Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad – SARTHI Scholarship Scheme for Meritorious Students to Pursue Higher Education Abroad

The Government of Maharashtra, through the Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj Research, Training and Human Development Institute (SARTHI), Pune, has implemented the **"Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad – SARTHI Scholarship Scheme for Meritorious Students to Pursue Higher Education Abroad"** from the academic year 2023-24.

This scheme is intended for meritorious students belonging to **Maratha, Kunbi, Kunbi-Maratha, and Maratha-Kunbi communities**, who, due to financial constraints, are unable to pursue higher education in reputed foreign universities.

Sr. No.	Points	Explanation
1	**Objective**	To provide financial assistance to boys and girls belonging to the Maratha, Kunbi, Maratha-Kunbi, and Kunbi-Maratha communities for pursuing **Postgraduate Degree, Postgraduate Diploma, and Doctoral (Ph.D.) studies** in reputed universities abroad.
2	**Scope**	• The scheme is applicable to **75 students annually** (50 for Postgraduate Degree/Diploma and 25 for Ph.D.). • Eligible students must secure admission to a foreign university ranked within the **top 200 of the QS World University Rankings**.
3	**Age Limit**	• For Postgraduate Degree/Diploma courses: **Maximum 35 years** • For Ph.D. courses: **Maximum 40 years**
4	**General Terms and Conditions**	1. The applicant must belong to the Maratha, Kunbi, Maratha-Kunbi, or Kunbi-Maratha community, be a **resident of Maharashtra**, and an **Indian citizen**. 2. The student must have obtained admission, on merit, to a foreign university ranked within the **top 200 QS World Rankings**.

		3. The applicant must not have availed of any other foreign scholarship from the State Government, Central Government, or any other administrative department.
		4. The admission must be as a **full-time student**.
		• Executive Postgraduate courses, Executive Diplomas, and part-time courses are not eligible under this scheme.
		5. Students must complete the course within the prescribed duration. **Extension of the study period will not be granted.**
		6. An **Unconditional Offer Letter** from the foreign university is mandatory.
5	**Income Limit**	The combined annual family income of the student/parents (including self-income, if employed) should not exceed ₹**8.00 lakh**. • Documents required: o Income Certificate issued by the Tahsildar (or higher competent authority), o Income Tax Returns, o Form No. 16 (if salaried), o Affidavit (if ITR is not applicable). • Submission of false income or documents will attract criminal proceedings under prevailing laws.
6	**Educational Qualifications**	• For Postgraduate courses: The applicant must have secured a **minimum of 55% marks** in the undergraduate degree from a recognized Indian University. • For Ph.D. courses: The applicant must have completed a recognized postgraduate degree with the required academic standards.
7	**Duration of Course Covered**	• Ph.D. – **Maximum 4 years** or the actual duration of the course, whichever is less. • Postgraduate Degree/Diploma – **Maximum 2 years** or the actual duration of the course, whichever is less.

8	**Documents Required**	1. Duly completed application form (in prescribed format).
		2. Income Certificate and Income Tax Return / Form No. 16.
		3. Proof of passing relevant qualifying examinations (10th, 12th, Graduate, Postgraduate, Diploma mark sheets and certificates).
		4. Admission Offer Letter from a QS Top-200 ranked university.
		5. Prospectus of the university/institution.
		6. Updated QS World Ranking for the concerned course/university.
		7. Other documents and undertakings as prescribed by the Government from time to time.
9	**Benefits under the Scheme**	• For Postgraduate Degree/Diploma (2 years): **Up to ₹30 lakh per annum**
		• For Ph.D. (4 years): **Up to ₹40 lakh per annum**