

Scholarship bonanza at SNU

Shiv Nadar University (SNU) has announced a wide range of scholarships that it claims will benefit about 60 per cent of its students. There are different scholarship programmes meant for students from rural backgrounds, those with non-academic achievements and those coming from the weaker sections of society

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It is an indictment of society if the dream of a meritorious student to achieve higher qualifications is shattered for lack of funds. But that is history if you have got a bright academic record, the Shiv Nadar University (SNU) in Greater Noida is willing to hold your hand and help you through all your financial hurdles to offer the best in education. The University has recently announced a slew of scholarships from the new academic session for its PhD, postgraduate and undergraduate programmes. The scholarships offered are so wide-based that, the SNU claims, will cover at least 60 per cent of the students studying at the University.

Nikhil Sinha, the founding vice-chancellor of the University, said, "Our university offers world-class interdisciplinary education. Our aim is to support excellence in undergraduate and postgraduate courses and redefine the research scenario in the Indian education system. We, at the SNU, want to nurture talent and that is the reason that we have a very comprehensive assessment programme for offering scholarships for only truly deserving candidates. The scholarship benefit will result in 25 to 50 per cent of tuition and other fee waivers, which runs into lakhs of rupees."

There are four types of scholarships for students who want to pursue undergraduate courses from the University. The Merit Scholarship will be given on the basis of meritorious records. This will entitle a student to 100 per cent waiver of tuition fee for four years. The Merit-

cum Needs scholarship is meant for students coming from weaker sections of society. They are the ones who have a meritorious record but do not have sufficient resources to fund their education. The students will get a waiver of 50 per cent of their tuition fee and other expenses. In this case, students have not only to provide their marksheet but also family income certificate. There is a Special Scholarship meant for students who have notable achievements in non-ac-

ademic fields and for rural students who show exceptional skills. The University has also got an Interest Waiver scheme for undergraduate students. Students who have taken education loans of up to Rs. 4 lakh will not have to pay interest for three years as it will be borne by the SNU.



>> Nikhil Sinha, founding vice-chancellor of SNU

There are also scholarships and fellowships for postgraduate programmes. Under the Full Tuition and Fee Waiver Scholarship, students will not have to pay the tuition and hostel fees for two years of the course whereas in the tuition fee and special fee waiver, the tuition and the special fee will be waived

for two years. In both the above scholarships, they will get a postgraduate fellowship of Rs 1.00 lakh per annum.

As the SNU's focus is on encouraging research, it has designed an attractive Scholarship and Fellowship for PhD programmes. The tuition and special fee for those who are selected for doctoral studies will be done away with. Additionally, the doctoral students will also receive an internationally competitive Research Fellowship of Rs 1.45 lakh per annum for

four years of their research or working as an associate professor with the SNU. Dr M. Gopal, the head of School of Engineering, said, "As we have noticed that not much research work is happening in the country, we want to give a push to it and that is why we offer internationally competitive fellowships."

Getting a scholarship will not be as that easy as the SNU has set very high standards for students applying for a student applying for a scholarship should not only have a meritorious ac-

ademic background but should also have to write essays, topics for which will be given in the application form. They will have to sit for an aptitude test, which will be followed by an interview.

The SNU has launched the School of Humanities and Social Sciences this year where undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral courses will be offered in English and Economics. Last year, the School of Natural Sciences offered courses in Mathematics. But now it has physics and chemistry departments. The courses offered will be of undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD level.

