



राष्ट्रीय परीक्षा एजेंसी
National Testing Agency
Excellence In Assessment

University Grants Commission - National Eligibility
Test June 2026

CHAPTER-1
[INTRODUCTION]



1.1 About National Testing Agency (NTA)

The Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India (GOI) has established the National Testing Agency (NTA) as an independent, autonomous, and self-sustained premier testing organization under the Societies Registration Act (1860) for conducting efficient, transparent and international standards tests in order to assess the competency of candidates for admissions to premier higher education institutions.

The NTA has been entrusted by the University Grants Commission (UGC) with the task of conducting UGC-NET which is a test to determine the eligibility of Indian nationals for '*award of Junior Research Fellowship and appointment as Assistant Professor*', '*appointment as Assistant Professor and admission to Ph.D.*' and '*admission to Ph.D. only*' in Indian universities and colleges.

1.2 About University Grants Commission (UGC)

The University Grants Commission (UGC) is a Statutory Body of Government of India, Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, constituted under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (3 of 1956), vested with two responsibilities: that of providing funds and that of coordination, determination and maintenance of standards in institutions of higher education. The UGC's mandate includes:

- Promoting and coordinating university education.
- Determining and maintaining standards of teaching, examination and research in universities.
- Framing regulations on minimum standards of education.
- Monitoring developments in the field of collegiate and university education; disbursing grants to the universities and colleges.
- Serving as a vital link between the Union and state governments and institutions of higher learning.
- Advising the Central and State governments on the measures necessary for improvement of university education.

1.3 University Grants Commission – National Eligibility Test (UGC-NET)

(a) UGC-NET is a test to determine the eligibility of Indian nationals for '*award of Junior Research Fellowship and appointment as Assistant Professor*', '*appointment as Assistant Professor and admission to Ph.D.*' and '*admission to Ph.D. only*' in Indian universities and colleges.

- The candidates qualifying under the 'appointment as Assistant Professor and admission to Ph.D.' category will be eligible for appointment as Assistant Professor and admission to Ph.D. but not for the award of JRF.
- The candidates qualifying under the 'admission to Ph.D. only' category will be eligible for admission to Ph.D. only but not for the award of JRF and/or appointment as Assistant Professor.



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- The eligibility will be determined in the following manner:

Qualified for	Eligible for		
	JRF	Assistant Professor	Ph.D. admission
Category-1: Award of JRF and appointment as Assistant Professor	Yes	Yes	Yes
Category-2: Appointment as Assistant Professor and admission to Ph.D.	No	Yes	Yes
Category-3: Admission to Ph.D. only	No	No	Yes

- The JRF-qualified candidates are admitted into the Ph.D. programme based on an interview as per the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022.
- UGC-NET under category-2 & category-3 can be used as an entrance test for Ph.D. admission in place of entrance tests conducted by the different universities/HEIs for admission to Ph.D.
- For candidates qualified under the category-2 and category-3, the marks obtained in the NET will have 70% weightage and 30% weightage will be based on the performance in the interview/viva voce conducted by the University/HEI concerned. The Ph.D. admission will be based on the combined merit of NET marks and the marks obtained in the interview/viva voce.
- For admission to Ph.D., the marks obtained in the NET by the candidates in category-2 and category-3 will be valid for a period of one year from the date of declaration of the result of UGC-NET.
- The number of candidates who will be qualified for 'admission to the Ph.D. only' will be decided by the results committee.
- The result of NET will be declared in percentile along with the marks/normalized marks (in case of multiple shifts) obtained by a candidate to utilize the marks for admission to Ph.D. In case the test for a subject(s) is conducted in two or multiple shifts, the marks will be normalized by using the Equi-percentile method (**as per Appendix-IX**), and the result will be declared in percentile along with normalized marks.
- (b) The selection of candidates for the following Fellowships will be made through the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment:
- National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students (NFSC)
 - National Fellowship for Other Backward Classes (NFOBC)
 - National Fellowship for Persons with Disabilities (NFPwD)
- (c) The data of UGC-NET candidates can be shared by the UGC/NTA with Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) for admission to Ph.D. programmes and with Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) & other organizations for their recruitment processes.



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Chapter-2

[Examination Scheme]



2. UGC-NET June 2026

The UGC-NET June 2026 will be conducted in Computer Based Test (CBT) mode as per the time schedule specified in the Information at a glance, in the Subjects given at (refer to **Appendix-II**) in selected Cities spread across the Country (refer to **Appendix-III**).

2.1 Mode of Examination

The Examination shall be conducted in **Computer Based Test (CBT) mode** only.

2.2 Pattern of Examination

The Test paper will consist of two sections, both the sections will consist of objective type, multiple-choice questions. There will be no break between the papers.

Part	Marks	Number of Questions	MCQ	Total duration
I	100	50	The questions in Part – I intends to assess the teaching/ research aptitude of the candidate. It will primarily be designed to test reasoning ability, reading comprehension, divergent thinking and general awareness of the Candidate.	03 hours (180 minutes) without any break. All the questions are compulsory.
II	200	100	This is based on the subject selected by the candidate and will assess domain knowledge.	

2.3 Subject and Syllabus of Test

The List of Subjects and their Codes for UGC-NET June 2026 are given at **Appendix -II**.

Syllabus for all NET Subjects can be downloaded from the UGC website: <https://www.ugcnetonline.in/syllabus-new.php>. The National Testing Agency will not provide the copy of syllabus to any candidate.

2.4 Medium of Question Paper

- The medium of Question Paper shall be in English & Hindi only, except language papers.
- Option for medium of Question Paper should be carefully chosen by the Candidate, while filling the Application Form online. The option once exercised cannot be changed.
- Candidates are required to answer in the medium as per option exercised in the Application Form.
- In case of any ambiguity in translation/construction of a question in the exam, **its English version shall be treated as final and the decision of NTA shall be final in this regard.**



2.5 Marking Scheme

1. To answer a question, the candidate needs to choose one option as the correct option.
2. Each question carries 02 (two) marks.
3. For each correct response, the candidate will get 02 (two) marks.
4. There is no negative marking for incorrect response.
5. No marks will be given for questions un-answered/un-attempted/marked for Review.
6. While every effort will be made to ensure that each question has one unique answer, in case, it is found that a question has more than one option, it will be dealt with in following manner:
 - a) If more than one option is found to be correct, then Two marks (+2) will be awarded to only those who have marked any of the correct options.
 - b) If all options are found to be correct, then Two marks (+2) will be awarded to all those who have attempted the question.
 - c) If none of the options is found correct or a Question is found to be wrong or a Question is dropped, then two marks (+2) will be awarded to only to those candidates who have attempted the question. The reason could be due to human error or technical error. **Since there is no negative marking, candidate needs to choose one most appropriate option as correct answer.**



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CHAPTER-3

[Eligibility and Qualification]



3. Eligibility Criteria for UGC-NET June 2026

3.1 Qualifying Examination:

- (a) General/Unreserved/General-EWS candidates who have secured at least 55% marks (without rounding off) in Master's Degree or equivalent examination from universities/institutions recognized by UGC (available on the website: www.ugc.ac.in in Humanities and Social Science (including languages), Computer Science and Applications, Electronic Science etc. are eligible for this Test. List of subjects at Post Graduation level is attached as **Appendix -V**. The Other Backward Classes (OBC) belonging to Non-Creamy Layer/Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST)/Persons with Disability (PwD) / Persons with Benchmark Disability (PwBD)/Third gender category candidates who have secured at least 50% marks (without rounding off) in Master's degree or equivalent examination are eligible for this Test.
- (b) Candidates who are pursuing their Master's degree or equivalent course or candidates who have appeared for their qualifying Master's degree (final year) examination and whose result is still awaited or candidates whose qualifying examinations have been delayed may also apply for this test. However, such candidates will be admitted provisionally and shall be considered eligible for award of JRF/eligibility for Assistant Professor only after they have passed their Master's Degree or equivalent examination with at least 55% marks (50% marks in case of OBC-NCL/ SC / ST / PwD/PwBD / Third gender category candidates). Such candidates must complete their Master's degree or equivalent examination within two years from the date of NET result with required percentage of marks, failing which they shall be treated as disqualified.
- However, those candidates who qualify for 'Admission to Ph.D. Only' must complete their Master's degree or equivalent examination within one year from the date of NET result with required percentage of marks, failing which they shall be treated as disqualified.
- (c) Candidates belonging to the Third gender category are eligible to draw the same relaxation in fee, age and Eligibility Criteria for NET (i.e. JRF and Assistant Professor) as are available to SC/ST/PwD/PwBD categories. The subject-wise qualifying cut-offs for this category would be the lowest among those for SC / ST / PwD/PwBD / OBC-NCL / General-EWS categories in the corresponding subject.
- (d) The Ph.D. degree holders whose Master's level examination have been completed by 19 September 1991 (irrespective of date of declaration of result) shall be eligible for a relaxation of 5% in aggregate marks (i.e. from 55% to 50%) for appearing in NET. The list of Post-Graduation courses and their codes is given at **Appendix-V**.



- (e) Candidates are advised to appear in the subject of their Post-Graduation only. The candidates whose Post Graduation subject is not covered in the list of NET subjects attached as Appendix-II, may appear in a related subject.
- (f) The candidates having passed a 4-year/8-semester bachelor's degree programme should have a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade on a point scale wherever the grading system is followed. A relaxation of 5% marks or its equivalent grade may be allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/Differently-Abled, Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and other categories of candidates as per the decision of the Commission from time to time (refer to University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022 https://www.ugc.gov.in/pdfnews/0909572_Minimum-Standards-and-Procedure-for-Award-of-PhD-Degree.pdf)

The candidates qualifying in the NET, based on a four-year undergraduate degree, will be eligible for the award of the Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and for admission to the Ph.D.

The candidates qualifying in the NET, based on a four-year undergraduate degree, will not be eligible for appointment as Assistant Professor.

- (g) The candidates who are pursuing Four Year/8 Semester Bachelor's Degree Programme and are in their last semester/year may also apply for the test. However, such candidates will be admitted provisionally and shall be considered eligible for the award of JRF/admission to Ph.D. only after fulfilling the requirements contained in the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022 within two years (if qualified for award of JRF)/within one year (if qualified for admission to Ph.D. only) from the date of declaration of the NET result, failing which they shall be treated as disqualified.
- (h) The candidates with a Four-Year Bachelor's Degree Programme are allowed to appear in a subject (the List of Subjects and their Codes for UGC-NET June 2026 are given at Appendix-II) in which they want to pursue a Ph.D. irrespective of the discipline in which they have obtained the four-year bachelor's degree.
- (i) Candidates are neither required to send any certificates/documents in support of their eligibility nor printout of their Application Form or Confirmation Page to NTA. However, the candidates, in their own interest, must ensure themselves about their eligibility for the test. In the event of any ineligibility being detected by the UGC/NTA at any stage, their candidature will be cancelled, and they shall be liable for legal action. NTA does not verify the information provided by the candidates during online registration and hence candidature will be purely provisional subject to the fulfillment of eligibility criteria.



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- (j) Candidates holding a foreign qualification are advised, in their own interest, to obtain equivalence of their qualification from the University Grants Commission (UGC).

Attention is invited to the University Grants Commission (Recognition and Grant of Equivalence to Qualifications Obtained from Foreign Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2025 published in the Gazette of India on 04th April, 2025. For more clarification candidates are requested contact NET Bureau.

The Candidates with Post-Graduate diploma awarded by an Indian Institute should in their own interest, ascertain the equivalence of their diploma with Master's degree of recognized Indian Universities from Association of Indian Universities (AIU).

3.2 Instructions

- (i) The eligibility in NET will depend on the performance of the candidate in both the sections of UGC-NET in aggregate. However, the candidates qualifying exclusively for 'Assistant Professor and admission to Ph.D.' or for 'admission to Ph.D. only' will not be considered for the award of JRF. Candidates appearing in UGC-NET should thoughtfully select the various options available in the Application Form.

Candidates who qualify the Test for eligibility for Assistant Professor will be governed by the rules and regulations for recruitment of Assistant Professor of the concerned Universities / Colleges/ State governments, as the case may be.

- (ii) The candidates who qualify for the award of JRF are eligible to pursue research in the subject of their post-graduation or in a related subject and are also eligible for Assistant Professor. The universities, institutions, IITs and other national organizations may select the JRF awardees for full time research work in accordance with the procedure prescribed by them.

- (iii) Junior Research Fellowship: Candidates qualifying for the award of JRF will be eligible to receive fellowship of UGC under various schemes, subject to their finding placement in universities/IITs/Institutions. The validity period of the offer will be three years w.e.f. the date of issue of JRF Award Letter. However, for those candidates who have already joined Ph.D., the date of commencement of Fellowship shall be from the date of declaration of NET result or date of their joining, whichever is later.

- (iv) The National Fellowship for Scheduled Caste Students (NFSC) and National Fellowship for Other Backward Classes (NFOBC) shall be governed by the guidelines available on the official websites of the concerned Ministries.

3.3 Exemption (Eligibility for Assistant Professor)

- (i) NET/SET/SLET shall remain the minimum eligibility condition for recruitment and appointment of Assistant Professors in Universities/Colleges/ Institutions. In this regard, exemption from



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NET/SET/SLET will be governed by UGC regulations and amendments notified in the Gazette of India from time to time.

- (ii) The candidates who have passed the UGC/CSIR/ JRF examination prior to 1989 are also exempted from appearing in NET.
- (iii) For SET Candidates: The candidates who have cleared the States Eligibility Test (SET) accredited by UGC for Assistant Professor held prior to 01st June 2002, are exempted from appearing in NET, and are eligible to apply for Assistant Professor anywhere in India. For SET held from 1st June 2002 onwards, the qualified candidates are eligible to apply for the post of Assistant Professor only in the universities/colleges situated in the State from where they have cleared their SET.

3.4 Age Limit and Relaxation

- (i) **JRF: Not more than 30 years as on 01st day of the month in which the examination is concluded i.e. 01.06.2026.**
 - a) A relaxation of upto 5 years is provided to the candidates belonging to OBC-NCL (as per the Central list of OBC available on website: www.ncbc.nic.in) /SC/ST/PwD/PwBD/Third gender categories and to women applicants.
 - b) Relaxation will also be provided to the candidates with research experience, limited to the period spent on research in the relevant / related subject of post-graduation degree, subject to a maximum of 5 years, on production of a certificate from appropriate authority, which should be a recognized Indian university / Institute of National Importance / foreign university which is duly approved / recognized / accredited in its own Country / Public Sector Undertaking of Government of India / State Government in India. The research should not have been carried out towards completion of graduation or post-graduation degree(s).
 - c) Three years' relaxation in age will be permissible to the candidates with L.L.M. degree. A relaxation of upto 5 years is provided to the candidates who have served in the armed forces subject to the length of service in the armed forces upto the first day of the month in which the concerned UGC-NET is, conducted, **i.e., 01.06.2026**. Total age relaxation on the above ground(s) shall not exceed five years under any circumstances.
- (ii) **Assistant Professor:** There is no upper age limit in applying for UGC-NET for Assistant Professor.
- (iii) **Admission to PhD:** There is no upper age limit in applying for UGC-NET for Admission to PhD.



CHAPTER-4

[RESERVATIONS]



4. Reservations

4.1 Reservation Policy of the Government of India is applicable to UGC-NET According to this, in the Central Universities and Institutions which are deemed to be Universities, the reservation of seats shall be as follows:

- 15%** of the seats for Scheduled Caste (SC) candidates.
- 7.5%** of seats Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidates.
- 27%** of the seats for Other Backward Classes (OBC) Non-Creamy Layer (NCL) candidates as per the Central List*
- 10%** of the seats for **General-Economically Weaker Sections (General- EWS)** candidates.
- 05%** of the seats in the above-mentioned categories for **Persons with Benchmark Disability (PwBD)** with 40% or more disability.

Notes:

- The benefit of reservation for admission to Central Educational Institutions (CEIs) shall be given only to those classes/castes/tribes which are in the respective Central List published by the Government of India from time to time.
- Other Backward Classes - Non-Creamy Layer (OBC-NCL) are as per the Central list of Other Backward Classes available on National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), Government of India website www.ncbc.nic.in. Thus, the candidates falling in this list may mention OBC in the Category Column. State list OBC Candidates who are not in OBC-NCL (Central List) must not choose OBC-NCL.
- Economically Weaker Section (EWS) - This provision would be regulated as per the OM No. 20013/01/2018-BC-II dated January 17, 2019 issued by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the OM No. 12-4/2019-U1 dated 17.01.2019 as well as the Letters No 35-2/2019-T.S.I dated 21.01.2019, 01.02.2019, 04.02.2019 and 15.02.2019 of MHRD Department of Higher Education regarding implementation of reservation for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) for admission in Central Educational Institutions (CEIs).

4.2 Provisions relating to Persons with Disability (PwD)/ Persons with Benchmark Disability (PwBD):

4.2.1 The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016:

The Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part-II Section 1, Ministry of Law and Justice (Legislative Department) New Delhi dated 28 December 2016 on “The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016. The relevant paragraphs of the above Gazette Notification from chapter 1 for consideration are as under:

Para 2 (r) “person with benchmark disability” means a person with **not less than forty percent** of a specified disability where specified disability has not been defined in measurable terms and includes a person with disability where specified disability has been defined in measurable terms, as certified by the certifying authority;

Para 2 (s) “person with disability” means a person with long term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairment which, in interaction with barriers, hinders his full and effective participation in society equally with others;

Para 2 (zc) “specified disability” means the disabilities as specified in the Schedule; (Appendix - X)(<https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3e58aea67b01fa747687f038dfde066f6/uploads/2023/10/202310161053958942.pdf>)



4.2.2 Office Memorandum dated 29 August 2018:

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India, Office Memorandum No. F. No. 34-02/2015-DD-III dated 29 August 2018 for conducting written examination for persons with specified disabilities covered under the definition of Section 2(r) of the RPwD Act, 2016. The relevant paragraphs of the above Office Memorandum for consideration are as under: -

Para IV. The facility of Scribe/Reader/Lab Assistant should be allowed to any person with benchmark disability as defined under section 2(r) of the RPwD Act, 2016 and has limitation in writing including that of speed if so desired by him/her.

In case of persons with benchmark disabilities in the category of blindness, locomotor disability (both arms affected-BA) and cerebral palsy, the facility of scribe/reader/lab assistant shall be given, if so desired by the person.

In case of other category of persons with benchmark disabilities, the provision of scribe/reader/lab assistant can be allowed on production of a certificate to the effect that person concerned has physical limitation to write, and scribe is essential to write examination on his behalf, from the Chief Medical Officer/Civil Surgeon/Medical Superintendent of a Government health care institution as per proforma at Annexure-I.

In case the candidate is allowed to bring his own scribe, the qualification of the scribe should be one step below the qualification of the candidate taking examination. The person opting for own scribe should submit details of the own scribe as per proforma at Annexure-II.

4.2.3 Office Memorandum dated 10 August 2022:

Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt. of India, Office Memorandum No F. No. 29- 6/2019-DD-III dated 10 August 2022 for conducting written examination for persons with specified disabilities covered under the definition of Section 2(s) of the RPwD Act, 2016 but not covered under the definition of Section 2(r) of the said Act, i.e. person having less than 40% disability and having difficulty in writing. The relevant paragraphs of the above Office Memorandum for consideration are as under: -

Para 3 (b). The facility of scribe and/or compensatory time shall be granted solely to those having difficulty in writing subject to production of a certificate to the effect that person concerned has limitation to write and that scribe is essential to write examination on his/her behalf from the competent medical authority of a Government healthcare institution as per proforma at Annexure- III.

Para 3 (c). The medical authority for the purpose of certification as mentioned above should be a multi-member authority comprising the following: -

- i. Chief Medical officer/Civil Surgeon /Chief District Medical Officer, Chairperson
- ii. Orthopaedic/PMR specialist
- iii. Neurologist, if available*



- iv. Clinical Psychologist/Rehabilitation Psychologist/ Psychiatrist/Special Educator
- v. Occupational therapist, if available*
- vi. Any other expert based on the condition of the candidate as may be nominated by the Chairperson.

(* the Chief Medical Officer/Civil Surgeon/Chief District Medical Officer may make full efforts for inclusion of neurologists, occupational therapist from the nearest District or the Medical College/Institute, if the same is not available in the District)”

The candidate should fill up the details of scribe as per undertaking proforma at Annexure-IV.

4.2.4 Scribe and Compensatory Time

1. The candidate should have the discretion of opting for his own scribe / reader / lab assistant or request the Examination Body for the same. The examining body may also identify the scribe / reader / lab assistant to make panels at the District / Division / State level as per the requirements of the examination. In such instances the candidates should be allowed to meet the scribe two days before the examinations so that the candidates get a chance to check and verify whether the scribe is suitable or not.
2. Compensatory time and the same should not be less than 20 minutes per hour of examination for persons who are allowed use of scribe / reader / lab assistant. All the candidates with benchmark disabilities who are eligible for availing the facility of scribe in terms of guidelines vide para IV of Para 2.2.2 above may be allowed additional time of minimum of one hour for examination of 3 hours duration whether they use the facility of scribe or not. In case the duration of the examination is less than an hour, then the duration of additional time should be allowed on pro-rata basis. Additional time should not be less than 5 minutes and should be in the multiple of 5”.

Note-Both the guidelines i.e. dated 29 August 2018 (for PwBDs) and dated 10 August 2022 (for PwDs) have other important aspects such as allowing use of assistive devices, proper seating arrangement, accessibility of examination centres etc. which will be followed.

The scribe will help the Candidate in reading the questions and / or keying in the answers as per the directions of the Candidate. A scribe will NEITHER explain the questions NOR suggest any solution to the Candidate.

It is to be noted that the Scribe will be provided by the National Testing Agency (NTA), if requested by the Candidate.

If it is found at any stage that a candidate has availed the services of a scribe and/or availed the compensatory time but does not possess the extent of disability that warrants the use of a scribe and/or grant of compensatory time, the candidate will be excluded from the process of evaluation, ranking.



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Note-1: The NTA does not guarantee any change in the category or sub-category (PwD/PwBD status) after the submission of the Online Application Form, and in any case, no change will be entertained by NTA after the declaration of NTA Result for UGC-NET June 2026. Therefore, the candidates are advised to fill in the category/sub-category column very carefully.

Note-2: The extent of “specified disability” in a person shall be assessed in accordance with the “Guidelines for the purpose of assessing the extent of specified disability in a person included under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016.

Note-3: Candidates must note that the benefit of reservation will be given to them subject to verification of documents. If it is discovered at any stage that a candidate has used a false/fake/incorrect document or has furnished false, incorrect or incomplete information, in order to avail the benefit of reservation, then such a candidate shall be excluded from all examination process.