

Government of Pakistan
Poverty Alleviation and Social Safety Division
Curtain Raiser – Ehsaas Scholarships

PM will give away Ehsaas Undergraduate Scholarships on March 2: Dr. Sania Nishtar



UNDER EHSAAZ
UNDERGRADUATE
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM

PRIME MINISTER
IMRAN KHAN
WILL BE DISTRIBUTING
Scholarships
AMONG
50,000
DESERVING STUDENTS

**2ND
MARCH 2020**

February 28, 2020 - Islamabad: Prime Minister Imran Khan will give away need based Ehsaas undergraduate scholarships to the first batch of deserving bright students on March 2, 2020. This 4 year, Rs.24 billion initiative will support 200,000 students (50% girls) from low income backgrounds. As part of the Ehsaas scholarships policy, 2% scholarships will be exclusively awarded to students with special needs. Overall, 50,000 scholarships will be given every year to enhance financial access to higher education for the deserving. The continuation of scholarship in following years will depend upon the maintenance of academic performance.

The need and merit-based scholarship covers tuition fee as well as a living stipend. The prime objective of Ehsaas scholarships program is to ensure that no eligible student is deprived of higher education because of financial need. This program is unique as it reflects a historic shift in scholarship policy of the government. Unlike past scholarships that aimed at MS or PhD level programs, this project specifically focuses on undergraduate education, which is the surest way of rising out of poverty.

Following the official launch of the Ehsaas undergraduate scholarships by the PM on Nov 4, 2020, the Higher Education Commission's (HEC) online portal had been opened for applications till Dec 24, 2020. By the closing date, as many as 132,192 undergraduate students (49,841 girls) applied for scholarships for the academic year 2019-20 under the first phase of the project. All students from low-income backgrounds studying in undergraduate programmes across 119 public sector universities recognized by HEC were

eligible to apply. Subsequently, the universities' scholarship award committees made provisional decisions based on applications and documents received and recommended them for ratification by the program steering committee. The provisional decisions were confirmed after formal ratification as well as follow up scrutiny, including income verification, verification of supporting documents, and personal interviews by the scholarship award committee.

Reflecting on the significance of Ehsaas scholarships program, Dr. Sania Nishtar, Prime Minister's Special Assistant on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation stated, "Pakistan has one of the youngest populations in the world and the government could not afford to waste the demographic dividend that is key to building a strong and sustainable economy. By offering these Ehsaas undergraduate scholarships to the deserving best and brightest minds across our country we are enriching the Pakistani workforce, encouraging diversity across all our professions and investing in the leaders of tomorrow." She then reiterated, "With fifty percent girls' inclusion in these scholarships, Pakistan will also benefit the measures in this program to tackle gender discrimination in education, which negatively impacts our nation's health and economic growth."

The project is being overseen by the Ehsaas Scholarships Steering Committee, co-chaired by Dr. Nishtar and Chairman HEC. As part of this shared initiative, a joint monitoring and evaluation framework has been set up to ensure that the program is running in a transparent, equitable, and accountable manner. The monitoring and evaluation system reports directly to the Ehsaas Scholarship Steering Committee.