2019 Tibetan Scholarship Program Announcement India and Nepal

The U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), is pleased to announce the opening of the 2019 Tibetan Scholarship Program (TSP). The TSP, sponsored by ECA, is administered through a Cooperative Agreement with The Tibet Fund (TTF), in collaboration with the Central Tibetan Administration's (CTA) Department of Education (DoE). Approximately six (6) applicants from India and one (1) from Nepal will be selected to participate in the TSP. Applications will be accepted from eligible Tibetan refugees residing in India and Nepal for up to two-year Master's Degree programs in the United States, *pending the availability of funds.* The application form is available below.

A. TSP Application and Selection Process:

1. Applicants should be born on or after January 1, 1983

2. Applicants must have completed at least four years of academic work after Class XII, including a three years Bachelor's degree from a recognized university. The fourth year can be your Bachelor of Education credentials or your Master's degree first year academic credentials. Partial computer courses, vocational training, and diplomas from recognized academic institutions in India and Nepal will be taken into consideration.

3. Competitive applicants should score a minimum score of 55% in their Bachelor's; Master's; Bachelors of Education and Post Graduate Diploma Program.

4. Applicants who have completed or are pursuing a M. Phil / Ph. D degree are not eligible for the TSP.

5. Applicants are not required to submit Class X and XII academic credentials.

6. The final selection panel will be chaired by the designated Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassies in India and Nepal for all the viable candidates nominated by the CTA's DoE and the TSP Student Selection Committee (SSC) in Nepal.

7. During the pre-selection process, TSP applicants will not be required to submit TOEFL scores along with the application package.

8. The TSP applicants will take the Institutional TOEFL test (ITP) on the same day after the General Written Test in Tibetan (GWTT) in Delhi and Bangalore. The TOEFL ITP test aims to get a good sense of the applicants English language ability before they sit for the final interview.

9. **TOEFL ITP test at a Glance:** *Level 1 (intermediate to advanced): 2 hours*

Section	Number of Questions	Administered Time	Score Scale
Listening Comprehension	50	35 minutes	31 - 68
Structure and Written Expression	40	25 minutes	31 - 68
Reading Comprehension	50	55 minutes	31 - 67
Total	140	115 minutes	310 - 677

10. Once the required academic credentials and other formalities are fulfilled, the CTA's DoE and TSP SSC in Nepal will notify the applicants for document verification process/ GWTT and TOEFL ITP test.

11. The venue for the reporting and document verification will be notified by CTA DoE and TSP SSC staff via e-mail and telephone call. There will be two venues for the document verification, GWTT and TOEFL ITP test for India. The applicants from north India will happen in Delhi and applicants from south India will happen in Bangalore. The exact location will be confirmed by the CTA DoE after the deadline of the application. The applicants from Nepal will happen in Kathmandu.

12. Applicants must secure a minimum of 30 points out of 50 on the GWTT in order to move to the next level. The GWTT is multiple choices. questions and a section of translation.

13. The ITP test locations and requirements will vary by country. The duration of the TOEFL ITP test is two hours and will be paper based. Competitive applicants should obtain an approximate score of 550 on TOEFL ITP.

14. The CTA DoE and The Tibet Fund expect to receive the ITP scores from ETS within 12-15 business days.

15. Once the applicants take the GWTT and TOEFL ITP, the CTA DoE will finalize a list of top 30 applicants from the total pool of applicants. The top 30 applicants will be selected based on their academic performance and passing of the GWTT and TOEFL ITP test.

16. These final 30 applicants will be invited to sit for the final interview in Dharamsala coordinated by CTA DoE.

17. After finalizing the interview markings, the panel will select approximately six candidates from India, and one from Nepal, based on their total application and interview.

18. Approximately six selected applicants from India and the one from Nepal will take the TOEFL ibt. To be accepted in the program, applicants score approximately 85 out of 120 in the TOEFL ibt. In the event any of the final applicants cannot score approximately 85 on TOEFL ibt, the next alternate applicant will be called upon to take the TOEFL ibt test.

19. The Final Selection Panel will develop a list of 5 alternate candidates from India and 2 from Nepal.

20. We encourage the alternate candidates to take the TOEFL ibt, in the event a selected candidate is not able to participate in the program.

21. While taking the TOEFL, the applicants are requested to notify the Educational Testing Services (ETS) to forward a copy of the score to the Tibet Fund by using the TTF's institutional code 9892.

22. The final selected participants will be required to take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) as determined by their field of study and the graduate program requirements of the U.S. host institutions.

B. **SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS & CRITERIA FOR AWARDING SCHOLARSHIP:**

1. **Photo:** Applicants must submit one (1) passport size photo.

2. **Resume and a Short Essay:** The applicant must submit a copy of his/her resume and a short essay, no more than 500-700 words, explaining why are you applying for the Tibetan Scholarship Program (TSP), what you hope to achieve from it, and how you will contribute to your community upon your return.

3. **Registration Certificate (RC) / Refugee Certificate (RC)**:

➢ **TSP Applicants in India:** Applicants must submit photocopies of his/her Registration Certificate (RC), and that of his/her parents and spouse (if married).

➢ **TSP Applicants in Nepal:** Applicants who reside in Nepal must have a Refugee Certificate (RC). If an applicant does not possess a RC, than he/she can submit either one of their parent's RCs with the applicants' name stated in the document. In addition, the applicant must obtain a letter from his/her respective Settlement Officer, certifying that he/she is a Tibetan refugee residing in Nepal.

4. **Green Book**: The applicant must submit photocopies of his/her; parents and spouse (if married) Green Book. If parents or spouse are deceased, the applicant must submit a copy of their death certificate.

5. Applicants whose parents live in Tibet or have passed away must produce a certificate from the Settlement Officer where the applicant currently lives stating that the applicant's parents are currently in Tibet or provide a death certificate.

6. **Academic Certificates**: Applicants must submit their college and university academic records (Degree, and Mark sheets).

7. **U.S. Visa**: *Participants will be required to apply for a J-1 exchange visitor visa from the U.S. Embassy. Selection as a TSP candidate does not guarantee approval for an exchange visa. Applicants who have prior visa denials from the U.S. Embassy must inform The Tibet Fund, the CTA's DoE and the Tibetan Student Selection Committee in Nepal.*

8. **No Objection Certificate**: If you are working in an organization you need to submit a "*No Objection Certificate*" to apply for the scholarship.

9. **Program:** Applicants should choose one program of study from the following fields. The fields of study specified below were identified based on the needs of the Tibetan community by the Central Tibetan Administration (in consultation with the Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy and US DOS's BECA).

   Fields of Study

   - Computer Science/Cyber Security
   - Education
   - Environmental Studies
   - International Law
   - Science
   - Journalism
   - MBA
   - Neuroscience
   - Public Health
   - Intelligence Studies
   - Library and Information Science
   - International Relations /
   - Gender Studies
   - Psychology

10. **Application Deadline**: Interested applicants are responsible for submitting all application materials and other relevant documents to their respective jurisdictions *__on or before Wednesday; March 16, 2018 by 5:00 pm.__* Late or incomplete applications will not be considered after the deadline.

11. *__Applicants from India__*: Applicants must submit their application and all supporting documents to CTA's Department of Education (DoE) who will administer the TSP selection process in India separately. The pre and post selection will be administered by CTA's DoE and the Tibet Fund in coordination with the U.S. Embassy's Public Affairs Section in India.

12. *__Applicants from Nepal:__* Applicants must submit their application and all supporting documents to TSP SSC Nepal, who has been appointed to administer the TSP selection process in Nepal separately. The pre and post selection of TSP Nepal will be administered by TSP SSC Nepal under the direction of The Tibet Fund in coordination with the U.S. Embassy in Kathmandu, Nepal.

13. **Points System:** The following scoring system will be used to calculate each short listed candidate's total score. Please see section below for details on the point system.

    a) Academic Performance with maximum allotted points of 10:

Academic Performance in Bachelor's Program (percentage scored)	Allotted points	Academic Performance in Bachelor of Education / Master / PG Diploma (percentage scored)	Allotted points
55-60	1	55-60	1
61-70	2	61-70	2
71-75	3	71-75	3
76-80	4	76-80	4
81-100	5	81-100	5

If you have any questions regarding the Tibetan Scholarship Program (TSP), please send your queries to the attention of the Tibet Fund's TSP Program Coordinator, Tenzing Choephel Chumeego at tchoephel@tibetfund.org. or the CTA's DoE Scholarship section head, Ngawang Yonten at doe.lobyon@tibet.net. For questions related to the TSP application process in Nepal, please contact Tsering Topgyal at tspsscnepal@ymail.com

TSP Applicants from India, please send your application materials to the following address:

Ngawang Yonten
Department of Education (TSP 2018)
Central Tibetan Administration
Gangchen Kyishong, Distt. Kangra
Dharamsala - 176 215
(H.P.) INDIA
Tel: +91-1892-226695/222721/222572
Fax: +91-1892-223481
E-mail: doe.lobyon@tibet.net
Website: www. http://sherig.org/en/
Facebook: www.facebook.com/doe.lobyon/

Applicants from Nepal, please send your application materials to the following address:

Tsering Topgyal
Vice Chairman
TSP – Student Selection Committee Nepal (TSP 2018)
Snow Lion Foundation
PO Box no. 1313
Kathmandu NEPAL
Tel: +977-1-5000036/5000002
Fax: 00977-1-5000048
tspsscnepal@ymail.com