifying exams and complying with the level-of-course-wise slots allotted to the states as mentioned in para 7.3 below.

5.4 In case of tie, preference shall be given to the candidate having lesser family income.

- 5.5 There will not be any reservation/quota on the basis of category/religion/gender.
- 5.6 In case the allotted quota as mentioned at para 7.3 below, remains unfilled for want of eligible candidates, the same may be distributed to remaining eligible students from other NE States, as per their *inter se* merit list.
- 5.7 The scholarships will be disbursed to selected students by NEC directly in their provided and verified bank accounts using DBT mode as per the extant guidelines.

[Note 4 - The student must ensure that the Bank Account should be in the name of the applicant, preferably linked to her/his Aadhaar. The Bank Account should be kept operational /active till complete tenure of the scholarship. NEC shall not be responsible in case the Scholarship amount is not credited due to payment failure at Bank level.]

6. RENEWAL OF SCHOLARSHIP

6.1 A student selected for scholarship shall be eligible for receipt of scholarship for the entire period of course or as per limits prescribed in Para 3.3 before, through renewal of the scholarship process. Renewal of Scholarship under the scheme, however, is not an automatic process and is subject to fulfillment of certain terms and conditions as mentioned in subsequent para.

6.2 Every renewal of scholarship is for a period of one academic year only, if not otherwise specified. All existing and eligible beneficiaries of the scholarship are required to fill up the renewal form on NSP every year during their entire course period. The student shall be required to upload previous exam marks-sheet/pass certificate during renewal application. In case of students studying in M.Phil / PhD., the renewal application shall be accompanied with latest progress report from the guide countersigned by the Registrar of the Institute.

6.3 To draw scholarship under renewal category, the beneficiary must pass in the particular year **or** be promoted to next semester/year. In case the student could not pass all papers but promoted to next year, as per extant rules, he/she may be considered for renewal of scholarships subject to the condition that no additional backlog, from previous years', are pending against his/her name. In case the student is not promoted to next year or having backlog papers pending against his/her name for more than one year, he/she shall not receive further scholarship for the remaining course period. It will be the responsibility of Institute level verifying officer to ensure that the student has been promoted to year or does not have pending backlog papers for more than year, before accepting the application on NSP for further processing. Otherwise, such applications shall be rejected on NSP after recording reasons.

6.4 Any break in scholarship, during the entire course period, shall make the beneficiary non-eligible for further receipt of scholarship for that specific course. The students shall not be provided with an option to make renewal applications in subsequent years. The student may, however, apply as a fresh applicant, upon securing admission in any advance course, at a later stage.

[Exception – In case a beneficiary discontinues his/her study on advice of medical authorities, may submit a medical certificate from the District medical Officer/Jt Director of State Health Services, clearly indicating the course and period of such break in study supported with documents from the institute of study, to the Director, HRD & E, NEC for consideration of renewal/continuation of scholarship].

6.5 A request for renewal of students who have changed their subject of study will not be entertained for renewal if the students has availed the scholarship for the previous course or part of it.

6.6 A request for renewal of scholarship of such student beneficiaries who have changed their Institution of study will not be entertained for renewal.

6.7 There will be no merit list generation for renewal applications.

6.8 Renewal scholarship will be disbursed to all eligible and duly verified applications by NEC, directly in their verified bank accounts using DBT mode as per the extant guidelines.

6.9 The request for renewal of scholarships of all existing applications belonging to Academic Year 2019-20 and before will be processed as per the prevailing procedure during Academic Year 2019-20, where respective State Government will be responsible for directly disbursing scholarships in the student's bank accounts.

7. OTHER CONDITIONS UNDER THE SCHEME

7.1 The rates of scholarships are subject to revision from time to time. As and when need arises for such revision a Committee will be appointed by the Secretary, NEC for the purpose. The present rate of scholarship for related Subjects/Courses at different levels is as under:

Level of Study	Scholarship amount for fresh and renewal cases (existing students)
Diploma	20,000/-p.a.
Degree	22,000/- p.a.
Post graduate	25,000/- p.a.
M. Phil./Ph D	30,000/- p.a.

7.2 The various courses of studies at different levels for which NEC's financial assistance is admissible would be those as decided by the NEC from time to time keeping in view the requirements of specialized manpower of the North Eastern Region.

7.3 The number of Fresh Scholarships to be awarded every year to candidates of different NER states at different levels may be as follows:

SNo	State	Diploma	Degree	PG Degree	M.Phil / PhD	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	20	130	52	7	209
2.	Assam	30	200	80	10	320
3.	Manipur	18	120	48	6	192
4.	Meghalaya	18	120	48	6	192
5.	Mizoram	18	120	48	6	192
6.	Nagaland	18	120	48	6	192

7.	Sikkim	10	70	28	3	111
8.	Tripura	18	120	48	6	192
	Total	150	1000	400	50	1600

7.4 The above numbers are fixed as per the normative allocation accepted for the respective NE States. The number of scholarship for the renewal cases shall be as per actual for different NE states and the scholarship amount as per the accepted rates as mentioned above shall be utilized both for the fresh candidates and renewal cases (existing students selected for the NEC Scholarship).

7.5 NEC may increase or decrease the total numbers of scholarships subject to availability of fund/allocation of budget from time to time. However, the numbers would be fixed as per the normative allocation accepted for different NE states.

7.6 Students selected for grant of NEC Scholarship will be entitled to receive same from the date of admission/date of commencement (Date of registration in case of M.Phil / Ph.D.) whichever is later till completion of the course, subject to maximum period as prescribed in Para 3.3 above.

7.8 In case of doubt/clarification regarding the above rules, the matter shall be referred to the Director (HRD&E), North Eastern Council Secretariat, Shillong - 793003, Contact No. 03642522674.

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3.3 Once selected, the scholarship shall be available to a selected student for the prescribed duration of a course subject to fulfillment of renewal conditions, as specified under Para 6 of these rules. Extension of scholarship beyond the prescribed period of study will not be entertained.

[Note 1: - Students pursuing dual course (Degree+PG) will be entitled to receive scholarship for Degree Level only. For the next level of courses, the candidate has to apply separately.]

Note 2: - Students selected for Diploma level will be entitled to receive

scholarship for Diploma level only. The students cannot claim for continuance of scholarship for Degree Level.

Note 3: - The scholarship for M.Phil. will be available for 2 years and for Ph.D scholarship shall be for 3 years.]

3.4 At the time of availing the scholarship, the student must not be in receipt of any other scholarship/financial assistance from any other source. A sponsored candidate under full employment during the period of study or working/in-service candidates shall not be eligible to receive the scholarship.

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6.2 Every renewal of scholarship is for a period of one academic year only, if not otherwise specified. All existing and eligible beneficiaries of the scholarship are required to fill up the renewal form on NSP every year during their entire course period. The student shall be required to upload previous exam marks-sheet/pass certificate during renewal application. In case of students studying in M.Phil / PhD., the renewal application shall be accompanied with latest progress report from the guide countersigned by the Registrar of the Institute.

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further scholarship for the remaining course period. It will be the responsibility of Institute level verifying officer to ensure that the student has been promoted to year or does not have pending backlog papers for more than year, before accepting the application on NSP for further processing. Otherwise, such applications shall be rejected on NSP after recording reasons.

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