

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

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

#### **Q.1. What is Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE)?**

Scholarship for Higher Education (SHE) is a component of “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 attract students to study basic and natural Science subjects at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and pursue research as a career by providing scholarships to interested and deserving students. Under SHE component, 12,000 scholarships (From SHE-2017 batch onwards), each valued at Rs.80,000/- are announced annually to students pursuing Bachelors and Masters level courses in Basic and Natural Science areas.

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

(a) Meritorious Students with aggregate marks within top 1% of their Class XII examination of any State/ Central Education Board in India are eligible. In addition, the student must be pursuing courses in Natural and Basic Sciences at the B.Sc., B.S., B.Sc. with Research (4 years) and Int.M.Sc./M.S. level.

(or)

(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 B.Sc., B.S., B.Sc. with Research (4 years), Int. M.Sc./M.S. level.

(or)

(c) Students with aggregate marks within top 1% of their Class XII examination of any State/ Central Education Board in India and pursuing Integrated M.S. courses in Natural and Basic Sciences at IISERs, NISER and Department of Atomic Energy Centre for Basic Sciences- University of Mumbai and Visva-Bharati, Shanti Niketan.

(or)

(d) Students who have been selected under Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojana (KVPY) and pursuing Bachelor/Master level courses in Natural Sciences.

(or)

(e) National Talent Search Examination (NTSE) scholars, Jagadish Bose National Science Talent Search (JBNSTS) scholars and International Olympiad medallists pursuing Bachelor/ Master level courses in Natural Sciences are also eligible.

#### **Q.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 B.Sc./B.S./ B.Sc. with Research (4 years)/Int. M.Sc./Int. M.S. courses:

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

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

#### **Q.4. What all Do I get if selected for INSPIRE-SHE?**

The scholarship is valued at Rs. 80,000/- per annum. Each candidate will receive annual scholarship @ Rs. 5000/- per month with total value of Rs. 60,000/-. All the SHE scholars are required to undertake summer research projects under an active researcher in any recognized research centre across India. A summer time Mentorship grant of Rs.20,000/- will be paid every year. The scholars have to submit the Project Report and Certificate from Mentor after the completion of the project in due course of time.

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

Selected candidates will be supported for a maximum period of **five years**, starting from the 1st year B.Sc., B.S., B.Sc. with Research (4 years), Int. M.Sc./Int.M.S. or until the completion of the course, whichever is earlier. Continuation of the scholarship for the selected candidates is based on good academic performance (i.e., within range as given in question no. 20) in the examinations conducted by the University and upon the recommendation by the Head of the Institution.

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

Only candidates who have completed their XII standard examination in the year and have enrolled in B.Sc., B.S., B.Sc. with Research (4 years), Int. M.Sc./M.S. degrees, in Basic and Natural Sciences (in subjects listed above) in the same year can apply. The call for applications will be advertised on INSPIRE Web Portal.

The web portal link is given here: <https://www.online-inspire.gov.in>

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

One can apply for the scholarship through online mode only. To apply online, please follow this link <https://www.online-inspire.gov.in>. The guidelines for online applications are given [here](#).

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

The following documents are to be submitted along with application form:

- 1) Class XII Mark Sheets (*mandatory*)
- 2) Class X Mark Sheet/Certificate (*for proof of date of birth*) (*mandatory*)
- 3) Endorsement Certificate in the prescribed format, signed by the Principal of the College/Director of the Institute/Registrar of the University (*mandatory*)
- 4) Eligibility Note/Advisory Note (*if provided by the State/Central Board*) (*not mandatory*)

- 5) Certificate specifying Rank or Award in JEE (Main)/ JEE (Advanced)/ NEET/ KVPY /JBNSTS/ NTSE / International Olympic Medallists (*if the candidate is eligible under this criterion*)(mandatory)

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

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

As the Department receives a large number of applications, selection process on an average takes at least four months from the last date of submission of the application. All selected candidates shall receive a **Provisional Offer Letter** on their web portal account informing that they are selected for the scholarship. **Provisionally selected students are required to log into the online portal to download the offer letter.**List of selected and rejected students will also be displayed on home page of INSPIRE Web-Portal.Selected candidates will have to upload the required documents on their web-portal within prescribed time limit (time limit mentioned in the offer letter) for further consideration by the Department.

**Q.10 (a). I am selected for SHE, but I have not received any official letter. What should I do?**

Please Log in into your account on the INSPIRE Web-Portal. If you are selected, the offer letter will be available on your dashboard notification.

**Q.10 (b). I am rejected for SHE, but I have not received any official letter. What should I do?**

Please Log in into your account on the INSPIRE Web-Portal. If you are rejected, the rejection letter will be available on your dashboard notification.

**Q.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.**

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

The scholarship will be transferred to the scholar's State Bank of India (SBI) bank account directly through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

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

Each scholar has to open a regular Normal Savings Bank Account in any branch of **State Bank of India (SBI) ONLY. Account must be in scholar's name only. Joint Accounts shall not be accepted.** Accounts in any other bank other than the SBI shall not be accepted. Account has to be linked with Aadhar no. of Scholar. After opening the account in SBI,first page of Bank

Passbook has to be uploaded on INSPIRE Web-Portal. Please sign on first page of passbook before uploading. Unsigned documents shall not be accepted.

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

For the release of scholarship, one should submit year-wise Performance Report in prescribed format and Mark Sheet of scholar's B.Sc., B.S., B.Sc. with Research (4 years), Int. M.Sc./M.S. course. Blank format of the Performance report is available on INSPIRE web-portal <https://www.online-inspire.gov.in>.

Performance Report must be signed by the Head of Institution. The Head of 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.) shall **NOT** be accepted. The Head of the Institution should clearly mention whether the scholarship should be continued or discontinued for that academic year.

Self-attested photocopy of the Mark Sheets (annual/individual semesters) received from the College/University must be enclosed along with the Performance Report. Provisional mark sheets and result sheets downloaded from the internet shall **NOT** be accepted. However, Self-attested Internet mark sheet duly attested by Controller of Examination or Registrar of College/University is acceptable only in the case of non-availability of original mark sheets.

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

a) The Annual Performance Report and Mark Sheets (annual/two semesters) should be uploaded as soon as the results of respective examinations are announced. Scholarship shall be released only after approval of the Performance Report and mark sheets as per norms. Scholar shall submit all the above referred documents together and not in part mode(s).

b) Scholars are advised to upload their yearly Mark-sheets and Performance Report on-time, **preferably within two (2) months of announcement of yearly result** to facilitate the payment of scholarship by DST-INSPIRE. However, keeping in view the diverse time schedules (late session) of the examinations in Universities across the country, scholars are permitted for a maximum period of **twelve (12) months** to submit their Performance Report and Mark Sheets for a given completed academic year **ending June every year**. For example, a 2014 batch enrolled student is expected to submit the First Year Performance Report and First Year Mark Sheet before 30th June 2016. This analogy can be followed by other batches for the release of the INSPIRE Scholarship. After the expiry of maximum time period of 12 months, no document shall be considered. No representations in this regard shall be entertained.

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

Initially, scholarship shall be released only after the approval of 1<sup>st</sup> Year B.Sc., B.S., B.Sc. with Research (4 years), Int. M.Sc./M.S. Performance Reports and Mark Sheets provided scholar's academic performance is satisfactory. Further, Two years of scholarship (i.e. Rs. 1,20,000/-) shall be released during second year of scholar's B.Sc./Int. M.Sc. course. In the following years, the scholarship shall be released after the approval of yearly Performance Reports and Mark sheets.

**Q.17. I am an INSPIRE scholar currently pursuing my first year B.Sc./B.S./ B.Sc. with Research (4 years)/ Int.M.Sc./Int.M.S. course. I have discontinued my course. Will my scholarship be continued?**

The offer of INSPIRE Scholarship will be summarily withdrawn if the course is discontinued. Even if scholar re-joins the course in the following academic year, the offer of INSPIRE Scholarship shall stand withdrawn. No representations in this regard shall be entertained.

**Q.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?**

Scholar has to upload the following documents to continue the scholarship:

- (a) Performance Report for second year B.Sc./B.S./ B.Sc. with Research (4 years)/ Int. M.Sc./Int.M.S. course signed and attested by the Head of Institution, and
- (b) Self-signed original copy of **Mark Sheet** of your B.Sc./B.S./ B.Sc. with Research (4 years)/ Int. M.Sc./Int.M.S. Annual/Semester (in case of semester system, upload both semester mark sheets in single file) examination.

**Q.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?**

It may be noted that it usually takes 3-4 months to release the scholarship after the approval of relevant documents or sanction installment notification on INSPIRE Web Portal. If you have NOT received the scholarship even after five months of approval of relevant documents, please write to inspire[dot]prog-dst[at]nic[dot]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) Performance below 60% marks or GPA < 7.0 (on a 10-point scale) in B.Sc. or M.Sc. examinations.
  - (c) Scholar has not informed about M.Sc. enrolment (as applicable).
- Scholarship will be released as soon as the above-mentioned concerns are addressed.

**Q.20 I have failed in my B.Sc./B.S./ Int. M.Sc./Int.M.S. course. Will the scholarship be continued?**

For continuation of Scholarship at any stage at B.Sc. or M.Sc. level, scholar needs to secure a minimum of 60% or above marks OR GPA  $\geq 7.0$  (on a 10-point scale) in the University or College level examination in first attempt only.

If any scholar fails **in any subject during annual/semester examination** or secures a GPA score of less than 7.0 (on a 10-point scale) or less than 60% marks in the B.Sc./B.S./ B.Sc. with Research (4 years)/ Int. M.Sc./Int.M.S. examination, **scholarship for that academic year shall be forfeited**. The scholarship will be resumed in the next year only if academic performance of scholar is as mentioned in above para.

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

In such a case, one year of scholarship shall be forfeited. Scholarship shall be resumed in the next year, provided academic performance of scholar is good and within range as given in question no. 20.

**Q.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 or 4 years of B.Sc. with Research (4 years)/, students may join 2 years M.Sc. course or 1 year M.Sc. course respectively (Natural and Basic Sciences only) anywhere in the country and provide proof of enrolment in the M.Sc. course to DST in the prescribed format which is available on this link: [https://www.inspire-dst.gov.in/MSc\\_enroll\\_certf.pdf](https://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) Biochemistry (13) Anthropology (14) Microbiology (15) Geophysics (16) Geochemistry (17) Atmospheric Sciences & (18) Oceanic Sciences (19) Ecology (20) Marine Biology (21) Genetics (22) Biophysics (23) Biostatistics (24) Bioinformatics (25) Biotechnology (26) Data Science (27) Environmental Science (28) Materials Science (29) Nano Science (30) Remote Sensing and GIS

**Q.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.

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

In order to inculcate scientific values and develop scientific temper, scholars are required to enrol in a Summer Research Project every year during the summer holidays, in recognized research centres of their choice across India, **outside their parent institutions**. Under INSPIRE-SHE, Rs. 20,000/- per annum is provided as Mentorship grant to the INSPIRE scholar, to undertake Summer Research Programmes. Mentorship grant shall be transferred to bank account of scholar. After completion of the project, scholar should submit 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.

**Note: Group projects are not acceptable. Only 1 mentorship project per academic year is acceptable. Mentorship Project report submitted after completion of total duration of course (B.Sc.- M.Sc.) will not be entertained.**

**Q.25. When should I submit mentorship project report?**

Only 1 mentorship project per academic year is supported for mentorship grant. The project report should be submitted within the same academic year in which it has been carried out. In any case, Mentorship project reports submitted after completion of total duration of course (B.Sc.-M.Sc.) will not be entertained.

**Q.26. I am availing Scholarship from the State and Central Government. Am I eligible for INSPIRE/SHE Scholarship?**

One cannot avail scholarship concurrently from more than one source. Therefore, it is advised that the candidate chooses the scholarship he/she wishes to avail and inform to 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 scholarship(s) from any other sources.

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

**Q.27. Is there any age criterion for applying for SHE?**

Students with age group 17-22 years can apply for scholarship under SHE.

**Q.28. What is Board Inclusive Model? How this model is used for calculating the repositioning cut off for offering the scholarships under INSPIRE-SHE?**

Selection would be on the basis of the Board Inclusive Model within the available number of Scholarships in that year. As per the recommendations of the INSPIRE Scholarship Standing Committee, the calculation will be done on pro-rata basis of valid applications. The calculation will be done in terms percentage % marks for each respective Board w.r.t. total number of valid applications across all respective Boards against the total number of scholarships available under INSPIRE-SHE in the same year.

**Board-wise Quota = No. of Valid Applications of any Board / Total No. of Valid Applications x No. of available scholarships in that year.**

**Q.29. If a Scholar wants to withdraw the SHE scholarship after B.Sc. whether scholar will be eligible to apply under INSPIRE Fellowship component after completion of M.Sc./M.S.?**

In such case, scholar will be eligible to apply only as a general candidate with fulfilling eligibility condition of being University 1<sup>st</sup> rank holder in the subject area in which M.Sc./M.S. qualification has been obtained.

\*\*\*\*\*