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परिषद्
INDIAN
COUNCIL FOR
CULTURAL
RELATIONS
E-mail

MOST IMMEDIATE

No.ISD-I/APJAKCSS (A1203)/01/2023-24

27 January, 2023

From: ICCR, New Delhi
To: HoMs (as per list)
Rpt: AS (LAC) / AS (AMS) / JS (EW) / JS (IOR) / JS (Oceania) / JS (BM), MEA New Delhi

HoM from Deputy Director General (Culture)

Subject:- Announcement of **total 24 ICCR Scholarships slots i.e. 2 Slots each for Canada, New Zealand and United Kingdom; 9 Slots for Guyana; 4 Slots for Maldives and 5 Slots for Sri Lanka** under **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme (A1203) (formerly Commonwealth Scholarship Plan)** for Undergraduate; Postgraduate; PhD courses in the academic year 2023-24

ICCR is pleased to announce **24 scholarships slots** under **Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme (A1203) (formerly Commonwealth Scholarship Plan)** at Indian Universities / Institutes for the academic year 2023-24, as above.

2. The applications from interested international students for academic year 2023-24 will be invited online through ICCR's **A2A Scholarship Portal** <http://a2ascholarships.iccr.gov.in>, which will be operational from 20 February 2023. Also a '**Timeline for the admission process**' has been set which is given below for reference. Missions are requested to adhere to the timeline:-

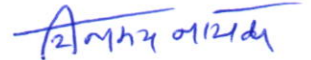
20-February-2023	Opening of ICCR A2A Portal for admissions.
30-April-2023	Last date of application to be submitted by students.
31-May-2023	Last date of Universities to inform the decision (if confirmed, intimation to Missions; if rejected, intimation to students).
30-June-2023	Last date for allocating scholarship and generating Offer Letters by Indian Mission abroad.
15-July-2023	Last date of acceptance by students.
22-July-2023	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-2023	Second-round students to convey their acceptances.

Contd...2/-

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3. As may be aware, the entire online application process has been streamlined and coordinated through **A2A Portal** with our Missions abroad, eligible Universities / institutes and ICCR Zonal / Sub- Zonal Offices/ RPOs. An admission process flow has been prepared for reference (copy attached).
4. This is also to inform that ICCR is in the process of rationalizing the list of Universities / Institutes for scholarship and they have been tentatively reduced to 122. The final list of Universities / Institutes will be reflected in the **A2A Portal** when opened.
5. Highlights of admission process are highlighted at **Annexure 'A'**.
6. For any further clarification/query in this regard, Smt. Nalini Singhal, Programme Director, Scholarship Division may be contacted on e-mail: pdisd2.iccr@gov.in Landline No. +91-11-23379199 (Direct) / 23379309/10/14 (Extn.: 1137) / What App No.8968692211.

Warm regards,



(Chinmoy Naik)

**Indian Council for Cultural Relations,
Azad Bhavan, IP Estate, New Delhi – 110 002
(ISD-I Section)**

**Highlights of admission process for the Academic Year 2023-24 under Dr.
A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme (A1203) (formerly
Commonwealth Scholarship Plan)**

- 1) Only Universities / Institutes having excellent academic reputation, requisite facilities to host foreign students, dedicated office of ISA to address the issues of foreign students already having sizeable number of foreign students will be empanelled. The list of criteria for empanelment will be decided by ICCR, and may be amended from time to time if required.
- 2) According to **A2A process**, applications will be directly sent by students to respective universities instead of processing at Mission-level. This will automate the process and Universities will be able to see the applications received directly from the students.
- 3) Applicants 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 scenario when students do not get admission in their preferred Universities / institutes due to limited number of seats on offer. Students should therefore be prepared to receive admission from any of their five preferences. Missions may consult ICCR HQ in certain cases where some particular Universities / institutes are oversubscribed and the next preference will have to be exercised.
- 4) For AY 2023-24, a 500-word essay in English has been introduced to ascertain English proficiency. Besides, students can also submit their TOFEL / IELTS etc. Standardised Test scores, if available. ICCR is also requesting Universities / institutes to conduct interview of the applicants online, if so required. There will be no separate English test by Missions, as was earlier.
- 5) Rejected candidates will be intimated by Universities. We have requested Universities to inform students if their application is rejected.
- 6) ICCR has introduced disbursement of all scholarship payment to students through PFMS w.e.f. February, 2021. This is as per GOI guidelines on direct payment to beneficiaries.
- 7) As far as possible, Mission is requested to kindly award scholarships to new students and avoid repeat scholarship.
- 8) Before issuing offer letter to any student, Missions are advised to ensure that student obtains the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) equivalence also (if required). This would be stipulated by the concerned University / Institute in their Provisional Confirmation letter for the applicant (uploaded on A2A 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 (+911123230059 / 23231097 / 23232305 Extn. 210, 234, 252, E-mail id: studentinfo@aiu.ac.in, ds_international@aiu.ac.in, evaluation@aiu.ac.in

9. It is advisable that nodal officer with adequate technical background to handle the **A2A Portal** may be designated by each Mission. The guidelines of all schemes are available on the Portal and it may be used for disseminating amongst the interested candidates applying for admission through ICCR. The official should also scrutinize all the online admissions and forward the same with his/her signature. All Missions may like to use the scholarship e-brochure recently brought out by ICCR for publicity of ICCR scholarships (available in e-book section of ICCR website and **A2A Portal**, was also emailed to all Missions). Missions may wish to reach out to local Ministry of Education, Universities / schools / prominent educational institutions and make presentations on ICCR scholarships; hold roadshows, etc. to popularise the scholarship schemes.

10. 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.** Mission is requested to provide one way air-ticket to the selected scholars. Mission may please ensure booking the air ticket so that no student claims reimbursement of airfares in India.

11. While publicizing the scheme, interested students may be advised to visit respective University / institute website regularly 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 would be also advised to refer to the University's Handbook / University Grants Commission's website etc.

12. It may be noted 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 alongwith the transcripts in English. The application will not be considered without English translation of documents if the original documents are not in English. It may also be noted that incomplete application can be summarily rejected by Universities. Students should be advised to thoroughly check their applications and attach requisite documents before submission of the application.

13. Mission must ensure that the applicant's age for availing scholarship is as under on the date of opening of **A2A Portal**:-

For Undergraduate / Postgraduate courses – between 18 to 30 Years and
For PhD Programmes – between 18 to 45 Years.

14. The admissions in Medical/ Paramedical (Nursing / Physiotherapy / anaesthesia etc.) / fashion / law courses / integrated courses such as BALLB (5 Years) / B Sc & M Sc (5 Years) etc. are not admissible.

15. Please note that for Science courses, the expenditure on laboratory chemicals and other related incidental charges will be borne by the scholars themselves.

16. It is also important to ensure that a scholarship is awarded only after the Mission is satisfied that student intends to study in India; has no serious health issues; has not submitted incomplete / fraudulent documentation or any other such parameters, which may negate our objective of promoting goodwill through scholarships.

17. It is compulsory for all ICCR scholarship students to procure Medical Insurance policy with minimum sum assured for Indian Rupees Five Lakhs per annum. Mission is requested to inform applicants that when they travel to India, they must have medical insurance coverage on their own either before travel or immediately after reaching India, whichever is convenient. Students can purchase medical insurance from any of the insurance companies of their choice. However to facilitate students, **A2A Portal** has two insurance companies for referral purpose. Missions should also make appropriate changes in their website / social media handles so that students who would be applying for ICCR scholarship for upcoming academic year are aware of the change in medical insurance policy. ICCR has uploaded the revised norms on its **A2A Portal**.

18. It would also be appreciated if the students are briefed properly about the provisions of ICCR and MEA's scholarship schemes. It is also essential that the applicant is given an updated briefing regarding India, including the living conditions at their destination / University (if possible). It may also be mentioned that ICCR may amend some provisions of scholarships from time to time and it is incumbent on students to accept the revised norms.

19. By way of a suggestion, Mission may proactively promote ICCR scholarship schemes to attract the best and brightest applicants and also nominate greater students for Postgraduate and Higher Courses.

20. In order to ensure security of the foreign students, ICCR advises students to stay in the campus hostel, if available. However, students are allowed to stay in private accommodation if the concerned institute does not insist on staying in their hostel.

21. 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 admissions.

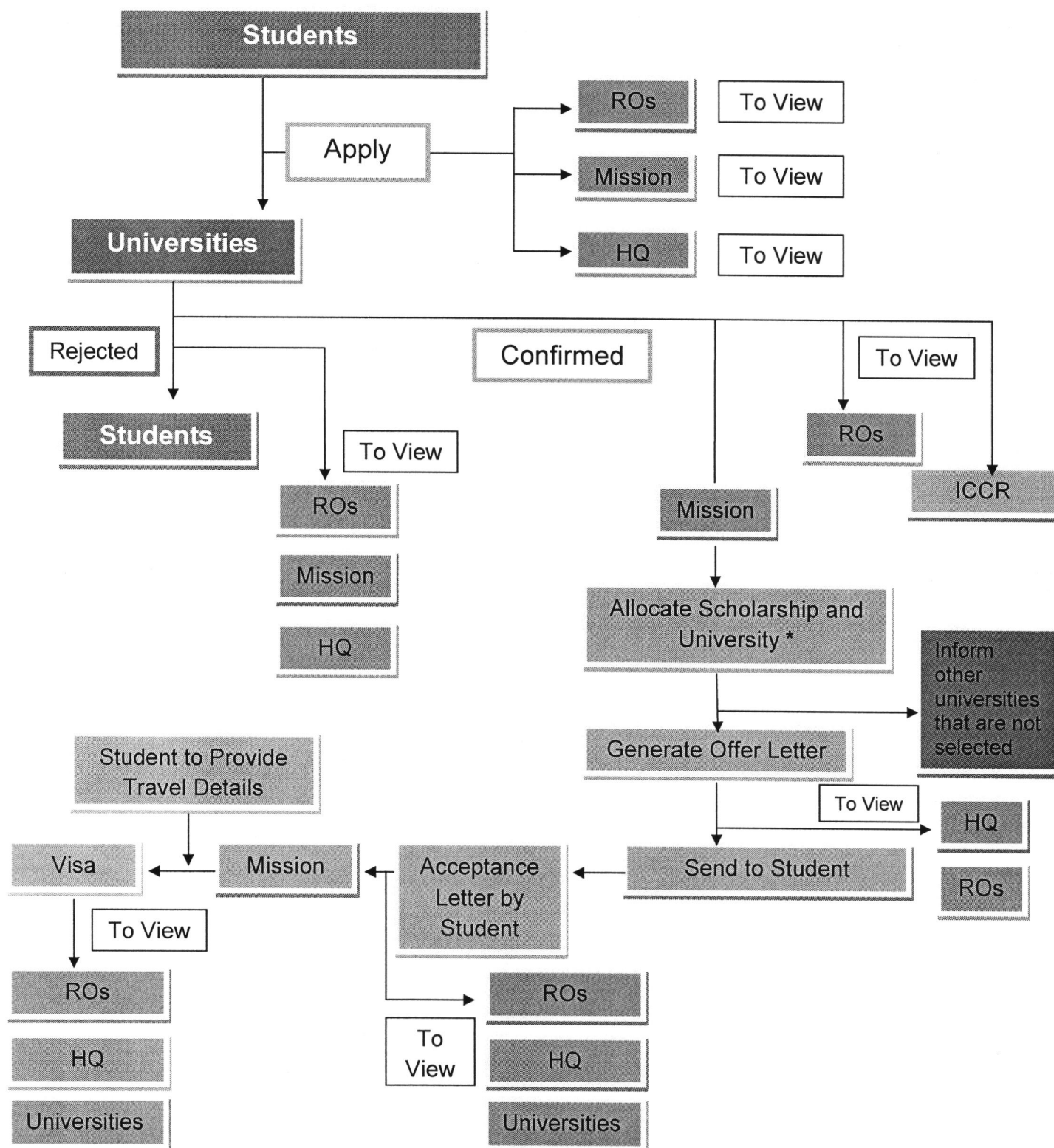
22. Undertaking from the student that they have read the terms and conditions / Guidelines of ICCR scholarship as specified in the Scholarship Manual 2022-23 (The one time undertaking will be applicable even when scholarship manual is updated (as per para 36 like provisions), available on **A2A Portal**).

23. Detailed guidelines on the process of applying for ICCR Scholarships are available on the **A2A Portal**.

INDIAN COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL RELATIONS

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SCHOLARSHIP FLOWCHART



*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.