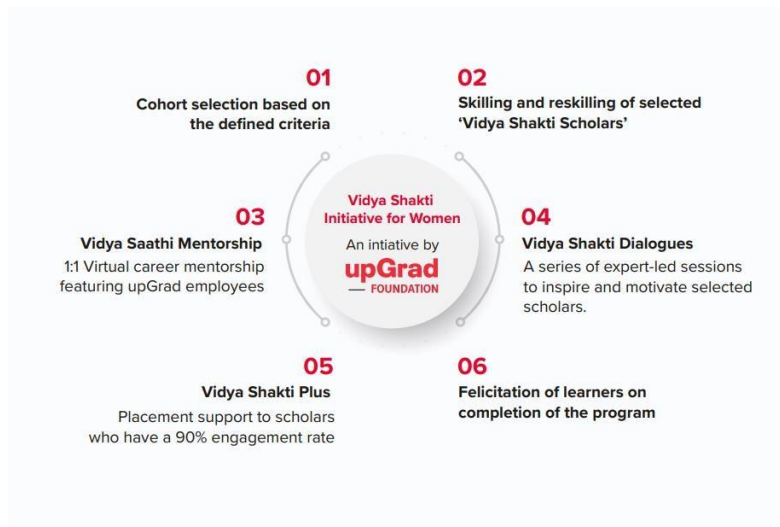


Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): Vidya Shakti Initiative for Women

Question: What is the Vidya Shakti Initiative for Women?

Answer: The Vidya Shakti Initiative for Women is a programme of the upGrad Foundation that was launched on March 8th, 2022. It aims to offer courses for first-generation female university students, women with Disabilities, women serving in armed/police forces, women journalists in small towns and cities, and women working with NGOs under the aegis of the Vidya Shakti Scholarship. This initiative shall allow the awardees to avail of one-on-one mentorship to get career-related guidance and interaction with industry experts and women role models. The upGrad foundation will also assist these learners in placements and preparing for jobs. The life cycle of the initiative is represented below:



Question: Are the upGrad courses completely held online?

Answer: Yes, upGrad courses are 100% online.

Question: What is the selection process for the Vidya Shakti Initiative for Women?

Answer: The selection of scholars for the Vidya Shakti Scholarship is a multi-stage process as detailed below –

1. Filling out the Application form
2. Initial shortlisting of applicants based on their educational background and financial background. Preference will be given to first-generation learners.
3. Shortlisted candidates will have a virtual round of interviews.
4. The final selection criteria will be determined by a combination of academic excellence, the clarity of one's career vision, and the degree to which the chosen course aligns with that vision.
5. The upGrad Foundation will have the discretion to make the final selection and grant the scholarship.

Question: Are the upGrad courses available in languages other than English?

Answer: As of now, upGrad doesn't have courses in any other language except English. To pursue these courses, learners should have adequate knowledge of English.

Question: Can working professionals do these courses?

Answer: upGrad courses are designed in a way that working professionals can take up these courses.

Question: Can the students do upGrad courses on a mobile phone? Or is it necessary to have a laptop/computer?

Answer: The certification courses under this initiative are delivered using live and recorded sessions. Learners can attend sessions on mobile phones, but to complete the assignments and modules, they will have to have access to a laptop or a computer.

Question: Can upGrad or upGrad foundation provide laptops?

Answer: No, upGrad or upGrad Foundation will not be able to provide laptops or computer devices to learners. They will have to arrange them on their own.

Question: How are the courses delivered? Are classes live, or do the students get the recorded sessions too?

Answer: The courses are delivered through live sessions as well as recorded sessions. Students have access to recorded sessions if they are unable to attend the live class.

Question: Does the upGrad Foundation help learners in placements or internships?

Answer: For placement, support is provided to learners who show more than a 90 percent engagement rate in attending live classes and completing assignments and modules.

Question: Where are the Certificate courses accredited from?

Answer: Since certificate courses are short-term courses, they are not accredited by any regulatory body. These are self-certified courses from the upGrad Campus.

Question: How Vidya Shakti Scholarships are funded?

Answer: As of now, upGrad leadership and Diwali grants from employees are funding the Vidya Shakti Scholarship through its social arm, the upGrad Foundation.

Question: Does Vidya Shakti Scholarship plan to add more certification courses?

Answer: Currently, the Vidya Shakti scholarship offers 3 courses.

Question: What is the duration of the courses offered under the Vidya Shakti Scholarship?

Answer:

- Certification Program in Digital Marketing (5 months)
- Certification Program in Data Science and Analytics (6 months)
- Certification Program in Full Stack Development (6 months)

Question: What are the educational eligibility criteria for these courses?

Answer:

- Women learners who are in their 3rd or final year of undergraduate degree
- Women learners who have completed their undergraduate degree.
- Women learners who have completed or are pursuing their postgraduate degree.

Question: Apart from educational eligibility, what are the criteria for being shortlisted for the Vidya Shakti Scholarship?

Answer:

- First-generation women learners, or
- Women learners belonging to the underprivileged section of society. The combined annual family income must be less than INR 8 lakhs per annum. or
- Women learners belonging to Below Poverty Line families who have BPL ration card.

Question: What are the timings of the classes and when are they conducted?

Answer: The offered courses have live sessions held on weekends (Saturday-Sunday) around 6:00-7.00 PM.

Question: What is the actual cost of the courses provided under Vidya Shakti Scholarships?

Answer:

- Certification Program in Digital Marketing- priced at Rs 40,000 + GST.
- Certification Program in Data Science and Analytics- priced at Rs 40,000 + GST.
- Certification Program in Full-Stack Development- priced at Rs 40,000 + GST.

Question: Why is UpGrad Foundation charging Rs 2000 as a Refundable Security Deposit from Vidya Shakti scholars?

Answer: To ensure better participation, the upGrad Foundation has decided to take a refundable security deposit of Rs 2,000/- before the start of the program. The same amount will be fully refunded back to the learner within 15 days of completing the course and fulfilling all the following criteria:

- a. 100% module Completion, Assignment, Project, Case study submission
- b. Min 75% attendance (live & career sessions)
- c. Overall score of 60% & above

Please note that the amount will not be refunded in case of failure to meet any of the above criteria.

Question: Can the Rs 2000 Refundable Security Deposit be waived?

Answer: No, either the learner or the supporting NGO has to bear the refundable security deposit.

Question: Can a learner pay the security deposit in installments?

Answer: No, the security deposit needs to be paid upfront by the learner.

Question: Can the learner defer their admission to the cohort after depositing the refundable security deposit?

Answer: In such a scenario, please inform the upGrad Foundation team at the earliest regarding the deferral, but please note there won't be any refund of the security amount without completing the course.