

MARGA SCHULZE SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR HIGHER EDUCATION OF GIRLS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT

Guidelines for Parents, Students and Higher Education Institutions

The Marga-Schulze Foundation based in Germany is assisting blind girls in Africa and Asia to pursue higher education. Dr. Hans-Eugen Schulze (who himself is visually impaired), a retired judge of the Federal Courts of Germany started this Foundation in 1996 and the assistance is routed through CBM, a leading international organisation committed to the cause of services for persons with disabilities for the past 100 years. In India, the scheme is implemented by two organisations, the All India Confederation of the Blind (E-mail : aicbdelhi@eth.net, aicbdelhi@yahoo.com) in Delhi for the Northern, Eastern, North-Eastern and Central States and the UDIS Forum (udisforum3@gmail.com) in Coimbatore to cover the States of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Diu & Daman, Karnataka, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Maharashtra, and Pondicherry. The scheme provides a merit scholarship of Rs. 12,000/- and Rs. 18,000/- for students undergoing graduate & B.Ed. and post-graduate courses respectively.

The general guidelines of the Scheme are as follows:

1. The students can contact the UDIS Forum or All India Confederation of the Blind for any guidance regarding courses to be selected, colleges in the vicinity etc., if needed.
2. The students, after getting admission in the colleges of their choices, should write to the UDIS Forum / All India Confederation of the Blind for an application for the scholarship. The application form can also be downloaded from the website www.davo.in and www.aicb.org.in
3. The students who have secured a minimum of 75 % of marks at the plus 2 / junior college will be considered for scholarship under the "graduation" category and the minimum eligibility for scholarship in the case of B.Ed. and post-graduate courses is 75% in the qualifying examinations.
4. The filled in application, with the recommendation of the Principal of the College where the student is admitted should be sent to the Administrative Office of the UDIS Forum / All India Confederation of the Blind latest by 30th August of the academic year. Applications sent without the signature of the Principal of the college concerned will be considered incomplete.
5. The students may, if necessary, be called for an interview in a centrally located place for selection to award scholarship. Besides scrutinizing certificates, the reading and writing skills, orientation and mobility and communication skills will also be tested for awarding scholarship.

6. The number of scholarships to be given every year will be decided on the basis of available resources.
7. Within one month from the date of selection for the scholarship, 60% of the scholarship amount will be released in favour of the student through a cheque / demand draft, forwarded to the Principal of the concerned college. Therefore, the students should open a bank account. The remaining 40% will be released during the second half of the academic year.
8. The students are free to stay in hostels not attached to the College. However, these hostels should be either run by organisations of/for the disabled or those, which are safe and also provide assistance to persons with blindness.
9. The student should show at least 55% academic performance and more than 80% attendance record every year for the continuation of the scholarship. The progress of the student should be intimated to UDIS Forum / All India Confederation of the Blind each year in the prescribed format through the Principal of the concerned college. Scholarship will be discontinued in case the student is not showing the desired academic performance and attendance.
10. The UDIS Forum / All India Confederation of the Blind representatives will visit the college from time-to-time to discuss with the authorities concerned to enquire about the progress of the students. Parents will also be contacted regularly.
11. The students will be invited from time-to-time, especially during vacation, for skills development programmes such as training in information and communication technology, communication skills, use of assistive devices, etc.
12. The students are encouraged to take part in co-curricular activities of the college too. Awards and prizes when won by the student concerned may be informed to the UDIS Forum / All India Confederation of the Blind for documentation purposes.
13. The students are requested to inform if any change in their mobile / phone number.

The CBM, the Marga Schulze Foundation, the UDIS Forum and All India Confederation of the Blind hope that more and more girls with visual impairment will avail of this scholarship scheme and become future voices of persons with disabilities in general and persons with visual impairment in particular.

For further details, contact, as the case may be:

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