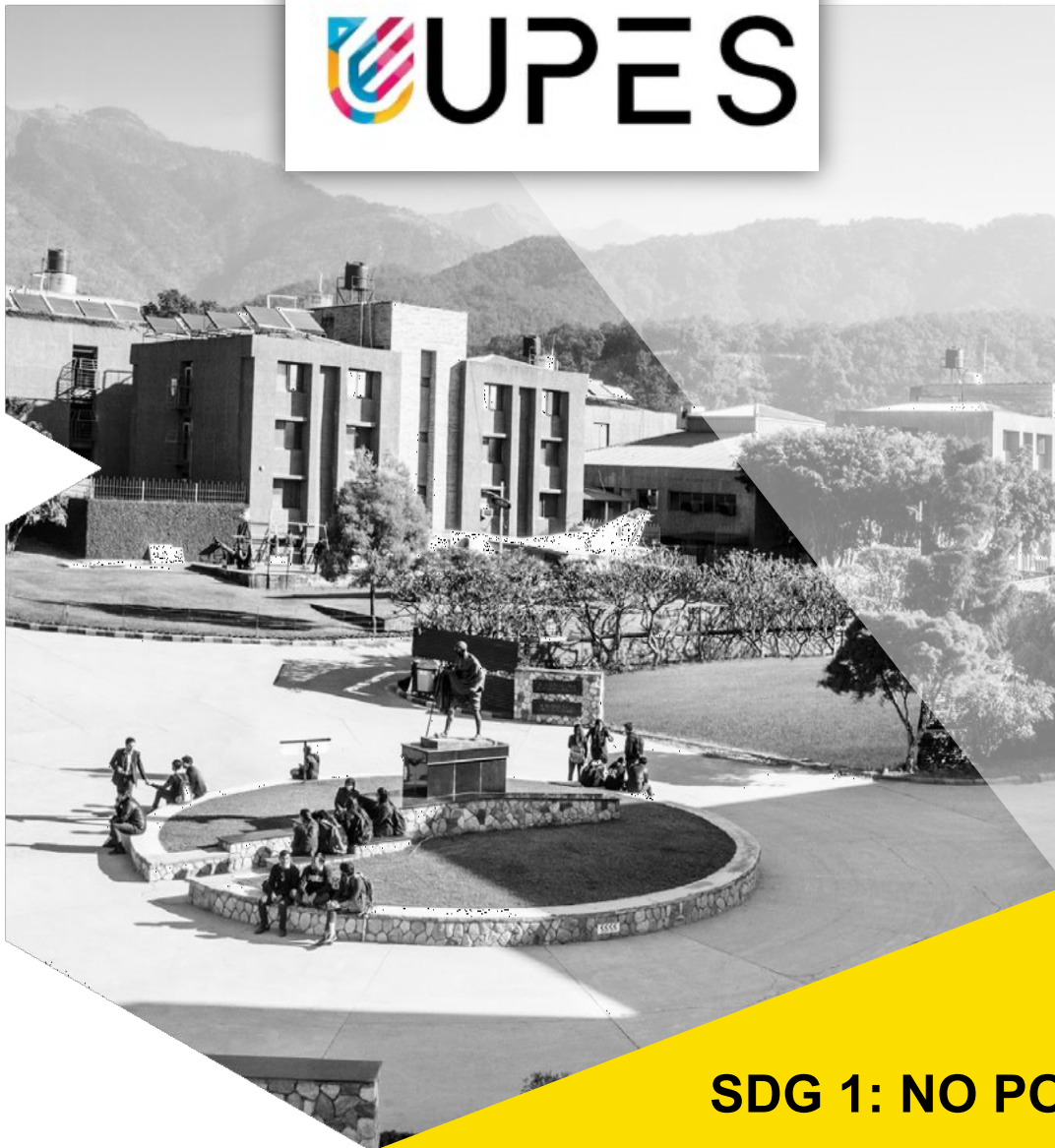




# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



**SDG 1: NO POVERTY**

**2025**

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### 1.3.1 Does your university as a body have targets to admit students who fall into the bottom 20% of household income group in the country?

#### UPES Initiatives for Low-Income Student Support (2022–2025)

Over the past three years, the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES) in Dehradun has strengthened its support systems for students from low-income and underprivileged backgrounds. These efforts span **financial aid** – such as need-based scholarships, tuition waivers, and fee concessions – as well as **non-financial support** – including academic assistance, mentorship programs, housing and food assistance (in special cases), and access to healthcare and technology resources. This report details UPES’s initiatives in 2022–2025 to ensure that economic hardship does not stand in the way of a quality education. It also highlights gaps and compares UPES’s approach with best practices from other universities’ **Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings** submissions under SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 4 (Quality Education), suggesting ways UPES can align further with these global standards. All financial support initiatives are summarized separately from the non-financial support systems for clarity.

#### Financial Support Initiatives at UPES (2022–2025)

##### 1. Needs-Based Scholarships and Free ships <https://www.upes.ac.in/admissions/scholarships> [1]

UPES has several scholarship schemes targeted at students from economically weaker sections:

- **Jyoti Scholarship (Merit-cum-Need Freeship):** This is a 100% tuition *and* academic fee scholarship aimed at ensuring “*access to quality education for all.*” It is offered to *meritorious students from underprivileged backgrounds* who demonstrate high aspiration and caliber. From 2022 through 2025, approximately **51 full freeship seats** have been available each year for regular UG/PG programs under Jyoti (income limit ₹8 lakh per annum) [2]. Students who secure a Jyoti scholarship pay no tuition or academic service fees; only a one-time refundable security deposit is required. (Hostel lodging is not included in this freeship program, a gap addressed under non-financial support below.) This merit-cum-need freeship has been a flagship initiative to uplift students from low-income families by completely waiving their educational fees.
- **Sherryl Kintu Scholarship:** Introduced in 2025, this is a fully funded scholarship established in partnership with an external institution to honor the legacy of a former educator. It provides **100% of tuition and academic fees** for one selected student with demonstrated financial need (family income < ₹8 lakh). The Sherryl Kintu Scholarship requires applicants to submit proof of economic need and a personal statement, and it covers the entire program’s tuition/academic fees for the awardee’s first year (renewable based on performance) [3]. Although only one student per year benefits, this scholarship reflects UPES’s effort to leverage donor-funded programs to support low-income students.

- **Domicile Scholarships for Local Students:** UPES reserves a portion of seats and tuition waivers for Uttarakhand state residents, many of whom come from rural or low-income backgrounds. As of AY 2025–26, **25% of seats** are reserved for Uttarakhand-domiciled students, each eligible for a **25% tuition fee scholarship** per semester [1]. (Earlier in 2022–23, the domicile scholarship was announced at 33% [4], and it was streamlined to 25% by 2025.) This scholarship is awarded regardless of merit or need to all local students, which indirectly benefits low-income families in the state by reducing the cost barrier [1]. Notably, students may combine the domicile waiver with certain other merit scholarships – whichever is highest is applied [1]. This policy has helped increase the enrollment of regional students and ease their financial burden.
- **Merit Scholarships (with Girls’ Scholarship Initiative):** In addition to strictly need-based aid, UPES has dramatically expanded its merit scholarship pool in recent years, which – while merit-driven – has benefited many high-achieving students from low-income families. In 2022, UPES announced **around 2,000 merit scholarships** (ranging from 20% up to 100% tuition waiver) for the 2022–23 incoming class [4]. Over **50% of these scholarships were reserved for female students** under the *Shakti* initiative [4], reflecting a commitment to gender equity and empowerment of girls in higher education. These entrance exam-based scholarships covered top performers (top 10% scorers in the UPES entrance tests) with tuition waivers in the first semester (renewable if the student maintains an 8.5 CGPA, 75% attendance, etc.) [4]. Although awarded on academic merit, such scholarships have provided significant financial relief to talented students from modest economic backgrounds. According to an official statement in 2022, “*from 2020 to 2022, UPES offered and announced more than 5000 girl scholarships*” under this program [4] – a large proportion of which likely went to students who also had financial need.
- **Overall Scholarship Impact:** The scale of UPES’s financial aid in recent years is substantial. In the academic year 2023–24 alone, UPES disbursed **₹46 crore** (₹460 million) in scholarships, benefiting **6,844 students** [1]. This means well over half of UPES’s student body received some form of tuition support or fee waiver. By 2025, the university advertises that it offers “*need-based and merit scholarships, benefiting over 55% of students annually.*” [1]. This broad reach of scholarships indicates a strong institutional commitment to affordability and inclusion. The mix of merit and need-based programs ensures that high achievers are rewarded, and those with economic hardships are not left behind. Notably, UPES also offers other special scholarships (for example, **Project Shakti** for all female students, **Vijay** for sports achievers, and scholarships for children of employees or alumni), but those are beyond the scope of low-income targeting and thus not detailed here.

## 2. Emergency Financial Assistance and Fee Support

Beyond planned scholarships at entry, UPES has mechanisms to support enrolled students if their financial situation worsens unexpectedly:

- **Student Financial Support Scheme (Loss of Earning Parent):** UPES recognizes that a student’s circumstances can change during the course of study (for instance, due to a tragedy in the family). If a student who has already secured admission and paid fees loses an earning parent/guardian, the university extends a special tuition fee concession. Under this scheme, the student can receive a fee relaxation of **₹50,000 per semester** (approximately \$600) *until*

*the last qualifying semester* of their program [1]. This effectively reduces tuition by that amount each term going forward, helping the student continue studies without interruption. The support is given one semester at a time, with the student required to maintain satisfactory academic performance (no backlogs, improving or at least stable grades) and good conduct to continue receiving it [3]. The Department of Student Welfare opens applications for this support each semester for affected students. By instituting this fund in the past few years, UPES has created a safety net for students facing sudden financial crises, ensuring that an unforeseen loss of family income doesn't force them to drop out [2].

- **Project Protsaahan (Holistic Full-Ride for Underprivileged Students):** UPES launched *Project Protsaahan* in 2018 and has sustained it through 2022–2025 as a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative to **fully sponsor high-potential students from underprivileged backgrounds**. In partnership with the Purkal Youth Development Society (an NGO-run school for underprivileged children in Uttarakhand), UPES each year selects at least **two meritorious students from economically weak families** (often from villages around Dehradun) and provides **complete financial support for their entire education** [5]. According to the Vice Chancellor, *“the project supports underprivileged meritorious students by providing admissions to any program in UPES, taking care of the complete fees of the students, providing a stipend during internships, a faculty mentor to monitor progress, and a Career Services member to assist in internships and placements.”* [5] **All costs are covered** – tuition, academic fees, **hostel accommodation, meals, uniforms, laptops, one-time charges, and even the security deposit** – for these scholars throughout their degree [5]. For example, one beneficiary, Aayushi Verma, received a 100% scholarship for a BBA program after her family faced medical and financial adversity, and another student, Priyanka Bhatt, completed a B.Tech with full support and secured a high-paying job [5]. By 2023, a total of 15 students had benefitted from Protsaahan since its inception [5]. UPES has committed to continue *Project Protsaahan* at least until AY 2028–29, sponsoring two new students each year [5]. This initiative is noteworthy because it not only removes financial barriers (a true “full-ride” scholarship for low-income students), but also provides non-financial support (mentoring and career guidance, discussed later) as part of the package. It aligns closely with the UN SDG aim of “*education for all*” and exemplifies how UPES goes beyond regular scholarships to uplift the poorest students.
- **Other Fee Concessions:** UPES also offers a variety of partial fee waivers that, while not exclusively need-based, reduce financial strain. For instance, there are **Academic Performance Scholarships** (tuition discounts awarded from 2nd year onward to top-performing students), and **Alumni Scholarships** (50% tuition fee waiver for UPES alumni pursuing higher studies at UPES) [1]. These indirectly benefit some low-income students (e.g. a student from a modest background who excels academically can continue studying with reduced fees). Additionally, for children of UPES staff there are significant tuition waivers (75% for employees' wards, etc. [1]), which, while a staff benefit, also reinforce a culture of accessible education. All scholarship policies stipulate that a student can avail only one concession at a time, and if multiple eligibilities exist, the highest benefit is granted [1]. This ensures fairness and wide distribution of support.

### 3. National and Government Scholarship Programs

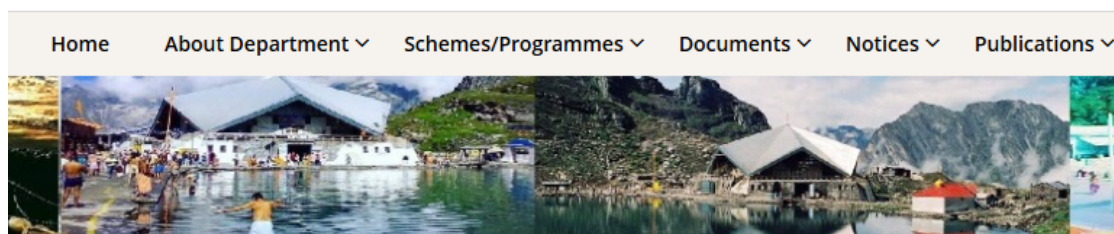
In areas where UPES does not itself provide direct aid (for example, certain categories of students or non-tuition expenses), the university encourages students to leverage government schemes. UPES is a UGC-recognized university, so students are eligible for various **central and state scholarship programs in India** meant for low-income and marginalized groups. Notably:

- **Government of India Post-Matric Scholarships:** These are need-based scholarships funded by central ministries for students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, Minority communities, and economically weaker sections. For instance, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Minority Affairs run post-matric scholarship schemes that reimburse tuition fees and provide maintenance allowances for eligible college students across India [6]. UPES students who fall into these categories can apply through the National Scholarship Portal. In practice, many low-income UPES students have likely received such government scholarships which cover part of their fees at UPES. The Uttarakhand state social welfare department also implements **state-sponsored scholarships** for domiciled SC/ST/OBC students in higher education, which UPES students can avail [7]. While UPES doesn't administer these funds, it typically facilitates the process by certifying student enrollment and providing required documentation for those who secure government aid.




अल्पसंख्यक कल्याण, उत्तराखण्ड

**Minority Welfare, Uttarakhand**



[Home](#) > [Central Government](#) > Post Matric Scholarship Schemes(100%CSS)

## Post Matric Scholarship Schemes(100%CSS)

 **Date :** 29/07/2018 - 30/09/2018 | **Sector:** Pension

**OBJECTIVE:** The objective of the scheme is to award scholarships to meritorious students belonging to economically weaker sections of minority community so as to provide them better opportunities for higher education, increase their rate of attainment in higher education and enhance their employability.

- **Central Sector Scheme (CSS) Scholarship for College Students:** High-performing students from economically weaker families (income < ₹8 lakh) who scored top ranks in Class 12 board exams are eligible for the CSS scholarship by the Government of India. Many UPES freshmen who meet the criteria might be recipients. This scheme provides an annual stipend towards college fees and is meant to promote higher education among underprivileged toppers. UPES admissions and student welfare offices promote awareness of such external opportunities, ensuring no available support is left on the table.



- **Education Loan Subsidies:** While UPES does not have its own loan program, students can take advantage of national schemes like the *Central Interest Subsidy* on education loans for economically weaker sections. For example, the Govt. of India's Vidya Lakshmi portal and various public sector banks offer collateral-free loans for education, and certain categories (EWS, minority, etc.) receive interest waivers during the study period. UPES often provides the necessary paperwork and information sessions for students to pursue these options. In the absence of university-funded housing/food stipends for most students, low-income students can use such loans or stipends to cover living costs.

## Summary of Financial Aid

# UPES' Project Protsaahan Supports Underprivileged Meritorious Students

By **Atula Imchen** - January 10, 2023



In the 2022–2025 period, UPES has deployed a robust suite of financial aid tools: merit-cum-need free educations for the most underprivileged (Jyoti, Protsaahan, Sherryl Kintu), broad merit scholarships encouraging inclusivity (with special focus on female students and locals), and safety nets for those encountering hardship mid-course. These efforts collectively ensure that **bright students are not denied an education at UPES due to lack of funds**. By covering tuition (and in select cases, beyond tuition) for thousands of students, UPES is actively reducing poverty in the education context, echoing the SDG 1 principle that poverty alleviation starts with equitable access to education [5].

## Non-Financial Support Systems at UPES (2022–2025)

Financial aid alone is often not enough to guarantee success for low-income and first-generation students; they also benefit greatly from academic, social, and infrastructural support. **UPES has implemented several non-monetary support initiatives to help disadvantaged students thrive in the university environment. These include academic assistance (remedial classes, mentoring), personal well-being services, and measures to improve access to technology and other resources.**

Below, we outline these supports and note where UPES could enhance them, especially in comparison to international best practices.

### 1. Academic Assistance and Mentorship

UPES has focused on providing additional academic help to students who may struggle academically, which often includes those from less privileged educational backgrounds:

- **Remedial Coaching and Bridge Programs:** The University runs **remedial classes** each year for students whose performance is not up to the mark. As a policy, any student scoring below 40% in a mid-term examination is scheduled for extra classes in that subject [8]. These remedial sessions are designed to *“fill the gaps in the teaching-learning process”* for slow learners, addressing issues like lack of foundational understanding or low confidence [8]. By identifying struggling students early (often those who come from schools with fewer resources or language barriers) and providing them tutoring and practice, UPES helps them catch up with their peers [8]. Such academic support is crucial for low-income students who might not be able to afford private tuitions. It aligns with recommendations for SDG4 that universities offer *“bridge programs, summer sessions, and remedial classes to assist students who need additional support to meet academic standards.”* [9]. UPES’s implementation of remedial coaching in core courses directly supports student retention and success.
- **Structured Mentorship Program:** Recognizing that guidance and personal attention can greatly improve student outcomes, UPES launched a comprehensive **Mentoring Program** (notably ramped up around 2021 and continuing through 2025). Under this initiative, **each faculty or qualified mentor is assigned to a cohort of ~25 students**, acting as an advisor for their academic and personal development [10]. The mentorship is multi-tiered: First-year students receive help transitioning from school to university – mentors assist them in adjusting study habits, accessing resources, and building confidence [10]. In second and third years, mentors provide career exploration guidance, connecting students with industry opportunities and encouraging skill development [11]. Final-year students are paired with **industry professionals or UPES alumni as mentors**, who help them prepare for employment, interviews, and the transition to the professional world [11]. This structured mentor-mentee relationship ensures that students from disadvantaged backgrounds (who may lack family members with university experience) have a go-to person for advice and encouragement. As a UPES blog on the mentoring program notes, *“a mentor helps students discover and develop the potential within themselves to succeed in the university and life,”* and the goal is to *“enhance students’ chances of academic success.”* [10, 11]. By 2022–2025, this program has become an integral part of the student support ecosystem. It mirrors what top universities do; for example, THE Impact guidelines highlight providing *“tutoring, mentoring, and academic support to help low-income students succeed academically and stay on track to graduate.”* [9]. UPES’s mentoring initiative is a strong step in that direction, ensuring each student (especially those who might otherwise feel lost) has an individual support system.



- **Faculty Advising and Student Engagement:** In addition to the formal mentor program, UPES has a culture of approachable faculty and designated departments to assist students. Academic difficulties are often dealt with through **faculty mentors** assigned to students in each department, and the university created a dedicated **Department of Student Engagement and Experience** to work closely with students outside of classes [12]. This team organizes workshops, tutoring sessions, and co-curricular activities that keep students engaged throughout the year [12]. The emphasis is on making sure students do not “fall through the cracks.” In the words of UPES, *“we understand the student’s need for a friend, guide, role model and mentor,”* which drove the introduction of these engagement initiatives [12]. For a low-income student who might be first in their family at college, knowing that there is a one-stop **Dean of Student Welfare (DSW) office** to answer queries and coordinate support is invaluable. (UPES’s DSW office, established in the main campus block, assists with all academic and non-academic inquiries, serving as a helpdesk for students in need [12]).
- **Outcome Tracking:** While not explicitly marketed, UPES does monitor student performance and outcomes, which ties into support. Similar to how the University of Manchester sets *targets to admit and graduate students from the lowest income quintile and monitors the attainment gap* [13] [14], UPES uses internal data (exam results, dropout rates) to identify where additional tutoring or mentoring is needed. Though UPES has not publicly announced specific “gap-closing” targets, its practices of remedials and mentorship implicitly aim to improve completion rates for underprivileged students. Aligning more formally with such metrics (e.g., setting a target to improve graduation rate of need-based scholarship students) could be a next step to demonstrate impact, as discussed later.

## 2. Personal Well-being and Campus Life Support

UPES provides services that ensure students’ basic health and psychological needs are met, which is particularly crucial for students who might not have access to such support elsewhere:

- **Mental Health Counseling:** The University employs **full-time psychological counselors** to support students’ mental and emotional well-being. As part of Student Support, a counselor offers one-on-one and group counseling, taking a *“holistic approach”* to student life issues [12]. Challenges like homesickness, anxiety, or academic stress – which may be acute for students from low-income backgrounds adjusting to a new environment – are addressed confidentially and professionally. By lifting students *“out of the pit of ambiguities, disappointments, confusion, and depression,”* the counseling team helps them remain focused on their studies [12]. Importantly, faculty mentors and staff are trained to refer students for counseling when needed, reducing the stigma around seeking help. UPES being *“one of the few universities that understand the student’s need for a friend [and] guide,”* ensures emotional support is available alongside academic support [12]. This contributes to higher retention and success for vulnerable students. (Many global universities similarly provide free counseling; integrating mental health in student support is now considered a best practice for inclusive education.)
- **Healthcare Services and Insurance:** All UPES students have access to on-campus **health facilities**. There is a well-equipped **Infirmary** with first-aid and **two male and two female doctors** available [15]. For emergencies or specialized care beyond the campus, UPES maintains a **24/7 ambulance** service to transport students to nearby hospitals [15]. Recognizing that medical expenses can be catastrophic for low-income families, UPES

provides **medical insurance coverage of ₹100,000** ( $\approx$  \$1,200) for every registered student [15]. This group insurance (through Universal Sompo General Insurance) covers accidents and basic hospitalization, meaning a student in need can receive treatment without worrying about immediate out-of-pocket costs [15]. By covering all students automatically, UPES particularly benefits those from poorer backgrounds who might not have any health insurance at home. Access to healthcare and financial protection from medical bills ensure that an illness does not derail a student's education. In the context of SDG3 (health and well-being) and SDG4, such measures are commendable. Some Impact-ranked universities extend health support further (for example, providing free healthcare or clinics to students' families or local community), which UPES might consider in the future to deepen its social impact.

- **Campus Life and Inclusion:** UPES enforces a **smart casual dress code** for students, which on the surface may not seem related to low-income support, but the rationale is to “*develop a sense of equality among students*” through attire [16]. By avoiding ostentatious displays, UPES helps students from economically weaker backgrounds feel socially included (no high pressure to keep up with expensive fashion on campus). This subtle aspect of campus culture can reduce social stratification. Furthermore, a variety of student clubs, cultural and sports activities (aided by the Student Engagement team) are available at little or no cost, ensuring that even students with limited finances can participate fully in campus life. These efforts cultivate a supportive peer environment where students can build confidence and networks irrespective of economic background.

### 3. Access to Technology and Learning Resources

In today's educational landscape, digital access is a necessity. UPES has taken steps to provide or facilitate access to learning resources, technology, and related support so that low-income students are not left behind in the digital divide:

- **Digital Infrastructure and IT Support:** The UPES campus is fully Wi-Fi enabled, and computer labs in each department are available for students to use for assignments, research, and online classes. All students are given institutional email accounts and access to e-learning portals. For those who do not own personal laptops, the on-campus labs (with extended hours) and library computers ensure they can complete coursework. During the COVID-19 pandemic (2020–2021), when teaching moved online, UPES shifted to virtual modes; while the university did not publicly announce a laptop distribution, it did make recorded lectures and digital libraries accessible from any device, and faculty were lenient with deadlines for students facing connectivity issues. Students in need could approach the IT department or DSW for assistance. In the broader context, some leading universities have formal programs to loan out laptops or provide data stipends to needy students – for example, the University of Manchester's “*Help me get online*” initiative provides support with laptops or Wi-Fi costs for students in the bottom income quintile [14]. UPES has implicitly done similar on a case-by-case basis (through its student support office), but it could consider a structured program. A potential adaptation could be creating an “**IT Access Grant**” where students who lack a device or internet at home can apply for a one-time subsidy or a loaner laptop. This would mirror global best practices and ensure **100% of UPES students have the tools to participate in modern education**, which is essential for SDG4 (Quality Education).
- **Library and Learning Resources:** UPES's library has a rich collection of physical books and also offers online databases and e-books. Importantly, access to e-journals, research databases, and software required for courses is provided **free of charge to students** via campus licenses.

Low-income students who might not afford textbooks or costly software (like design tools, analytical software, etc.) can rely on the university's resources. Additionally, the library runs orientation sessions on how to use open educational resources, which empowers students to find free learning materials on the internet legally. In 2022, when classes were hybrid, UPES also partnered with some content providers to give students free access to course materials. These efforts ensure that *educational content* is not a privilege of the wealthy – all students can obtain the readings and tools they need without extra financial burden.

- **Free Transport and Housing Support (Gaps and External Solutions):** One area where UPES's own support is limited is in daily living expenses such as transport and housing (except for specific cases like Protsaahan). UPES is a residential campus for many, but hostel and mess fees are generally paid by the student. There are no broad-based university grants for food or accommodation for low-income students beyond what is covered in certain scholarships. By comparison, some universities have innovated in this space: for example, the University of Manchester provides *free transport passes* to its low-income students and even free legal advice on issues like housing contracts [14]. Universidad de Manila, which is a city-run university, partnered with the local government to run a “**Soup Kitchen**” program providing nutritious free meals to students in need [17]. UPES has not reported similar programs, but it **has taken smaller steps**: the campus mess offers affordable meal plans, and there are budget food outlets on campus (the prices are regulated, partly subsidized for students). For housing, UPES does have a hostel fee waiver *within the Protsaahan scheme* (those students get free hostel), but a general student on a Jyoti freeship still needs to fund their lodging. Many low-income UPES students tackle this by sharing off-campus accommodations or commuting from home if local. The **Government of India and Uttarakhand** provide some help indirectly – e.g., post-matric scholarships include a modest living allowance for eligible students, and certain NGOs provide hostel scholarships. UPES's student counselors guide needy students toward these external options. However, acknowledging this gap, a recommendation (in the next section) is that UPES could explore partnerships with the state or donors to create a **housing/food fund**. Even a small monthly stipend or meal voucher for the poorest 5–10% of students could make a significant difference in combating hunger and housing insecurity on campus. The experience of Universidad De Manila shows that by addressing issues like food insecurity (through free meals) and legal hurdles (through notary services for documentation), a university can dramatically improve low-income students' ability to focus on their education [17]. UPES can look to such examples as models to broaden its non-financial support.

In summary, UPES's non-financial supports in 2022–2025 have created a more level playing field for low-income students: **extra academic help** (remediation and mentoring) to bridge any preparation gap, **well-being services** (counseling, health, insurance) to safeguard against personal crises, and **resource access** (labs, library, affordable meals) to ensure day-to-day college life is manageable. These initiatives are clearly aligned with SDG 4 (providing inclusive, equitable quality education) by not only enrolling disadvantaged students but also enabling them to *succeed* and graduate. The next section will further compare these efforts to THE Impact Rankings criteria and other institutions' best practices, identifying how UPES can enhance its programs to achieve even greater impact on **SDG 1 (No Poverty)** and **SDG 4**.

UPES has scaled up both **financial** and **non-financial** measures to guarantee that economic hardship never prevents talented students from enrolling, persisting, and graduating. In 2023-24 alone, the university disbursed **₹ 46 crore** in scholarships to **6,844** students—well over half of the student body [1].

## Financial Aid Portfolio

Aid Type	Key Features	AY 2022-25 Reach / Limits	Citation
<b>Jyoti Scholarship (Freeship)</b>	100 % waiver of tuition and academic fees for high-merit students from families earning $\leq$ ₹ 8 lakh p.a.	51 freeship seats offered each year	[1]
<b>Sherryl Kintu Scholarship</b>	100 % tuition & academic-fee support funded by an external partner; renewable on merit	1 full award each admission cycle (applications June 12-30)	[1]
<b>Uttarakhand Domicile Scholarship</b>	25 % tuition-fee waiver every semester; 25 % program-seat reservation for state residents	All UG / PG / Global Pathway admits with valid domicile proof	[1]
<b>Merit &amp; Shakti Scholarships</b>	Entrance-based tuition waivers (20 – 100 %) with <b><math>\geq</math> 50 % seats reserved for women</b> under “Project Shakti”	~2,000 awards announced in AY 2022-23	[18]
<b>Project Protsaahan (CSR “full-ride”)</b>	Covers <i>all</i> costs—tuition, hostel, meals, laptop, uniforms—plus faculty mentoring & internship stipend	2 new under-privileged scholars sponsored each year; 15 beneficiaries to date	[5]
<b>Student Financial Support Scheme</b>	Emergency concession of ₹ <b>50,000 per semester</b> after loss of an earning parent, renewable till graduation	Available to any enrolled student meeting academic & conduct criteria	[1]

## Government-Backed Support Facilitated by UPES

- **Post-Matric Scholarships (SC/ST/OBC/EWS):** monthly maintenance ₹ 750 – ₹ 1,200 for hostellers; tuition reimbursement for eligible categories. For details, please click here: [Scholarship Updates](#)
- **Free Mobile/Tablet DBT (Uttarakhand, 2022):** one-time ₹ 12,000 direct transfer to help 2.65 lakh college & school students—including UPES day-scholars—buy a learning device. For details, please click here: [Elets digitalLEARNING](#)

## Non-Financial Support Systems

Support Domain	2022-25 Implementation	Citation
<b>Academic Reinforcement</b>	<i>Remedial classes</i> for students scoring < 40 % in mid-term exams; continuous bridge support until competencies are met.	[19]
<b>Structured Mentoring</b>	One trained <b>mentor per 25 students</b> guiding first-years through transition, mid-course career planning, and final-year placement readiness (alumni & industry mentors involved).	[10]
<b>Mental-Health &amp; Well-being</b>	Full-time psychological counsellor; group & 1-to-1 sessions; “Student Engagement & Experience” team coordinates year-round wellness activities.	[19]

<b>Healthcare &amp; Insurance</b>	On-campus infirmary with doctors & 24 × 7 ambulance; ₹ 100,000 medical insurance for every registered student.	[19]
<b>Digital &amp; Learning Access</b>	Wi-Fi campus, extended-hour computer labs, licensed e-resources; case-by-case IT support via Dean Student Welfare. —	
<b>Inclusive Campus Culture</b>	Affordable mess options, smart-casual dress code to reduce social pressure, > 100 low-cost student clubs & societies. —	

## Aligning with THE Impact Rankings: UPES Upcoming Practices, Plans and Programs

UPES's current initiatives cover many bases in supporting low-income students, but there is always room for growth, especially that the university aims to improve its standing in global benchmarks like the **Times Higher Education Impact Rankings**.

The THE Impact Rankings for SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 4 (Quality Education) evaluate not just the existence of support programs, but also their scope, scale, and outcomes. **This encourages UPES to adopt a comprehensive approach – from admission to graduation – in uplifting students from poverty.**

Below are some **plans and structures** to how UPES is planning and drawing inspirations in the upcoming years:

- **Setting Targets and Monitoring Outcomes:** Leading institutions formalize UPES commitment by setting measurable targets for inclusion. UPES regularly monitor continuation rates and degree results for low-income students and report on progress in an Access and Participation

UPES enhance its support by tracking metrics such as: the percentage of incoming students on need-based scholarships, first-year retention rates of those students versus general population, and their graduation rates. By publishing goals (e.g., *“Ensure 90% of students from families with income under ₹X lakh graduate on time”* or *“Increase enrollment of students from economically weaker section by Y% each year”*), UPES would demonstrate accountability and align with THE's data-driven approach. This kind of analysis can also reveal if additional interventions are needed at certain stages (for example, if low-income students have higher dropout in second year, targeted mentoring or financial top-ups can be introduced then).

- **Comprehensive Scholarships Covering Living Expenses:** UPES's scholarships largely focus on tuition fees. However, UPES is studying to provide **holistic scholarships** that cover tuition *and* living costs (accommodation, food, travel). UPES's *Project Protsaahan* is a move in this direction (covering full cost of education for a few students), and the new Sherryl Kintu Scholarship also covers all academic fees [1]. Scaling such support would strongly boost UPES's SDG1 impact. For instance, UPES is studying to seek corporate CSR partnerships or alumni donations to set up a **“No Poverty Fund”** that provides an annual grant to cover hostel fees or meals for a set of low-income students (perhaps those already on Jyoti scholarships). Even assisting with **book grants or laptop grants** for top-need students would be viewed favorably in Impact criteria (and, more importantly, would directly help those students).
- **Additional Support Services (Food, Transport, Legal Aid):** Some innovative supports seen elsewhere could be emulated at UPES to address poverty-related challenges more holistically. For example, **food insecurity** among college students is a growing concern. UPES could start



on a smaller scale – say, coordinate with NGOs to distribute meal coupons for students in need, or create a subsidized cafeteria plan. UPES already ensures fairly low meal prices on campus, but formalizing a **meal assistance program** (perhaps through the Student Welfare department) would ensure no student goes hungry. Similarly, providing **transport support**: UPES might negotiate with local transport providers for discounted student bus passes, or run a shuttle from Dehradun city for students living off-campus. This could be advertised as supporting EWS day scholars. UPES could collaborate with its Law School or local legal aid clinics to host workshops for students on financial literacy, tenant rights, or how to apply for government schemes – empowering low-income students with knowledge that saves them money and trouble.

- **Emergency and Micro-Loans:** Another best practice is establishing an emergency aid fund or micro-loan facility. UPES, as part of SDG1, is studying the project of **“Living Cost Support Funds”** for students who face unexpected financial emergencies. UPES’s ₹50k/semester bereavement support is one example, but it’s narrowly defined (loss of parent). Broadening this into an **“Emergency Assistance Fund”** where any student can confidentially apply for a small grant or zero-interest loan due to unforeseen financial distress (medical emergency not covered by insurance, loss of income, etc.) would enhance the safety net. This could be managed by DSW and replenished by endowment or CSR sources. Not only would this prevent dropouts, it would score highly in demonstrating the university’s commitment to No Poverty.
- **Enhanced Mentoring and Tutoring:** UPES already has a solid mentoring program. To further align with THE standards, it could quantify its impact (for instance, *100% of first-year low-income students are assigned a mentor and attend at least X mentoring sessions*). Some universities train senior students as **peer tutors or mentors** specifically for first-generation or low-income freshmen – a practice that could be adopted to complement faculty mentoring. This not only provides academic help but also a near-peer role model. Given UPES’s large alumni network, an **“Alumni Mentorship”** initiative (which may already exist informally via the Alumni Relations office) can be scaled up, pairing alumni from humble beginnings with current low-income students for inspiration and guidance. In fact, UPES has been involving alumni in mentorship (there were social media posts about alumni mentoring in 2025), which is exactly the kind of structure the Impact Rankings would commend for SDG4 (Quality Education). Formalizing and highlighting these programs will strengthen UPES’s profile.
- **Community and Upstream Engagement:** A broader point related to SDG1 is that leading universities don’t just support their enrolled low-income students; they also engage in **poverty alleviation in the community** and help create pipelines for disadvantaged youth to enter higher education. UPES is active in community CSR (e.g., building learning centers in local government schools, as noted in a 2022 CSR blog [20]). To tie this into SDG1/4 impact, UPES could document how its outreach (like coaching underprivileged school children, or offering preparatory camps for competitive exams to EWS students) helps more low-income students qualify for college – possibly even to UPES itself. This is somewhat outside the direct scope of the user’s question, but it is worth mentioning that UPES’s **“Project Abhilasha”** and **“Project EDUDHURMA”** (mentioned on the UPES Purpose page) are initiatives aimed at improving education in local communities [18]. These show UPES’s commitment to the SDGs beyond its campus. For Impact Rankings, such community-facing programs (scholarships for local youth, education of women in villages, etc.) reinforce the narrative that UPES is fighting poverty via education at multiple levels.

In conclusion, UPES has made significant strides in the 2022–2025 period to support low-income students financially and academically. The university’s mix of **direct financial aid (scholarships,**

**freeships, fee waivers)** and **indirect support (counseling, mentoring, remedials, health cover)** has benefited thousands of students, aligning well with UPES's vision of inclusivity and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

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10. UPES, "Good Mentoring is Critical to a Mentee's Success," UPES Blog by Mansha Dhingra, June 15, 2021. UPES launched a mentoring initiative: a mentor is assigned for every 25 students, responsible for their personal and professional growth. First-year students are mentored to transition smoothly to university; senior students get guidance on careers and networks; final-

*year students are mentored by industry professionals or alumni to assist with the transition to employment. [upes.ac.in](http://upes.ac.in)*

11. UPES, “Student Support – Mental Health and Counseling,” official student support page. *UPES has a full-time psychological counselor offering one-to-one and group counseling. Difficulties in academics are dealt with through faculty mentors. The Department of Student Engagement works closely with students to introduce initiatives that keep them engaged throughout the year, reflecting UPES’s understanding of students’ need for mentors and guides. [upes.ac.in](http://upes.ac.in)*
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