

Khorana Program for Scholars 2025
Eligibility and Application Guidelines

1. Indian citizens currently enrolled in a recognized Institution of Higher Education in India.
2. Pre-final year students enrolled in B.Tech., M. Tech., MSc., B.E., M.E., M.S., Integrated B.S-M.S., B.Sc., 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. 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 **on or after May 2026** are eligible to apply (preferably pre-final year students)]. **First Year, Final Year and Ph.D. students are NOT eligible to apply.**
4. Preference will be given to students without prior international research experience.
5. 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.
6. A three-tiered screening process will be followed to select Khorana scholars.
7. The eligible applications will be 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).
8. **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

9. Candidates are encouraged to fill out the online application and upload scanned copies of the latest marksheet/transcript, No-Objection Certificate & 2 Letters of Recommendation. Supporting documents should be provided strictly according to the check-list mentioned in the application form. ***Please DO NOT attach Class X/Class XII marksheets.***
10. Recommendation letters can be sent along with the application form or if referees wish to provide a confidential recommendation, they may send it directly to scholar@iusstf.org with the Applicant's full name 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.**
11. Hard copies of the application form/supporting documents **are not** required.
12. If you do not have a passport and have applied for it, choose **“Applied for”** in the passport details section of the Application form.
13. Applications in subject fields other than those specified on the webpage will not be considered.
14. **Support Details:**

A. IUSSTF:

- a) Disbursement of an advance grant that includes 90% of the stipend of USD 3000 for the entire duration of the internship (10-12 weeks) along with USD 600 as health insurance to the students before the commencement of their internship. The remaining amount will be released on submission of the reports and related documents towards the closure and settlement of the award.
- b) Facilitation of round-trip travel (upto USD 2500) for selected students. Round-trip air-tickets for all selected Khorana scholars would be directly provided by the IUSSTF travel desk in economy class.

B. WINStep Forward (WSF):

- a) WSF, along with IUSSTF will jointly reach out to the selected candidates and assist in identifying upto 3 U.S. professors (in order of priority) based on matching areas of interest. Following the receipt of the mentor list from the candidates, WSF will contact the U.S. Professors and invite them to participate in the program by hosting a student.
- b) Organize the Orientation Program (virtual/in-person) for the visiting scholars.
- c) Provide necessary support and guidance to the scholars during and after their tenure in the U.S.

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> frequently for updates.