

SVP TWINNAGE - Indian Student Sponsorship

Education has to be paid for in India. If you are poor, then you cannot afford education. If you do not receive education then you are very unlikely to be able to find a job with decent pay. Without this income, you cannot escape from poverty – a vicious cycle.



David Wiles
National Sponsorships Officer

The NCI and SVP Twinnage agree that it is a priority to enable poor Indians to become self-sufficient rather than just give them help to subsist from day to day. In this way we can help many more poor. The Student Sponsorship Scheme aims to break the vicious poverty cycle. Indian students are by their very nature always extremely keen to be educated. Whatever subject the student chooses, successful completion of their studies gives them a far greater chance of finding a job and earning a living in this way for themselves and their families. This success is also likely to have the knock-on effect of ensuring their children are well educated.



Bro V M J Balaswamy SVP India
President with Student Doctor

Potential students to benefit under the SCH scheme are selected locally by the SVP and then filtered and passed onward through the NCI hierarchy system before submission to England and Wales for financial support. The courses supported fall into four categories:

Higher Education Scheme (HES) – mainly Doctor students studying for M.B.B.S. or Engineers. Courses are for 5 years or 4 years for Engineers at £60 sponsorship per year.

Technical Training Scheme (TTS) – a variety of courses include B.Sc. Nursing, General Nursing, Teachers and Engineering. Courses are normally for 3 years at £60 sponsorship per year.

Vocational Training Scheme (VTS) – courses include Nursing Assistant, Fitters, Electricians, Hotel Management and many more. Courses are normally for 1 or 2 years at £30 sponsorship per year.



Vidya Jyothi Scheme (VJS) – this is specifically for schoolchildren. All too frequently if children cannot be educated they are sent out as child labour to earn a few rupees for the family. The VJS aims to prevent this happening by allowing the children to afford school. Once a child is accepted into the scheme, after the first year NCI will fund the future education. Sponsorship is therefore for 1 year at £15 sponsorship per child.

When a sponsorship is taken out, a certificate is issued by SVP Twinnage giving brief details of the student and a sketch map showing the location in India. NCI do their very best to provide Completion Certificates at the end of each individual course. Of course, mainly because of the remote location of many of the students and SVP Conferences, it is not always possible to produce these certificates but every possible effort is made to do so. The certificates are then passed on to individual sponsors.



It should be noted that the financial support from England & Wales is, while the largest part, not the whole sum of the costs as students and the local Indian Conferences are required to raise at least a small part of the costs. Funds are specifically designed to defray the costs of books, resources, clothing & travel.

Direct correspondence is not possible between sponsors and students but SVP Twinnage will be happy to forward any letters sent via the National Sponsorships Officer to NCI and then on to the student.

Sponsoring a student is possible for just one year at a time thereby avoiding a long term commitment. Equally, sponsoring more than one student at a time is possible and most welcome! Any sponsorship by individuals who are taxpayers may qualify for Gift Aid and this further support, at no extra cost, would be very gratefully received.

Over the years of the scheme it is estimated that SVP Twinnage in England & Wales has assisted many thousands of students and hundreds of schoolchildren (the VJS is a relatively new scheme).