

**Scholarships for the Bulgarian Students
by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)
for the Academic year 2021-22**

Information Note

1. The Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR), Government of India is pleased to announce six (6) scholarships for Bulgarian students under the Cultural Exchange Program/ Educational Exchange Program (A1206) at reputed Indian Universities and institutes for the Academic year 2021-22. Of the six scholarships being offered for Bulgarian students, one is for pursuing Graduate (3-year course) or Post Graduate courses (2-year) and five (5) are for pursuing 1-year certificate course in Hindi.
2. The students interested in availing the scholarships are required to apply online through ICCR's Scholarship web portal (<http://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in/>). The scholarship portal will be operational from 15 March 2021 for foreign students to apply for admission for the year 2021-22. A timeline for the application process for the Academic year 2021-22 is enclosed as an Annexure. **The last date for submission of the applications by students seeking scholarship for the Academic year 2021-22 is 30 April 2021.**
3. There are some new changes in the application process. The applicants may read the following information carefully to understand the application process.
4. The list of the University and Institutes where the ICCR scholarships are provided for foreign students is available at the a2ascholarship portal. **The students are required to apply directly to the universities and institutes of their choice at the a2ascholarships portal.** There is no requirement for submitting the application to the Embassy of India, Sofia. The applicants will be informed of selection or rejection of their application directly by the concerned University.
5. Applicants have the option to apply to five (5) Universities/Institutes in the order of their preference of study. The admission, as far as possible, shall be given as per applicant's order of 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. Students should be prepared to receive admission from any of their five preferences.
6. The medium for study would be English language. **For the Academic Year 2021-22, the students are required to submit a 500-word Essay in English to prove their proficiency in the English language.** Besides the essay, the students can also submit their Standardized Test scores of TOFEL/ IELTS etc., if available.
7. The students must ensure that they are eligible for the course and meet the eligibility criteria for the course for which they are applying. Relevant documentation as required by the Universities are to be submitted in addition to the basic certificates mentioned in the Application Form. Applicants are advised to refer to the Universities Handbook /University Grants Commission's website and the concerned University/ Institute's website for the eligibility criteria etc.
8. For the Engineering courses (B. Eng. / B. Tech courses), it is a mandatory requirement for the students to have studied Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics (PCM) at the 11 and 12 grades of schooling. The Mark sheets of both levels, i.e. 10th and 10+2 level of school is required to be uploaded along with the transcripts in English.
9. The application will not be considered complete without the English translation of documents if the original documents are not in English. Incomplete application will be summarily rejected by universities if documents are not in English or English translation is not provided. Students are advised to thoroughly

check their applications and attach requisite documents before submission of the application.

10. The scholarship amount will be paid directly to the students through the Public Financial Management System (PFMS) as per the Government of India guidelines on direct payment to beneficiaries.

11. Applicants should be of the age of 18 years or older at the time of admission in the Indian Universities/ Institutes and not more than 30 years of age.

12. ICCR scholarships are not available for studying in the courses related to Fashion / Medical /Paramedical (Nursing Physiotherapy/anesthesia etc.).

13. Under the ICCR scholarship, the tuition fee charged by the University will be reimbursed in full. In addition, the students will be paid monthly stipend, as per the prescribed rates for living allowance. The current rates are Indian Rupees INR 18,000/- (approx. BGN 400/- for Under Graduate course) and Indian Rupees INR 20,000/- (approx. BGN 445/- for Post Graduate course).

14. **Airfare will not be provided.** The selected student would be required to arrange his/her own airfare.

15. The scholarship provided for science courses does not include the charges on laboratory chemicals and other related incidentals and such expenses will have to be borne by the scholars themselves.

16. **Compulsory Personal Medical Insurance:** It is mandatory for all students availing of the ICCR scholarship to obtain a suitable Medical Insurance policy with minimum Annual expenditure allowed of Indian Rupees Five hundred Thousand which is equivalent to US \$ **6800** per annum. Students have the choice to purchase medical insurance policy from any insurance companies. In order to help the students, the details of two insurance companies have been provided at the A2A Portal for referral purpose. ICCR has uploaded the revised norms on its A2A Portal.

17. The selected student for Bachelor degree courses would be required to stay in the university's hostel during the 1st year of study.

18. For any further clarification/query, Mr. Surendra Kumar, Attache, Embassy of India, Sofia may be contacted on email: pol.sofia@mea.gov.in and WhatsApp No. **+359 888990963**.

Indian Council for Cultural Relations
Azad Bhavan, Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi – 110 002

ICCR Admission Process

Timeline to be followed for the Academic Year 2021-22

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| 15-March-2021 | Open ICCR A2A Portal for admissions. |
| 30-April-2021 | Last date of application to be submitted by students. |
| 25-June-2021 | Last date of Universities to inform the decision (if confirmed, intimation to Missions; if rejected, intimation to students). |
| 05-July-2021 | Last date of allocating scholarship and University and generating an Offer Letter by Indian Mission abroad. |
| 12-July-2021 | Last date of acceptance by students. |
| 19-July-2021 | 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. |
| 25-July-2021 | Second-round students to convey their acceptances. |

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SCHOLARSHIP FLOWCHART

