Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) related to Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children Portal

Q1. What is the Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC)?

SPDC Scheme is a scholarship scheme being implemented by the Ministry of External Affairs to assist children of NRIs, PIOs pursue under graduate courses (except medical courses) in Indian Institutions & Universities by providing Scholarship to the extent of 75% of the total Institutional Economic Cost.

Q2. Is a candidate born outside India, whose parents are neither Person of Indian Origin (PIO) nor a Non Resident Indian (NRI), eligible for scholarship under SPDC?

Ans. No. The SPDC Scheme is for the children of PIOs or NRIs for pursuing higher studies in select institutions in India. In cases where the candidate is born outside India and his/her parents are neither a PIO nor an NRI, are **not** eligible for any benefit under the scheme.

Q3. What is the procedure for applying for SPDC?

Ans. As per the Guidelines of SPDC 2016-17, the salient features of the scheme are –

Application Process.

a) Students who have already secured admission in Indian Institutions are eligible to apply

b) Admission in Under Graduate Course is permitted only in Central Universities, NAAC "A" Grade Institutions, Central Universities, National Institutes of Technology (NITs), School of Planning & Architecture (SPAs), International Institute of information Technology (IIITs) as covered under DASA Scheme.

c) Online application System only

d) All requisite Certificates towards Income Criteria, Date of Birth, Marks List, Undertaking by the Institution etc. to be uploaded at the time of application.

Q4. Who can apply for SPDC?

Ans. SPDC Scholarship is applicable to Children of NRIs & PIOs who want to study **Under-Graduate** Courses in following Indian Institutions & Universities.

i. Central Universities of India offering Under Graduate Courses;

ii. 'A' Grade Institutions accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) and recognized by UGC

iii. National Institutes of Technology (NITs), Schools of Planning and Architecture and Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) through DASA Scheme

IMPORTANT - At the time of applying for SPDC, it is imperative that the Institution is NAAC 'A' Grade. In case, the Institution / University is not graded 'A' after sometime, the scholarship of the candidate will not be affected and shall continue till the end of the Course.

Q5. Which countries are covered under SPDC?

Ans. SPDC is applicable to NRIs and PIOs residing in 66 countries, List of Countries is www.mea.gov.in/SPDC.htm (link) and children of Indian Workers in ECR countries studying in India.

Q6. What is the minimum marks that an applicant must obtain to apply for SPDC?

Ans. The candidate must have secured at least 60% aggregate (equivalent CGPA 6.4) marks in the qualifying examination, i.e. Grade 12 or equivalent Grade.

CGPA can be converted to Percentage as follows –

Overall CGPA x 9.5 = Percentage

Q7. What is Institutional Economic Cost (IEC).

Ans. IEC comprises Tuition Fee, Hostel Accommodation Fee, Examination Charges, Registration Charges and other Institutional Charges (except food).

Q8. My child has applied under DASA Scheme. Is he/she also eligible for SPDC?

Ans. Applicants of DASA Scheme can also apply for SPDC Scheme, subject to fulfilment of all eligibility conditions of SPDC scheme.

DASA Scheme & SPDC Scheme are different Schemes being implemented by the Government of India. Candidates securing admission under DASA Scheme are also eligible to apply for SPDC Scheme.

Q9. I have secured admission in National Institute of Technology. The IEC is USD$ 7000 (all charges). Will my scholarship amount be 75% of 7000, equalling USD 5250?
Ans. The maximum Scholarship amount is USD$ 4000 only.

(a) **In the First Year:** Partial financial assistance to the extent of 75% of the total **Institutional Economic Cost (IEC)** subject to a maximum of US $ Four Thousand (US$ 4,000) per annum in respect of NITs and other institutions covered under DASA Scheme with effect from the academic year 2011-2012 (pertaining to those Institutes who had increased Tuition Fee for the Academic Year 2011-12 and onwards);

And where there is no increase in tuition fees for the academic year 2011-2012, the existing limit of 75% of IEC or US$ 3600, whichever is less would continue and would be made by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to the applicants selected for the SPDC scheme. IEC includes Tuition fee, Hostel fee & other institutional charges. (Food charges are excluded).

(b) **For Second and Subsequent Years:** The parameters for continuation of scholarship to selected applicants for the second and subsequent years of study are as follows:

(i) Students securing 50% marks in aggregate in an academic year with clear pass marks in all subjects of study, would be eligible to receive the maximum admissible scholarship i.e. 75% of IEC or US$ Four Thousand only (US$ 4,000), in respect of NITs, IIITs, Schools of Planning and Architecture, 'A 'Grade institutions accredited by NAAC and recognized by UGC *and other institutions covered under DASA Scheme* with effect from the academic year 2016-17 and where there is no increase in tuition fees for the academic year 2011-12, the existing limit of 75% of IEC or US$ 3600, whichever is less, in the following year of study.

(ii) Students, who secure less than 50% marks in aggregate in an academic year and have obtained clear pass marks in all subjects of study, would be eligible to receive 90% of the scholarship admissible under paragraph 7(b) (i) above, in the following year of study.

(iii) Students, who could not secure clear pass marks in all subjects but have been promoted by the Institute/University to the next academic year, would be eligible to receive 50% of the scholarship admissible under paragraph 7(b) (i) above in the following year of study.

(iv) Students, who have not been promoted to the next academic year, would not be eligible for grant of any further scholarship.

Q10. Do I have to pay any charge for submitting my application for SPDC?

Ans. There are no charges for applying to SPDC.

Q11. what is the last date for submitting applications?

Ans. You can submit application form online from 23rd August to 15th November, through the SPDC portal.

Q12. when will the selected candidates be informed about grant of scholarships?

Ans. All candidates who have been awarded scholarship under SPDC will be informed about their selection on or around October/November, 2016. This list of awardees will also be uploaded on the SPDC portal.

Q13. If the child is not able to appear for a Semester due to medical reasons or family conditions, will the Scholarship be continued?

Ans. There are times when a candidate has to drop a Semester due to health conditions or family circumstances. In such cases, Scholarship will be continued to the candidate only if the candidate is promoted to next Academic Year by the Institution.

If the candidate has not all subjects pertaining to that Year Students who could not secure clear pass marks in all subjects but have been promoted by the Institution/ University to the next academic year, would be eligible to receive only 50% of the admissible scholarship amount.