

Indian ICCR Scholarship Programs and Student Selection Process

The Government of India offers scholarship opportunities to the Sri Lankan Government for pursuing undergraduate and postgraduate degrees based on the mutual friendship between the Government of India and the Government of Sri Lanka. After independence to this date, those scholarships are being offered annually with the aim of providing opportunities for higher education to Sri Lankan students in India.

These scholarship programs are implemented by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) established at the Ministry of External Affairs in India. This institute, which is operating since 1950, implements various programs with the basic objectives of fostering mutual understanding and friendship between the Government of India and other countries and exchanging Indian cultural, social and economic relations with other countries. Since India is an educational hub in South Asia, and exchanging of its education opportunities with other amicable countries is another objective.

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) offers scholarship opportunities to this Ministry through the High Commission of India in Sri Lanka, and these scholarship programs are being implemented by the High Commission and the Ministry in collaboration.

Indian Scholarships are being implemented under the following programs.

- Nehru Scholarship Scheme
- Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship Program
- Maulana Azad Scholarship Program
- Commonwealth Scholarship Programme
- Ayush Scholarship Program

Under the above scholarship programs, scholarships are awarded for Engineering, Biology, Commerce and Arts related degree programs as well as for the disciplines of Ayurveda, Siddha, Homeopathy, Unani and Yoga.

Instead of the scholarships awarded under the Commonwealth Scholarship Program in previous years for PhDs, in this year, PhD scholarships have been awarded under the Nehru Memorial Scholarship Program. It is expected to call for applications for the Ayush scholarship program in the near future, and related information will be published on the Ministry's website (www.mohe.gov.lk) and in national newspapers.

Indian Scholarship Program for the academic year 2023/24

For the academic year 2023/24, nominations have been invited for 155 scholarships in the following disciplines for undergraduate and postgraduate studies under the ICCR Scholarship Programs.

Accordingly, these scholarships were published on the website (www.mohe.gov.lk) of the Ministry and invited for applications. 1989 applications for undergraduate degrees and 825 applications for postgraduate degrees were received, and students were shortlisted according to each subject stream. Eligible candidates were called for interview as follows.

Serial No.	Scholarship Program	Discipline	No. of Scholarships awarded by the Indian Government	No. of students called for interviews
1	Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme	Undergraduate	75	150
2	Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship Program	Undergraduate	20	40
3	Maulana Azad Scholarship Program	M.A / M.Sc.	45	93
4	Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme	M.A / M.Sc.	05	15
5	Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme	PhD	10	32
Total			155	330

The following criteria were considered when shortlisting the applications for undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs submitted to the Ministry of Education.

Undergraduate Degree Programs

- Students were ranked based on the Z-Score obtained for each subject streams at the G.C.E Advanced Level examination, and called for interviews accordingly.

Subject stream wise Minimum Z-Score for interviews as follows.

Scholarship Program	Subject Stream	Minimum Z-Score
Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship Program	Mathematics	0.8349
Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme	Mathematics	0.5588
	Commerce	1.1559
	Arts	1.0525
	Biological Science	0.8074
	Technology	0.7449

Postgraduate Degrees

- When calling students for M.A / M.Sc. degree programs, the class obtained for the Bachelor's degree was considered, and when calling students for PhDs, the class obtained for the Bachelor's degree and the class obtained for the M.A / M.Sc. degree were considered which are relevant to the academic performance, and students were called for interviews according to the merit order.

The interviews for the selection of students for scholarships were conducted on the below mentioned dates.

Serial No.	Scholarship Program	Subject Stream	Date of Interview
01	Undergraduate	Mathematics/Commerce	20.03.2023
		Biology/Arts/Mathematics/Technology	21.03.2021
02	M.A / M.Sc	Management /Arts	23.03.2023
03	M.A / M.Sc	Engineering/Technology	24.03.2023
	M.A / M.Sc	Science Agricultural	27.03.2023
05	PhD		28.03.2023

Interview Boards consisting of subject expert university academics, ministerial officials and officials from the University Grants Commission were participated in the interviews with the following composition. One observer representing the Indian High Commission was also involved on the days of these interviews.

Composition of interview Board

For undergraduate degrees

- A representation of the Post of Director of the Ministry
- A representation of University Lecturer (relevant to the subject stream)
- A representation of the University Grants Commission
- A representation of the Indian High Commission

For postgraduate degrees

- A representation from the post of Additional Secretary of the Ministry
- A representation of the University Grants Commission
- 2 representations from University Professors (relevant to the subject stream)
- A representation from another ministry
- A representation of the Indian High Commission

It is expected to submit nominations as follows according to the respective subject streams, and the details of the selected students will be published on the website (www.mohe.gov.lk) in the near future.

Serial No.	Scholarship Program	Subject Stream	No. of Students expected to be nominated
01	Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship Program (Undergraduate)	Mathematics	20
02	Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme (Undergraduate)	Mathematics	23
		Biological Science	18
		Arts	18
		Technology	03
		Commerce	13
03	Maulana Azad Scholarship Program	M.A / M.Sc.	45
04	Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme	M.A / M.Sc.	04
05	Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme	PhD	11
Total			155

The relevant nominations shall be forwarded to the High Commission of India before 10.04.2023, and this Ministry will be informed after the approval of the nominations.

Nominated students shall submit applications through online A2A WEB PORTAL provided by ICCR, India. The Indian High Commission will inform this Ministry the opening date and closing date of applications. (During the month of April)

After the said notification, the next steps to be taken by the students selected for the Indian scholarship program will be informed through this Ministry in the future.