Policy on Institutional Scholarships and Financial Support for Students from Low- and Lower-Middle-Income Countries

BRAINWARE UNIVERSITY

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Document Control

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1. Preamble

Vision of Brainware University:
"Brainware University aims to cast a transformative light on society and students by promoting quality education and research facilities at affordable fees."

In alignment with its vision, Brainware University is committed to ensuring equitable access to quality higher education and promoting inclusive educational opportunities for students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds. The University recognises that financial constraints can create barriers to accessing higher education and therefore endeavours to reduce such barriers through appropriate institutional scholarship and fee-support mechanisms.

For this policy, the University extends its institutional scholarship framework to support eligible students from low- and lower-middle-income countries who may face financial barriers to accessing or continuing higher education. This provision is intended to strengthen inclusive access and international educational participation.

The University's existing institutional scholarship framework includes merit-based, progression-based, sports-based and need-sensitive forms of institutional support. The applicability of each scheme to international students shall be governed by the approved rules of that scheme.

2. Objectives

The objectives of the policy are to:

1. To provide an institutional mechanism for financial support to eligible students from low- and lower-middle-income countries.
2. To reduce tuition fees and other approved financial barriers for students demonstrating financial need.
3. To integrate financial-need considerations, where permitted, into institutional scholarship assessment.
4. To support equitable access, continuation, retention and successful completion of higher education.
5. To maintain transparent records of applications, approvals, scholarship benefits and beneficiaries.
6. To provide auditable evidence of institutional scholarship support for students from low- and lower-middle-income countries.

3. Scope

This policy applies specifically to institutional scholarships and institutional fee-support mechanisms administered and funded by Brainware University.

- Prospective and continuing students who are citizens/residents of countries classified as low-income or lower-middle-income for the relevant reporting period, subject to applicable University rules.
- International students who meet the academic, admission and documentary requirements of the applicable institutional scholarship scheme.
- Students demonstrating financial need, where financial need is an eligibility or selection criterion under the relevant institutional scheme.

Government scholarships, external scholarships, privately funded scholarships and scholarships administered by third parties are outside the scope of this policy.

4. Definition of Eligible Countries

For implementation and reporting purposes, the University shall determine whether a student's country falls within the low-income or lower-middle-income category using the internationally recognised country-income classification applicable to the relevant reporting year. The classification used for each reporting cycle shall be documented and retained with the scholarship records.

Country classification shall be applied consistently for all students considered under this provision.

5. Institutional Scholarship Support Framework

Brainware University shall use its approved institutional scholarship framework to provide support to eligible students. The type and value of support shall depend on the applicable institutional scheme, eligibility conditions, academic requirements, demonstrated financial need where applicable, and availability of institutional funds.

Table 1. Institutional Scholarship and Support Schemes for International Students

Institutional Scholarship / Support	Based on the existing University policy	Potential relevance under this policy
Brainware Medha Britti - Merit Scholarship	Academic merit; published scheme includes	May be considered for eligible international students where

	programme/marks-based scholarship slabs.	the approved scheme permits their eligibility.
Brainware Vidya Jyoti – Degree Enhancement Scholarship	Progression from Bachelor's to Master's programme.	May support eligible international students progressing to postgraduate study where the approved scheme permits their eligibility.
Brainware Krira Ratna – Sports Scholarship	Recognised sports achievement; existing framework provides 100% / 50% / 25% tuition-fee waiver for international/national, state and district level achievements respectively.	May support eligible international students meeting the sports-scholarship requirements.
Institutional Merit-cum-Means Scholarship	Combination of academic performance and demonstrated financial need.	Provides a direct institutional mechanism for considering both merit and financial circumstances.
Need-Based Institutional Fee Concession / Waiver	Demonstrated financial hardship, subject to approved institutional provisions.	May be used to reduce financial barriers for eligible students from low/lower-middle income countries, where approved for international students.

Important scheme-specific note: The source policy states that the Brainware Vidyalankar - Academic Excellence Scholarship does not apply to international students. Accordingly, it is not presented as an eligible scholarship under this international-student support provision unless the University formally revises the scheme.

6. Eligibility Criteria

- Citizenship or country status must establish that the student is from a country falling within the low-income or lower-middle-income category for the relevant reporting period.
- The student must satisfy the academic and admission requirements of the applicable institutional scholarship scheme.
- Where need-based consideration applies, the student shall provide appropriate evidence of financial circumstances.

- The student must comply with applicable University rules, attendance requirements and scholarship renewal conditions.
- Scholarship awards shall remain subject to availability of institutional funds and approval by the competent authority.

7. Assessment of Financial Need

Where an institutional scholarship permits need-based assessment, the University may consider documentary evidence such as:

- family/household income documentation available in the student's country of origin;
- official income or socioeconomic certificate, where available;
- evidence of family financial circumstances;
- number of dependent family members;
- number of earning members;
- documented exceptional financial hardship; and
- other relevant documents approved by the designated University authority.

8. Application and Selection Procedure

- Eligible students shall submit the prescribed institutional scholarship application within the notified period.
- The application shall identify the student's country and the relevant institutional scholarship category.
- Supporting academic, citizenship/residency, and financial-need documents shall be submitted as applicable.
- The designated University committee/authority shall verify eligibility and assess the application against the approved scheme conditions.
- Approved scholarship benefits shall be communicated formally to the student.
- All approvals and supporting records shall be retained for institutional reporting and audit purposes.

9. Nature of Institutional Support

- Full or partial tuition-fee waiver, where permitted under the applicable institutional scheme.
- Fixed institutional scholarship amount, where specified under the approved scheme.
- Need-based fee concession, where approved.

- Other institutional scholarship benefits expressly approved by the competent authority.

The exact amount, duration and renewal conditions shall be governed by the applicable institutional scholarship scheme and the University's approved financial provisions.

10. Approval and Disbursement

Institutional scholarships shall be approved by the competent authority/committee designated under the University's scholarship rules. Benefits may be provided through tuition-fee adjustment, fee waiver, fee concession or another approved institutional mechanism.

All scholarship approvals and financial adjustments shall be recorded in the University's administrative and financial records.

11. Renewal and Continuation

- continued eligibility under the applicable institutional scholarship scheme;
- satisfactory academic progression, where prescribed;
- compliance with university rules and attendance requirements, where applicable;
- submission of renewal documents; and
- continued availability of the institutional scholarship provision.

12. Documentation and Evidence for Institutional Reporting

To demonstrate implementation of this policy, the University shall maintain a year-wise evidence file for eligible students from low- and lower-middle-income countries.

Evidence / Record	Minimum information to be maintained
Institutional scholarship policy	Approved policy and revision history
Country-wise beneficiary register	Academic year, country, programme, student category and scholarship scheme
Scholarship approval record	Approval authority, date, scholarship category and benefit
Financial/fee adjustment record	Amount or percentage of scholarship/fee waiver
Student eligibility documents	Academic eligibility and country/citizenship evidence
Need-assessment record	Financial-need evidence, where applicable
Renewal record	Continuation status and renewal conditions

Annual summary	Number of beneficiaries and total institutional scholarship support

13. Monitoring and Review

The University shall periodically review the implementation of institutional scholarship support under this policy. Monitoring may include:

- number of eligible applicants;
- number of beneficiaries;
- country-wise and programme-wise distribution;
- type and value of institutional scholarship support;
- continuation and progression of beneficiaries; and
- total institutional financial support provided.

The policy and associated institutional scholarship provisions may be reviewed periodically based on institutional priorities, approved scholarship rules, available resources and the University's experience in supporting international students.

14. Institutional Commitment

Brainware University is committed to using its institutional scholarship framework to reduce financial barriers for deserving students from low- and lower-middle-income countries, subject to approved scheme conditions and available institutional resources. The University shall seek to ensure that eligible students receive transparent information regarding applicable institutional scholarship opportunities and that approved benefits are properly documented.

15. Important Institutional Disclaimer

This policy establishes the institutional framework for scholarship support. It does not by itself guarantee a scholarship to every eligible student. Award of institutional scholarship remains subject to the eligibility criteria of the applicable scheme, verification of documents, approval by the competent authority and availability of institutional funds.