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 obstructed 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 on a wide basis that the SNU claims, will cover at least 60 per cent of the students studying at the University.

In an extract, 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 ensure that our students are ready to achieve their dreams. We have a very comprehensive scholarship programme for offering scholarships to only deserving candidates. The scholarship benefits will result in 25 to 40 per cent of tuition and other fees 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 merit. This will entitle a student to 10 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 25 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-academic fields 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 14 lakh will not have to pay interest for three years as it will be defrayed by the SNU. There are also scholarships and fellowships for postgraduate programmes. Under the Fulbright and Peace Scholarships, students will not have to pay the tuition and host 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 all the above scholarships, they will get a fellowship of Rs 1 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 will be waived for those who are selected for doctoral studies and fellows will be paid a salary of Rs 30,000 per month. Additionally, the doctoral students will also receive an internationally competitive Research Scholarship. Four years of theirs research or working as an associate professor under the SNU. Dr M. Gopal, 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 in it and that is why we offer this fellowship." Getting a scholarship will not be easy as the student has to meet very high standards for applying. A student applying for scholarship should not only have a meritorious background but should also be able to write essays, topics for which will be given in the application form. Those who have passed the interview will be followed by an interview.

The SNU has introduced the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, which will offer English and Economics. Last year, the School had offered courses in Mathematics. But now it will have physics and chemistry departmers. The courses offered will be of undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD.