Brief History:

The Pak-USAID Merit and Needs based Scholarship Program Phase-II is focused on providing opportunities for access to higher education especially to underprivileged candidates who, despite possessing academic merit, are unable to finance their education. The scholarship is not restricted to tuition only, but extends to accommodation and living expenses.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) has approved the program at a total cost of Rs. 2,954.808 million in its meeting held on 6th September 2013. The Project is funded by Government of United States of America as Grant in Aid.

The Phase-I of the program was initiated in 2004 at eleven (11) universities with scope of 1807 scholarships. It is the pride of the program that all the scholarships are awarded, 94 percent of the scholarship recipients had graduated in the semester they expected to graduate.

Program Objectives:

• To enable the academically qualified, yet financially needy, Pakistani students to continue university studies in selected private and public universities of Pakistan in the fields of Agriculture, Medical, Business, Social Science and Engineering

• To enhance the institutional capacity of the Higher Education Commission of the Government of Pakistan and local public and private sector universities in designing and implementing MNBSP Phase II

Eligibility Criteria for Scholarships:

1. The applicant must be a Pakistani/AJK National

2. Financial assistance & scholarships are available for study at undergraduate & graduate level in the following disciplines at the selected 29 Pakistani universities and degree awarding institutions.

   a. Agricultural & Veterinary Sciences
   b. Business Administration
   c. Social Sciences
   d. Engineering & Tech.
   e. Medical
Note:

I. Agricultural (incl. Veterinary Sciences and Bio Technology)
II. Social Sciences includes (Peace & Conflict Studies, Anthropology, Archaeology, Economics, Linguistics, Law, Communication and Media studies, International Relations, and Psychology)
III. **50% Female Seats**: Women's participation in the education sector is very low. This activity will ensure that at least 50% of the awarded scholarships go to women, especially those coming from remote and vulnerable areas of Pakistan, who are financially needy, and meet admission criteria of the selected 29 partner universities

For more details of selected Universities/Institutions, please click the below link.
[http://www.hec.gov.pk/InsideHEC/Divisions/HRD/Scholarships/LocalScholarships/USAIDFundedMeritandNeedsBasedScholarshipProject/Pages/Partner_Universities-Institutions_Financial_Assistance_Offices_Contact_Details.aspx](http://www.hec.gov.pk/InsideHEC/Divisions/HRD/Scholarships/LocalScholarships/USAIDFundedMeritandNeedsBasedScholarshipProject/Pages/Partner_Universities-Institutions_Financial_Assistance_Offices_Contact_Details.aspx)

3. Students need to compete for securing admission in the approved discipline at the participating institution as per admission policy of the institution and be enrolled in Undergraduate (4 and 5) and Graduate (2 Years and 3.5 years) programs

4. Only those students who are enrolled in first semester/ professional year in the respective courses offered by the participating institutions are eligible to apply

5. The eligibility of a candidate is linked to neediness of the candidate as determined & assessed by the financial background of his/her family

**SCHOLARSHIP COMPOSITION:**

Comprehensive scholarship offered under this program provides funds for the following expenses:
- Tuition Fee
- Lodging
- Transportation
- Books
- Other Academics Costs

**HOW TO APPLY:**

Students applying for admission and financial assistance will fill out both the applications and submit the form to the University Admissions Office and Financial Aid Office respectively.


Application form may be downloaded by clicking the below address. [http://www.hec.gov.pk/InsideHEC/Divisions/HRD/Scholarships/LocalScholarships/USAIDFundedMeritandNeedsBasedScholarshipProject/Documents/Need%20Based%20Application.pdf](http://www.hec.gov.pk/InsideHEC/Divisions/HRD/Scholarships/LocalScholarships/USAIDFundedMeritandNeedsBasedScholarshipProject/Documents/Need%20Based%20Application.pdf)