



South Asian University
(A University established by SAARC Nations)
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SAU Scholarship/Freeship/Financial Support Policy Document (2024-2025)

The South Asian University (SAU) provides financial support in terms of various scholarships and freeships. At present, it provides SAU President Scholarship, SAARC-India Silver Jubilee Scholarship (SJS), SAU Merit Scholarship, SAU PhD Scholarship, SAU Freeship with Stipend, and SAU Freeship. For Masters/M.Tech./B.Tech. programmes, some of the Scholarships/stipend are for 11 months while some are for the entire duration of the programmes subject to fulfilling the renewal criteria at the end of each year. For PhD students, the scholarship is for 5 years (60 months). At the time of admission, all Masters/M.Tech./B.Tech. students will have to pay the tuition fee along with other applicable fees to secure admission. However, the tuition fee, to the extent of the support, will be refunded to all scholarship/freeship awardees by the end of the first semester. For registering in the successive semesters, the scholarship/freeship awardees will be required to pay the tuition fee after deducting the support amount, provided they meet the renewal criteria as prescribed in the respective category of scholarship/freeship given below. However, they will be required to pay other applicable fees as and when notified by the Admissions & Examinations Department to complete their registration. PhD students need not pay any tuition fee throughout their studies.

Further details about the above-mentioned scholarships/freeships and eligibility criteria for awarding to different categories of students from SAARC countries are given in the following sections.

SCHOLARSHIP/FREESHIP FOR MASTER'S STUDENTS

1 SAU President Scholarship

There are TWO SAU President Scholarships for each Masters/M.Tech./B.Tech. programme one each for Indian and non-Indian student. The maximum tenure of SAU President Scholarship is 11 months.

1.1 For First year students other than M.Tech./B.Tech. (but including MSc.+M.Tech.) programmes:

- SAU President Scholarship will be given to those who have secured the highest rank in SAU Entrance Test in the respective category of the programme. The SAU President Scholarship is transferable within the respective category and programme; that is, if the first rank holder does not join the programme, it would be offered to the next rank holder, and so on.
- The start date would be 1st August 2024 and will go for 11 months, i.e., up to 30th June 2025.

1.2 For First year students of M.Tech./B.Tech. programmes:

- SAU President Scholarships for M.Tech./B.Tech. students will be decided at the end of the first semester. These will be given to those who will secure the highest rank at the end of the first semester examinations in the respective category of the programme.
- The eligibility of this category would be w.e.f. 1st August 2024 and will go for 11 months, i.e., up to 30th June 2025.

1.3 For all students, from second year onwards:

- From second year onwards, SAU President Scholarship will be given to those students who will secure the highest rank till the end of the previous year in the respective category of the programme.
- For such students, the start date would be 1st July and will go for 11 months, i.e., up to 30th June. However, in the last year of the programme, the SAU President Scholarship will terminate on the last day of the winter semester which is normally 25th May.

1.4 Scope

- Tuition Fee waiver up to USD 440 per semester
- Hostel Fee waiver
- A monthly stipend of INR 7,000
- A start-up allowance of INR 5,000 for Indians and INR 10,000 for non-Indians so as to meet part of their inbound travel cost and book purchases etc. in the beginning of the programme.
- A pack-up allowance of INR 5,000 for Indians and INR 10,000 for non-Indians to cover their outbound travel including any excess baggage cost, etc. at the end of the programme.

2 SAARC India Silver Jubilee Scholarship (SJS)

There are 75 SJS for Masters students (except M.Tech. but including Integrated M.Sc.+M.Tech.) (for the entire duration of the programmes) from the beneficiary member states, which include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Nepal (SJS Eligible Countries). Out of these, 50% scholarships are reserved for women candidates. However, if there are not enough women candidates, then the remaining scholarships can be awarded to the male candidates. Moreover, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Govt. of India has the discretion to award 20% of the scholarships to students of its choice from existing SAU students and those selected for admission to SAU.

The available SJS scholarships are divided into two parts: 50% each for male and female candidates. Thereafter, each part is distributed among all SJS Eligible Countries in proportion to the number of admitted candidates from these countries. Finally, the scholarship share of a particular SJS Eligible Country is awarded to the candidates of that country, distributing uniformly among the respective Master Programmes in a cyclic manner.

The available SJS scholarships will be given to the top ranked candidates programme wise among the eligible countries among the remaining candidates after awarding the SAU President Scholarship.

Award of SJS is subject to the concurrence and approval of the MEA, Govt. of India.

2.1 Scope

- Tuition Fee waiver up to USD 440 per semester
- Hostel Fee waiver
- A monthly stipend of INR 7,000
- A start-up allowance of INR 10,000 at the beginning of the tenure so as to meet part of their inbound travel cost and book purchases etc.
- A pack-up allowance of INR 10,000 at the end of the tenure to cover their outbound travel including any excess baggage cost, etc.

2.2 Renewal Criteria

- The SJS shall be renewed before the beginning of the 3rd/5th semester only provided the awardees have secured the required CGPA of 6.0 at the end of the 2nd/4th semester as prescribed by the MEA, Govt. of India which may change from time to time. However, in the last year of the programme, the SJS will terminate on the last day of the winter semester which is normally 25th May.

3 SAU Merit Scholarship:

There are TWO SAU Merit Scholarships for each Masters/M.Tech./B.Tech. programme one each for Indian and non-Indian student. The maximum tenure of SAU Merit Scholarship is 11 months.

3.1 For First year students other than M.Tech./B.Tech. (but including MSc.+M.Tech.) programmes:

- These scholarships are given to the Indian and non-Indian students who have secured the highest rank in the respective merit-list of SAU Entrance Test among the remaining students after awarding the SAU President scholarship and SAARC-India Silver Jubilee Scholarship. Like the SAU President Scholarship, the SAU Merit Scholarship is also transferable within the respective category and programme.
- The start date would be 1st August 2024 and will go for 11 months, i.e., up to 30th June 2025.

3.2 For First year students of M.Tech./B.Tech. programmes:

- SAU Merit Scholarships for M.Tech./B.Tech. students will be decided at the end of the first semester. These will be given to those who will secure the highest rank at the end of the first semester examination among the remaining students after awarding the SAU President scholarship and SJS in the respective category of the programme.
- The eligibility of this category would be w.e.f. 1st August 2024 and will go for 11 months, i.e., up to 30th June 2025.

3.3 For all students, from Second year onwards:

- From second year onwards, SAU Merit Scholarships will be given to those students who will secure the highest rank till the end of the previous year in the respective category of the

programme among the remaining students who have already been awarded the SAU President scholarship and SJS.

- For such students, the start date would be 1st July and will go for 11 months, i.e., up to 30th June. However, in the final year of the programme, the SAU Merit Scholarship will terminate on the last day of the winter semester which is normally 25th May.

3.4 Scope

- Tuition Fee waiver up to USD 440 per semester
- Hostel Fee waiver
- A monthly stipend of INR 5,000

4 SAU Freeship with Stipend

The SAU has a policy with regard to awarding freeships with stipend to students from economically weaker families. However, due to the limited number of such freeships, it is not guaranteed that all applicants will necessarily receive a freeship with stipend. There are FOUR Freeships with Stipend for each Masters/M.Tech./B.Tech. programme. Out of these, two are given to the Indian students and two to the non-Indian students who have applied for the same and whose annual family income is below a certain amount, which would be determined by the Scholarship/Freeship Award Committee from time to time. The SAU Freeship with Stipend is transferrable across Faculties/ Departments/ Countries in the event of non-availability of eligible candidates from any Faculty/ Department/ Country. The students will be notified to apply for the SAU Freeship with Stipend on a prescribed form after joining the University and would need to provide the family income certificate issued by the competent authority of the respective SAARC countries.

The start date would be 1st August 2024 and will go for 11 months, i.e., up to 30th June 2025. For second and subsequent years, the start date would be 1st July and will go for 12 months, i.e., up to 30th June. However, in the final year of the programme, the SAU Freeship with Stipend will terminate on the last day of the winter semester which is normally 25th May.

4.1 Scope

- Tuition Fee waiver up to USD 440 per semester
- Hostel Fee waiver
- A monthly stipend of INR 5,000

4.2 Renewal Criteria

The SAU Freeship with Stipend shall be renewed for the second year and the subsequent years provided the awardees have secured a minimum CGPA of 4.5 for the science streams (Biotechnology, Computer Science and Mathematics) and 4.0 for the other streams (Economics, Sociology, International Relations and Law) at the end of the previous year.

5 SAU Freeship

The SAU has a policy with regard to awarding freeships to students from economically weaker families. However, due to limited number of freeships, it is not guaranteed that all applicants will

necessarily receive a freeship. There are SIX Freeships for each Masters/M.Tech./B.Tech. programme of SAU. Out of these, three are given to the Indian students and three to the non-Indian students who have applied for the same and whose annual family income is below a certain amount, which would be determined by the Scholarship/Freeship Award Committee from time to time. The SAU Freeship is transferrable across Faculties/Departments/Countries in the event of non-availability of eligible candidates from any Faculty/Department/Country. The students will be notified to apply for the SAU Freeship on a Prescribed Form after joining the University and would need to provide the family income certificate issued by the competent authority of the respective SAARC countries.

5.1 Scope

- Tuition Fee waiver up to USD 440 per semester
- Hostel Fee waiver

5.2 Renewal Criteria

The SAU Freeship shall be renewed for the second year and subsequent years provided the awardees have secured a minimum CGPA of 4.5 for the science streams (Biotechnology, Computer Science and Mathematics) and 4.0 for the other streams (Economics, Sociology, International Relations and Law) at the end of the previous year.

General Terms and Conditions for Masters/M.Tech./B.Tech. Students

- i The Scholarships/Freeships are offered to the students only and at the beginning of the Monsoon semesters.
- ii If a student is a recipient of any other scholarship/fellowship/financial assistance through any source recognized by the government of any SAARC country or if the student is employed and receiving salary from the parent institution/organization, then s/he is not eligible for any of the Scholarships/Freeships offered by SAU. Non-disclosure of any such information will constitute an offense and the student will be liable for cancellation of the scholarship/freeship, refund of the scholarship/freeship amount already paid and disciplinary action as decided by the University.
- iii For the First Year students, all the Scholarships/Freeships will be effective from 1st August 2024 or the actual date of admission to the programme, whichever is later.
- iv Initially, all the Scholarships/Freeships will be offered for a maximum of 11 months from the date of its initiation, i.e., till 30th June 2025. Thereafter, the President Scholarship and SAU Merit Scholarship will terminate while the others will continue for the remaining period of study subject to the fulfilment of the prescribed renewal criteria every year. In the final year of the programme, all the scholarships/stipend will terminate on the last day of the winter semester which is normally 25th May.
- v At SAU, the students need to register in each semester. A student shall become eligible to receive any scholarship/freeship in the new semester only after his/her registration to that semester. No scholarship/financial support will be paid for the period during which a student was not registered, i.e., from the last date notified for registration to the date when he/she actually

registers after paying all dues including late fees etc., except when he/she could not register in time as he/she was assigned field trip/work by the Department/Faculty as per the relevant bye-law.

- vi If the awardee does not meet the renewal criteria at the end of the 2nd/4th/6th/8th semester, then the scholarship will be terminated with immediate effect, and the candidate will have to pay the full tuition fee and hostel fee (if staying in SAU hostel) along with other applicable fees for the remaining period.
- vii Wrongful disclosure of family income, concealing any material fact pertaining to family income or submitting forged documents will attract strict disciplinary action.
- viii The disbursement and continuation of scholarships/freeships are subject to meeting the satisfactory academic performance, maintenance of hostel/university discipline and good conduct.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE MASTER PROGRAMMES

In the event of SAU Freeships with Stipend and SAU Freeships becoming available by the end of the 2nd/4th/6th/8th semester, for example, if the recipient leaves the programme in the 1st/2nd/3rd/4th year or moves to another category of scholarship by virtue of his previous year CGPA, then the same will be made available to those who did not receive any scholarship/freeship during the previous year. For this purpose, the CGPA obtained at the end of the previous semester will be considered, and depending upon the number of Scholarships/Freeships lying vacant, those who scored the highest CGPA after awarding the SAU President and SAU Merit Scholarships will be considered for Freeship. The vacant number of Scholarships/Freeships that fall vacant will be notified at the beginning of the 3rd/5th/7th/9th semester and accordingly the applications will be invited.

Scope

- Tuition Fee waiver up to USD 440
- Hostel Fee waiver

Terms and Conditions

- The support will start from the date of registration in the 3rd/5th/7th/9th semester.
- For the programme of two-year duration, the support will be for a maximum of 10 months or till the date when the 4th semester examinations get over whichever is earlier and for programmes of longer duration, the support will be till 30th June of the respective year.
- If a student decides to repeat a course, then in the calculation of the CGPA, the score of the repeat course will not be counted.
- All other relevant conditions as prescribed in “terms and Conditions for Master Students” will remain applicable to those who are provided financial support in the beginning of the 3rd/5th/7th/9th semester.

SCHOLARSHIP/FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PHD STUDENTS ADMITTED THROUGH SAU ENTRANCE TEST

1 SAARC-India Silver Jubilee Scholarship (SJS)

There are 25 SJS slots for PhD students from the beneficiary member states which include Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Nepal. Out of these, 50% scholarships are reserved for women candidates. However, if there are not enough women candidates, then the remaining scholarships can be awarded to the male candidates. Moreover, the MEA, Govt. of India has the discretion to award 20% of the scholarships to the students of its choice from existing SAU students and those selected for admission to SAU.

The available SJS scholarships are divided into two parts: 50% each for male and female candidates. Thereafter, each part is distributed among all SJS Eligible Countries in proportion to the number of admitted candidates from these countries. Finally, the scholarship share of a particular SJS Eligible Country is awarded to the candidates of that country, distributing uniformly among the respective PhD programmes in a cyclic manner.

Award of SJS is subject to the concurrence and approval of the MEA, Govt. of India.

1.1 Scope

- Tuition Fee waiver
- Hostel Fee waiver
- A monthly stipend of INR 25,000, out of which INR 12,000 is contributed by MEA, Govt. of India
- A start-up allowance of INR 10,000 at the beginning of the tenure so as to meet part of the inbound travel cost and book purchases etc.
- A pack-up allowance of INR 10,000 at the end of the tenure to cover the outbound travel including any excess baggage cost, etc.

1.2 Duration

The maximum duration of the SJS for PhD students is 5 years (60 months) from the date of its initiation or up to the submission of the PhD thesis, whichever is earlier. The SJS is not allowed for any extended period of the PhD programme beyond 5 years under any circumstances.

1.3 Renewal/Continuation Criteria

The SJS will continue in the second year subject to meeting the renewal criteria, i.e., the minimum CGPA of 6.0 at the end of the second semester. From the third year onwards, it will be based on the satisfactory performance reports from the supervisor. If the performance of a student is marked by

the supervisor as non-satisfactory for a month, then the release of the scholarship of that month will be stopped with immediate effect. Thereafter, the disbursement of the scholarship will resume only after the recommendation of the supervisor duly forwarded by the concerned Chairperson/Dean with a satisfactory performance report.

2 SAU PhD Scholarship

SAU PhD Scholarship is given to only those students who are admitted through SAU Entrance Test and are not receiving any kind of scholarship/sponsorship or JRF support from any agencies like UGC/CSIR/DBT/ICMR etc. in India or similar agencies in other SAARC nations.

2.1 Scope

- Tuition Fee waiver
- Hostel Fee waiver
- A monthly stipend of INR 25,000

2.2 Duration

The maximum duration of SAU PhD Scholarship is 5 years (60 months) from the date of its initiation or up to the submission of the PhD thesis, whichever is earlier. The SAU PhD Scholarship is not allowed for any extended period of the PhD programme beyond 5 years under any circumstances.

2.3 Renewal/Continuation Criteria

The SAU PhD Scholarship will continue based on the satisfactory performance reports from the supervisor. If the performance of a student is marked by the supervisor as non-satisfactory for a month, then the release of the scholarship of that month will be stopped with immediate effect. Thereafter, the disbursement of the scholarship will resume only after the recommendation of the supervisor duly forwarded by the concerned Chairperson/Dean with a satisfactory performance report.

General Terms and Conditions for PhD Students

- i If a student is a recipient of any other scholarship/fellowship/financial assistance through any source recognized by the government of any SAARC country or if the student is employed and receiving salary from the parent institution/organization, then s/he is not eligible for SJS or SAU PhD Scholarship. Non-disclosure of any such information will constitute an offense and the student will be liable for cancellation of the scholarship, refund of the scholarship amount already paid and disciplinary action as decided by the university.
- ii The PhD students who have qualified UGC/CSIR JRF or have received financial support from agencies like UGC/CSIR/DBT/ICMR or similar agencies/sponsors in other SAARC countries for their PhD studies will avail fellowship/financial support as per the terms and conditions of the respective funding agencies.

- iii The recipients of the financial support referred to in (ii) above are supposed to mandatorily activate their financial support immediately after joining the University, as the University will not make any advance payment in lieu of such fellowship.
- iv During the PhD Programme, if a student receives an offer of any fellowship/scholarship/stipend to pursue PhD from any sources such as UGC/CSIR/DBT/ICMR or similar agencies in other countries, then s/he shall inform the University immediately and avail those funds instead of the funds provided by SAU.
- v All PhD students will be provided tuition fee waiver and hostel fee waiver by the University. However, if any student receives tuition fee and accommodation allowance from other sources, then these will be recovered from the student commensurate to the financial support that s/he receives from the funding agency.
- vi All the Scholarships will be effective from the start date of the Monsoon semester or the actual date of admission in the PhD programme, whichever is later.
- vii The maximum duration of all the Scholarships is 60 months from its initiation date or the actual date of the submission of the PhD thesis whichever is earlier.
- viii At SAU, the students need to register in each semester. A student shall become eligible to receive any scholarship/financial support in the new semester only after his/her registration to that semester. No scholarship/financial support will be paid for the period during which a student was not registered, i.e., from the last date notified for registration to the date when he/she actually registers after paying all dues including late fees etc., except when he/she could not register in time as he/she was assigned field trip/work by the Department/Faculty as per the relevant bye-law.
- ix In the case of SJS, if an awardee is disqualified during or after the course work or leaves the University without completing the PhD, then s/he will not be eligible for the “pack-up” allowance which is given at the end of the programme.
- x If the performance of a PhD student remains unsatisfactory for three consecutive months, then the matter may be brought to the knowledge of the Department Academic Committee/Faculty Board of Studies (BoS) or Faculty Committee by the respective supervisor. On the recommendation of the Department Academic Committee or Faculty Committee, the PhD Scholarship may be terminated by the Board of Studies (BoS) of the respective Faculty after following the due procedure as decided by the BoS.
- xi For the purpose of the scholarship/stipend, throughout the duration of the PhD programme, the students will not be associated with any other organization/university/centre with or without remuneration. Any such association will constitute an offense and the student will be liable for withdrawal of the scholarship/financial support, refund of the scholarship amount already paid and disciplinary action as decided by the university. Any field work related to the PhD work can be undertaken as per the PhD Regulations of SAU.
- xii Any PhD student who undertakes a regular/full-time employment, after the mandatory residential period requirement given in SAU Rules/Regulations/Bylaws, shall immediately inform the same to the competent authority at SAU for the termination of the scholarship/financial support.

xiii The disbursement and continuation of PhD scholarships are subject to meeting the satisfactory academic performance, maintenance of hostel/university discipline and good conduct.

**SCHOLARSHIP/FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR PHD STUDENTS
ADMITTED WITHOUT SAU ENTRANCE TEST**

The students who are admitted to the PhD Programmes without going through SAU entrance test under the provisions as laid down in the Admissions Announcement 2024, will not be eligible for any stipend throughout the entire duration of the programme. However, for such students, the university will provide Tuition Fee waiver as well as Hostel Fee waiver.

The relevant “General Terms and Conditions for PhD Students” as prescribed above for the PhD students admitted through SAU Entrance Test will remain applicable for the PhD students admitted without appearing for the SAU Entrance Test.

No student can avail of two or more scholarships/financial supports simultaneously from different agencies.

No Freeship/Scholarship/Stipend will be given to any student for the extended period of studies for whatsoever reasons.

In case of a tie while awarding any scholarship/freeship, the student with higher rank in the entrance test will be given preference. If a tie still exists, then the female candidate will be given preference; otherwise, age will be taken into consideration, and older candidate will be given preference.

DISCLAIMER: Nothing in this policy document may be interpreted inconsistently with the SAU Rules, Regulations and Bye Laws in force. In case of any doubts about its interpretation, the decision of the President of the University shall prevail.
