



KERALA AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY

Abstract

KAU – Education – Enhancement of Student Support Measures – Introduction of the Vice Chancellor's Merit-cum-Means Scholarship (VCMMS) for financially disadvantaged students without fee concessions – sanctioned – orders issued.

No. KAUGA/7424/2025-GA-D1

Dated: Vellanikkara, 14-09-2025

Read: 1) University Notification No.KAU/EDU/1942/2025-EDU /B2 dated 3-9-2025.

2) EC agenda item No. 47/25 dated 23-08-2025

ORDER

1. As per the University Ordinance notified as above, the semester fees of all academic programmes have been enhanced with effect from 03-09-2025.
2. While implementing the enhanced fees, it is recognized that certain students, particularly those from low income groups, not already exempted from paying the full fee may need additional financial support to pay the prescribed enhanced fees. Such cases will be supported through additional support in addition to existing exemption or by special scholarships to ensure that no eligible student is denied education due to financial insufficiency to meet the tuition fee.
3. In consonance with the decision of the 625th meeting of the Executive Committee held on 23-8-2025 sanction is hereby accorded to introduce Vice Chancellor's Merit-cum-Means Scholarship (VCMMS) for financially supporting such students selected on application and merit subject to a family income limit of Rs.5,00,000 (Rs.Five lakhs only) per annum as on date of admission by providing an amount meeting the quantum of increase in the prescribed fee effected by first reference. The manner of application, selection and award of the scholarship scheme shall be as per Annexure-1. (Rules and Regulations).
4. Each academic year the Comptroller, KAU shall pool 10% of gross fee revenue remitted to the VCMMS Fund. For example, of a total fee revenue of Rs.11 crore, Rs.1.1 crore

will be moved to an interest bearing account and VCMMP shall be defrayed of principal and interest accrued.

5. The DIS shall provide an electronic platform for applying and awarding the scholarship urgently.
6. The Vice Chancellor shall arbitrate any complaint/clarification required on these orders/rules and regulations.
7. These rules and regulations apply for UG students. Separate orders will be notified for PG/Ph.D. students.

(By order of the Executive Committee)

Sd/-

Registrar

To:

The Director of Education

The Comptroller

Faculty Deans/Deans of all Colleges

Director of Students' Welfare

Director of Information Systems

//Approved for issue//

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Harijith P

Harijith P Date: 2025.09.14
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Assistant Registrar

Annexure-1

(Annexure to UO No. KAUGA/7424/2025-GA-D1, dated 14-09-2025)

Vice-Chancellor's Merit-cum-Means Scholarships, 2025

Rules and Regulations for UG Students

1. Scope

The Vice-Chancellor's Merit-cum-Means Scholarship (VCMMS) is instituted under authority of competent authority to support full-time Undergraduate, Postgraduate, and Doctoral students of the Kerala Agricultural University domiciled in Kerala who need financial support for paying prescribed University fees and are not receiving any other assistance from government or private agencies for pursuing their full-time studies at Kerala Agricultural University.

2. Title

The scholarship shall be called the **Vice-Chancellor's Merit-cum-Means Scholarship**. These rules apply to UG students of all faculties.

3. Eligibility

All students domiciled in Kerala admitted to full-time undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes of Kerala Agricultural University from academic year 2025 w.e.f. 03-09-2025 (date of fee ordinance) shall be eligible to apply, provided they satisfy the following criteria:

- 3.1. The annual family income of the student shall be or less than ₹5,00,000.00 (Rs. Five lakhs only) (as certified by an income certificate issued by the competent authority in Government as on date of admission or issued six months prior to it).
- 3.2. To be eligible the applicant student should not be receiving any other financial assistance from government/public sources (such as e-Grantz, JRF, SRF, INSPIRE, DBT, DST, KSCSTE, etc.) or from private sources (such as alumni funds, CSR funds, private endowments, etc.).
- 3.3. Students admitted to only courses offered by Kerala Agricultural University in Schedule-1 are eligible for the scholarship. In the event of commencement of new programmes the schedule shall be amended periodically.
- 3.4. A student has to apply at the first instance in Semester-1 of the programme for availing the assistance. Beyond semester-1, no fresh initial application shall be entertained for students in an year of admission.
- 3.5. A person who is employed in public or private sector full-time or part-time while joining as student will not be eligible for VCMMS.

4. Duration

The scholarship shall be awarded for the normal duration of the respective programme of study as follows:

- Undergraduate – 8 semesters only.

The scholarship will not be granted to students who extend their studies beyond the prescribed duration during the period beyond that allowed. It will also be discontinued if the student receives any other scholarship or fellowship during the course of study of higher per annum value. A minimum **OGPA of 8/10 or equivalent** shall be essential to be maintained to be considered to be awarded the scholarship in Semester-II and thereafter based on the OGPA of the immediate previous semester. Deans will report within 15 days of declaration of each result cases to be discontinued based on low OGPA to the Comptroller/VC.

5. Value

Students will be required to pay the tuition fee prescribed for their programme. The scholarship amount will cover only the portion over and above the tuition fee applicable to students admitted in 2024 and not any other component of total fees. The applicant eligible students shall therefore be required pay the prescribed full fee only after award of scholarship which shall be decided within 30 working days of commencement of each academic year, i.e., only the difference in tuition fee between 2024 and 2025 alone shall be covered in this scholarship.

6. Number of Scholarships

A maximum number of scholarships of 10% of the annual intake in that specific programme shall be awarded each year rounded to a minimum of one candidate in an academic programme with decimals above 0.5 rounded to next out integer with provision for an additional 25 scholarships for unforeseen hardship/special circumstances subject to the approval of the Vice Chancellor as recommended by the Faculty/Dean. The distribution of scholarships will be proportional to the total student intake of each programme as above. If sufficient eligible students are not available in a particular programme, the unutilized scholarships will be reallocated to other programmes with more applicants at the discretion of the Vice Chancellor. Amongst candidates with equal inter-se academic merit, the older candidate shall be awarded in case of a tie.

7. Selection of Students

- 7.1. Students with an annual family income of less than Rs.5,00,000 may alone apply for the scholarship within 15 days of commencement of an academic year.

- 7.2. The VC's merit-cum-means scholarship shall be notified by the Director (Education) at the commencement of each academic year through respective Deans/Head of Colleges to each student by public notice/electronically.
- 7.3. The respective Deans of the Colleges will give wide publicity about the scholarship to the newly enrolled students and shall encourage all deserving students to apply for the scholarship electronically. There shall be briefing on the VCMMS by the Dean to all fresh admissions in person.
- 7.4. Eligible students will be ranked according to their position in the admission rank list. The top ranked students till the limit prescribed for the course is met will be selected for the scholarship in the first year by a committee headed by the Vice Chancellor, comprising of Registrar, DSW, Director (Education), Deans concerned and Comptroller (Secretary) on the 21st day of the programme.
- 7.5. Till the merit-cum-means scholarship is decided (within 30 days of commencement of an academic year) the scrutinized applicants (who have the prescribed income certification) will have to remit only the pre-revised fee provisionally, subject to paying rest if they finally fail to get scholarship as notified.
- 7.6. The successful applicants shall be notified on the 31st working day of commencement of an academic year invariably. Results will be mailed to all applicants electronically.
- 7.7. In subsequent semesters years, the scholarship will be renewed only if the student secures an OGPA of 8.0 or above in the immediately preceding semesters of which results are declared.
- 7.8. The Vice Chancellor may upon the recommendation of the Dean of Faculty/Head of College relax this requirement for one semester for a student in unforeseen circumstances.
- 7.9. A student found guilty of misconduct/destruction of University property or accused in a violent criminal offence during scholarship shall not be eligible for the scholarship.
- 7.10. Scholarship recipients who fail to complete the degree programme for which the scholarship was awarded shall refund the full amount received which will be treated personal liability of the student.
- 7.11. If an awarded student subsequently leaves the programme, the resultant vacant slot will be allowed to be filled by the next applicant who was left out in the initial selection.

8. Cancellation of Scholarship

- 8.1. The Vice-Chancellor may suspend the scholarship if a student's conduct, character, or academic progress is found unsatisfactory during the tenure of the scholarship.
- 8.2. If a student shows poor progress or discontinues studies before completing the programme, or is short of prescribed attendance in a semester, the scholarship may be suspended or cancelled and availed amount refunded.
- 8.3. A suspended scholarship may be reinstated at the discretion of the Vice-Chancellor based on sufficient representation showing valid reasons/difficulty.

9. Special hardship case.

9.1. Any special hardship case of a student either failing to meet the income test or arising during the course of a programme, shall be addressed by the Vice Chancellor as a special case and merit-cum-means scholarship awarded out of turn, not exceeding 15% of the annual financial commitment decided to be spent on the Vice Chancellor's merit-cum-means scholarship (VCMMS) programme even if permitted out of normally permitted number of scholarships.

10. The decisions of the VCMM Scholarships Committee chaired by the Vice Chancellor and attended by Registrar, Comptroller, Directors, Deans concerned and DSW of the University shall be final, once notified upon the orders of the Vice Chancellor.

11. A report and accounts on the proceeds of the income and expenditure from the Scholarship Fund shall be placed in the Executive Committee and with its approval in the next General Council along with each budget estimates of the previous financial year.

12. The Scholarship Fund shall be subject to audit and usual post audit procedure.

13. For PG, Ph.D. students, separate rules and regulations will be issued later with suitable modifications with respect to other extant scholarships.

Schedule-1. UG Programmes approved for VCMMS

Sl. No.	Name of Course	Student Intake	No. of Scholarships
1.	B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture	464	46
2.	B.Sc. (Hons.) Forestry	40	4
3.	B.Sc. (Hons.) C&B	43	4
4.	B.Sc.(Hons.) Climate Change & Environmental Science	30	3
5.	B.Tech (Agricultural Engineering)	58	6*
6.	B.Tech (Biotechnology)	40	4

*From 2026 admission onwards