



INDIAN KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS DIVISION

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Guidelines for Setubandha Scholar Scheme

1. Background

India's traditional Shastric learning systems are rooted in centuries of rigorous intellectual training of various Vidyas and kalas. These systems, preserved and passed on through the Guru-shishya parampara, emphasize mastery of primary texts (śāstra), skills and lived practices. However, these scholars and practitioners often remain disconnected from modern formal academic institutions and research ecosystems.

In context to this, Indian Knowledge Systems Division, Ministry of Education, Govt of India jointly with Central Sanskrit University is implementing *Setubandha Scholar Scheme* to value and integrating diverse forms of learning gained beyond formal institutional framework, through experience and traditional learning,

The Setubandha Project seeks to bridge this divide by fostering engagement between Shastric wisdom and contemporary fields.

2. Aim

The *Setubandha Scholar Scheme* aims to bridge this gap by awarding scholarships and degrees to the excellent scholars emerging from the traditional Gurukula education system who remain disconnected from mainstream academia.

3. Eligibility

The learners should qualify the following conditions to be **eligible** for applying the *Setubandha Scholar Scheme*:

1. Must be a student or practitioner of Bharatiya Vidya (knowledge systems) or Kala (arts) trained in the traditional system.
2. Should have studied under a traditional Guru or in a Gurukula for an extended period of minimum 05 years
3. The training must include apprenticeship-style learning, ideally while residing with the Guru or in the same premises.
4. Should have studied primary texts and their commentaries in a traditional format.

5. Must demonstrate excellence in traditional knowledge
6. Should be not more than 32 years on the date of the advertisement.
7. The inclusion of the name 'Gurukul' in the name of the educational institution is not sufficient to qualify under this scheme.

The instances are attached at the Annexure 1

3. Categories

The Setubandha Scholar Scheme will have two category of scholars:

Category 1 - PG Level	Learners who are deemed by the expert panel to have knowledge equivalent to a completed bachelor's degree and possess the requisite background to pursue a master's degree.
Category 2 - Ph.D level	Learners who are deemed by the expert panel to have knowledge equivalent to a completed master's degree and possess the requisite background to pursue Ph.D. level studies.

4. Areas for the Setubandha scholarship

Ashtadasha Vidyasthanas -

1. आन्वीक्षिकी विद्या (Vedic Philosophical and Cognitive Sciences)
2. भाषा एवं वाग्विश्लेषण विद्या (Language, Speech, and Linguistics)
3. इतिहास एवं सभ्यता विद्या ((Historical and Civilizational Sciences)
4. धर्मशास्त्र एवं लौकिकशास्त्र विद्या (Law, Social and Cultural Sciences)
5. राजनीति एवं अर्थशास्त्र विद्या (Political, Economic and Strategic sciences)
6. गणित-भौत-ज्योतिष विद्या (Mathematical, Physical and Astronomical Sciences)
7. भैषज्य एवं आरोग्य विद्या (Medical and Health sciences)
8. द्रव्य-गुण-संयोग विद्या (Culinary, Nutritional, and Pharmacological Sciences)
9. कृषि एवं पशुपाल्य विद्या (वार्ता विभाग) (Agricultural Science, Veterinary and animal husbandry)
10. वास्तु एवं निर्माणकला विद्या (Civil and Architectural Science)
11. रस-धातु विद्या (Chemical, Metallurgical & Material Sciences)
12. यांत्रिक एवं नव्य अभियांत्रिकी विद्या (Mechanical & Digital Design & Engineering)
13. गांधर्व विद्या (Performing Arts)
14. शिल्प-आलेख्य विद्या (Fine Arts and Sculpture)
15. अलङ्कारादि विद्या (Fashion and Interior Design)
16. शैक्षणिक-क्रीडनीयक विद्या (Edutainment Sciences)
17. वेद वेदांग दर्शन विद्या (Vedas, auxiliary texts of Vedas and philosophies)
18. दण्डनिति विद्या (Law and Order/Science of Governance)

5. Duration

The duration of scholars will be one year initially and can be renewed every year upto total of three years, based on the performance of the scholar, recommended by the constituted committee.

5. Degree Award

Every year the term of the scholar will be renewed based on the performance evaluation by the competent authority.

In case the candidate is not able to perform satisfactorily, he/she will be given the degree in line with NCRF-2023 of UGC.

After 1st year of PG level	PG diploma
After 2nd year of PG level	PG degree

Successful completion of the Setubandha Scholarship scheme by a student will result in the award of Masters or Ph.D. degrees by CSU.

8. Support to scholars

Scholars will receive a monthly scholarship. In addition, based on the requirement for field work, workshops, teaching and learning materials, experimental supplies or any other miscellaneous expenses the support will be provided through contingency funds.

PG Level

Year	Scholarship (Monthly)	Contingency (Annually)
1st	Rs. 40,000	Upto Rs. 1,00,000/-
2nd	Rs. 47,500	Upto Rs. 1,00,000/-

Ph.D Level

Year	Scholarship (Monthly)	Contingency (Annually)
1st	Rs. 65,000	Upto Rs. 2,00,000/-
2nd	Rs. 70,000	Upto Rs. 2,00,000/-
3rd	Rs. 75, 000	Upto Rs. 2,00,000/-

The students will be eligible for IKS Division PhD fellowships.

9. Selection Process

Round	Particulars
Round 1 - Online Application	Candidate can submit online application from 30th June to 30th July, 25 Along with the online application, candidates are required to provide the signed certificate from their Guru/Gurukula in the given format and upload. The link of the certificate format - Link of the application :
Announcement of Round 1 list	By 12th August
Round 2 - Written and Oral Exam	This round will be conducted at campus/centers provided by Central Sanskrit University based on the number of the applications. By _____
Announcement of Round 2 list	By

10. Learnings for Scholars

- IKS Division and CSU will help the student identify mentors in various institutions across India, especially in IKS Centers of the IKS Division.
- The scholar will be mentored by two mentors (one each from CSU and the host institution)
- The student will be provided mentoring workshops at regular intervals. The dates/timings/place etc. will be notified by CSU/IKS Division from time to time.
- Students are expected to conduct deep scholarly research integrating IKS disciplines and modern methodologies.
- Students are expected to write a dissertation/thesis from this research.
- All students must submit a dissertation/thesis at the conclusion of the fellowship and defend it in a public oral seminar.
- Students submitting a dissertation will follow all the rules of CSU for the award of a PG/Ph.D degree.
- Every student is expected to teach a minimum of 2 credits in direct classroom teaching (1 credit = 1 lecture per week for 15 weeks) in his/her domain of expertise.

- Student is expected to develop expertise in good communication skills, academic publishing in peer-reviewed journals and grantsmanship

11. Monitoring of Learning Progress

- The students will submit quarterly reports to CSU for evaluation , in which they will also present their work at the mentoring workshops.
- Satisfactory progress determined based on the yearly progress report and annual progress seminar will determine the continuation of the fellowship.

12. Other terms and conditions

- This initiative is jointly implemented by Central Sanskrit University and IKS division, Ministry of Education, GoI. The students will be given a degree from CSU only.
- **For PG Programme:** Any candidate who discontinues the programme during the scholarship tenure will not be eligible for any degree or diploma except as follows:
 - If any candidate completes one full academic year, wherein a Postgraduate Diploma may be awarded, subject to fulfillment of all credit and academic requirements as prescribed by the UGC/CSU from time to time.
- **For Ph.D. Programme:** Any candidate who discontinues the Ph.D. programme during the scholarship tenure shall not be awarded any degree or diploma, irrespective of the period completed as prescribed under UGC guidelines.
- The Guru/Gurukula need to certify the student at the time of application.
- No value will be assigned to the degree/certificates of the formal setup education.
- The decision of the selection committee will be final.
- The CSU/IKS Division reserves the right to increase/decrease the amount of contingency/scholarship at any time.

Annexure 1

The below points are example case studies for better understanding of the eligibility of the Setuband Scholar scheme.

ELIGIBLE to apply to Setubandha	NOT ELIGIBLE to apply to Setubandha
Student A is studying Shilpashastra and the art of making sculptures from a renowned sculptor. The student stays at the guru's home and gets direct one-on-one lessons from the guru on Shilpashastra and Agamas. The student helps the guru in preparing the sculptures. Student A is assigned various tasks by the guru, which include mentoring some of the younger students at the Gurukula. Student A is qualified to apply for the setubandha scheme.	Student F is studying Shilpashastra as a hobby and has taken some online classes. The student has done six months of internship with a guru. The student is pursuing regular academic programs in a recognized university. Student A is NOT qualified to apply for the setubandha scheme.
Student B is learning music while pursuing a regular undergraduate degree in college. The student has been learning music from the guru since childhood, continuously, and has spent significant time mastering the concepts. Student B is eligible to participate in the setubandha scheme, but her regular educational qualifications (including the UG degree) will not be considered during evaluation.	Student G has been learning music since childhood with a teacher. There was a break in learning music for some years due to preparations for board and entrance examinations. The student is finishing up a regular undergraduate degree in college. Student is NOT eligible to participate in the setubandha scheme.
Student C has been studying in a pathashala learning Agamas and Nyaya shastra in a remote area of India. Living with the guru, the student has spent almost fourteen years learning the shastras and has no other academic pursuits other than the traditional learning from the guru. The student is qualified to apply for the setubandha scheme.	Student H has been learning Agamas as a part of regular traditional instruction at home. The student studies under a guru for a few times a week in online and offline mode. The student has a regular job and already has two academic degrees from recognized institutions. The student is NOT qualified to apply for the setubandha scheme.
Student D has been learning archery and vyakarana in a traditional school on a full-time basis. The student has been taught other secular subjects during free time. The student plans to appear for the NIOS exams. The student has lived with the guru all his childhood. The student is qualified to apply for the setubandha scheme.	Student I has been learning vyakarana as one of the subjects in a 'gurukula' school affiliated to CBSE board. The format of teaching is that found in most educational institutions, with regular classes, multiple teachers, classroom teaching as per the CBSE guidelines, etc. The student is NOT qualified to apply for the setubandha scheme.
Student E is pursuing Ayurveda in a traditional style under a guru in Kerala or any other state. The student has learnt associated Samkhya, Nyaya, and Yoga along with Ayurveda in a traditional style under a guru. The student is not pursuing any other academic degrees currently. The student is eligible to apply for the setubandha scheme.	Student J is pursuing Ayurveda in a regular Ayurvedic college to obtain a BAMS degree. The student has courses on Samkhya, Nyaya, and yoga, along with Ayurveda, in the curriculum. The student is NOT eligible to apply for the setubandha scheme.