



democratising access to higher education

Workshop on the JN Tata Endowment Loan Scholarship  
Wednesday, 22 February 2023



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# Project EduAccess

Access to higher education is a privilege most people from marginalised communities are systematically denied through cost, information and dispositional barriers.

**Project EduAccess** is a modest attempt to improve inclusivity in HEIs by removing these barriers for marginalized communities in South Asia.

We hope to achieve this by providing expert mentorship, support and guidance to learners in South Asia.

# Meet your panelists



Devina Srivastava

LLM  
University of Cambridge  
JN Tata Scholar 2022-23



Apala Mandal

MA in Migration and Diaspora Studies  
SOAS University of London  
JN Tata Scholar 2022-23



# Overview

- The merit-based **JN Tata Endowment Loan Scholarship** is awarded one-time to Indians for full-time **Postgraduate/ PhD/ Postdoctoral/ Research** fellowships studies overseas, in **all fields**, irrespective of caste, creed, gender, or community.
- The amount of the loan scholarship, ranging between **Rs.1,00,000 and Rs.10,00,000** is determined on the basis of the norms laid down for the purpose, and does not cover the full cost of studies. All selected scholars do not necessarily qualify for the maximum amount.
- The scholarship is offered at a **simple interest of 2% per annum**. However, Trustees may waive the interest if candidates repaid the loan by the end of seventh year. The repayment schedule is in five equal installments of 20% between the 3rd and 7th year.
- In addition, scholars may also be recommended for **partial travel assistance** (a maximum of Rs.50,000) and **gift awards** between Rs.2,00,000 and Rs.7,50,000 (depending on the academic performance of candidates in the course for which they are awarded the JN Tata loan scholarship).

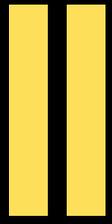
# Eligibility Criteria

- Candidates should be Indians, not older than 45 years as on June 30, 2023, and graduates of a recognised Indian University with at least 60% marks on average in their undergraduate or postgraduate studies. If the undergraduate degree is not from a recognised University in India, candidates are not eligible to apply.
- Candidates who did not get selected in the previous year/ earlier for the loan scholarship. Candidates who were awarded but could not avail of the loan scholarship are also eligible to apply. Such candidates are required to follow the entire selection process.
- Candidates who missed applying to the JN Tata Endowment at the beginning of their overseas studies may apply at the end of 1st year or the beginning of 2nd year provided there is a minimum of 12 months remaining in their studies, at the time of award of the loan scholarship, which is usually July of any calendar year.
- Candidates planning to pursue postgraduate and undergraduate studies in India are not eligible to apply.



# Eligibility Criteria

- Candidates in the **final year of their degree courses and awaiting results** are eligible to apply. Candidates may apply even if they do not have the admission/ offer letters at the time of making the application, from the Universities to which they have applied for the academic year 2023-2024. However, they must update their application status with the Endowment once they secured admission by sending an appropriate email to [jnte@tatatrusters.org](mailto:jnte@tatatrusters.org) by quoting the reference number which appears on the top left side of the form.
- Candidates who are planning to study for **diplomas** of at least 1 year duration whose entry-level requirement is higher secondary level are **not eligible** to apply.
- Candidates going **overseas for seminars, conferences**, training, workshops, paper presentation, undergraduate studies, and any post-graduate degree/ diploma/ certificates through Distance learning or online medium are **not eligible** to apply.
- The course to which candidates are admitted must be recognized as a **Graduate Program** (post-graduate in Indian terminology).
- JN Tata scholars who have **fully repaid their existing loan scholarship amount** are **eligible** to apply.



# Timeline

**7 March 2023:** Deadline to submit application

**9 April 2023:** Date of the Online Test, which is based on the lines of Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA)

**April - June 2023:** Applicants to be interviewed by a distinguished panel of subject experts drawn from prestigious Indian and overseas institutions

**First week of July 2023:** Announcement of awards



# Selection Process

- The selection process has been divided into **four phases** and candidates will be informed about the status of their application at the end of each phase.
- If the information provided by candidates is either **incomplete or false**, the application will get rejected at any phase and the Endowment will not entertain any queries with regard to the **rejection**.
- Once the application is submitted, candidates cannot make any changes to the form. If they wish to make any changes/ corrections in the application form they are required to send an email to [jnte@tatatrusters.org](mailto:jnte@tatatrusters.org) by quoting the reference number.
- All documents should be uploaded in a **grayscale pdf** with their required nomenclature.
- The online application can be accessed here: <https://www.jntataendowment.org/>. Candidates have to create a login ID and password to be able to apply. You can directly complete the application form online in one visit or more than one visit.



# Selection Process: Phase 1

- Phase 1 involves submitting the application form by **7 March 2023**.
- Candidates will be required to submit preliminary details such as **personal and academic information, work experience, and statement of purpose**. Scanned copies of the following documents should be uploaded:
  - Candidate's photo (500 \* 500 pixels in jpeg format)
  - Aadhar card
  - Pan card
  - Passport (first & last page)
  - Transcript/s for each qualification
  - Scorecards (GRE/GMAT/TOEFL/IELTS/PTE)
- **Working professionals** need to upload **3 additional documents** (if any):
  - Work Experience certificate from the previous employer
  - Appointment letter from the existing employer
  - Latest One-year ITR/3 months' pay slips



# Selection Process: Phase 1

- Important points for consideration:
  - Apart from consistent academic performance, importance is given to participation in both co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.
  - A good GRE/GMAT/TOEFL/IELTS/PTE score is extremely important. If you have received low scores in any, it may be advisable to improve upon it, to increase your chances of receiving the loan scholarship.
  - The Statement of Purpose (SoP), which is assigned a score, carries considerable weight in the selection process. Hence it is important that you take care while drafting it and ensure that your SoP is written by you and free from plagiarism. Since you will be questioned during the interview on what you claim you have done, do not write about anything you have done but forgotten. Biographical details serve no purpose in the SoP. Instead, focus on your academic trajectory – current and projected.



# Selection Process: Phase 2

- After the initial screening of applications, some candidates will be informed a week in advance that they are shortlisted to undergo the **Online Test**.
- The Online Test is based on the lines of **Thinking Skills Assessment (TSA)** and is scheduled to be held on **9 April 2023**.
  - This **test will be conducted only once** and those who fail to attend will be considered to have withdrawn.
  - This is not a subject-specific test and contains **some numerical questions** but does not presume anything more than knowledge of arithmetic and does not involve difficult calculations.
- The **results of the test** will be announced within a week from the date of the test by email.

# Selection Process: Phase 3

- Of those who take the online test, some will be shortlisted for the technical interview.
- Candidates who are shortlisted for the interview will be required to complete the application form by supplying information on applied university/ universities, proposed plans, source of funds, parents' details, and guarantor's details.
- Scanned copies of the following documents should be uploaded:
  - Letter of admission
  - Guarantor's photo (500\*500 pixels in jpeg format)
  - Guarantor's Aadhar card, Pan card, one-year ITR/ pay slip last 3 months
  - A Letter of Recommendation (LOR) is required (only one), specifically addressed to "The Trustees of the JN Tata Endowment" either from a Professor of the college or University or the employer, in case the applicant is/ was working. Candidates should only furnish the details of the recommender such as name, designation, department, name of the college/ university/ organization, city, contact number, and their official email ID. The Endowment will directly communicate with the recommender for the purpose of the LoR.
- The above information along with the required documents is to be provided before **23 April 2023**.

# Selection Process: Phase 4

- The **technical interview** is the final leg of the selection process. 'Technical' refers to the evaluation of candidates' understanding of their subjects – current and future. As they will be examined in depth and detail, candidates should come **prepared with knowledge of their subjects and chosen areas of interest with any specialisation**, as shown in their application form. Candidates at the beginning of the 2nd year would be assessed also on their first year/semester transcripts.
- Scanned copies of the following **documents** should be uploaded before the interview:
  - Final year marksheets and degree certificate
  - Certificate of scholarships/ ranks/ prizes (if any)
  - Co-curricular and extra-curricular activities
  - Research work/Project work (only One)
  - GRE/GMAT/TOEFL/IELTS/ PTE scorecard
- The rigorous technical interview is conducted from late April onwards, **in person in Mumbai or online** by the **Director of the Endowment and a subject expert**.
- Performance at the interview carries the **highest weightage in the selection process**.



# Final Selection

- The **final selection** of scholars for the award of the loan scholarship is based on the following **criteria**:
  - Performance at the interview
  - Score at the online test
  - Score based on academic results, GRE/GMAT/IELTS/TOEFL/PTE scores, statement of purpose, and work experience.
- All the **awards will be announced together** latest by the **first week of July** by mail.

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Other ways to get in touch

