

Atal Bihari Vajpayee General Scholarship Scheme: Information Brochure

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has announced the new call for applying for the 2 scholarships slots under Atal Bihari Vajpayee General Scholarship Scheme (A1201) (formerly General Scholarship Scheme) at Indian Universities / Institutes for the academic year 2024-25 for Italian Nationals.

Applications are invited from Italian students interested to pursue higher studies in Indian Universities / Institutes except for studies in Medical/ paramedical (Nursing/physiotherapy/anesthesia etc.) / fashion / law courses / integrated courses such as BALLB (5 Years) / B Sc & M Sc (5 years) etc] (Scholarship A1201) for academic year 2024-25. For Science courses, the expenditure on laboratory chemicals and other related incidental charges will be borne by the scholars.

Applications will be invited online through ICCR'S scholarship portal <https://studyinindia.gov.in/>, which will be operational from 20 February 2024. The Scholarship Portal will be operational for students applying for admission from 20 February till 30 April, 2024.

Age criteria for applicants:

For Undergraduate / Postgraduate courses - between 18 to 40 years

For PhD Programmes - 50 years maximum.

General 'Timeline for the admission process' :-

20 February, 2024	Portal for inviting applications from interested candidates
30 April, 2024	Last date of application to be submitted by students
31 May, 2024	Last date of Universities to inform the decision (if confirmed, intimation to Mission; if rejected, intimation to students)
30 June, 2024	Last date for allocating scholarship and generating Offer Letters by Indian Mission abroad.
15 July, 2024	Last date of acceptance by students.
22 July, 2024	Based on the number of acceptances in the first round (if acceptances are less than the scholarship seats allocated) Indian Mission to offer scholarship to other students who were not considered in the first round.
30 July, 2024	Second round students to convey their acceptances

Applicants will have the option to apply to 5 Universities / Institutes in the order of their preference of study. The admission, as far as possible, shall be given as per applicant's preference. However, there may be a situation when students do not get admission in their preferred Universities/Institutes due to limited number of seats on offer. Rejected candidates will be intimated by Universities.

Applicants will have to submit 500 words essay in English has been introduced to ascertain English proficiency. Besides, applicants can also submit their TOFEL / IELTS etc.

In case Association of Indian Universities (AIU) Equivalence Certificate is required in order to finalize admission and allot the scholarship, the same should be obtained by the student himself/herself once informed by concerned University / Institute in their Provisional Confirmation letter for applicant (uploaded in Portal). In case AIU equivalence is required the student may apply

for the same at the link <https://evaluation.aiu.ac.in/student/login> and bear the fees incurred on obtaining the certificate at own expense (non-reimbursable). For any further details / queries, students may contact AIU at (+91 1123230059 / 23231097 I 23232305 Extn. 210, 234, 252, E-mail idrstudentinfo@aiu.ac.in, ds_international@aiu.ac.in, evaluation@aiu.ac.in)

These scholarship slots include return economy class air-fares to the nearest airport and 3rd AC Train fare to the place of study, if so required. Embassy of India, Rome would provide one way air-ticket to the selected scholars.

Applicants must ensure to fulfill all the eligibility criteria of the University they are applying for and should submit relevant documentation as required by the Universities, in addition to the basic certificates mentioned in the application form. Interested students are advised to visit university / institute website and do thorough research of 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 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 eligibility criteria etc.

Applicants must ensure that for BE / B. Tech courses, Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics (PCM) are compulsory in 11 and 12 Grades and it is a mandatory requirement for Engineering courses. Mark sheets for each i.e., level 10 and 10+2 equivalent level of school should be uploaded along with the transcripts in English. The application will not be considered without English translation of documents if the original documents are not in English. Applicants are advised to thoroughly check their applications and attach requisite documents before submission of the application.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Applicants should not submit incomplete / fraudulent documentation, in case of which their selection procedure will automatically be deemed as canceled.
- Medical Insurance : 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 that to ensure, 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, Portal has two insurance companies for referral purpose. Applicants are advised to be aware of the change in medical insurance policy. ICCR has uploaded the revised norms on its Portal.
- Familiarization with India : It is essential for the applicants to have a realistic assessment of India, and of the living conditions in the country's educational institutions. ICCR may amend some provisions of scholarships from time to time and it is incumbent on students to accept the revised norms.
- Accommodation and Security : ICCR advises students to stay in hostel, if available. However, students are allowed to stay in private accommodation if the concerned institute does not insist on staying in their hostel.
- To automate the entire manual work process of ICCR's scholarship division, ICCR has launched an application. '**Gyan Setu**' – **connecting Culture through Knowledge** on 6 February, 2023. Since the inception of 'Gyan Setu' app, all the

scholarship dues to the Universities/institutes as well as to the Students, are being released through this app only. As such (i) Students are directed to report their arrival on the Gyan_Setu web application on an immediate basis. (ii) Students are required to coordinate with their respective Universities/institutes regarding updation of their details such as joining report on the app. (iii) Submission & Verification of Documents/Confirmation of Admission-To submit the original documents and verify the details mentioned in the Portal during the admission process with their original documents including Passport, previous degree certificates, country's unique identification number, in order to confirm the admission of students and get the Hostel Accommodation as soon as the admission is confirmed. The details entered in the Portal, if in case, does not match with the original documents, the admission of the said student be termed as canceled. Applicant may also like to refer to the 'ICCR Scholarship Manual'.

For any further clarification/query in this regard, Ms. Hemlata Bansal, Programme Officer, Scholarship Division may be contacted on e-mail poisd1.iccr@nic.in Landline No. +91- 11- 23379'199 (Direct) / 23379309110114 (Extn.: 1137) /WhatsApp No.9868129165

The prospective candidates are requested to inform this Embassy at cultural.rome@mea.gov.in and tourism.rome@mea.gov.in immediately after they have successfully uploaded their applications on the ICCR's Portal.