South Asian University

(A University established by SAARC Nations)
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Revised SAU Scholarship/Financial Support Policy Document 2025

The South Asian University (SAU) provides financial support in terms of various scholarships across all Bachelor/Master/PhD programmes. For Master programmes, some of the Scholarships 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). The commencement date of the scholarships will depend upon the commencement date of the academic session of the university.

Scholarship/Financial Support for Master Students

1   SAU President Scholarship (PS):

There are TWO PS for each Master's programme and in each year of the programme, one each for an Indian and a non-Indian student. The maximum tenure of SAU President Scholarship is 11 months. The scholarship amount is INR 16,000 per month. The PS is not transferrable across Faculties/ Departments/ Countries in the event of non-availability of eligible candidates from any Faculty/ Department/ Country.

Students admitted to Master's programme (except MTech programme):

- PS for first year students will be decided after declaring the first semester results. These will be given to those who will secure the 1st rank in the first semester examinations in the respective category of the programme.
- In the second year (for two-year Master's programmes), PS will be given to those who will secure the 1st rank in the respective category of the programme on the basis of CGPA at the end of first year.

Students admitted to Integrated Bachelor's-Master's programme:

Those students who do not exit after Bachelor's programme and continue to Master's programme will become eligible for PS provided that at least 60% of the Master's curriculum/component overlaps with the standalone Master's Programme, as determined by the concerned Faculty/Department. For such students, the CGPA of their first Master's semester will

be considered, and the PS will be awarded based on a combined merit list including these students and those admitted directly into the Master's programme.

2   SAU Merit Scholarship (MS):

There are TWO MS for each Master's programme in the first year, one each for an Indian and a non-Indian student. In each subsequent year, the MS will increase by TWO, one each for an Indian and a non-Indian student. The scholarship amount is INR 13,000 per month. The maximum tenure of Scholarship is 11 months. SAU Merit Scholarship is not transferrable across Faculties/ Departments/ Countries in the event of non-availability of eligible candidates from any Faculty/ Department/ Country.

Students admitted to Master's programme (except MTech programme)

- In the first year, MS will be given in order of merit on the basis of SGPA 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 after the PS is awarded.
- In the second and third year, MS will be given to those who score highest CGPA at the end of the previous year in the respective category of the programme after the PS is awarded.

Students admitted to Integrated Bachelor's-Master's programme:

Those students who do not exit after Bachelor's programme and continue to Master's programme will become eligible for PS provided that at least 60% of the Master's curriculum/component overlaps with the standalone Master's Programme, as determined by the concerned Faculty/Department. For such students, the CGPA of their first Master's semester will be considered, and the PS will be awarded based on a combined merit list including these students and those admitted directly into the Master's programme.

3   SAU Financial Assistance Level 1 (FA1) (for Master's programmes except MTech programme)

The SAU has a policy with regard to providing financial assistance to students from economically weaker families. However, it is not guaranteed that all such applicants will necessarily receive financial assistance. The number of FA1 will depend upon the number of students in each programme and given equally to Indian and 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 Award Committee from time to time. The amount of Financial Assistance is INR 13,000 per month. The initial term of the assistance is 11 months.

The number of FA1 is as follows:

No of students in a programme	1-45	46-75	76-105	106-135
No of FA1	1+1	2+2	3+3	4+4

- The FA1 is transferrable across Faculties/ Departments in the event of non-availability of eligible candidates from any Faculty/ Department but not transferable between Indian and non-Indian categories.

- The students will be notified to apply for FA1 on a prescribed form after joining the University and would need to provide the annual family income certificate issued by the competent authority of the respective SAARC countries.

- The FA1 shall be renewed for the second year or third year 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 at the end of the previous year.

- If there are more number of applications for FA1 than the number of available slots, then the allocation will be made in order of merit besides considering the annual family income.

4   SAU Financial Assistance Level 2 (FA2) (for Master's programmes except MTech programme)

There is another category of financial assistance, namely FA2 for the students from economically weaker families. However, it is not guaranteed that all such applicants will necessarily receive financial assistance. The number of FA2 will depend upon the number of students in each programme and given equally to Indian and 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 Award Committee from time to time. The scholarship amount is INR 8,000 per month. The initial term of the assistance is 11 months. The number of FA2 is as follows:

No of students in a programme	1-45	46-75	76-105	106-135
No of FA2	2+2	3+3	4+4	5+5

- The FA2 is transferrable across Faculties/ Departments in the event of non-availability of eligible candidates from any Faculty/ Department but not transferable between Indian and non-Indian categories.

- The students will be notified to apply for FA2 on a prescribed form after joining the University and would need to provide the annual family income certificate issued by the competent authority of the respective SAARC countries.

- The FA2 shall be renewed for the second or third year 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 at the end of the previous year.

- If there are more number of applications for FA2 than the number of available slots, then the allocation will be made in order of merit besides considering the annual family income.

5 SAU Scholarship/Stipend for MTech students

- In the First Year of MTech Programme, all GATE qualified students will be provided stipend at par with the GATE scholarship as per the Ministry of Education, Government of India guidelines which is currently @ INR 12,400/- per month and the non-GATE qualified students will be provided stipend @ INR 8,000/- per month for assisting the course instructors as Teaching Assistants (TAs) in conducting the lab/theory classes for 6-8 hours per week.

- In the Second Year of MTech Programme, all MTech students will be provided stipend as under for assisting the course instructors as Teaching Assistants (TAs) in conducting the lab/theory classes for 12-14 hours per week:

  a) INR 15,000 per month for students having CGPA 8 or above at the end of first year.
  b) INR 10,000 per month for students having CGPA 6 or above but less than 8 at the end of first year.

- The above category of scholarship/stipend is applicable only to those who are admitted directly to MTech and not for BTech - MTech or MSc - MTech students.

Financial Support in the Middle of the Master Programmes (except MTech programme)

In the event of FA1 or FA2 becoming available by the end of the 2nd or 4th semester, for example, if the recipient of the assistance leaves the programme in the 1st year or 2nd year (in case of 3-year Integrated Master's programme), then the same will be made available to those who did not receive any scholarship/financial assistance during the first year. For this purpose, the CGPA obtained at the end of the 2nd or 4th semester will be considered, and depending upon the number of slots lying vacant, those who scored the highest CGPA will be considered for support. The vacant number of such slots that fall vacant will be notified at the beginning of the 3rd or 5th semester.

Scholarship for Bachelor Students

6   SAU UG President Scholarship (UPS)

There are TWO SAU UG President Scholarships for each Bachelor's programme, one each for an Indian and a non-Indian student. The maximum tenure of UPS is 11 months. The scholarship amount is 80% of one year course fee of the respective programme and will be adjusted towards the semester fee.

Students admitted to Bachelor's programme:

- UPS for first year students will be decided after declaring of the first semester results. These will be given to those who will secure the 1st rank at the end of the first semester examinations in the respective category of the programme.
- In the second year, UPS will be given to those who will secure the 1st rank in the respective category of the programme on the basis of CGPA at the end of first year. The same criteria will be applied for each subsequent year for programmes.

Students admitted to Integrated Bachelor's-Master's programme:

For the Integrated Bachelor's-Master's programme, the UPS will remain applicable throughout the duration of the programme provided that the Master's curriculum/component has less than 60% of the overlap with the standalone Master's Programme, as determined by the concerned Faculty/Department; however, in this case, the number of scholarships will not increase after the completion of the Bachelor's component.

7   SAU UG Merit Scholarship Level 1 (UMS1):

There are several UMS1 for each Bachelor's programme, equally divided between Indian and non-Indian students. The maximum tenure of UMS1 is 11 months. The scholarship amount is 50% of one year course fee and will be adjusted towards the semester fee.

Students admitted to Bachelor's programme:

- UMS1 for first year students will be decided after declaring the first semester results. 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 after UPS is awarded.
- There will be TWO UMS1 in each programme for every 60 students, one for each Indian and non-Indian students.
- In each subsequent year, the UMS1 will increase by TWO, one each for an Indian and a non-Indian student.
- In the subsequent years, UMS1 will be given to those who will secure the highest rank at the end of the previous year examinations in the respective category of the programme after UPS is awarded.

- The UMS1 is not transferrable across Faculties/ Departments/ Countries in the event of non-availability of eligible candidates from any Faculty/ Department/ Country.

Students admitted to Integrated Bachelor's-Master's programme:

For the Integrated Bachelor's-Master's programme, the UMS1 will remain applicable throughout the duration of the programme provided that the Master's curriculum/component has less than 60% of the overlap with the standalone Master's Programme, as determined by the concerned Faculty/Department; however, in this case, the number of scholarships will not increase after the completion of the Bachelor's component.

8 SAU UG Merit Scholarship Level 2 (UMS2):

There are several UMS2 for each Bachelor's programme, equally divided between Indian and non-Indian students. The maximum tenure of UMS2 is 11 months. The scholarship amount is 25% of one year course fee and will be adjusted towards the semester fee.

Students admitted to Bachelor's programme:

- UMS2 for first year 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 after UPS and UMS1 have been awarded.

- There will be TWO UMS2 in each programme for every 60 students, one for each Indian and non-Indian students.

- In each subsequent year, the UMS2 will increase by TWO, one each for an Indian and a non-Indian student.

- In the subsequent years, UMS2 will be given to those who will secure the highest rank at the end of the previous year examinations in the respective category of the programme after UPS and UMS1 have been awarded.

- The UMS2 is not transferrable across Faculties/ Departments/ Countries in the event of non-availability of eligible candidates from any Faculty/ Department/ Country.

Students admitted to Integrated Bachelor's-Master's programme:

For the Integrated Bachelor's-Master's programme, the UMS2 will remain applicable throughout the duration of the programme provided that the Master's curriculum/component has less than 60% of the overlap with the standalone Master's Programme, as determined by the concerned Faculty/Department; however, in this case, the number of scholarships will not increase after the completion of the Bachelor's component.

General Terms and Conditions for Bachelor and Master Students

i   The Scholarships/Financial Assistance (FA) are offered to the students only in 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 offered by SAU. 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.

iii   For the First-Year students, all the Scholarships/FA will be effective from the date of commencement of the academic session or the actual date of admission to the programme, whichever is later.

iv   Initially, all the Scholarships/FA will be offered for a maximum period of 11 months from the date of its initiation. Thereafter, the PS, MS, UPS, UMS 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 will terminate on the last day of the winter semester.

v   At SAU, the students need to register in each semester. A student shall become eligible to receive any scholarship/FA 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 regulations.

vi   The PS, MS, UPS and UMS are not transferrable across Faculties/ Departments/ countries in the event of non-availability of eligible candidates from any Faculty/ Department/Country.

vii   If the awardee does not meet the renewal criteria at the end of the $2^{nd}/4^{th}/6^{th}/8^{th}$ semester, then the scholarship will be terminated with immediate effect.

viii   Wrongful disclosure of family income, concealing any material fact pertaining to family income or submitting forged documents will attract strict disciplinary action.

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

Scholarship for PhD Students

9 SAU PhD Scholarship (SPS)

There are several SPS across all Faculties/Departments divided equally between Indian and non-Indian students. These will be given to those who are admitted through the SAU Entrance Tests. The precise number of SPS is notified at the time of the announcement of the entrance test each year.

- Each PhD student admitted through SAU entrance test will pay the applicable fee.

- The fee will be collected/adjusted on monthly basis.

- Students admitted through SAU entrance test will receive monthly scholarship as follows:

    Science Streams : INR. 39,000/-

    Other Streams   : INR. 36,000/-

- After paying the applicable fee, the students will be left with an amount of at least INR.25,000/- p.m.

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

- Students admitted through SAU entrance test will be entitled to the Travel Support of INR 80,000 during the entire tenure of the PhD programme (excluding the period of extension, if any).

- The SPS will continue based on the satisfactory performance reports as per Regulation 13.

10 SAU PhD Financial Assistance (SPF)

- Each PhD student admitted through Direct Mode (Excluding Executive PhD programme) will receive a concession of 75% in the Semester Fee. The fee will be collected in the beginning of each semester.

- Students admitted through Direct mode (Excluding Executive PhD programme) will be entitled to the Travel Support of INR 80,000 during the entire tenure of the PhD programme (excluding the period of extension, if any).

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 SPS. Non-disclosure of any such information will constitute an offense and the student will be liable for withdrawal 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/DBT or have received financial support from agencies like UGC/CSIR/DBT/ICMR or similar agencies/sponsors in other SAARC countries for their

PhD studies shall 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 fellowship/ 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 will inform the University immediately and avail those funds instead of the funds provided by SAU.

v   The maximum duration of all the Scholarships is 60 months from its initiation date or the date of the submission of the PhD thesis whichever is earlier.

vi   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 regulation.

vii   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 RAC or Faculty Committee by the respective supervisor. On the recommendation of the Department Academic Committee or RAC 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.

viii   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 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.

ix   Any PhD student who undertakes a regular/full-time employment, after the mandatory residential requirement given in SAU Rules/Regulations, shall immediately inform the same to the competent authority at SAU for the termination of the scholarship/financial support.

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

SAARC Silver Jubilee Scholarship

There are several SAARC Silver Jubilee Scholarships (SJS) for Master and PhD students from Least Developed Countries (LDC) instituted by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India. In addition to the aforesaid scholarships / financial assistance, SJS will also be provided to Master and PhD students as per the guidelines of MEA issued from time to time.

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