



Sikyong Professional Scholarship Program (SPSP)

Guidelines

SPSP will award 5-10 scholarships up to INR 300,000/year

Introduction:

The Department of Education (DoE), Central Tibetan Administration (CTA), is pleased to announce a new scholarship program entitled the Sikyong Professional Scholarship Program (SPSP) in partnership with The Tibet Fund (TTF), New York.

The SPSP aims to support high achieving Tibetan students from India, Nepal, and Bhutan who wish to pursue professional degrees at the most selective colleges, institutes, and universities in India. Scholarships will be provided by The Tibet Fund, New York, through the Department of Education, CTA.

Award Amounts: Successful applicants will receive awards of up to INR 300,000 a year depending upon need.

Award amounts will be flexible based on individual financial need. Awards will be calculated based on the successful applicant's statement of expected financial need and disclosure of other financial resources, if any, including family contributions, other scholarship awards, private sponsor support, and tuition discounts based on entrance test results, if applicable.

After an applicant is selected for an award, the SPSP will commit to enabling the successful applicant complete his/her full course of study. Award amounts will be reviewed by the SPSP committee and adjusted annually as needed, based on assessments of satisfactory performance and any changes in financial need status.

Courses: Applicants may apply for the following types of professional degree courses:

- **Master's degree, Post Graduate Diploma, M.Phil, or Ph.D. in any subject or field**, at one of the Top Ten Colleges / Institutes / Universities in India accredited by NAAC with the rank "A" or above, as listed by *India Today's* most recently published ranking.
- **Bachelor's degree in Engineering (B.E.), Medicine (M.B.B.S.), Dental Surgery (B.D.S.), Law (B.A LL.B.), or Architecture (B.Arch)**, at one of the Top Ten Colleges / Institutes / Universities in India accredited by NAAC with the rank "A" or above, as listed by *India Today's* most recently published ranking.

Pre-Scholarship Gap Year Study Award

- Pre-scholarship study awards will be granted to Class XII students (freshers only) who wish to pursue an **M.B.B.S. at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) or a B.E. at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT)**. Pre-scholarship study awards will be granted for up to one gap year in the first year after completing Class XII, to study full-time at one of six coaching centers listed by the Department of Education (please see attached list). Upon successful admission to AIIMS or IIT, the applicant will receive a SPSP scholarship to attend AIIMS or IIT.

Eligibility Criteria:

- (i) Applicant must apply to pursue one of the courses listed above, or the pre-scholarship study award.
- (ii) Applicant must take the entrance test for the professional degree course, if the respective college/institute/university offers tuition discounts based on entrance test rankings.
- (iii) Applicant must be a Tibetan refugee student from India, Nepal, or Bhutan who has paid his or her Green Book (GB) contribution to date.
- (iv) Applicants for Bachelor's degree courses and pre-scholarship study awards must have scored 80% in the Senior Secondary Board Examination or equivalent.
- (v) Applicants for Master's degree, Post Graduate Diploma, M.Phil, or Ph.D. must have scored 60% in the Bachelor's Final Examination.
- (vi) Applicants who have not graduated from a secondary school under the DoE, CTA, must score a minimum of 33% on the Tibetan Language Proficiency Test (TLPT) administered by the DoE. Applicants should register for the TLPT with DoE.

Documents to be submitted:

- Copy of Class X and XII Marks Card
- Copy of Marks Cards and Degree Certificates if applicant holds a Bachelor's, Master's, Post Graduate or M.Phil.
- Two passport size photos
- Personal statement no longer than 2 pages in length
- Two reference letters from a former teacher, professor, employer, professional colleague, or mentor
- Curriculum vitae no longer than 2 pages in length
- Photocopy of the first and last page of valid Registration Certificate (RC). If the RC book has been sent for renewal/extension, a letter to this effect should be obtained from the

concerned Regional Foreign Registration Office (FRRO), or in cases where FRROs do not issue such letters, from the Tibetan Settlement Officer (TSO)

- Photocopy of first and last page of applicant's valid Green Book (GB)
- For applicants from Nepal and Bhutan: letter from the respective Tibetan Settlement Office certifying that the applicant is a bonafide Tibetan refugee

General Instructions:

- (i) Download the Application Form from DoE or Tibet Fund websites: www.sherig.org, www.lamton.org, www.tibetfund.org.
- (ii) All photocopies of documents must be attested, signed, and stamped by a TSO/Secondary School Principal/CTA Officer with rank of Joint Secretary and above.
- (iii) All information in the Application Form must be completed.

Mode of Selection:

- (i) DoE will review the applications, conduct initial sorting and screening, and identify final round applicants.
- (ii) Final round applicants will be interviewed in person or via Skype. Interviews will be conducted to assess important qualitative criteria such as personal commitment to stated professional goals and likelihood of achieving them.
- (iii) A joint selection committee of DoE and TTF will make final scholarship award decisions.
- (iv) The decision of the selection committee will be final.

Mode of Execution:

- (i) DoE will be responsible for executing the program.
- (ii) Scholarship awards will be released in two installments each year through the concerned Settlement Office.
 - 1st installment will be released upon producing the acceptance letter from the respective college/university/institute
 - 2nd installment will be released upon producing the first installment's receipt by the settlement office.
- (iii) The performance of scholarship recipients will be closely monitored. Continuation will be contingent on satisfactory academic performance. Recipients must secure at least 65% in the annual exam. Attested copies of annual exam results must be submitted to the DoE.
- (iv) If any of the applicant's given information is found untrue at any time, the scholarship will be withdrawn.