



University Grants Commission - National Eligibility Test June 2024

Introduction

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.

2. About University Grants Commission (UGC)

The University Grant 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, 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.

3. University Grants Commission - National Eligibility Test (UGC - NET)

3.1 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.

- 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 result of NET will be declared in percentile along with the marks obtained by a candidate to utilize the marks for admission to Ph.D.
 - The number of candidates who will be qualified for 'admission to the Ph.D. only' will be decided by the results committee.
- 3.2 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)



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- National Fellowship for Other Backward Classes (NFOBC)
- National Fellowship for Persons with Disabilities (NFPwD)

Candidates aspiring for the Fellowships listed above, shall also have to apply for the Test.

4. UGC - NET June 2024

The UGC - NET June 2024 will be conducted in OMR Based mode as per the time schedule specified in the Information at a glance, in the Subjects given at **Appendix -II** in selected Cities spread across the Country (**Appendix -VII**).

4.1 Mode of Examination

The Examination shall be conducted in OMR Based mode only.

4.2 Pattern of Examination

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

Paper	Marks	Number of Questions	MCQ	Total duration
I	100	50	The questions in Paper 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.	

4.3 Subject and Syllabus of Test

The List of Subjects and their Codes for UGC - NET June 2024 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.**

4.4 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.**

4.5 Marking Scheme

- Each question carries 02 (two) marks.
- For each correct response, candidate will get 02 (two) marks.
- There is no negative marking for incorrect response.
- No marks will be given for questions un-answered/un-attempted/ marked for Review.
- To answer a question, the candidate needs to choose one option as correct option.
- If a question is found to be incorrect/ambiguous or has multiple correct answers, only those candidates who have attempted the question and chosen one of the correct answers would be given the credit.
- If a question is found to be incorrect and the 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.

5. Eligibility Criteria for UGC - NET June 2024

5.1 Qualifying Examination:

- 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 -III**. The Other Backward Classes (OBC) belonging to Non-Creamy Layer/Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST)/Persons with Disability (PwD)/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.
- 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 / 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.



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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 categories. The subject-wise qualifying cut-offs for this category would be the lowest among those for SC / ST / PwD / OBC-NCL / General-EWS categories in the corresponding subject.
- (d) The Ph.D. degree holders whose Master's level examinations 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 -IV**.
- (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) 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.
- (g) Candidates with post-graduate diploma/certificate awarded by Indian University/ Institute or foreign degree/diploma/certificate awarded by the foreign University/ institute should in their own interest, ascertain the equivalence of their diploma/degree/ certificate with Master's degree of recognized Indian universities from Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi (www.aiu.ac.in) and for the Law students, they have to ascertain their equivalence from Bar council of India.
- (h) 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.
- (i) 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.
- (j) 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 2024 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.

5.2 Instructions

- (i) The eligibility in NET will depend on the performance of the candidate in both the papers 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.



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5.3 Exemption (Eligibility for Assistant Professor)

- 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 NET/SET/SLET will be governed by UGC regulations and amendments notified in the Gazette of India from time to time.
- The candidates who have passed the UGC/CSIR/ JRF examination prior to 1989 are also exempted from appearing in NET.
- 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.

5.4 Age Limit and Relaxation

- JRF: Not more than 30 years as on 01st day of the month in which the examination is concluded i.e. 01.06.2024.**
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/Third gender categories and to women applicants. 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). 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., 01.06.2024. Total age relaxation on the above ground(s) shall not exceed five years under any circumstances.
- Assistant Professor:** There is no upper age limit in applying for UGC-NET for Assistant Professor.
- Admission to PhD:** There is no upper age limit in applying for UGC-NET for Admission to PhD.

6. Reservations

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 Disabilities (PwD) 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).

7. Provisions relating to Persons with Disability (PwD)

- Guidelines for conducting written examination for Persons with Benchmark Disabilities above 40% vide letter dated 29 August 2018 from Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**

Provisions relating to Persons with Disability (PwD):

As per Section 2(t) of the RPwD Act, "Persons with Disability (PwD)" 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.

According to Section 2(r) of the RPwD Act, 2016, "persons with benchmark disabilities" means a person with not less than forty percent (40%) 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.

Facilities for PwD candidates to appear in the exam.

As per the guidelines issued by the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan) under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment issued from time to time on the subject: "Written Examination for Persons with Benchmark