



## **ABSTRACT**

Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department – Annal Ambedkar Overseas Higher Education Scholarship Scheme – Framing of additional guidelines for online application and selection process – Orders – Issued.

### **ADI DRAVIDAR AND TRIBAL WELFARE (ADW-3) DEPARTMENT**

**G.O.(Ms) No: 23**

Dated : 12.03.2026.

விசுவாவசு வருடம்

மாசி மாதம் 28-ஆம் நாள்

திருவள்ளூர் ஆண்டு 2057.

Read:

1. G.O. (Ms) No. 105, Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare (ADW3) Department, dated: 21.08.2023.
2. From the Commissioner, Adi Dravidar Welfare. letter R.C.J1/ 17141/2024, dated: 09.03.2026.

### **ORDER :-**

In the Government Order first read above, with a view to implementing the announcement made by the Hon'ble Minister for Adi Dravidar Welfare and to enable a larger number of students to benefit under the Scholarship Scheme for pursuing higher education abroad, the Government issued orders approving the new guidelines for the said scheme.

2) In the letter second read above, the Commissioner of Adi Dravidar Welfare has stated that, in order to ensure a proper and structured selection process, the following comprehensive application and selection procedure is proposed for shortlisting eligible applicants:

- I. The application process shall be conducted once in a year, aligned with the Primary (Most Preferred) International Intake of overseas universities. A single online application window shall be opened during April–May 2026, and the selection list shall be finalized by June–mid July 2026, enabling the selected candidates to join the Primary Intake (generally August–September 2026 or the corresponding main intake period in the respective countries).
- II. Candidates must apply under the Scheme before proceeding abroad. Applicants who are already studying abroad or who have completed their studies abroad using any other scholarship from the Government of India, State Government, other agencies, an education loan, or personal funds prior to applying under this Scheme shall not be eligible for consideration.
- III. Ten percent (10%) of the total allocation shall be reserved for ST candidates. Any unfilled ST vacancies shall be reallocated to SC/SCC candidates.
- IV. Applications received from transgender candidates and persons with disabilities shall be given priority in accordance with existing Government norms.
- V. Eligible applicants shall be shortlisted based on the QS World University Ranking of the admitting institution, starting from the highest-ranked university downward (with lower numerical ranks receiving higher priority).
- VI. In the case of two or more candidates admitted to the same QS-ranked institution, priority shall be determined based on the academic performance of the applicants across all stages of education, in descending

order, namely: PG/UG, Higher Secondary (12th Standard), and SSLC (10th Standard), as applicable.

3) The Government, after careful consideration of the proposal of the Commissioner of Adi Dravidar Welfare, accept the proposal and accordingly issue the following additional guidelines under the Annal Ambedkar Overseas Higher Education Scholarship Scheme:

- I. **Application Timeline:** A single online application window will open during **April–May 2026**. Selection will be finalized by **mid-July 2026** to align with the primary international intake (August/September 2026).
- II. **Eligibility Timing:** Candidates must apply before proceeding abroad. Those already studying overseas or who have completed studies using other scholarship from the Government of India, State Government, other agencies, loans or personal funds are **not eligible**.
- III. **Reservation: 10%** of the total allocation is reserved for ST candidates. Unfilled ST seats will be reallocated to SC/SCC candidates.
- IV. **Priority Groups:** Applications from **transgender candidates** and **persons with disabilities** will receive priority as per existing Government norms.
- V. **Merit Criteria:** Shortlisting will be based on the **QS World University Ranking** of the admitting institution (lower numerical rank/higher prestige receives higher priority).
- VI. **Tie-Breaking:** In the event of a tie (same QS rank), priority will be determined by the candidate's academic performance in descending order (PG, UG, 12th and 10th grades).

4) The Commissioner of Adi Dravidar Welfare is requested to take necessary action to implement the above additional guidelines and to issue detailed operational instructions for effective implementation of the Annal Ambedkar Overseas Higher Education Scholarship Scheme.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

G. LAXMI PRIYA  
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT.

To

The Commissioner, Adi Dravidar Welfare, Chennai – 600 005.

The Director, Tribal Welfare, Chennai - 600 005.

The All District Collectors.

The All District Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Officers.

Copy

The Senior Personal Assistant to Hon'ble Minister for Adi Dravidar Welfare Department, Chennai - 600 009.

The Private Secretary to the Secretary to Government,

Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, Chennai – 600 009.

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//FORWARDED / BY ORDER //

*P. Sankar*  
12/13/2026  
Section Officer  
*Rowst*  
12/13/2026