

SELECTION POLICY AND BUSINESS RULES FOR ADMISSION 2026–2027 (B SDS)

The Indian Statistical Institute offers several academic programmes. Details about these programmes, along with the category-wise intake capacity, can be found on the online portal:

<https://admission.isical.ac.in/>.

The business rules stated herein will be followed in the academic year 2026–27 for allocating seats for the B SDS programme.

Admission to the B SDS programme will be based on performance in one or more of the following national examinations:

- JEE Main 2026
- CUET (UG) 2026 (Mathematics as well as English)
- JEE Main 2025
- CUET (UG) 2025 (Mathematics as well as English)

At the time of application, candidates must submit *application numbers* for one or more of these national examinations. All applicants for whom at least one score is available by a specified deadline (30 June, 2026) and at least one of the available scores exceeds a minimum cutoff will be placed on one or more Merit Lists as per their category (see Section 3).

Seats are allocated to candidates considering the following factors:

- (i) The category [GEN, OBC-NCL, SC, ST, PwBD, EWS] of the candidate.
- (ii) The position of the candidate in Merit List(s).
- (iii) Availability of seats at different centres of the Institute.
- (iv) Other business rules as mentioned in this document.

1 Ranking of Candidates

The position of an applicant in the Merit List(s) is based on a *composite score* Q derived from their performance in the national examinations mentioned above for which the candidate has specified an *application number*, and whose scores are available by the specified deadline. For two or more applicants with the same composite score Q , their relative position will be determined according to *tie-breaking criteria* T_1 and T_2 .

1. The composite score Q is the maximum of the available percentiles for Mathematics in JEE Main 2026, CUET (UG) 2026, JEE Main 2025, and CUET (UG) 2025. If none of these percentiles are available, then Q is invalid.
2. The first tie-breaker T_1 is calculated as follows:
 - If Q equals the candidate's JEE 2026 Mathematics percentile, then T_1 is their JEE 2026 total percentile.
 - Otherwise, if Q equals the candidate's CUET (UG) 2026 Mathematics percentile, then T_1 is their CUET (UG) 2026 English percentile.
 - Otherwise, if Q equals the candidate's JEE 2025 Mathematics percentile, then T_1 is their JEE 2025 total percentile.
 - Otherwise, if Q equals the candidate's CUET (UG) 2025 Mathematics percentile, then T_1 is their CUET (UG) 2025 English percentile.
3. The second tie-breaker T_2 is the age of the candidate in days as on May 31, 2026.
4. Candidates are placed in the Merit List according to Q (candidates with higher values of Q will be placed higher on the Merit List).
5. For two or more applicants with the same composite score Q , their relative position in the Merit List will be determined according to T_1 (candidates with higher values of T_1 will be placed higher on the Merit List).
6. For two or more applicants with the same values of Q as well as T_1 , their relative position in the Merit List will be determined according to T_2 (candidates with lower values of T_2 will be placed higher on the Merit List).

2 Categories of Candidates

For the purpose of admission, all candidates with a valid composite score Q will be partitioned into different categories based on (birth) categories, presence or absence of disability, and nationality. On the basis of such a partition, each candidate is assigned a category tag as given below.

- GEN: This tag is assigned to Indian nationals who do NOT belong to EWS, OBC-NCL, SC or ST category (or who fail to produce valid EWS, OBC-NCL, SC or ST certificate) and are NOT Persons with Benchmark Disabilities.
- GEN-PwBD: This tag is assigned to Indian nationals who do NOT belong to EWS, OBC-NCL, SC or ST category (or who fail to produce valid EWS, OBC-NCL, SC or ST certificate) and are Persons with Benchmark Disabilities. Candidates must produce a valid PwBD certificate to be assigned this tag.
- GEN-EWS: This tag is assigned to Indian nationals of General category belonging to Economically Weaker Section (EWS) as defined in [Order No.36039/1/2019-Estt \(Res\)](#), Government of India, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Personnel & Training, and are NOT Persons with Benchmark Disabilities. Candidate must produce a valid GEN-EWS certificate to be assigned this tag.
- GEN-EWS-PwBD: This tag is assigned to Indian nationals of GEN-PwBD category belonging to Economically Weaker Section (EWS) as defined in [Order No.36039/1/2019-Estt \(Res\)](#), Government of India, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Personnel & Training, and are Persons with Benchmark Disabilities. Candidates must produce valid GEN-EWS and PwBD certificates to be assigned this tag. Thus, candidates belonging to the economically-weaker sections of the general category are divided into two mutually exclusive categories and are assigned either one of the tags GEN-EWS or GEN-EWS-PwBD.
- OBC-NCL: This tag is assigned to Indian nationals who belong to the Non-Creamy Layer of Other Backward Classes and are NOT Persons with Benchmark Disabilities. Candidates must produce a valid OBC-NCL certificate to be assigned this tag. The backward class must be in the Central List of OBCs.
- OBC-NCL-PwBD: This tag is assigned to Indian nationals who belong to the Non-Creamy Layer of Other Backward Classes and are Persons with Benchmark Disabilities. Candidates must produce valid OBC-NCL and PwBD certificates to be assigned this tag. The backward class must be in the Central List of OBCs. Thus, candidates belonging to the Non-Creamy Layer of Other Backward Classes are divided into two mutually exclusive categories and are assigned either one of the tags OBC-NCL or OBC-NCL-PwBD.
- SC: This tag is assigned to Indian nationals who belong to Scheduled Castes and are NOT Persons with Benchmark Disabilities. Candidates must produce a valid SC certificate to be assigned this tag.
- SC-PwBD: This tag is assigned to Indian nationals who belong to Scheduled Castes and are Persons with Benchmark Disabilities. Candidates must produce valid SC and PwBD certificates to be assigned this tag. Thus, candidates belonging to the scheduled castes are divided into two mutually exclusive categories and are assigned either one of the tags SC or SC-PwBD.

ST: This tag is assigned to Indian nationals who belong to Scheduled Tribes and are NOT Persons with Benchmark Disabilities. Candidates must produce a valid ST certificate to be assigned this tag.

ST-PwBD: This tag is assigned to Indian nationals who belong to Scheduled Tribes and are Persons with Benchmark Disabilities. Candidates must produce valid ST and PwBD certificates to be assigned this tag. Thus, candidates belonging to the scheduled tribes are divided into two mutually exclusive categories and are assigned either one of the tags ST or ST-PwBD.

3 Merit lists

The following Merit Lists will be prepared for admission to the B SDS programme, according to the procedure described in Section 1. Only those candidates will be placed on the merit list whose composite score Q exceeds 85 (80 for OBC-NCL and 75 for SC, ST, and PwBD candidates).

- (i) GEN merit list : It includes all candidates who have obtained a valid composite score Q , and Q exceeds 85.
- (ii) GEN-EWS merit list : It includes candidates who are assigned the tag GEN-EWS or GEN-EWS-PwBD, have obtained a valid composite score Q , and Q exceeds 85.
- (iii) OBC-NCL merit list: It includes candidates who are assigned the tag OBC-NCL or OBC-NCL-PwBD, have obtained a valid composite score Q , and Q exceeds 80.
- (iv) SC merit list: It includes candidates who are assigned the tag SC or SC-PwBD, have obtained a valid composite score Q , and Q exceeds 75.
- (v) ST merit list: It includes candidates who are assigned the tag ST or ST-PwBD, have obtained a valid composite score Q , and Q exceeds 75.
- (vi) GEN-PwBD merit list: It includes candidates who are assigned the tag GEN-PwBD, GEN-EWS-PwBD, OBC-NCL-PwBD, SC-PwBD, or ST-PwBD, have obtained a valid composite score Q , and Q exceeds 75.

4 Seat Categories

The total intake for the B SDS programme is divided into different seat categories. These are GEN, GEN-EWS, OBC-NCL, SC, ST, GEN-PwBD. The category tags of candidates who are eligible for various seat categories are as shown in the following table.

Seat category	Category tag(s) of eligible candidates
GEN	GEN, OBC-NCL, SC, ST, GEN-PwBD, OBC-NCL-PwBD, SC-PwBD, ST-PwBD, GEN-EWS, GEN-EWS-PwBD
GEN-EWS	GEN-EWS and GEN-EWS-PwBD
OBC-NCL	OBC-NCL and OBC-NCL-PwBD
SC	SC and SC-PwBD
ST	ST and ST-PwBD
GEN-PwBD	GEN-PwBD, OBC-NCL-PwBD, SC-PwBD, ST-PwBD, GEN-EWS-PwBD

5 Allocation of Seats for Seat Categories

1. The following table shows the business rules for seat allocation for the B SDS programme.

Sl. No.	Candidate's category tag	Merit list(s) in which the candidate appears	Sequence of SEAT CATEGORIES for allocation
1	GEN	GEN	1. GEN
2	GEN-PwBD	GEN GEN-PwBD	1. GEN 2. GEN-PwBD
3	GEN-PwBD	GEN-PwBD	1. GEN-PwBD
4	GEN-EWS	GEN GEN-EWS	1. GEN 2. GEN-EWS
5	GEN-EWS-PwBD	GEN GEN-PwBD GEN-EWS	1. GEN 2. GEN-PwBD 3. GEN-EWS
6	GEN-EWS-PwBD	GEN-PwBD	1. GEN-PwBD
7	OBC-NCL	GEN OBC-NCL	1. GEN 2. OBC-NCL
8	OBC-NCL	OBC-NCL	1. OBC-NCL
9	OBC-NCL-PwBD	GEN GEN-PwBD OBC-NCL	1. GEN 2. GEN-PwBD 3. OBC-NCL
10	OBC-NCL-PwBD	GEN-PwBD OBC-NCL	1. GEN-PwBD 2. OBC-NCL
11	OBC-NCL-PwBD	GEN-PwBD	1. GEN-PwBD
12	SC	GEN SC	1. GEN 2. SC
13	SC	SC	1. SC
14	SC-PwBD	GEN GEN-PwBD SC	1. GEN 2. GEN-PwBD 3. SC
15	SC-PwBD	GEN-PwBD SC	1. GEN-PwBD 2. SC

Sl. No.	Candidate's category tag	Merit list(s) in which the candidate appears	Sequence of SEAT CATEGORIES for allocation
16	ST	GEN ST	1. GEN 2. ST
17	ST	ST	1. ST
18	ST-PwBD	GEN GEN-PwBD ST	1. GEN 2. GEN-PwBD 3. ST
19	ST-PwBD	GEN-PwBD ST	1. GEN-PwBD 2. ST

2. As indicated in the foregoing table, candidates may become eligible for seat allocation in more than one seat category depending upon their category tag and merit lists in which they appear. If the seat allocated to a candidate is not in the topmost category listed in the last column of the above table, in subsequent rounds of seat allocation, the candidate will be automatically considered for upgradation of seat category. Similarly, if the seat allocated to a candidate is not at the location of their first preference, then in subsequent rounds of seat allocation, the candidate will be automatically considered for upgradation of allocated location.

Meaning of upgradation of seat category. Consider a candidate with the category tag SC, who appears in two merit lists: GEN and SC. Suppose the candidate has been allocated a seat under the seat category SC. For this candidate, in subsequent rounds of seat allocation, an attempt will be made to offer a seat in the seat category GEN.

Meaning of upgradation of location. Suppose a candidate has been allocated a seat in a location of their second preference. For this candidate, in subsequent rounds of seat allocation, an attempt will be made to offer a seat in the location of their first preference.

3. If there are less number of seats available under a particular category than the number of candidates with the same category-wise rank seeking admission, then all those candidates will be offered seats by creating requisite number of supernumerary seats.
4. Seats in different centres are allocated according to the following rules.
- Step 1: Candidates admitted through the general merit list are tentatively allocated to the centres as per the general merit list,
 - Step 2: Allocation of centre for the reserved category candidates are finalized according to the merit list of the relevant category.
5. Rules for de-reservation of seats are as follows.
- (a) If the number of seats in GEN-PwBD category in any particular round of seat allocation is greater than the number of candidates in the GEN-PwBD list then the difference will be de-reserved and treated as GEN category seats.
 - (b) If the number of seats in OBC-NCL category in any particular round of seat allocation is greater than the number of candidates in the OBC-NCL list then the difference will be de-reserved as GEN category seats.

- (c) If the number of seats in SC category in any particular round of seat allocation is greater than the number of candidates in the SC list, unfilled SC seats will be open to ST category candidates. Similarly, if the number of seats in ST category in any particular round of seat allocation is greater than the number of candidates in the ST list, unfilled ST seats will be open to SC category candidates. However, unfilled SC and ST category seats will NOT be de-reserved as GEN seats.
- (d) If the number of seats in GEN-EWS category in any particular round of seat allocation is greater than the number of candidates in the GEN-EWS list then the difference will NOT be de-reserved.

6 Admission Procedure

6.1 Provisional Allocation of Seats

1. From the merit list(s) and the sequencing order specified in Section 5, provisional allocation of seats will be made to eligible candidates. In each round, each candidate on the merit list(s) will either be allocated a provisional seat or put on the wait list. If a candidate accepts the offer of a provisional seat in a location other than their first preference, they will still be considered for upgradation of their allocated location in subsequent rounds.
2. Candidates will be given a time window in each round to fill-in their options:
 - (a) If a candidate is offered a provisional seat, then the candidate has the option of accepting or declining the provisional seat.
 - (b) While accepting the provisional seat offer, a candidate will be required to pay a 'Seat Acceptance Deposit'.
 - (c) If a candidate is offered a position on the wait list, then the candidate has the option of accepting or declining to remain on the wait list.
 - (d) Filling-in of options on the online portal for waitlisted candidates is free of cost, i.e., candidates who are waitlisted are NOT required to pay any deposit while accepting the offer.
 - (e) Any candidate on the merit list(s) who does not fill in the option within the given time limit will be assumed to have declined the respective option.
 - (f) In the first round of seat allocation, while accepting the provisional seat or accepting a wait list offer, a candidate will have to complete registration formalities. In subsequent rounds, if the offer changes, candidates will have to accept/decline the option again.
 - (g) A candidate who has declined a provisional seat offer or wait list offer at any round is NOT considered for the rest of the admission process.
 - (h) Candidates will NOT be able to change their options once submitted in any specific round.

6.2 Provisional Seats to Confirmation of Admission

1. A candidate who accepts a provisional seat offer will be able to download a *Provisional Seat Allocation Letter* which will specify date of reporting, reporting centre and financial fee details.
2. Candidates who have accepted a provisional seat should report at a Reporting Center for document verification on the specified date.
3. If a candidate accepts a provisional seat then the candidate's admission will be confirmed by the Reporting Centre after verification of the original documents and ensuring that the candidate meets all the eligibility norms. Failure to report in person for seat acceptance will be considered as if the candidate has declined the provisional seat offer.

7 Miscellaneous

1. Mismatches between the personal information submitted in the Application Portal and the personal information associated with *application numbers* for JEE Main and/or CUET (UG) may lead to the cancellation of an application.
2. The deadline for availability of scores of national examinations considered for calculation of the composite score Q may be extended. Any such change will be notified on the website

<https://admission.isical.ac.in/>.

The decisions taken in this regard shall be final and binding.

3. Delays or disruptions in service due to breakdown of admission portals/computer servers (due to reasons beyond control) shall be rectified as early as possible and notified on the website

<https://admission.isical.ac.in/>.

The decisions taken in this regard shall be final and binding.

4. The admission process for a programme will close when all scheduled physical admissions and spot admissions (if any) are completed.