



ICCR
Indian Council for
Cultural Relations

75
Azadi Ka
Amrit Mahotsav

SCHOLARSHIP MANUAL

ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25



As of January 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

❖ INTRODUCTION	2
❖ SALIENT FEATURES OF ICCR SCHOLARSHIPS	3-4
❖ ICCR SCHOLARSHIPS AT A GLANCE	5
❖ ICCR SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES	6-8
❖ SCHEME-WISE ALLOCATION OF SCHOLARSHIP SLOTS	9-10
❖ SCHOLARSHIP PROCESS - FLOW CHART	11
❖ GUIDELINES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS	12-18
❖ ICCR ALUMNI AWARD	19-20
❖ TESTIMONIALS OF ICCR ALUMNI	21-25
❖ FOREIGN STUDENTS' PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL ACTIVITIES	26-29
❖ ZONAL/SUB-ZONAL OFFICES OF ICCR	30-31

Introduction

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), an autonomous organization under the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), was established in 1950 with the primary objectives of establishing, reviving and strengthening cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries.

Its aims, as enunciated in the Memorandum of Association, are:

- To participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes related to India's cultural relations with other countries;
- To foster and strengthen cultural relations and mutual understanding between India and other countries;
- To promote cultural exchanges with other countries and peoples; and
- To establish and develop relations with national and international organizations in the field of culture.

ICCR has been playing an equally important role in the field of education for international students in India. It offers a number of scholarships to foreign nationals to pursue higher studies in Indian Central/State Universities and other recognized institutes of higher education and learning.

Scholarships and welfare of International Students

India has been an attraction for students from abroad since ancient times. Scholarships are an important means to encourage foreign nationals to study in India and learn about various facets of India and its culture, such as ancient Indian systems of medicine, performing arts as also contemporary subjects, such as science, technology, liberal arts, engineering and agriculture. They are also an important vehicle of outreach and create goodwill about India and what it has to offer to the world in cultural and academic fields.

Through its scholarship programme, people from different parts of the world have benefited from ICCR. On the one hand, ICCR has helped various countries in capacity-building by providing scholarships to foreign students in the professional fields like engineering, agriculture, management etc.. On the other hand, it has promoted Indian culture by providing scholarships to pursue courses in Indian dance, music, Yoga, Ayurveda and Indian languages. Many of ICCR Alumni have achieved positions of influence in their respective countries and each ICCR scholar is India's goodwill Ambassador abroad.

Salient Features of ICCR Scholarships

India is known as an education hub attracting international students from all over the world. India's diversity and vibrant history offer a broad range of options for students. With an opportunity to experience both a rich and diverse civilization as well as a rapidly growing country on the cutting edge of economic/technological revolution, studying in India has much to offer, whether it is Engineering, IT, Philosophy or in Indian Culture, etc.

ICCR annually awards about 3,900 scholarships under 20 different schemes to foreign nationals from about 190 countries. Amongst these 20 schemes, six are funded by ICCR from its own grant and others are administered on behalf of Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of AYUSH.

Students have a wide range of options to choose from in terms of courses including for professional courses, like engineering, pharmacy, accountancy, business administration, management, and also culture-related courses such as Indian dance, music, painting, sculpture etc.

As one of its mandate to promote international exchanges, ICCR's scholarship programmes for international students help to promote cultural and academic exchanges with the world.

The courses offered for scholarship studies are for Under-graduation, Post-graduation and PhD levels. In any academic year, ICCR supports about 7000 foreign students who study at various Central/State University, Institutes, NITs and Agricultural Institutions etc.

To make foreign students feel at home and familiarize them with the Indian way of life, the Council also arranges cultural immersion programmes, orientation programmes for the students and also arranges participation of international students in ICCR's cultural activities including summer and winter camps. Republic Day, Independence Day, Diwali, Holi, etc are also celebrated in conjunction with Zonal & Sub Zonal offices and/or respective Universities/Institutes.

Salient Features of ICCR Scholarships

Scholarship programmes are managed/administered at the local level by ICCR's 5 Zonal and 6 Sub-Zonal offices for ensuring continuous welfare of the foreign students spread across all over India.

Scholarship benefits include stipend (encompassing living allowance, hostel fee/hostel rent allowance, annual contingency allowance & thesis charges) and tuition/other compulsory fee paid directly to the University/Institutes (excluding refundable fee)

The admissions and scholarships are applied for and managed through ICCR's "Admissions to Alumni (A2A Portal - <http://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in/>)".

With the introduction of the A2A portal from the academic year 2018-19, ICCR scholarship programmes are not only digitized for aspiring foreign students but also have become convenient, offering wide choices to the students and linking the applicants, Universities/Institutes, Indian Missions and ICCR/its Zonal & Sub Zonal offices seamlessly.

The portal contains all relevant information regarding ICCR-sponsored scholarship schemes and other information like list/details of the Indian Universities/Institutes, courses offered by them and guidelines of scholarship schemes.

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.

ICCR Scholarships at a Glance

7000⁺

students from 190 countries are studying in India under ICCR scholarship schemes

100⁺

Universities and Institutions where ICCR scholars are currently studying across India

100⁺

subjects studied by foreign students that include Agriculture, Artificial Intelligence, Biotechnology, Business Studies, Classical Indian Dance, Music, Commerce, Economics, Engineering/IT; Indian languages, Liberal arts, Management, Philosophy, Political Science, Yoga etc. (Medical Science and Integrated courses like for law are not included).

3775

scholarships were offered in 2023-24

11

Zonal and Sub-Zonal offices in different cities of India and ICCR headquarters at New Delhi look after welfare of foreign students

6

cities of India have the major concentration of foreign students - Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Delhi, Hyderabad, Pune and Kolkata

ICCR Scholarship Schemes

Atal Bihari Vajpayee General Scholarship Scheme (ICCR) (formerly General Scholarship Scheme) - For the nationals of 123 countries namely: Albania, Andorra, Antigua & Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil, Brunei, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Holy See, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Malaysia, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niue, North Macedonia, Oman, Palau, Palestine, San Marino, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Reunion Island (France), Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saint Kitts & Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, St. Vincent & Grenadines, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Timor-Leste, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Tuvalu, UAE, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Vietnam and Yemen.

The Council has introduced return airfare for all under this scheme w.e.f 2023-24. The earlier students will continue to be governed by earlier guidelines.

Suborno Jayanti Scholarship Scheme (ICCR) - The scholarships to Bangladesh nationals will be offered under one scheme "Suborno Jayanti Scholarship Scheme" subsuming all other schemes under which scholarships were being offered till now.

Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme (ICCR) (formerly Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme) - For the nationals of Commonwealth countries.

Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme (ICCR) – For the nationals of Sri Lanka.

Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Cultural Exchange Scholarship Scheme (ICCR) (formerly CEP/EEP Scholarship Scheme) - For the nationals of 29 countries namely, Australia, Belarus, Brazil, Cambodia, Canada, China, Colombia, Cuba, France, Guyana, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Kuwait, Laos, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Norway, Romania, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam and Yemen.

ICCR Scholarship Schemes

Lata Mangeshkar Dance & Music Scholarship Scheme (ICCR) (formerly ICCR Scholarship Scheme for Dance & Music) – For the nationals of all the countries to pursue courses in Indian dance, music, sculpture making, Indian theatre, cuisine etc.

Sushma Swaraj Silver Jubilee Scholarship Scheme (formerly Silver Jubilee Scholarship Scheme (MEA)) – For the nationals of Nepal.

B.R. Ambedkar Scholarship Scheme (Formerly Aid to Bhutan Scholarship Scheme (MEA)) – For the nationals of Bhutan.

Aid to Maldives Scholarship Scheme (MEA) – For the nationals of Maldives.

Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Scholarship Scheme (Formerly Aid to Mongolia Scholarship Scheme (MEA)) – For the nationals of Mongolia.

Mekong Ganga Co-operation Scholarship Scheme (MEA) – For the nationals of 5 Mekong Ganga countries namely, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

Online Scholarship Scheme for Afghan National (MEA) – For the nationals of Afghanistan.

The India - Africa Maitri Scholarship Scheme (Formerly Africa Scholarship Scheme (MEA)) – For the nationals of 54 countries in the African continent namely, Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, DRC Congo, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Sudan, Rwanda, Sao Tome & Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme, Maulana Azad Scholarship Scheme and Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship Scheme (MEA) – For the nationals of Sri Lanka.

AYUSH Scholarship Scheme for BIMSTEC Countries (MEA) – For the nationals of 6 countries namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand to pursue courses in Indian traditional medical systems AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy).

ICCR Scholarship Schemes

AYUSH Scholarship Scheme for Non-BIMSTEC Countries (Ministry of AYUSH) - For the nationals of 102 countries namely, Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, PR of China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Oman, Palestine, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Poland, Qatar, Romania, Russia, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, USA, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe to pursue courses in Indian traditional, medical systems AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy).

AYUSH Scholarship Scheme for Malaysia (Ministry of AYUSH) – For the nationals of Malaysia to pursue courses in Indian traditional medical systems AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy).

AYUSH Scholarship Scheme for South East Asian Region (SEAR) Countries (Ministry of AYUSH) – For nationals of selected SEAR countries namely, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste to pursue courses in Indian traditional medical systems AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy).

Scheme-wise Allocation Of Scholarship Slots

(Academic Year 2024-25)

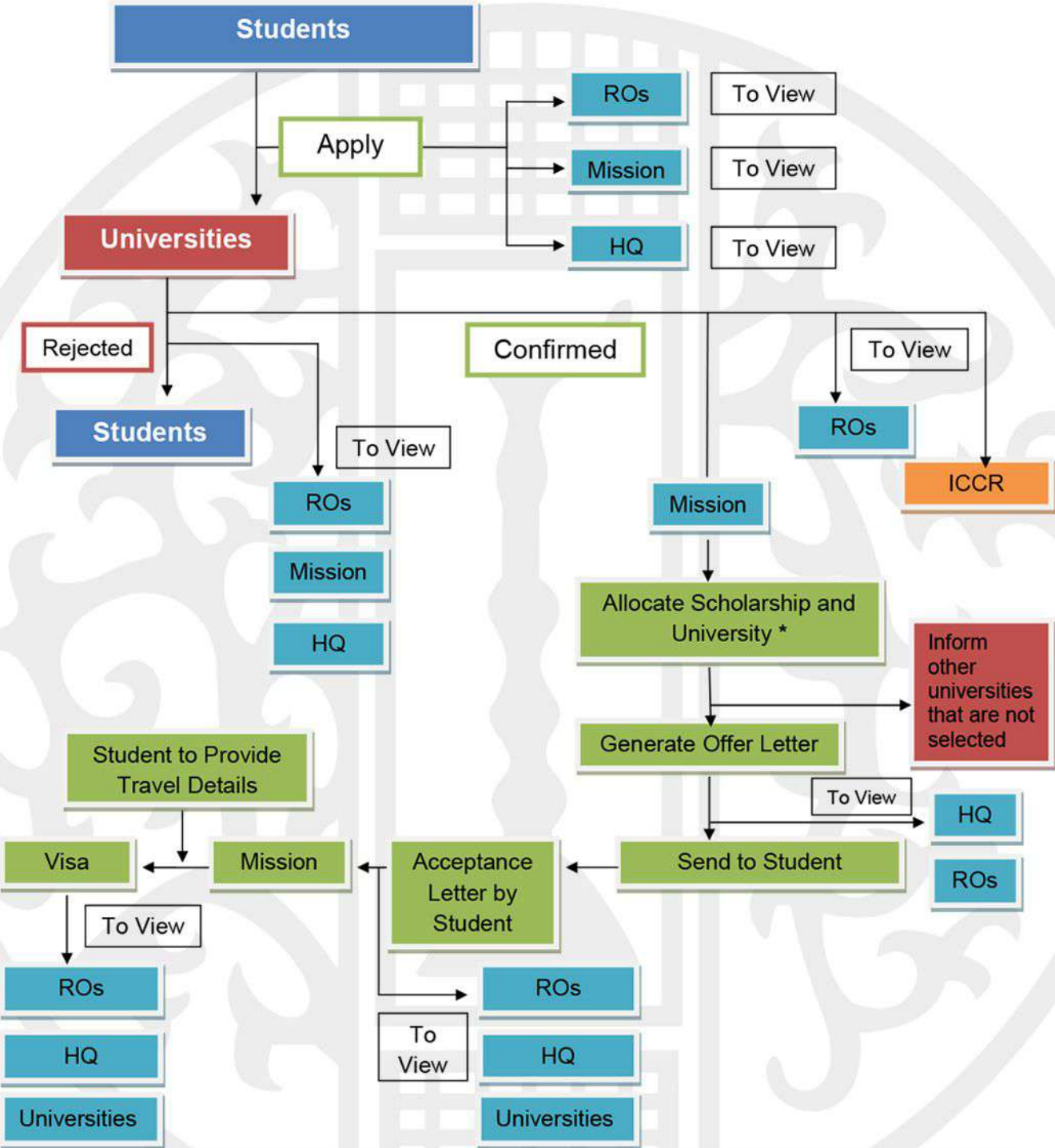
S.NO.	SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME	SLOTS	COURSES OFFERED
1.	Atal Bihari Vajpayee General Scholarship Scheme (ICCR) (formerly General Scholarship Scheme)	638	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses
2.	Suborno Jayanti Scholarship Scheme for the nationals of Bangladesh (ICCR)	500	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses
3.	Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme (ICCR) (formerly Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme)	24	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses
4.	Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme for the nationals of Sri Lanka (ICCR)	60	UG Courses
5.	Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Cultural Exchange Scholarship Scheme (ICCR)(formerly CEP/EEP Scholarship Scheme)	152	UG, PG, Ph.D. courses
6.	Lata Mangeshkar Dance & Music Scholarship Scheme (ICCR) (formerly ICCR Scholarship Scheme for Dance & Music)	100	Indian Dance, Music, Sculpture making, Indian Theatre, Cuisine Courses
7.	Sushma Swaraj Silver Jubilee Scholarship Scheme (formerly Silver Jubilee Scholarship Scheme) for the nationals of Nepal (MEA)	64	PG, Ph.D. courses
8.	B.R. Ambedkar Scholarship Scheme (Formerly Aid to Bhutan Scholarship Scheme) (MEA)	25	BE, B. Tech. courses
9.	Aid to Maldives Scholarship Scheme) (MEA)	20	UG including Engineering
10.	Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Scholarship Scheme (Formerly Aid to Mongolia Scholarship Scheme (MEA)	20	UG, PG, Ph.D. courses
11.	Mekong Ganga Co-operation (MGC) Scholarship Scheme (MEA)	50	UG, PG, Ph.D. courses
12.	The India - Africa Maitri Scholarship Scheme (Formerly Africa Scholarship Scheme) (MEA)	940	UG, PG, Ph.D. courses
13.	Nehru Memorial Scholarship Scheme for the nationals of Sri Lanka (MEA)	60	UG Courses
14.	Maulana Azad Scholarship Scheme for the nationals of Sri Lanka (MEA)	50	PG in Agriculture Science & Engg. courses
15.	Rajiv Gandhi Scholarship Scheme for the nationals of Sri Lanka (MEA)	25	BE, B. Tech Courses
16.	Scholarship (Online) for Afghan Nationals (MEA)	1000	UG, PG, Ph.D. courses (Online)

Scheme-wise Allocation Of Scholarship Slots

(Academic Year 2024-25)

S.NO.	SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME	SLOTS	COURSES OFFERED
17.	AYUSH Scholarship Scheme for BIMSTEC Countries (MEA)	30	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses in Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy.
18.	AYUSH Scholarship Scheme for Non-BIMSTEC Countries (Ministry of AYUSH)	25	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses in Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy.
19.	AYUSH Scholarship Scheme for Malaysia (Ministry of AYUSH)	20	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses in Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy.
20.	AYUSH Scholarship Scheme for South East Asian Region (SEAR) Countries (Ministry of AYUSH)	29	UG, PG, Ph.D. Courses in Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Homoeopathy.
TOTAL		3832	

Scholarship Admission Process Flow Chart



*In case Association of Indian Universities (AIU) Equivalence Certificate is required, the offer letter for allotment of scholarship should be processed only after the AIU Equivalence Certificate has been obtained by the student at own cost.

General Guidelines for International Students under ICCR Scholarships

1. DOs and DON'Ts for filling in the application on A2A portal

- (i) All applications will be accepted online through A2A ICCR Scholarship Portal (<https://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in>) only. **Once the student has obtained admission on A2A portal and the Mission/Post has decided to award scholarship to that particular student, he/she(student) may be advised to register on SII portal for obtaining Unique ID and further process including obtaining visa and registration with FRRO (VISA and registration with the FRRO are to be processed on Study in India (SII) portal).**
- (ii) Applications will not be accepted physically in Indian Missions abroad/ICCR/Universities.
- (iii) Applications will not be accepted locally (in India)
- (iv) Applications should be complete in every detail to avoid rejection of the same by the A2A portal/University/Institute.
- (v) In case of documents available in local language, applicants are requested to upload certified copies of translations of these documents in English. In case of unavailability of English transcript, the application will be rejected.
- (vi) Applicants applying for Doctoral courses should submit a synopsis along with the application.
- (vii) Applicants wishing to pursue performing arts course should upload the latest video/audio/ YouTube link of their performance.
- (viii) Students who are already pursuing Under Graduate (UG) and Post Graduate (PG) courses in India and intend to pursue further studies will have to apply afresh through A2A portal to process their applications, as the applications will not be entertained and processed physically.
- (ix) ICCR scholarships are meant for admissions only in the Indian State/Central universities/Institutes or colleges affiliated to and recognized by the Indian State and Central Universities. The list of such Universities/Institutes, empanelled with ICCR, is available on the Portal.
- (x) ICCR does not offer scholarship for Private colleges or Universities.
- (xi) Student has the option of applying in 5 Universities/Institutes of his/her choice in preferential order through A2A Scholarship Portal.
- (xii) In order to pursue studies in engineering/science, students should have studied Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry at Higher Secondary levels.
- (xiii) In Biology-based science subjects, students should have studied Biology, Physics and Chemistry at Higher Secondary.
- (xiv) In order to avoid rejection from Universities/colleges, applicants are advised to make their subject choices carefully, based on the subjects they have studied at Higher Secondary.
- (xv) For admission in UG level courses, it is compulsory to have 10+2 i.e; (12 years) of schooling. It is, therefore, necessary that the student applying for UG level courses must complete 12 years of schooling.
- (xvi) List of Universities empanelled with ICCR, where applicant can apply, is available on A2A Portal.

General Guidelines for International Students under ICCR Scholarships

(xvii) List of courses offered and the criteria/pre-requisites for admission in these Universities/Institutes may be referred to on the respective University website by the applicant. This is to avoid time delays in processing applications. A2A Portal has web links of each of the University and courses offered by them.

(xviii) Applicants are advised to read all the instructions on the online portal for filling online application and leave no field blank.

(xix) Subsequent change of University/Institute or course after ICCR scholarship has been awarded will not be entertained.

(xx) Students should not be allowed or supposed to do any part time/full time job along with his/her studies.

(xxi) Age limit for availing scholarship Minimum/Maximum Age limit for students under various courses is as under:-

PhD - 50 Years maximum

UG/PG - 18- 40 Years (18 years as on date 01.07.2024)

There is no upper age limit for courses in Hindi/Sanskrit/Indian performing arts such as Kathak, Bharatnatyam etc.

2. Selection of Subjects, Courses and Universities

i. For admission to science/engineering courses, an applicant should have studied Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry at Higher Secondary level to be eligible.

ii. Applicants should clearly mention the course to which they are seeking admission while mentioning choices.

iii. For choosing options for Universities, applicant must refer to University website or list of eligible Universities. List of Universities is available on the A2A Portal.

iv. As IITs provide admission in B.Tech Course through a separate procedure, ICCR scholarships are not offered for the same.

v. For MBA, GMAT score is mandatory.

vi. ICCR does not accept applications for Casual Research.

vii. ICCR does not offer scholarship for MBBS/BDS courses. Also, integrated courses such as in law are not offered.

viii. Applicants of Ph.D. courses should upload Synopsis (Proposal) of the research work.

3. Medium of instruction and English proficiency

i. Medium of instruction is English in all the Universities in India. Applicants should therefore have good knowledge of English to the extent that they are able to speak fluently in English and comprehend lessons in English without any difficulty.

ii. While filling the application, the applicant has to write a 500 word essay in English language, on one of the topics / subjects mentioned in the A2A Portal.

General Guidelines for International Students under ICCR Scholarships

iii. There is an optional provision of providing marks obtained in English Proficiency Test like TOFEL/LETS etc. Only the marks obtained in such exams should be filled in.

4. More than one application of one candidate on A2A Portal will lead to disqualification of candidate.

5. It is a compulsory requirement of Indian Universities/institutes for foreign students to have a passport to study in India, which also include applicants from countries not requiring passport for travel to India.

6. Passport size photograph of applicant with white background and visibility of both ears should be uploaded.

7. The application once submitted by student will directly go to selected Universities/Institutes through A2A Portal.

8. The application will be scrutinized by the respective Universities/Institutes for eligibility of admission of applicant in the applied course and stream.

9. Indian Universities/educational institutes are autonomous and independent bodies and have their own eligibility criteria. It is, therefore, for the students to satisfy themselves about the course chosen and about the Universities. Decision on admission is solely that of the respective University/Institute and queries on this thus should not be directed to ICCR. Admission is provisional till the time Universities satisfy themselves of the authenticity of requisite documents from the students. If on arrival, it is found that the student does not possess the required original documents on the basis of which the admission has been finalized, the students will themselves be responsible for the consequences including denial of admission by the Universities and student will have to return to his/her country at own cost. ICCR will not bear cost on such student's return airfare. The students while coming to India to join their respective University/Institute should invariably bring the following documents:-

(i) Original documents relating to their qualifications for verification by the respective University/Institute.

(ii) English Translation of the documents in original.

(iii) Certified copy of the syllabus of the last qualifying examination.

(iv) Valid passport with appropriate visa. Student visa for Undergraduate/Post graduate studies and research visa for Ph D studies.

(v) Award of scholarship letter issued by the concerned Indian Mission/Post abroad.

(vi) Undertaking from the student that the course and the University as conveyed is acceptable and that he/she will not request for change at the time of admission.

(vii) Undertaking from the student that they have read the terms and conditions/Guidelines of ICCR scholarship as specified in the Scholarship Manual 2023-24 [The one time undertaking will be applicable even when scholarship manual is updated (as per para 36 like provision)], available on ICCR website.

10. Admission of student by one or more than one Indian University does not guarantee award of ICCR sponsored scholarship. Indian Mission/Post for the respective country will decide on the award of scholarship to applicant and will issue letter of award of scholarship. For award of scholarship, the decision of the concerned Indian Mission/Post is final and any query regarding it should be taken up with them.

General Guidelines for International Students under ICCR Scholarships

11. It is reiterated that the admission remains provisional till the time Universities verify the authenticity of original documents. If original documents are not found in order on which provisional admission has been granted by University, the admission offer will be revoked and the students) will have to return to their country at their own cost. In case Association of Indian Universities (AIU) Equivalence Certificate is required the offer letter for allotment of scholarship should be processed only after the AIU Equivalence Certificate has been obtained by the student. Once the scholarship is considered, Indian Mission/Post will issue an offer of admission with award of scholarship for acceptance of by applicant. Applicant will have 7 days time to accept / reject the offer. In case applicant wishes to accept the offer, an automated acceptance letter, signed digitally by applicant, has to be submitted by the applicant on portal for further process.

12. After submitting the acceptance, the applicant should approach the concerned Indian Mission/Post for issuance of appropriate Student/Research Visa with the required documents and letter of award of ICCR scholarship.

13. Once the Indian visa is granted, a copy of the visa should be uploaded by the applicant on A2A Portal.

14. Pre-departure formalities

(i) The student should request the Indian Mission/Post to book the ticket up to (if offered in the scholarship) the airport nearest to the place of University/college where the admission has been confirmed. While booking the ticket, students must ensure that there is sufficient gap between the timings of the connecting flights so that there is enough time to complete the transit formalities, particularly in view of the Covid-19 induced restrictions or regulations. There have been instances when the students have missed their connecting flights due to insufficient layover.

(ii) The student should also check the allowed baggage regulations. There may be difference of baggage allowance in domestic and international flights. Students must carry the baggage equivalent to the limit of the lower category (domestic / international). In any case, ICCR will not pay any additional amount on account of excess baggage.

(jii) Immediately on purchase of ticket, the students should upload their travel details on the A2A portal to enable the relevant ICCR Zonal and sub Zonal Office to make necessary arrangements. Flight details should ideally be conveyed at least 15 days prior to the journey. If airport reception faciliation is not required, students should specifically mention that they do not require any assistance at the airport on arrival.

(iv) Students should go through the Covid Protocol/ requirements at all relevant points in their route such as RT-PCR test/ quarantine requirements and follow the same to avoid any complications. Student may check with the concerned Indian Mission/post the latest Covid-19 regulations in India applicable to them at the time of their travel. All such expenses on Covid-19 including on related test will not be borne by ICCR.

General Guidelines for International Students under ICCR Scholarships

- (v) Students should carry yellow fever/other such vaccination certificate wherever necessary.
- (vi) Students are advised to carry with themselves at least US\$ 700 or equivalent to Indian Rupees. 50,000/- to meet immediate expenses. This is suggested since there may be a time period between first arrival and receipt of first stipend.
- (vii) On arrival, students should contact the respective Zonal/Sub Zonal Office of ICCR and get themselves registered with them. Students must also get themselves registered with Foreign Regional Registration Office (FRRO) within a period of 14 days of their arrival in India. This is in addition to contacting the University/Institute being joined. As a good practice, the students should also inform their respective Embassy/diplomatic representative in India about their stay in India on arrival.
- (viii) Each student has to procure a medical insurance policy for a value of at least Rs. Five lakhs or equivalent. As per the latest ICCR guidelines, medical insurance is compulsory for the students (at their cost). Students may buy medical insurance in their country before departure. It is up to the students to select the insurance package. During the ICCR scholarship in India, in case of no medical insurance, ICCR is not liable to bear the medical expenses of the scholar. In case of exigencies, the student should contact his/her respective Embassy/diplomatic representative in India.

15. Once travel arrangements are completed, 'Travel Details' should be filled in by the applicant on A2A Portal. An email should also be sent to the International Student Advisor (ISA) of the University endorsing copy to ICCR Zonal/Sub Zonal Office for arranging reception on arrival in India. This should be done at least 15 days prior to departing for India so that transit accommodation details and coordinates of concerned person(s) who will receive them are informed to the student.

16. On arrival, student is advised to buy a local Mobile Sim-Card.

17. On arrival a welcome kit shall be handed over to student. The kit will contain addresses, email, mobile no. of Zonal/Sub Zonal Office, International Student Advisor (ISA), FRRO, city guide booklet, financial norms of Scholarship Scheme in which student is enrolled, bank account opening process and any other relevant information as deemed appropriate by Zonal/ Sub Zonal Office.

18. Immediately on their arrival, students will have to open an account with bank for which bank opening form and a letter from ICCR's Zonal/Sub Zonal Office/University concerned would be required recommending immediate opening of bank account at the nearest branch of State Bank of India. Students should carry with them passport-size photographs for opening the bank account. It is important to note that student will not be paid any money in cash or otherwise till the bank account is opened. Therefore student must carry minimum money as advised above to meet initial expenditure. Three months advance stipend/scholarship through direct bank transfer will be released once bank account is opened and registered with ICCR.

General Guidelines for International Students under ICCR Scholarships

19. After completing the requisite formalities, student should fill up the Joining Report (JR) in prescribed Performa and get it duly counter signed by International Student Advisor/Head of Department of University. The columns related to Tuition fee/other compulsory fees structure for the entire duration of course in the Joining Report are to be filled in and certified by ISA/HoD of University/Institute. While filling up the JR, it is advised to fill the details related to date of birth, nationality, course, college details, registration number etc with utmost care.

20. The Joining Report complete in all aspects should be uploaded on the A2A portal/submitted with concerned Zonal/Sub Zonal office within one month of joining the University/Institute. It may be noted that unless the JR is received by the Zonal/Sub-Zonal office, except for advance stipend, no other money will be released.

21. ICCR will aim to organize an Orientation Programme for newly arriving students within the first few weeks of their arrival. Cultural immersion programmes shall be organized by Zonal/Sub Zonal Office in due course.

22. ICCR Zonal/ Sub Zonal offices have a WHATSAPP group for foreign students and shall remain in touch with them through it or other means on a regular basis.

23. The student should ensure that regular half yearly progress report/results of semester exams along with certificate of attendance issued by Head of Department/ ISA of University/Institute and the valid medical insurance policy are submitted to ICCR Zonal/Sub Zonal Office for smooth release of stipend etc.

24. After admission, the students are advised to stay in the University/college hostel. However, in case they choose to stay in private accommodation, they will have to give an undertaking that they themselves are responsible for their security. If they are staying in University/College hostel, they would have to adhere to hostel policies. Failing to observe hostel rules will lead to disciplinary action by University/College.

25. Residential address outside of the enrolled University/Institute should be informed to ICCR Zonal /Sub Zonal Office and FRRO compulsorily. In case of change of accommodation, the new address should also be conveyed to ICCR Zonal/Sub Zonal Office and FRRO immediately.

26. ICCR has the right to bring in changes in the scholarship policy as well as financial terms of the scholarship and implement it as and when it is decided so by ICCR under intimation/dissemination of decision through Zonal/ Sub Zonal Offices, to which every current ICCR scholar has to abide.

27. No student shall indulge in criminal/anti-social activities or political activities or Anti-India activities or in violation of the laws of India/relevant Indian State/UT. If found indulged in such activities and thus rusticated by the University/Institute, the ICCR scholarship will be terminated immediately.

28. In case of any mishappening all expenditure on repatriation of student or otherwise will be borne by the student or the family members or their embassy in India. The student should give an undertaking to this effect, duly countersigned by one of the family members and submit to the Indian Embassy/Consulate.

General Guidelines for International Students under ICCR Scholarships

29. The scholarship tenure cannot exceed a period of 3 years after declaration of consolidated results of all the semesters/final year by the respective University/Institute. The tenure of scholarship for regular Ph.D student is 3 years. It should be an endeavour of each research student to complete the dissertation work within 3 years of regular Ph.D. study tenure. In any case, extant ICCR norms restrict the maximum period of scholarship up to 5 years for Ph.D course. In addition ICCR provides maximum 6 months of scholarship to defend the thesis / for Viva Voce for Ph.D.

30. It is emphasized that ICCR scholarship is only for the individual applicant so awarded, for the duration of the enrolled course in India. As such, ICCR is not liable in any manner, financially or otherwise, for other individuals related to the ICCR scholar.

31. Students should keep informed the Zonal/Sub Zonal Office about their movement within India. If, leaving for their country/abroad, intimation or permission from Zonal/Sub Zonal Office may be obtained.

32. Scholarship shall be disbursed on the basis of regular progress of the student at his/her course. In case student fails in prescribed examination and does not get promoted to next level of study/programme, the scholarship will be discontinued. No scholarship shall be paid for clearing backlog (there is a special provision however for Afghan scholarship schemes).

33. In case a new student fails in first year, his/her scholarship would be suspended for one -year and he/she would have to self finance his/her studies. Scholarship may be revived from next year (at the end of 2nd year) provided student clears the first year. In case student fails second time, his/her scholarship will stand terminated and he/she would have to complete his/her course as a self finance student or return to his/her country on own expense, if so chosen. In any case, scholarship would not be given for more than the prescribed length of course. The same applies if it occurs in any of the other years.

34. **Student should upload the alumni details on India Alumni portal (<https://indiaalumni.almacconnect.com>) before leaving India.** This will help alumni of ICCR to be in touch for future ICCR activities and will also be helpful in future for Indian Missions/Posts abroad to remain engaged with the Alumni.

35. It should be ensured that the local bank account is closed before leaving India. This will ensure security from misuse of the dormant bank account.

36. This Manual supersedes provisions in previous versions and is applicable for all current ICCR scholars in India. Supplementary regulations/provisions may be issued/intimated separately from time to time.

37. ICCR strives to ensure welfare of ICCR scholars during their stay in India. ICCR Hqrs and its Zonal/Sub Zonal Offices welcome suggestions/feedback from its scholars any time.

Gyan_Setu- connecting Culture through Knowledge

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. The features of Gyan Setu applicable to Missions and Students are elaborated below:

(A) Role of Missions after Admissions/Before Arrival of Students in India:

i. Missions to login to Gyan_Setu web application, using their respective login credentials provided by ICCR HQ, in to submit the details of selected applicants who have accepted offer of Scholarship. The application requirements include the list of students who have chosen a course, been assigned to a University and College (if any) with the University Offer Letter, Mission's Scholarship sanction letter and ICCR authorization letter indicating a date of Joining (tentative).

ii. Travel air tickets are requested to be issued by the concerned Mission ONLY and not by the student, after checking the tentative dates of commencement of course. Accordingly, the travel itinerary to be finalized and the relevant details including a copy of Air Ticket to be uploaded in the scholarship web application at least 2 weeks before arrival in India, to facilitate Universities/Institutes to make necessary arrangements to receive the students. The travel would only be initiated by the student once the University has accepted those details. The said details will also be visible to the respective ZO/S-ZO/RPO in the web application

Missions are required to brief the departing students that in order to get their scholarship dues, they should ensure the submission of the following details on Gyan Setu App within 15 days of their arrival in India, else payment of their scholarship dues might get delayed.

- i. Passport No
- ii. Joining Report (including joining date and duration of the Course)
- iii. Bank Account No.
- iv. e-FRRO registration no.

(B) Role of Scholars/students -Post Arrival of Students in India:

(i) Students are directed to report their arrival on the Gyan_Setu web application on an immediate basis.

(ii) Submission & Verification of Documents/Confirmation of Admission-To submit the original documents and verify the details mentioned in the A2A 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. PLEASE NOTE- The details entered in the Portal, if in case, does not match with the original documents, the admission of the said student will stand CANCELLED.

(iii) Upon arrival students are required to coordinate with their respective Universities/institutes regarding updation of their details such as joining report on the app.

(C) Role of Universities/ Institutes after Admission of Students in India

- i. To login to the ICCR Gyan_Setu Web application using login credentials provided by ICCR HQ in order to upload the following information in the Gyan_Setu web application:
 - A comprehensive list of courses and specializations and eligibility criteria where the ICCR students can get admitted, together with the names of the colleges and Hostels that meets the council admission requirements.
 - To provide applicable fees for each program/course.
- ii. To provide Hostel Accommodation for all students admitted in respective Universities/Institutes.
- iii. To acknowledge the travel itinerary with the copy of air ticket of the respective student well in 2 weeks advance to provide logical assistance to foreign students including reception at the airport on arrival and temporary accommodation on arrival (if needed).
- iv. To confirm the arrival of students to their respective ZO/S-ZO/RPO by providing the date of arrival in India. The Confirmation and details of the students to be uploaded in the web/mobile application.
- v. Verification of Documents/Confirmation of Admission- To check and verify the details of students mentioned in the A2A 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 provide the University/Institute Authentication Letter (Bonafide) with Hostel Accommodation as soon as the admission of the student is confirmed.
- vi. To organize a detailed Orientation Session soon after the arrival of the students explaining all the necessary rules and regulations for the international students including dos and don'ts, a brief on local conditions and accessibility to bank and others.
- vii. To facilitate ICCR Students for registration with FRRO, opening a bank account, medical insurance, availing Indian sim-card number.
- viii. Other necessary documents – Universities/Institutes to ensure that all the required details including, FRRO number, Bank account details, Medical insurance policy number, Indian sim-card number, Roll number, Enrollment number, Hostel Details are filled by their students in the mobile application within 20 days of arrival in India.
- ix. To strictly monitor the attendance of the admitted students and to verify the Academic progress details.
- x. To generate the Exit Report of each student at the end of course period consist of all relevant information of the student completion of degree, settlement of account and others.

ICCR Alumni Award

India has always been an attractive destination for higher education for foreign students and scholars to enrich their academic excellence. Since Independence, Government of India has always welcomed foreign students to study in India. ICCR has an extensive scholarship programme for foreign students. It annually disburses large number of scholarships to students from countries across the world to pursue academic and other courses in Indian performing/visual arts at under-graduate, post-graduate and research levels in Indian institutions. Foreign students who studied in India are India's goodwill ambassadors and over a period of time, have achieved influential positions in their respective countries. Recognizing the achievements of foreign students who studied in India, Distinguished Alumni Award was instituted by ICCR in 2015 to recognize ICCR Alumni "who have made significant achievements in his/her field and/or have made outstanding contribution to the promotion of understanding, goodwill and friendship between India and their country". The award has been renamed as "Bharat Mitra Samman - Distinguished Alumni".

Recipients of ICCR Distinguished Alumni Award -



H.E. Mr. Le Luong Minh from Vietnam
H.E. Ms Zenebu Tadesse Woldetsadik from Ethiopia
Mrs. Milena Salvini from France



Dr. Soe Win from Myanmar
Mrs. Sarita Boodhoo from Mauritius
Prof. I. Ketut Widnya from Indonesia
Dr. Laura Gibratovna Yerekesheva from Kazakhstan
Dr. Galina Rousseva Sokolova from Bulgaria



Ms. Rezwana Choudhury Bannya from Bangladesh
Ms. Aishath Safoofa from Maldives
Dr. Saman Kelegama (Posthumously) from Sri Lanka
Ms. Dollaporn Phukkhong from Thailand
Dr. Sirojiddin S Nurmatov from Uzbekistan



H.E. Dr. Kaba Urgessa Dinssa from Ethiopia
Mr. Bui Ba Bong from Vietnam
Dr. Constantino Xavier from Portugal
Mr. Ajmal Hameed Abdulrahimza from Afghanistan
Mr. Damcho Dorji from Bhutan

ICCR Alumni Award

Recipients of ICCR Distinguished Alumni Award -



2019

Mr. Mohammad Mirwais Balkhi from Afghanistan

Ms. Maqaddesa Yourish from Afghanistan

Ms. Monica de la Fuente from Spain

Mr. Tendai Padenga from Zimbabwe



2020

Ms. Martine Metayer from France

Dr. RK Lal Mervin Dharmasiri from Sri Lanka

Dr. Riyad Mustafa Abushehadeh from Palestine

Mr. Rateb Noori from Afghanistan

Dr. Francesca Cassio from Italy



2021

Mrs. Eat Sophea from Cambodia

Dr. Oscar Riembau Pujol from Spain

Dr. Irina Glushkova from Russia

H.E. Dr. Ergogie Tesfaye Woldemeskel from Ethiopia

Mr. Sonam Dorji from Bhutan



2022

Prof. Dimitrios Vassiliadis from Greece

Ms. Masako Satou from Japan

Dr. Wah Wah Maung from Myanmar

Dr. Son Yeon Woo from Republic of Korea

Mr. Nguyen Trung Khanh from Vietnam

Testimonials of ICCR Alumni



Ms. Takhmina Sharopova,
Tajikistan,
Ph.D Management Studies
Kerala University
Joining Year: 2018

"I travelled to Kerala for the first time in 2018, but for me all States of India are like my second home so I was sure I will like it to stay and study in the University of Kerala.

ICCR provides a good opportunity to study and develop both personally and professionally for all students under its scholarship schemes. It broadens our personal view and educates us on many events and situations happening in the world and creates learning and developing environment for all international students in India.

Stay in Kerala under ICCR scholarship gave me opportunity to apply my capacity and develop my skills in academic stream. I found out my abilities and participated in various academic and cultural programs which ICCR arranged for us as international students. As an international student in India we always experience the rich blend of hospitality and high respect to global community in the University of Kerala in all academic levels like bachelor, Master or PhD candidates.

ICCR provides us with wide scope of activities, World Theatre Day, World Yoga Day, and many more and it cares for our wellbeing. Thanks to ICCR because during stay in Kerala we feel like at home."

"During my stay in Goa as a Master's student under ICCR Scholarship, life was really very nice and interesting. I particularly experienced an interesting culture where people from different environment live peacefully and respect each other regardless of their differences. Most importantly, I found Goa University to be a lovely educational institution. I enjoyed the way the lecturers interact with all students without any exception and the latter expressed themselves a mutual cooperation in their community. This helped me get wonderful skills and knowledge through learning and made me not to feel alone in a foreign country. Finally, the **ICCR international desk care so much about international students to make sure every international student is safe and getting a healthy life."**



Marc Ndayisenga,
Burundi,
M.Sc Zoology,
Goa University
Joining Year: 2018
Passout: 2020

"India is one of among oldest countries in the world that has its own prominent identity. It is not only in this modern day that people go to India and pursue their study. Even for centuries ago, people from various countries came along and pursue their study at Nalanda University, one of the oldest universities in the world. I was one of the lucky scholars from Indonesia that was granted the chance to study in India through the General Scholarship Scheme by Indian Council for Cultural Relations for Post Graduate Course. I have a special curiosity about India since childhood that drove me to apply for this scholarship. The study which was conducted in English medium makes every student from any part of the world easily adapt with the learning environment. The availability of textbooks from various reputable publishers will boost our knowledge and make the study easier. **ICCR Regional Director where I studied as well as the International Advisor are amazing and great personalities. They will always be there as our core supporter in any difficult situations that we can't handle all alone. And they treat us just like their family.** As a newcomer, we may face challenges. But we need to build a mentality that we must finish what we started beautifully and successfully. And if the scholars keep that principle in their mind, we will have a clear vision and mission during the stay of study duration there and we can complete the course successfully and with good marks. India has 28 States and 8 Union Territories that we can make our own choice of stay destination to pursue the study. And in between the stay, we can travel and visit places that we might have seen in movies or on social media. So, enjoy the stay for the new students, work smart and hard for the study. May the success and happiness be yours."



Agnesia Yolina ,
Indonesia,
MBA Course,
Goa University
Joining Year: 2018
Passout: 2020

Testimonials of ICCR Alumni



Mohammed Abunahel,
Palestine,
Masters Mass Communication,
Tezpur Central University
Joining Year: 2019
Passout: 2021

"I'm a student from Palestine, pursuing Masters in Mass Communication from Tezpur Central University, Tezpur, Assam. My experience as an international student has, overall, been positive; I have changed in ways I would never have imagined. I am from Palestine, and India, to say the least is a very different environment than where I used to live. **I have come to India for higher studies through an ICCR scholarship (Indian Council for Cultural Relations), but experiencing a new culture, new food habits and making new friends – all these things have summed up into something significant in my life and memory which makes me no longer feel like a stranger.** I have celebrated Indian festivals such as Holi and Saraswati Puja. During my time here, I have picked up a little bit of the Assamese language and learned how to speak it; I have made lifelong friends with unforgettable memories. I learned to cook some Assamese dishes, participated in such activities as the wildlife safari in Nameri national park, and learned endless things about Hinduism and other dynamic Indian religions and culture.

As an international student at Tezpur University, I grew to be proud of my University, and I truly feel like I am a part of this community. **Education in India is not bound to a classroom; ICCR gave me an opportunity to travel to different places.** This chance allowed me to visit some places of South India. I explored the villages in different places of India and experienced their way of living. This trip let me enjoy the natural beauty of India; with my friends, I visited places like Sikkim, Shillong, Cherrapunjee, Tezpur, Bangalore and many more. Every place has its own natural beauty and unique culture. This trip not only let me enjoy the natural beauty of India, but also helped me to make some friends with unforgettable memories.

Last but not least, the moment I had been waiting for came true. This is a great opportunity to extend my warmest appreciation to India and to the ICCR for allowing me to be part of this wonderful community. Honestly, India is a great place to study and I really like India, so I am contemplating to continue further advanced study here. I can hardly wait to perceive what different encounters and experiences are coming up for me in the coming months."

"I have completed my M.Sc in Analytical Chemistry from K.J Somaiya College of Science and Commerce. I would like to write a word of thanks for all the tireless work that you have given us at your capacity as a person and at the level of the ICCR.

As one of the beneficiaries of ICCR Scholarship, I would like to thank the ICCR and the Government of India for their generous, financial support towards my higher education.

During my two years in India I have learned many things from India that have sharpened my world view and will help me in the whole journey of my life. All the spheres of life have been changed and I will never forget what India has added to my life and believe that this will be my second home and will not hesitate to come back here when there is need.

Conclusively, this opportunity has allowed me to make my goals and dream a reality. I hope in turn one day I will be able to give back and help others get their dreams and goals a reality. Thank you very much."



Malek Jacob Mayen,
South Sudan,
M.Sc Analytical Chemistry,
Mumbai University
Joining Year: 2018
Passout: 2020

Testimonials of ICCR Alumni



IYIOLA OLUWAFERRANMI JOSEPH, Nigeria, B.Tech Electronics & Communications Engineering Delhi Technological University. Joining Year: 2019

"I cannot but say a very big thank you to the Indian Council for Cultural Relations for the privilege to be one of the beneficiaries of the African Scholarship scheme. Thanks to ICCR a boy with no proper personal road map for his life became someone whom his colleagues come to for guidance on how to get things done properly.

My stay in India has been unique and unforgettable because I got to experience and see things from a different perspective; India lives up to the title "Incredible India" like they say, and I must say India is home anytime, any day!

Academically, it was quite challenging at the beginning but it was just a reminder that I can always step up my game which has helped me to improve so much. Getting trained as an engineer in India has given me the opportunity to stand out among my peers and it has also improved my insight. I hope to apply this knowledge into making Africa a better continent."

"I had had a mistaken idea about India before getting the ICCR scholarship, without which I would not come to India and I would not complete my higher studies. To me, India was the country of Amitabh Bachchan and Shahrukh Khan and nothing else. However, having the chance to come to India was like giving some blind fellow eyes to take a real look at what there is. **I came to know what India is for real. Yes, India is the country of movies, dancing, singing, and arts, but also, it is the country of fast development, technology, diversity, and humanity.** Further, nothing is more significant than giving a person the chance to have a better career, a better job, and a better income. All are possible now with the knowledge and skills I got under the generous sponsorship of the ICCR. **I believe that all the ICCR students and scholars, just like myself, will always be thankful to the ICCR for giving them the chance to learn, improve, and know this great future-leading country in a better way.** I love the ICCR; I love India."



Ahmad Abdullah Salih, Yemen, Ph.D. English, Banaras Hindu University Joining Year: 2017 Passout: 2022

"I completed my undergraduate BA Degree from Nizam College and Masters in Political Science from Osmania University under ICCR scholarship scheme during 2016-2021. **I come from a very humble background and throughout my life I was always praying for an opportunity to further my studies and my prayers were answered when I was granted an opportunity to study in India under ICCR scholarship.**

My journey in India began 2016, from day one I was fascinated by the large population, for the 1st time in my life I was surrounded by so many people, as my journey continued I was adapting to the new lifestyle and society, **I learnt the importance of education in shaping a prosperous society through the teachings of Jawaharlal Nehru and B. R Ambedkar. I also noticed that India is a country that is diverse and rich in culture, through events organized by ICCR- Hyderabad.** I was exposed to some of the cultures which includes the likes of Kuchipudi and Kathak dance and the universal humanitarian culture inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, the astonishing food culture and various Indian cuisines most famously bryanni. Those with similar experience will always say Incredible India."



Sphamandlal Luvuno, South Africa, MA Political Science, Osmania University Joining Year: 2016 Passout: 2018

Testimonials of ICCR Alumni



HAMLET MUKUWE
Bachelor of Technology in
Electrical Engineering
Delhi Technological University
Joining: 2018
Passout: 2022

"I am from Zambia. I'm a recent graduate of Bachelor of Technology in Electrical Engineering from Delhi Technological University in National Capital of Delhi.

I came to India in 2018 under the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarship. I was very ecstatic about the idea of learning from some of the greatest minds in the world. The very idea of pursuing my undergraduate studies in India enthused in me a great sense of motivation to achieve my goals. India is widely known as a centre of great scientific innovations, hence my interest to study Bachelor of Technology in Electrical Engineering at a University as prestigious as Delhi Technological University. I got to meet people from different parts of the world and ideas were exchanged on how we all view the world. Academically, it was quite challenging at first due to different education system but with time and help from my peers and the faculty members, I adapted to the system. The administration was very helpful and co-operative during my time at the University.

My entire stay in India has been eye opening and I have learnt a lot of things both in the academic and cultural aspect. It was so nice getting to know and understand India's rich culture. The spices, Chicken Tikka, Chole Bhature not forgetting the famous chapati all form part of India's basic food consumption.

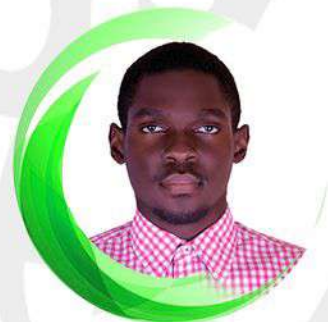
India boasts of historical features from the India gate of New Delhi to the Taj Mahal of Agra.

Having graduated in Electrical Engineering, my plan is to now focus on my masters in renewable energy. I believe we can harness renewable sources of energy to sustain our ever growing world population. India has been a good stepping stone and it will help me achieve my desired goal. Not only that, the network I've created here will be very fundamental to my future endeavors."

"Namaste, I am from Uganda the Pearl of Africa. I am a graduating student from Delhi Technological University and I've been pursuing a Master's Degree of Business Administration specializing in Business Analytics. I started this course in September 2020 during the pandemic and finalized it in 2022. I must say that Delhi Technological University is a great University that has given me exposure to various walks of life but most importantly in the field of academia. This has not only instilled more confidence in me but also put me on the competitive edge as far as the career opportunities are concerned. It is from this basis that I got a dream of pursuing further studies on a PhD level as my next immediate plan.

Generally, life in India has been challenging and extremely interesting as well. This is due to its unique climate changes and the differences in culture, religion, language barrier etc. Living in India during my studies has given exposure on its economic and political strategies that countries in Africa need to benchmark to fasten their economic development.

I appreciate India's embracement of technology, great medical facilities and quality education. I am indeed proud for a life well lived and deserving in this part of the world. Since my success has been earned, it's now time to explore and utilize opportunities there is. Dhanyavaad India."



JJAGWE TONY RAYMOND,
Uganda,
MA Business Administration,
Delhi Technological University
Joining: 2018
Passout: 2022

Testimonials of ICCR Alumni



Anush Gasparyan,
Armenia,
Faculty of Law University of
Delhi
Joining Year: 2016
Passout: 2021

"I did my Ph.D (Law) at the Faculty of Law University of Delhi on ISSUES RELATED TO WORKING WOMEN IN ORGANISED SECTOR: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF LAWS AND PRACTICE IN INDIA AND ARMENIA from 2016 to 2021.

My parents gave me wings, taught me to fly and ICCR provided me sky, with no limits...

To go, to say goodbye is always hard, it is harder when you leave a family behind. ICCR is the family that I am leaving behind in my second home India. Role of ICCR in the journey of the achievement of the set goals of a foreign student is remarkable. ICCR is not a mere an organization providing financial support for educational purposes, ICCR is a strong pillar of each foreigner traveling behind the dreams of success and illumination. Each member of the ICCR family, stands for motivating, encouraging, comforting, securing, advising throughout stay and education in India.

I express my gratitude to the Embassy of India in Armenia for introducing ICCR and providing me with the opportunity to continue my education and discover the beauty of India.

India is the land which carries one of the earliest history of mankind. The land of great teachings, the land of Ganges, Buddha, the land which faced conquests from abroad and the settlement of Dutch, Portuguese, English and French. The country was and is a gem on Earth with its unique ability of uniting its nation. India's biggest triumph is being true to the values of its own land and religious teachings through centuries. The secret of uniting such a diverse nation is tolerance, love and respect of others' way of life. The country has a beautiful harmonization for every being of its land. This is the place where every teaching is directed to the art of balancing. From insects to plants, from fishes to birds, from moon to sun, from rain to wind, from human to animal every single aspect of the planet has its own significance and importance in this country.

Going ahead in life, being exposed to a change is a natural phenomenon, however there are some changes that are shaping our personality and life; hence I am leaving with the most valuable treasures of India which are wisdom, tolerance, kindness, respect, mindfulness etc. Qualities gained in India, with the help of ICCR are life changing.

I fold my hands and bow my head with the immense respect for everyone at the ICCR and Embassy of India in Armenia for their hard work and care I have been provided during years of my education."



Neha Sharma,
Nepal
Masters in Development
Communication,
Gujarat University
Joining Year: 2021
Passout: 2023

I am writing to share my reflections on the two-year journey I embarked upon while pursuing my Master's in Development Communication at Gujarat University.

Even though it has been a few years, it feels like yesterday that I made an important decision in my life - coming to Gujarat for my higher studies. Despite initial uncertainties about the food culture, language, and various aspects, my choice of Gujarat University over universities in the UK and Thailand, where I was already accepted, has proven to be one of the most rewarding decisions of my life. I have transformed, personally and professionally. And in this transformation, ICCR has played an instrumental role. I owe my deepest gratitude to ICCR, for giving me this opportunity where I could exercise my talent and skills along with academic knowledge. They have also been very kind and helpful and always one call away when we have had problems while living in India.

Whenever I think about my academic journey in Gujarat, I remember Gujarat University, especially the Department of Communication and Journalism. My time spent in this department transcended the academic realm, evolving into a journey of life lessons that will forever remain with me. As a newcomer to Gujarat, I held preconceived notions about the region, assuming all Gujaratis were vegetarians in a dry state. However, my experience during the Masters in Development Communication program, which involved visits to various districts of Gujarat such as Patan, Surendranagar, the tribal belt in Mahisagar, and parts of rural Ahmedabad for a project, shattered these preconceptions. I discovered the rich diversity in food habits, culture, and traditions. I also witnessed the warm and welcoming nature of people whose cultures shifted every few kilometers. These interactions were not only priceless but also unforgettable.

I also cherish the invaluable friendships formed during my time in Gujarat. Through ICCR, I have not only built a network but also created bonds that transcend continents. I can now proudly declare that I have a home in Uganda, Lesotho, Indonesia, and most significantly, in India - a testament to the strength of the relationships built through respect, friendship, and gratitude. Such a profound connection would not have been possible without ICCR.

Testimonials of ICCR Alumni



Hiranya Jeet Malla
Nepal,
M.Tech in Construction
Technology & Management
IIT Bombay
Joining Year - 2021
Passout Year- 2023

A Transformative Journey: My Experience with the ICCR Scholarship at IIT Bombay (2021-2023)

As a proud recipient of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) scholarship from 2021 to 2023, I am immensely grateful for the invaluable opportunity it has provided me to pursue Master of Technology (MTech) in Construction Technology and Management at the esteemed Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay. Reflecting on my journey thus far, I am compelled to share the profound impact this scholarship has had on my academic and personal growth.

From the outset, I was captivated by the renowned faculty and cutting-edge resources offered by IIT Bombay's Department of Civil Engineering. The curriculum, meticulously designed to blend theoretical knowledge with practical applications, has equipped me with a comprehensive understanding of construction principles, project management techniques, and sustainable practices. Through engaging lectures, hands-on projects, and collaborative discussions, I have acquired skills that are not only pertinent to my field but also resonate with real-world challenges and opportunities. Moreover, the multicultural environment fostered at IIT Bombay has been instrumental in broadening my perspectives and nurturing cross-cultural understanding. Interacting with fellow scholars from diverse backgrounds has not only enriched my academic discourse but has also enriched my cultural awareness, fostering lifelong friendships and collaborations that transcend borders.

My experience with the ICCR scholarship at IIT Bombay from 2021 to 2023 has been truly transformative. Immersing myself in the rich tapestry of Indian culture, from its vibrant festivals to its culinary delights, has been an enriching adventure. I am deeply grateful to the ICCR for providing me with a platform to embrace this cultural exchange, which has not only enriched my personal growth but has also deepened my appreciation for global diversity. As I embark on the new phase of my life, I carry with me not only the knowledge and skills gained at IIT Bombay but also a profound sense of gratitude towards the ICCR for making this journey possible. "I am truly inspired by witnessing the rapid transformation in India's infrastructure development." This scholarship has not only empowered me to pursue my academic aspirations but has also instilled in me a sense of responsibility to contribute meaningfully to my country and beyond.

In conclusion, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the ICCR for their unwavering support, IIT Bombay for providing me with a conducive environment to thrive academically and culturally and to my fellow colleagues for endless memories. My experience with the ICCR scholarship at IIT Bombay from 2021 to 2023 has been truly inspiring, and I am confident that the lessons learned and connections forged will continue to guide me in my pursuit of excellence.

International Students' participation in Cultural Activities



ICCR organised International Students Festival on 8 December 2021 at ICCR's Azad Bhawan Auditorium



Web streaming of PM's "Man ki baat" on the subject Pariksha Pe Charcha at ICCR headquarters on 1st April 2022 for International students.



The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) launched an India Alumni Portal on 9 April 2022, at the ICCR headquarters as a platform to connect with foreign students around the world who have studied in India.

International Students' participation in Cultural Activities



ICCR Foundation Day at Mumbai
9th April 2022



ICCR Foundation Day at Bengaluru
9th April 2022



International students celebrating Holi
with Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra at
Raj Bhavan, Mumbai on 19th March 2022

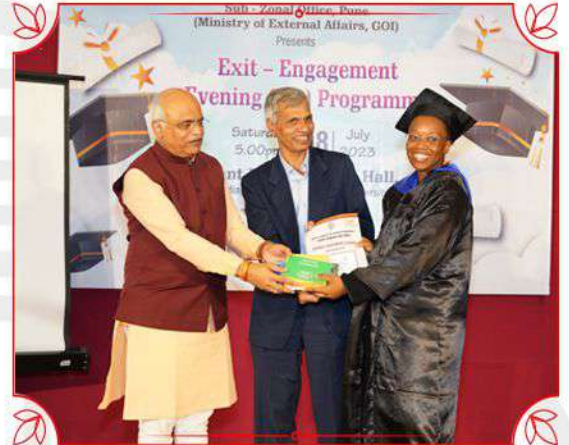


International students participating in International
Yoga Day at Raj Bhawan, Mumbai on
21st June 2022

International Students' Activities



Council organised an Elocution and Essay Competition amongst International Students Studying in India at Mewar University on 20th February 2023



International Student being felicitated at E3 (Exit Engagement Evening) event at Pune



Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) launched an application, 'Gyan Setu connecting Culture through Knowledge', on 6 February 2023 at ICCR Auditorium. The Application is aimed at automating the entire manual work process of ICCR's scholarship division.

International Students' participation in Summer Camps in June 2022-23



Gonjang Monastery, Gangtok, Sikkim



Chamundi hills, Mysore



Solang Valley, Himachal Pradesh



Atal Tunnel, Manali, Himachal Pradesh



Students in Himachali dress in Manali,
Himachal Pradesh

International Students' participation in Workshop



ICCR foreign Students attended the workshop on “Chlo Bharat ko Samjhe” organised in association with Antar Rashtriya Sahayog Parishad



Foreign Students with Baba Ramdev Ji

Zonal and Sub Zonal Offices of ICCR

(As of Jan 2024)

1. Zonal Office:

S. No.	Name of Zonal Head	Jurisdiction	Address	Contact Details
1.	Shri. Manoj Kumar Zonal Office (North), Delhi	Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chandigarh (UT)	USICR Press Building near Zoology Department North Campus, Chatra Marg, University of Delhi-11007	Mob: 9868861130 Ph: 27667373/74/75 Email: ro.delhincr@gov.in
2.	Ms. Minakashi Mishra Zonal office (East), Kolkata	West Bengal, Odisha	Rabindranath Tagore Centre 9A, Ho Chi Minh Sarani Kolkata – 700 071 West Bengal	Mob: +91-8130190700 Ph: 033- 22822895, 033-22823431 Fax : 033-22870028/4890 E-mail:rokolkata.iccr@gov.in;
3.	Shri N. Munish Singh Zonal Office (North-East), Guwahati	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram	Annexure Pavilion Shilpgram, Panjabari Road Guwahati - 781 037 Assam	Mob: +91-8119923578 Ph. 0361-2335358 Fax: 0361-2335359 mail: roguwahati.iccr@gov.in;
4.	Ms. Renu Prithiani Zonal Office (West), Mumbai	Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa	Videsh Bhavan Plot No.C-45,Block G Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East) Mumbai 400 051	Mob: +91-98921981117 Ph: 022-26520027 / 26520042/ 26520043/ 022-26520041 E-mail: romumbai.iccr@gov.in,
5.	Shri Pradeep Kumar Zonal Office (South), Bengaluru	Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala	No.7/2, 1st Floor, 2nd Main, Palace Cross Road Bangalore – 560 020 Karnataka	Mob: +91-9818087589 Ph: 080-23462714, 23462715, 23566914 Fax: 080-23566917 E-mail: robengaluru.iccr@gov.in;

2. Sub-Zonal Offices:

1.	Shri Raj Kumar Sub-Zonal Office, Pune	Savitribai Phule University, Ganeshkhind Pune - 411 007	Mob: +91-9582271874 Ph:+91-20-25690084, +91-20-25695464, Email: ropune.iccr@gov.in
2.	Shri Surender Kumar Sub-Zonal Office, Ahmedabad	Indian Council for Cultural Relations 04/19 & 04/20, HRDC Hostel, Teacher's Quarters, Next to NRI Girls Hostel Near Hanumanji Temple, Gujarat University Campus, Navrangpura,	Mob: 9911169290 (RD)/ 9081122296(ROs) Ph: 079-26300091, 26300046 Fax: 079-26300087 E-mail : roahmedabad.iccr@gov.in;

Zonal and Sub Zonal Offices of ICCR

(As of Jan 2024)

S. No.	Name of Zonal Head	Address	Contact Details
3.	Shri N. Munish Singh Sub-Zonal Office, Shillong	Brookside Cottage, New Assembly Compound, Shillong-793 004 Meghalaya	Mob: 91-8119923578 Tel : 0364-2228573 Fax : 0364-2220183 Email : roshillong.iccr@nic.in
4.	Shri Arvind Kumar Sub-Zonal Office, Lucknow	Indian Council for Cultural Relations 3rd Floor, Passport Bhawan, Vipin Khand, Gomti Naga, Lucknow-226010	Mob: 7080921503 Ph:0522-2307570/2307572 Fax No.0522-2307580 E-mail: rolucknow.iccr@gov.in;

3. With Regional Passport Office

S.No	Name of the Regional Head	Address	Contact Details
1.	Ms. Tavishi Behal Pandey, Regional Director, Patna	67-68/40, Officers Flats Balley Road, Opposite Suchna Bhavan Patna, Bihar – 800 001	Mob: 6200886755/ 09430825968 Ph: 0612-2204734, 2207378, 2545232 & 233 Fax: 0612-2227972 E-mail : ropatna.iccr@gov.in;
2.	Shri Rajesh Kumar Regional Director, Jammu	46, Garden Avenue Behind Circuit House, Talab Tillo Jammu	Mob: 9086019623 Ph: 0191-2555736 Fax: 0191-2578337 E-mail : rojammu.iccr@gov.in;



Indian Council for Cultural Relations

Azad Bhawan, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002

Scholarship Division: 011-23379309, 23379310 (Extn 3300,1135)

www.iccr.gov.in | www.a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in | pdisd2.iccr@gov.in

 [/ICCROfficial](https://www.facebook.com/ICCROfficial)

 [ICCR_Delhi](https://www.instagram.com/ICCR_Delhi)

 [@ICCR_hq](https://twitter.com/ICCR_hq)

 [/ICCROfficial](https://www.youtube.com/ICCROfficial)