



Indian Banks' Association

MODEL EDUCATIONAL LOAN SCHEME FOR PURSUING HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA AND ABROAD

(September, 2012)

1. INTRODUCTION:

Education is central to the human resources development and empowerment in any country. National and State level policies are framed to ensure that this basic need of the population is met through appropriate public and private sector initiatives. While government endeavour to provide primary education to all on a universal basis, public funding of higher education is not considered feasible. Cost of education has been going up in recent times and since the student has to bear most of the cost, there is a clear case for institutional funding in this area. This model education loan scheme is an attempt to bring out a viable and sustainable bank loan scheme to meet the aspirations of our society.

Knowledge and information would be the driving force for economic growth in the coming years. The current rate of economic growth of the country demands technically and professionally trained man power in large numbers. In this backdrop, loans for education is seen as investments for economic development and prosperity. The model Education Loan Scheme was developed by the Indian Banks' Association to help meritorious students pursue higher education in technical and professional courses. As the focus is on development of human capital, repayment of the loan is expected to come from future earnings of the student after completion of education. Hence the assessment of the loan will be based on employability and earning potential of the student upon completion of the course and not the parental income/family wealth.

Based on recommendations made by a Study Group, IBA had prepared a Model Educational Loan Scheme in the year 2001 which was advised to banks for implementation by Reserve Bank of India vide circular No.RPCD.PLNFS.BC.NO.83/06.12.05/2000-01 dated April 28, 2001 along with certain modifications suggested by the Government of India. In line with the announcement made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for the year 2004-05, IBA had communicated certain changes in the security norms applicable to education loans with limits above ₹ 4 lakhs and up to ₹ 7.5 lakhs. The scheme was further modified in the year 2007-08 based on experience gained in the operation of the scheme over the years.

With increased public awareness about the benefits of the education loan scheme, bank branches are receiving more and more applications for loans every year. This has also

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resulted in cases of customer grievances due to misinterpretation of the provisions of the scheme. This review exercise has been taken up to make the scheme more transparent and minimize scope for multiple interpretations leading to disputes.

2. **OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHEME**

The Educational Loan Scheme outlined below aims at providing financial support from the banking system to meritorious students for pursuing higher education in India and abroad. The main emphasis is that a meritorious student, though poor, is provided with an opportunity to pursue education with the financial support from the banking system with affordable terms and conditions.

3. **APPLICABILITY OF THE SCHEME:**

The scheme detailed below could be adopted by all member banks of the Association or other banks and financial institutions as may be advised by the Reserve Bank of India. The scheme provides broad guidelines to the banks for operationalising the educational loan scheme and the implementing bank will have the discretion to make changes as deemed fit.

The scheme details are as under:

4. **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:**

4.1 Student eligibility:

- The student should be an Indian National.
- Should have secured admission to a higher education course in recognized institutions in India or Abroad through Entrance Test/ Merit Based Selection process after completion of HSC(10 plus 2 or equivalent). However, entrance test or selection purely based on marks obtained in qualifying examination may not be the criterion for admission to some of the post graduate courses or research programmes. In such cases, banks will have to adopt appropriate criteria based on employability and reputation of the institution concerned

Note: It would be in order for banks to consider a meritorious student (who qualifies for a seat under merit quota) eligible for loan under this scheme even if the student chooses to pursue a course under Management Quota.

4.2 Courses eligible

a. Studies in India: (Indicative list)

- Approved courses leading to graduate/ post graduate degree and P G diplomas conducted by recognized colleges/ universities recognized by UGC/ Govt./ AICTE/ AIBMS/ ICMR etc.
- Courses like ICWA, CA, CFA etc.
- Courses conducted by IIMs, IITs, IISc, XLRI, NIFT, NID etc.

- Regular Degree/Diploma courses like Aeronautical, pilot training, shipping, *degree/diploma in nursing or any other discipline* approved by Director General of Civil Aviation/Shipping/*Indian Nursing Council or any other regulatory body as the case may be*, if the course is pursued in India.
- Approved courses offered in India by reputed foreign universities.

Note:

1. The above list is indicative in nature. Banks may approve other job oriented courses leading to technical/ professional degrees, post graduate degrees/diplomas offered by recognized institutions under this scheme.
2. Courses other than the above offered by reputed institutions may also be considered on the basis of employability.

Reference : www.ugc.ac.in, www.education.nic.in, www.aicte.org.in

(b) Studies abroad :-

- Graduation : For job oriented professional/ technical courses offered by reputed universities.
- Post graduation: MCA, MBA, MS, etc.
- Courses conducted by CIMA- London, CPA in USA etc.
- Degree/diploma courses like aeronautical, pilot training, shipping etc provided these are recognized by competent regulatory bodies in India/abroad for the purpose of employment in India/abroad.

Reference: www.webometrics.info (indicative only)

4.3 Expenses considered for loan :

- i. Fee payable to college++/ school/ hostel*
- ii. Examination/ Library/ Laboratory fee
- iii. Travel expenses/ passage money for studies abroad
- iv. Insurance premium for student borrower, if applicable
- v. Caution deposit, Building fund/refundable deposit supported by Institution bills/receipts. **
- vi. Purchase of books/ equipments/ instruments/ uniforms***
- vii. Purchase of computer at reasonable cost, if required for completion of the course***

- Margin may be brought-in on year-to-year basis as and when disbursements are made on a pro-rata basis.

7. SECURITY :

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| Upto ₹ 4 lakhs | Parents to be joint borrower(s). No security |
| Above ₹ 4 lakhs and upto ₹ 7.5 lakhs | Besides the parent(s) executing the documents as joint borrower(s) , collateral security in the form of suitable third party guarantee will be taken. The bank may, at its discretion, <u>in exceptional cases</u> , waive third party guarantee if satisfied with the net-worth / means of parent/s who would be executing the document as joint borrower(s). |
| Above ₹ 7.5 lakhs | Parent(s) to be joint borrower(s) Tangible collateral security of suitable value acceptable to bank, along with the assignment of future income of the student for payment of instalments. |

Note:-

- The loan documents should be executed by both the student and the parent/guardian as joint-borrower.
- The security can be in the form of land/ building/ Govt. securities/ Public Sector Bonds/Units of UTI, NSC, KVP, life policy, gold, shares/mutual fund units/debentures, bank deposit in the name of student/ parent/ guardian / any other third party or any other tangible security acceptable to the bank with suitable margin.
- Wherever the land/ building is already mortgaged, the unencumbered portion can be taken as security on second charge basis provided it covers the required loan amount

8. RATE OF INTEREST :

Interest to be charged at rates linked to the Base rate as decided by individual banks

- Simple interest to be charged during the study period and up to commencement of repayment.

Note: Servicing of interest during study period and the moratorium period till commencement of repayment is optional for students. Accrued interest will be added to the principal amount borrowed while fixing EMI for repayment.

9. APPRAISAL / SANCTION/ DISBURSEMENT :

- Applications will be received either directly at bank branches or through on-line mode. Upon receipt of application, standard acknowledgement giving a reference number will be issued. The acknowledgement will contain contact details of the bank official who, could be contacted in case of delay in disposal of application.
- Normally, sanction/rejection will be communicated within 15 days of receipt duly completed application with supporting documents.
- In the normal course, while appraising the loan, the future income prospect of the student only will be looked into.
- Rejection of loan application, if any, shall be done with the concurrence of the controlling authority of the branch concerned and conveyed to the student stating reason for rejection.
- Students may submit their loan applications either at the bank branches near to the residence of parents or to the educational institution. However, after the loan is sanctioned, the cases be transferred to the bank branch near to the institution for follow up with student / institution. The KYC compliance for the purpose has to be done by the branch nearest to the residence of parents.
- The loan to be disbursed in stages as per the requirement/ demand directly to the Institutions/ Vendors of equipments/ instruments to the extent possible.

10. REPAYMENT:

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| Repayment holiday/Moratorium | Course period + 1 year or 6 months after getting job, whichever is earlier. |
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If the student is not able to complete the course within the scheduled time, extension of time for completion of course may be permitted for a maximum period of 2 years. If the student is not able to complete the course for reasons beyond his control, sanctioning authority may at his discretion consider such extensions as may be deemed necessary to complete the course. In case the student discontinues the course midway, appropriate repayment schedule will be worked out by the bank in consultation with the student/parent

- The accrued interest during the repayment holiday period to be added to the principal and repayment in Equated Monthly Instalments (EMI) fixed.
- 1% interest concession may be provided by the bank, if interest is serviced during the study period and subsequent moratorium period prior to commencement of repayment. Repayment of the loan will be in equated monthly instalments for periods as under:

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| For loans upto ₹ 7.5 lakhs | - upto 10 years |
| For loans above ₹ 7.5 lakhs | - upto 15 years |

- While EMI based repayment is the generally accepted practice, many times the salary levels at the start of the career may not facilitate comfortable payment of EMI in certain cases (e.g. professionals like Doctors). Telescoping of repayment with stepped up instalments with passage of time may be considered in such cases.

Note: No prepayment penalty will be levied for prepayment of loan any time during the repayment period.

11. INSURANCE

Banks may, with the consent of the student, arrange for life insurance policy on the students availing Education Loan. Individual Banks may work out the modalities with insurance companies.

12. FOLLOW UP/MONITORING:

Banks to contact college / university authorities to obtain progress report on the student at regular intervals in respect of those who have availed loans. In case of studies abroad, bank may obtain the SSN/Unique Identification Number (UIN)/Identity Card and note the same in the bank's records. The UID number issued by UIDIA may also be captured in bank's system as and when available. Banks to enter into Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the educational institutions to provide the educational loans to the students. There should be an annual review of the asset quality of educational loans between banks and educational institution.

13. PROCESSING CHARGES :

No processing / upfront charges may be levied on loans sanctioned under the scheme. (Banks may charge processing fee for considering loans for studies abroad. The fee would however, be refunded upon the student taking up the course)

14. CAPABILITY CERTIFICATE:

Banks can also issue the capability certificate for students going abroad for higher studies. For this purpose financial and other supporting documents may be obtained from applicant, if required.

(Some of the foreign universities require the students to submit a certificate from their bankers about the sponsors' solvency/ financial capability, with a view to ensure that the sponsors of the students going abroad for higher studies are capable of meeting the expenses till completion of studies.)

15. OTHER CONDITIONS:

15.1 Sanction of loan to more than one child from the same family

Existence of an earlier education loan to the brother(s) and/or sister(s) will not affect the eligibility of another meritorious student from the same family obtaining education loan as per this scheme from the bank.

15.2 Minimum Age

There is no specific restriction with regard to the age of the student to be eligible for education loan. However, if the student was a minor while the parent executed documents for the loan, the bank will obtain a letter of ratification from him/her upon attaining majority.

15.3 Top up loans

Banks may consider top up loans to students pursuing further studies within the overall eligibility limit, if such further studies are commenced during the moratorium period of the first loan. The repayment of the loan will commence after the completion of the second course and further moratorium period, as provided under the scheme.

15.4 Joint Borrower

The joint borrower should normally be parent(s)/guardian of the student borrower. In case of a married person, joint borrower can be either spouse or the parent(s)/parents-in-law.

No Due Certificate

No due certificate will not be insisted upon as a pre-condition for considering education loan. However, banks may obtain a declaration/ an affidavit confirming that no loans are availed from other banks.

Disposal of loan application

Loan applications have to be disposed of in the normal course within a period of 15 days to 1 month, but not exceeding the time norms stipulated for disposing of loan applications under priority sector lending.

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