

RICS & ICA

Women in Dispute Resolution Scholarship INDIA



Scholarship for RICS Diploma in International Arbitration

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) is providing an industry scholarship for the RICS Diploma in International Arbitration programme to attract talent and diversity into alternative dispute resolution in the India market. The scholarship will provide one place on the RICS Diploma in International Arbitration commencing in March 2027. The successful candidate will be enrolled onto the full programme of teaching and assessments.

RICS DRS is committed to seeing greater diversity in the provision of arbitration in India and is also a keen advocate of Women in Dispute Resolution. In recent years, we have seen a slow but steady increase in women undertaking our dispute resolution qualifications globally.

The scholarship is intended to support talented women professionals* in India who aspire to build a career in international arbitration but may face barriers to accessing specialist professional qualifications. Despite increasing participation of women in law, construction, real estate and dispute resolution, women remain underrepresented in senior arbitration and tribunal appointments. By providing access to the RICS Diploma in International Arbitration, the scholarship aims to develop expertise, enhance career progression and contribute to a more diverse and inclusive international dispute resolution community.

India is one of the world's fastest-growing arbitration markets, with increasing investment in infrastructure, construction and cross-border commerce. Supporting female practitioners in this market helps build local capability, strengthens professional standards and creates opportunities for women to take on leadership roles in dispute avoidance and dispute resolution.

The scholarship also aligns with RICS's commitment to promoting professional excellence, inclusion and global capacity building by enabling deserving candidates to obtain a recognised international qualification and become advocates for best practice within their organisations and the wider industry.

RICS Diploma in International Arbitration

The RICS Diploma in International Arbitration is an 18-month distance learning programme designed to provide candidates with an in-depth knowledge of the legal principles, best practice and competencies required to act as an international arbitration, or as a party representative in arbitration proceedings, or to prepare clients for the arbitration process.

This is an online programme, the successful candidate will be required to join and participate fully in the lectures and assessments provided in the UK and Middle East programmes that are currently delivered by RICS.

Full details of the programme can be found here: [Diploma in International Arbitration \(MENA\)](#)

A full calendar of dates of tutorials and assessments are included in Appendix 1

* Whilst lawyers whose practice is focused on the built environment are encouraged to apply, this scholarship is also intended to help address the under-representation of non-lawyers in dispute resolution in the sector, and so is aimed primarily at applicants engaged in construction *per se*, project management, quantity surveying, architecture, construction engineering, claims consultancy and other similar occupations.

Eligibility requirements

To qualify to apply for the scholarship applicants must be:

- A university graduate with a degree classification
- A woman with a position/role in the dispute resolution and built environment related sector and a strong motivation to advance in the sector
- Able to demonstrate role modelling behaviour, especially toward female advancement in the dispute resolution and built environment related sector
- Based and practising predominantly in India

Application process

All applicants are required to complete the application form in Appendix II and return it to RICS via email (drseducation@rics.org) by Friday 11 December 2026.

Shortlisted applicants will also be required to submit a 1,500 word essay suitable for publication as an article as described below in key dates and deadlines.

In addition, applicants will need to submit one professional reference. An applicants' referee should have a significant standing in the built environment/construction industry, and should be someone familiar with the applicant's work, such as a line manager or mentor. A referee should provide comments in support of the applicants' application.

Applicants also need to submit a confirmation from their line manager that they will support the applicants' study and provide the applicant with time off to attend tutorials and assessments.

Applicants will need to confirm that they have read and agree to be bound by the RICS DRS Education General Terms and Conditions and the Scholarship Terms and Conditions.

Applicants agree that RICS will be entitled to publish their name and relevant profile in the communications surrounding the announcement of the results of the scholarship competition.

This scholarship opportunity is being provided by the RICS Dispute Resolution Service in association with the Indian Council of Arbitration (ICA) as part of its commitment to Women in the Dispute Resolution Sector in India.

The scholarship will fund the programme (tutorials and assessments), not including the purchase of reading materials or, if necessary, any resit of assessments.

Key dates and deadlines

- Deadline for applications will be Friday 11 December 2026 (including confirmation from the applicant's line manager and a reference)
- Applications will be reviewed, and a shortlist of successful applicants published by Monday 11 January 2027
- Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a 1,500 word essay by 29 January 2027. The essay should be suitable for publication as an article in the sector press and on social media. It should be on a topic of their choice related to the challenges, role and advancement of women in the construction-related sector, ideally including reference to relevant dispute resolution and/or conflict avoidance mechanisms.
- Applicants' essays will be reviewed, and scholarship finalists announced by 12 February 2027
- Scholarship finalists will be invited to a virtual interview in w/c 22 February 2027
- The successful candidate will be selected and notified by Friday 12 March 2027
- The RICS Diploma in International Arbitration (MENA) programme commences on 24 March 2027

CALL FOR SUPPORT

RICS DRS would like over time to expand this scholarship programme. If you or your firm would like to explore how you can contribute to this programme by supporting a candidate or funding a scholarship, please contact Mrs Rajbinder Sohal, Head of DRS Education at RICS.

(e: rsohal@rics.org)

APPENDIX I

Diploma in International Arbitration MEA

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Date	Activity	Time UAE
24/03/2027	Module 1 Start Reading	
31/03/2027	Welcome Webinar	16:00 – 17:00 (1hr)
05/05/2027	Module 1 Tutorial 1 – Part 1	16:00 – 19:00
02/06/2027	Module 1 Tutorial 2 – Part 2	16:00 – 19:00
21/07/2027	Module 1 Release Assignment	
28/07/2027	Module 1 Tutorial 2 – Part 1	16:00 – 19:00
18/08/2027	Module 1 Submit Assignment	
01/09/2027	Module 1 Tutorial 2 – Part 2	16:00 – 19:00
15/09/2027	Module 1 Exam (4 hrs)	13:00 – 17:00

22/09/2027	Module 2 Start Reading	
29/09/2027	Module 2 Introduction Webinar	17:00 – 18:00
06/10/2027	Module 2 Unit 1 & 2 Webinar	17:00 – 20:00
27/10/2027	Module 2 Unit 3 Webinar	17:00 – 19:00
17/11/2027	Module 2 Unit 4 Webinar	17:00 – 19:00
08/12/2027	Module 2 Unit 5 Webinar	17:00 – 19:00
12/01/2028	Module 2 Unit 6 Webinar	17:00 – 19:00
12/01/2028	Module 2 Release Assignment	
09/02/2028	Module 2 Submit Assignment	
09/02/2028	Module 2 Unit 7 Webinar	17:00 – 19:00
08/03/2028	Module 2 Unit 8 Webinar	17:00 – 19:00
29/03/2028	Module 2 Unit 9 Webinar	17:00 – 19:00
19/04/2028	Module 2 Revision Webinar 1	17:00 – 19:00
03/05/2028	Module 2 Revision Webinar 2	17:00 – 19:00
31/05/2028	Module 2 Exam (3 hrs)	14:00 – 17:00

07/06/2028	Module 3 Start Reading	
07/06/2028	Module 3 Introduction webinar	17:00 – 18:00
28/06/2028	<i>Submit 1st Award Writing Practice</i>	
19/07/2028	Module 3 Webinar 1	17:00 – 19:00
09/08/2028	<i>Submit 2nd Award Writing Practice</i>	
30/08/2028	Module 3 Webinar 2	17:00 – 20:00
20/09/2028	<i>Submit 3rd Award Writing Practice</i>	
18/10/2028	Module 3 Exam Part A Issued	
25/10/2028	Module 3 Exam (5 hrs)	12:00 – 17:00

All dates and times are subject to change.

APPENDIX II – Scholarship Application Form

CONFIDENTIAL TO RICS AND THE SELECTION COMMITTEE

This application must be submitted to drseducation@rics.org by no later than Friday 11 December 2026

We will use the personal information you provide to process your application, ensure that you meet the Scholarship criteria, ensure the Diploma in Arbitration meets your development needs and objectives, and shortlist successful applicants.

If you are successful, we will use the personal information you provide to enrol you in, and administer the Scholarship scheme.

Further details about how RICS holds, stores and uses your personal information can be found at <https://www.rics.org/footer/rics-privacy-policy>

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS.

Personal Information				
Family name:	☐ Dr	☐ Mrs	☐ Miss	☐ Ms
First name(s):				
Name by which you prefer to be known:				
Nationality:				
☐ Please tick to confirm that proof of residency in India has been provided in support of this application				

Professional Information	
Job Title:	
Company:	Parent Company:
Business address:	
Web address:	
Postcode	Country:
Tel (direct dial incl. ext.):	Mobile:
Preferred Email:	

Would your line manager be in support of you studying the RICS Diploma in Arbitration and provide you time to attend tutorials and assessments? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Name, email address and direct telephone number of line manager:

Where did you first hear about this scholarship opportunity?

Employment History Please list your current and previous two positions if applicable

Company	Job Title	Start and End Date
Current position		
Previous positions		

Further education Please list your university degrees, tertiary qualifications and any professional or executive education programmes (short courses) you have completed.

Degree/Qualification/Programme	Institution	Grade	Date completed

The following information is necessary to help RICS ensure the Diploma in Arbitration meets your development needs and objectives.

1. Please describe your current role and responsibilities. You may also attach a CV.

2. Please tell us about your most significant achievements in your professional career so far.

3. What are your personal and professional development objectives related to participating in this programme? Detail how you see it contributing to your overall personal and career development.

4. What are your career aspirations? What role and responsibilities would you want to have in the next 5 years?

5. Please let us know how you have contributed towards advancement in diversity/inclusivity in your current or other organisations.

6. What made you decide to apply for this scholarship?

Please ensure you submit the following:

☐ Completed and signed Application Form	☐ CV (if applicable)
☐ Proof of residency in India	
☐ Professional reference supporting your application	
☐ Confirmation from your line manager that they will support your study and provide you with time off to attend tutorials and assessments.	

I confirm that the information provided is complete and accurate, and that I have read and agree to be bound by the RICS DRS Training Terms & Conditions and the Scholarship Terms & Conditions (detailed in Appendix III), I confirm that RICS will be entitled to publish my name and relevant profile in the communications surrounding the announcement of the results of the scholarship competition.	
Applicant's signature	Date

Please return to drseducation@rics.org

APPENDIX III – Scholarship Terms and Conditions

DRS Training Terms and Conditions can be found at [DRS Training Terms And Conditions \(2\).pdf](#)

Scholarship Terms and Conditions are below:

What is the Scholarship?

The award is not a cash payment to the recipient. The amount is automatically deducted as discount (Discount) from the total course fee for the Diploma. The scholarship is the course fee discount which will be directly applied to your course fee account for the Diploma. No alternative/equivalent monetary payment will be made.

Only the Applicant who has been selected for the Scholarship will be informed of the result.

Eligibility Requirement for Scholarship

This is set out in the Application Form.

Terms And Conditions of Scholarship

1. The decision of the selection panel is final for the Scholarship.
2. If successful, you will be enrolled on the course with the Discount applied and by attending the Course you agree to abide by our Charter, Regulations and Policies in force.
3. We may make changes to these Terms from time to time and the version that is applicable to you will be those that were in force at the date of your application.
4. We have complete discretion to decide how long we will make any Scholarship scheme available for, for what period of time the Scholarship scheme will operate and may withdraw the Scholarship scheme at any time and without further notice.

Removal of Scholarship

5. We may remove the Scholarship Discount placed on your account immediately if:

- You fail in our reasonable opinion adequately to attend lectures and/or participate fully in the course activities and assessments;
 - You are expelled, suspended or excluded from the course for academic failure; or
 - We are of the reasonable opinion that you have made any misrepresentation (whether negligently or intentionally) to us either in respect of applying for the Scholarship or during the course of and in connection with your studies through RICS; or
 - We are of the reasonable opinion that you have acted fraudulently or dishonestly in connection with securing your Scholarship.
6. In the event of a period of interruption to your studies, including parental leave, the operation of the scholarship will be suspended until your return.

Repaying the Scholarship

7. In the event that your Scholarship is removed, you will be liable to pay us your full course fees and therefore reimburse us the monetary amount equating to your Scholarship, immediately on demand. In addition to any other rights, we may have at law to take action against you for recovery or repayment, the amount so outstanding will be treated by us as a sum due to us.

Agreement to participate in RICS marketing and promotion

8. You agree on reasonable notice to participate in any publicity and marketing campaigns in connection with our Scholarship scheme. This may include blogging, tweeting, interviews or providing testimonials or case studies which can be used in publicity material, and we will provide you with relevant privacy notices.

How we may use your personal information

9. We will use the personal information you provide to process your application, ensure that you meet the Scholarship criteria, ensure the Diploma in Adjudication meets your development needs and objectives and shortlist successful applicants. If you are successful, we will use the personal information you provide to enrol you in, and administer the Scholarship scheme. Further details about how RICS holds, stores and uses your personal information can be found at <https://www.rics.org/footer/rics-privacy-policy>