

## BUSINESS RULES FOR ADMISSION 2026-2027 (ALL JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMES)

Indian Statistical Institute offers several academic programmes for which admission is offered on the basis of the written test(s) and interview.

The different Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) programmes offered by the institute and 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 JRF programmes. Seats are allocated to candidates considering the following factors:

- (i) The category [GEN, OBC-NCL, SC, ST, PwBD, GEN-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 Categories of Candidates

For the purpose of admission, all candidates who qualify after Interview should 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 GEN-EWS, OBC-NCL, SC or ST category (or who fail to produce valid GEN-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 GEN-EWS, OBC-NCL, SC or ST category (or who fail to produce valid GEN-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 (GEN-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 (GEN-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.

## 2 Preparation of Merit Lists for JRF Programmes in Statistics, Mathematics, Quantitative Economics and Computer Science

### 2.1 Merit List(s)

Merit lists for admission to each programme mentioned above will be prepared based on the qualifying score of candidates in Written test I and Written Test II (if applicable), and Interview. The following merit lists will be prepared:

- (i) GEN merit list : It includes candidates who are assigned the tag GEN, GEN-PwBD, GEN-EWS, GEN-EWS-PwBD, OBC-NCL, OBC-NCL-PwBD, SC, SC-PwBD, ST or ST-PwBD and have obtained a score greater than or equal to the general qualifying score.
- (ii) GEN-EWS merit list : It includes candidates who are assigned the tag GEN-EWS or GEN-EWS-PwBD and have obtained a score greater than or equal to the GEN qualifying score.
- (iii) OBC-NCL merit list: It includes candidates who are assigned the tag OBC-NCL or OBC-NCL-PwBD and have obtained a score greater than or equal to the OBC qualifying score.
- (iv) SC merit list: It includes candidates who are assigned the tag SC or SC-PwBD and have obtained a score greater than or equal to the SC qualifying score.
- (v) ST merit list: It includes candidates who are assigned the tag ST or ST-PwBD and have obtained a score greater than or equal to the ST qualifying score.
- (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 and have obtained a score greater than or equal to the PwBD qualifying score.

### 2.2 Categories of Seats

The total intake for an academic 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

### 2.3 Procedure of Seat Allocation

1. The following table shows the business rules of seat allocation for JRF programmes in Statistics, Mathematics, Quantitative Economics and Computer Science.

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
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 or allocated location (if applicable).

*Meaning of upgradation of seat category.* Suppose a candidate with the category tag SC has been allocated a seat under the seat category SC. Also, suppose that this candidate appears in two merit lists: GEN and 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. While allocating locations to selected candidates in a particular category merit list of a multi-location programme, their respective ranks in that merit list will be considered.
4. If there are less number of seats available under a particular category in an academic programme than the number of candidates with the same category-wise rank seeking admission to the programme, then all those candidates will be offered seats by creating requisite number of supernumerary seats.
5. Rules for de-reservation of seats are as follows.
  - (a) 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 and treated as GEN category seats for allocation in every round of seat allocation.
  - (b) 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 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.

The process laid out in Section 4 will be carried out to complete the admission process.

### 3 Preparation of Merit lists for Other JRF programmes

Merit lists for admission to JRF programmes will be prepared based on the qualifying score of candidates in Written test I, Written Test II and Interview. This will also take into account the categories of the candidates.

One single Merit List will be generated for each programme from the **Final Score Sheet** of scores obtained by the candidates shortlisted after the interview (see [Selection Policy](#)).

Each candidate appearing in the Final Score Sheet will get a place in the Merit List. The position of the candidate in the Merit List will be determined by his/her score in the Final Score Sheet and the category tag as described below.

The score of a candidate will be multiplied by an appropriate factor before the candidate is placed in the merit list (see the table below for the multiplying factor).

Sl. No.	Candidate's category tag	Multiplying factor
1	GEN	1
2	GEN-PwBD	10/7
3	GEN-EWS	1
4	GEN-EWS-PwBD	10/7
5	OBC-NCL	10/9
6	OBC-NCL-PwBD	10/7
7	SC	10/7
8	SC-PwBD	10/7
9	ST	10/7
10	ST-PwBD	10/7

For an example, if the score of a candidate in the Final Score Sheet is  $s$  and the candidate has the tag Gen-PwBD, then the multiplying factor applicable to the candidate would be 10/7. The candidate would be assigned a score of  $10 * s / 7$  and will be placed in the Merit List accordingly. Candidates seeking admission to a JRF programme will be offered seats sequentially from the prepared Merit List. If there are less number of seats available under a particular category in an academic programme than the number of candidates with the same rank seeking admission to the programme, then all those candidates will be offered seats by creating requisite number of supernumerary seats.

The process laid out in Section 4 will be carried out to complete the admission process.

## 4 Merit List to Admission for Academic programmes

### 4.1 Provisional allocation of Seats

- From the merit list(s) and the sequencing order specified in Sections 3 and 2.3 respectively, provisional allocation of seats will be given to eligible candidates for each program. In each round, each candidate on the merit list(s) will either be allocated a provisional seat in the respective programme or put on the wait list. If a candidate accepts the offer of a provisional seat in the location of their second preference, they will still be considered for upgradation of their allocated location in subsequent rounds.
- Candidates are given a 2-3 day window in each round to fill-in their options:
  - If a candidate is offered a provisional seat then the candidate has the option of accepting or declining the provisional seat.
  - While accepting the provisional seat offer, a candidate will be required to pay a 'Seat Acceptance Deposit' (refundable).
  - If a candidate is offered a position on wait list for a seat then the candidate has the option of accepting or declining to remain on the wait list.
  - Any candidate on the merit list(s) who does not fill in the option by the 2-3 day window will be assumed to have declined the respective option.

- (e) In the first round of seat allocation, while accepting the provisional seat or accepting a wait list offer, the candidate will have to complete registration formalities for confirmation of choice. In subsequent rounds, a candidate will have to accept/decline the option if the offer changes.
- (f) 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. Candidates will NOT be able to change this option.

#### 4.2 Provisional Seats to Confirmation of Admission

1. A candidate who accepts a provisional seat offer will receive by email 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 or wait list offer 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. This seat will be assigned to the next eligible person on the wait list.
4. If a candidate accepts a wait list offer then verification of the original documents will be done at the Reporting Centre to ensure that the candidate meets all the eligibility norms. At the final round if the candidate is eligible for a seat as per the sequencing order then the candidate will be offered admission to the program. Failure to report in person will be considered as if the candidate has declined the wait list offer.

### 5 Miscellaneous

1. Only those candidates who appear for Written Test(s) and Interview will be considered for merit list ranking.
2. 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.
3. Candidates will NOT be able to change their options once submitted.
4. 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 web <https://www.isical.ac.in/~admission/>.

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

5. The admission process for a programme will close when all confirmations of provisional admissions and spot admissions (if any) are completed.