

Merit Scholarship Scheme (SSF-103)

Objective

The Merit Scholarship Scheme (SSF-103) is designed to encourage academic excellence among the students of Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU). Under this scheme, scholarships shall be awarded to the continuing students of all academic levels (except certificate courses) who secure **85% or above marks** in corresponding semester.

The amount of scholarship shall be determined by the Directorate of Students Advisory & Counselling Services (DSA&CS), subject to the availability of funds. In case, the number of eligible students exceeds the available budget, the allocated funds shall be distributed equally among all eligible students. However, the total amount disbursed shall not exceed the budget allocated for the scheme. Moreover, the scholarship awarded to an individual student shall not exceed the actual fee paid for the relevant semester.

Eligibility Criteria

A student shall be eligible for the Merit Scholarship Scheme if he/she:

- is a continuing student of AIOU;
- has secured **85% or above marks** in the corresponding semester;
- has passed all registered courses (with full-load in semester);
- The scholarship shall be awarded only during the prescribed duration of the academic program (e.g., four semesters for a two-year program and eight semesters for a four-year program).
- Students who fail to complete their degree within the prescribed duration or who defer/ drop courses and subsequently secure 85% or above marks in an extended semester (e.g., 5th or 9th semester) shall not be eligible for the scholarship.

The list of eligible students shall be generated automatically through the Campus Management System (CMS). Therefore, **submission of a separate application shall not be required** under this scheme.

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

1. The DSA&CS shall prepare the CMS-generated list of eligible students and place the cases before the ASSF Advisory Committee for scrutiny and recommendations.
2. The recommendations of the ASSF Advisory Committee shall be submitted to the Competent Authority for approval.
3. Upon approval by the Competent Authority, the scholarship amount to the selected students will be disbursed after completion of all prescribed codal formalities.
4. A student who has already been granted financial assistance by AIOU for the same semester shall not be eligible for the Merit Scholarship under SSF-103, as **two financial benefits from the University cannot be availed simultaneously in the same semester.**