



Policy for Support to Students from Economically Disadvantaged and Low-Income Families

BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY



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398, Ramkrishnapur Road, Barasat, North 24 Parganas, Kolkata - 700 125

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1. Preamble

Brainware University (BWU) is committed to promoting **inclusive, equitable and accessible higher education** and ensuring that economic disadvantage does not become a barrier to students' enrolment, participation, retention and successful completion of their programmes of study.

The University recognises that students from low-income and economically disadvantaged families may face financial and practical challenges related to tuition fees, learning resources, food, accommodation, transportation, healthcare, emergency needs and other essential requirements. Such challenges may adversely affect their academic participation and ability to continue their higher education.

In accordance with its commitment to **social responsibility, student welfare, equity and inclusive education**, Brainware University provides need-based financial assistance and appropriate welfare support to eligible students. The University seeks to ensure that students experiencing economic hardship receive timely assistance, subject to the availability of institutional resources and the applicable eligibility criteria.

This Policy establishes an institutional framework for identifying and supporting students from economically disadvantaged and low-income families so that financial hardship does not unnecessarily interrupt their education.

2. Objectives

The objectives of this Policy are to:

- a) Promote equitable access to and continuation of higher education for students from economically disadvantaged families.
- b) Provide financial and welfare support to eligible students facing economic hardship.
- c) Reduce financial barriers that may affect students' academic participation, retention and completion.
- d) Facilitate access to scholarships, fee concessions and other forms of institutional assistance.
- e) Provide appropriate support for essential student needs, wherever feasible.



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- f) Establish a transparent and need-based mechanism for considering requests for financial assistance.
- g) Encourage students to access government, institutional and external scholarship and welfare schemes for which they are eligible.

3. Scope

This Policy applies to eligible students of Brainware University who are experiencing financial hardship or belong to economically disadvantaged or low-income households.

Support may be considered for students based on factors such as:

- Household economic circumstances;
- Family income;
- Financial dependency and number of dependants;
- Loss of income or sudden financial hardship in the family;
- Socio-economic circumstances;
- Academic continuation requirements;
- Emergency or exceptional circumstances; and
- Availability of institutional or external financial-support schemes.

4. Scope

Depending upon the student's eligibility and the nature of the need, the University may provide or facilitate the following forms of support:

4.1 Financial Assistance and Scholarships

The University may provide institutional scholarships and financial assistance, including:

- Merit-cum-means scholarships;
- Need-based fee concessions;
- Tuition-fee waivers or partial waivers;
- Admission-fee assistance;
- Emergency financial assistance;
- Institutional scholarships and concessions;
- Assistance in accessing government and other external scholarships; and
- Other financial-support measures approved by the University.



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4.2 Food and Essential Living Support

Where feasible and subject to institutional provisions, students facing significant financial hardship may be provided with or facilitated access to:

- Subsidised or supported food arrangements;
- Assistance during exceptional financial emergencies;
- Access to available student welfare facilities; and
- Referral to appropriate welfare resources.

4.3 Accommodation and Hostel Support

Eligible students may be considered for:

- Hostel fee concessions or assistance, where applicable;
- Accommodation-related financial support in exceptional circumstances; and
- Facilitation of access to available affordable accommodation options.

Such support shall be subject to hostel availability, applicable University rules and the approved eligibility criteria.

4.4 Transportation Support

Where institutional facilities permit, the University may provide or facilitate:

- Access to available university transportation facilities;
- Concessional or supported transportation arrangements, where applicable; and
- Assistance in exceptional circumstances affecting a student's ability to attend the University.

4.5 Learning Resources and Academic Support

To reduce the impact of financial hardship on academic participation, the University may provide or facilitate:

- Learning-resource support;
- Access to library and digital learning resources;
- Academic mentoring and counselling;
- Access to institutional laboratories and other academic facilities; and
- Other appropriate academic support available through the University.



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4.6 Legal and Student Welfare Support

Students facing legal, social or welfare difficulties may be guided to appropriate institutional or external support mechanisms. Where appropriate and available, the University may facilitate access to:

- Student counselling and welfare services;
- Legal-awareness or referral services;
- Grievance-redressal mechanisms; and
- Relevant government or community support agencies.

The University shall not ordinarily assume responsibility for private legal representation unless specifically approved under an applicable institutional arrangement.

5. Institutional Scholarship and Financial Support

Brainware University may operate various institutional scholarship and financial-assistance schemes to support students with financial need. Such schemes may include, as applicable:

- Merit-based scholarships;
- Merit-cum-means scholarships;
- Need-based financial assistance;
- Fee concessions;
- Tuition-fee waivers or partial waivers;
- Admission-related concessions;
- Emergency financial assistance;
- Learning-resource support;
- Hostel-related assistance; and
- Other approved student-support schemes.

The nature and quantum of assistance may vary according to the applicable scheme, eligibility conditions and availability of funds.

6. Facilitation of Government and External Scholarships

The University encourages eligible students to avail themselves of government and other recognised scholarship schemes. The University may facilitate awareness, application and documentation support for schemes such as:

- Government scholarships;
- State-level scholarship schemes;
- Scholarships for students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds;



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- Merit-cum-means scholarships;
- Post-Matric Scholarships; and
- Other recognised financial-assistance programmes.

Students shall be encouraged to apply for such schemes within the prescribed timelines.

7. Identification and Application for Support

Students requiring assistance may approach the appropriate University office, department, student welfare mechanism, scholarship cell or designated authority.

Applications may be evaluated based on appropriate documentary evidence, which may include:

- Income certificate;
- Scholarship application or relevant government documentation;
- Family income and financial information;
- Documents relating to exceptional financial circumstances;
- Academic records, where relevant; and
- Any other document considered necessary for determining eligibility.

The University may also consider cases referred by faculty members, academic departments, mentors, student welfare personnel or other authorised institutional bodies.

8. Transparency and Non-Discrimination

The University shall administer this Policy in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner. Financial assistance shall be provided based on the applicable eligibility criteria and the student's demonstrated need, rather than on arbitrary or discriminatory considerations.

The availability of support shall be subject to institutional resources, approved schemes and applicable University regulations.

9. Confidentiality and Dignity of Students

Information relating to a student's financial circumstances shall be handled with appropriate confidentiality. The University shall endeavour to assist in a manner that protects the dignity and privacy of students receiving support.

10. Monitoring and Review

The University shall periodically review the implementation of this Policy through the appropriate administrative and student-welfare mechanisms.



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The review may consider:

- Number of students receiving financial assistance;
- Nature and amount of assistance provided;
- Utilisation of scholarship and welfare schemes;
- Student retention and continuation;
- Identified barriers to completion; and
- Opportunities for strengthening student-support mechanisms.

The Policy may be revised from time to time based on institutional requirements, regulatory provisions and emerging student needs.

11. Institutional Commitment

Brainware University is committed to ensuring that **economic hardship does not unnecessarily prevent a deserving student from continuing and completing higher education**. Through scholarships, financial assistance, welfare facilities, academic support and facilitation of appropriate external assistance, the University seeks to create an enabling and inclusive educational environment for students from low-income and economically disadvantaged families.