



Indo-U.S. Science & Technology Forum

www.iusstf.org

KHORANA PROGRAM FOR SCHOLARS

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. **What is the Khorana Program for Scholars?**

The Khorana Program for Scholars is a tripartite arrangement between the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Govt. of India, WINStep Forward, and the Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum (IUSSTF). The Program provides opportunities to Indian students to undertake research internships at premier U.S. Universities each summer for a period of 10-12 weeks.
2. **What are the objectives of the Khorana Program?**

The broad objectives of the program are:

 - Providing an opportunity to Indian students to gain exposure and access to world class research facilities;
 - Promoting research and capacity building in biotechnology and allied areas through Indo-U.S. cooperation;
 - Encouraging under-graduate and post-graduate students to take up research as a career, and
 - Paving the way for the next generation scientists and technologists from India towards building long-term sustainable R & D linkages and collaborations.
3. **What are the eligibility criteria for the Program?**
 1. Only Indian students currently enrolled at a recognized Institution of Higher Education in India can apply.
 2. Pre-final year students enrolled in B.Tech., M. Tech., B.Sc., MSc., B.E., M.E., M.S., Integrated B.S-M.S., B.V.Sc., M.V.Sc., B. Pharm., M. Pharm., MBBS., and Master in Medical Science and Technology (MMST) at recognized institutions of higher education in India in Biotechnology and allied areas (including agricultural, food, health, biomedical sciences and interdisciplinary areas like Computational Sciences, Big Data, Machine Learning etc.) are eligible to apply.
 3. The applicant should have:
 - Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 8.0 or higher, OR,
 - Percentage: 80% and higher.
 - Minimum 65% and higher if the applicant is an MBBS student.
 4. Preference will be given to students without prior international research experience.
 5. Only those candidates who have a minimum of one year remaining for the completion of their course in India are eligible to apply [(for e.g. for the 2025 Call, Only those candidates who shall be completing their degree program in or after May 2026 are eligible to apply (preferably pre-final year students)].
 6. First Year, Final Year students and Ph.D. students are *NOT* eligible to apply.

4. What is the procedure to submit an application?
- Please register on the IUSSTF Online Application Portal for Visitation Programs at http://49.50.66.168/Program_Details.aspx?ProgramFor=1
 - Verify your account using the link sent to your registered email id. Please check your spam/junk folders in case you do not receive mails from iusstf.info@gmail.com.
 - Complete the online application and upload scanned copies of latest marksheet, No-Objection Certificate & Two Letters of Recommendation.
 - Supporting documents should be provided strictly according to the check-list mentioned in the application form.
 - Candidates are advised to go through all the program information/instructions carefully before submitting the application.
 - Hard copies of the application form/supporting documents ARE NOT required.
5. Can one apply in areas other than those specified in the Program Brochure?
- The Khorana Program invites applications in Biotechnology and allied areas (including agricultural, food, health, biomedical sciences and interdisciplinary areas like Computational Sciences, Big Data, and Machine Learning etc.). Applications in subject-fields other than those specified in the advertisement will not be considered.
6. What are the criteria for Selection?
- The eligible applications are further reviewed and shortlisted by subject experts based on the following criteria:
- Academic background and credentials;
 - Research interests, project ideas, and career goals;
 - Research experience, technical background, other internships, courses, lab work (if any);
 - The need to conduct research in the U.S. and
 - Publications, Poster presentations, and related conference participation (if any).
7. Are there any types of preferences for students from economically weaker sections or reservations for SC/ST/OBC candidates?
- No. Selections are purely on the basis of merit of the application based on the criteria mentioned in Point No. 6 above.
8. Will there be a personal interview involved in the selection process?
- No interviews will be conducted as a part of the selection process.
9. How long does the review process take?
- The entire selection process involving Pre-screening, Selections and Placements at US Universities takes around 3-4 months.

10. Program Schedule for 2025 Call (Tentative):

1 st week of September 2024	Program announcement on the IUSSTF/DBT website
Last week of September 2024	Webinar for prospective applicants
1 st week of October 2024	Application Deadline
2 nd week of October 2024 onwards	Stage 1: Preliminary Screening
1 st – 4 th week of November 2024	Stage 2: Review Process
3 rd week of December 2024	Stage 3: Final Screening and Selection of Scholars
End December 2024	Award Announcement
January-March 2025	Placements by WSF
May 2025	Orientation by WSF in U.S. and Commencement of Internship by the Selected Candidates
December 2025/January 2026	Symposium/Interaction with Scholars (Batch 2025) in India

11. What financial support does the Khorana Program cover?

The support provided under the Khorana Program comprises of:

- (i) Round-trip airfare
- (ii) Stipend
- (iii) Health insurance.

12. Are expenses like accommodation costs, Visa Fees, and Tuition/Bench Fees not covered under the Program support?

No. The Scholar would need to cover Accommodation costs, Visa Fees, and Tuition/Bench Fees on his/her own. The host institution (or the faculty host) may help cover the costs of housing for the duration of the fellowship and/or waive (or cover) any tuition or bench fees.

13. What is the duration of these internships? Are they extendable?

Scholars can undertake these internships for 10-12 weeks each summer tentatively from mid-May to end-July. Alterations/extensions in internship dates/period may be done in consultation with parent institution and host institution.

14. Do I need to book my own tickets?

The international tickets by economy excursion class and shortest route (from student's parent institution to U.S. Host Institution & back) will be booked by IUSSTF Travel Desk.

15. Will I be allotted the U.S Host Institution or do I have to choose on my own?

Successful applicants have to identify their own U.S. host, based on matching research

interests.

16. Where can I get more information on the Khorana Program for Scholars and the list of previously awarded Scholars?
Please visit <https://iusstf.org/khorana-program-for-scholars>
17. How many letters of reference/recommendation do I need to submit?
- Candidates are required to submit two Recommendation letters - One from a teacher/tutor and the other from a supervisor under whose mentorship you completed a training/internship in any lab.
 - The references should be provided on the official letter-head of the referees with their ink signature and stamp (if any).
 - If referees are comfortable sharing the letters with the candidate; it can be uploaded with the application form. If not, the referees may directly e-mail it to scholar@iusstf.org with the candidate's name, institute/university clearly mentioned in the subject line, well before the submission deadline. **All documents must be submitted before the application deadline, as no documents, including recommendation letters, will be accepted after the deadline.**
18. I am a first year Master's student and don't have a current marksheet to upload. What should I do?
In case you are a master's first year student and haven't received your first semester results at the time of submitting your application, you may apply with your final year graduation marks.
19. I will be completing my final year in May 2025. Am I eligible to apply?
Final year students or students who have completed Master's or currently pursuing PhD ARE NOT eligible to apply.
20. I am yet to receive my official marksheet. What should I do?
Please upload only your *latest* marksheet. If you haven't received the official one at the time of application, please upload an attested copy of the same.
21. I am eligible to apply but I do not have a passport. What can I do?
Candidates not having passport at the time of application may choose the "Applied for" option in the passport details section of the Application form. They are advised to apply for a passport at the earliest.

IUSSTF reserves the right to amend its policies and priorities anytime, depending on circumstances. Applicants are advised to visit the Program website <https://iusstf.org/khorana-program-for-scholars> for updates.