राष्ट्रीय डिज़ाइन संस्थान
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DESIGN
AHMEDABAD

Handbook for

Admission to Academic Year 2027

for

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Design

Note:

- This brochure is only available as an online digital download.
- Changes and updates to this document, if any, will be highlighted on the official website http://admissions.nid.edu
- Candidates are advised to download this handbook from the official website only and check for any updates on the website before submitting their application.

Published on: 25 August 2026

All courses at NID are taught in English.

Candidates must satisfy all the eligibility criteria stipulated in this handbook in order to be eligible for admission.

Records of exam-related documents will be retained by NID only for a period of one year from the date of declaration of final selection list.

The courts and tribunals in Ahmedabad alone shall have exclusive jurisdiction to entertain and settle any dispute or claim regarding admission to NID.

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1. General Information

National Institute of Design (NID) is an 'Institute of National Importance' as per the NID Act 2014, as well as an autonomous Institute under the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. The Institute is empowered to award its own degrees and presently offers Bachelor of Design (B.Des.), Master of Design (M.Des.), and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Design. The Institute is also a member of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU). It has strong linkages with the industry and active collaboration with several Design institutes and universities across the world.

In pursuit of its continued commitment to Design research, NID started a PhD Programme in Design in the year 2017.

2. PhD in Design at NID

Design is the professional capability of creating and developing context-led concepts and translating them into tangible solutions for the benefit of people, society, industry and the environment. The design of objects, communication, services, interface and their systems requires in-depth analysis and the creative synthesis of information and ideas based on a variety of disciplines and experiences. Design thinking brings together the finest sensibilities of the arts, the logic of science and the functional pursuits of technology in an innovative framework.

At the heart of all of NID's academic programmes and activities are the values of 'learning by doing' and 'learning from the field'. The curriculum and pedagogy at Bachelor's and Master's levels offered at the Institute have uniquely evolved from a value based interdisciplinary approach to creative problem solving wherein research is integral to the process of design.

NID's Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree in Design shall be awarded for an advanced and detailed in-depth research study of any particular aspects of Design that the candidate feels have hitherto not been studied and which culminates with a thesis that extends the body of knowledge and the application of design thinking, process and practice. In the case of a practice-based PhD, such work might be centred around a creative outcome of the candidate's professional practice.

The programme is open to educators and professionals in Design and allied creative fields who wish to undertake theoretical study of their own practice or knowledge base and push the boundaries of the discipline.

Doctoral students of NID's PhD Program would be eligible to access and use facilities of all campuses of NID: Ahmedabad, Gandhinagar, and Bangalore.

2.1 Aims and Goals

NID's PhD programme in Design aims to promote deep reflection, inquiry, and rigor in the development and dissemination of new ideas, expressions and skills in the field of Design and allied fields and shall lead to their meaningful manifestations in the form of new design collections, objects, communication, services, strategies, etc. The work shall contribute new theories and knowledge to Design, Design education and Design practice.

The purpose of the programme is to better the understanding and use of Design in industry, education and society at large.

2.2 Objectives

1. To foster original research and create new knowledge about the nature and practice of Design.
2. To engage in a deeper understanding of expressions, methods and the role of Design in problem-solving activity.

3. To foster NID's pedagogic principles of 'Learning to Know' and 'Learning to Do' .
4. To enable collaboration in research, scholarship, Design development and service.
5. To enable students to engage in advanced research and practice with Design theorists and practitioners in a broad variety of fields.
6. To contribute towards the Institute's objective of Design for dignity and service to society, and to participate in meaningful Design for change and sustainability.

2.3 Practice- vs Theory-led Doctoral Research in Design

The PhD programme in Design may be undertaken in one of the modes given here:

Practice-led Research: Original investigation undertaken in order to gain new knowledge partly by means of practice and the outcomes of that practice. Such research includes practice as an integral part of its method and often falls within the general area of action research outcomes. Creative outcomes may be in the form of artefacts such as objects, images, film, fashion, music, Design collections, models, samples, prototypes, digital media, performances and exhibitions or other outcomes. The doctoral submissions for this kind of research must include contextualisation of the creative work.

Theory-led Research: It would be concerned with the nature of practice and lead to new knowledge that has operational significance for that practice. The main focus is to advance knowledge about practice, or to advance knowledge within practice. Such research may be fully described in text form in the doctoral thesis, without the inclusion of a creative outcome.

2.4 Part-time vs Full-time engagement

The PhD programme is allowed to be taken up in part-time or full-time formats.

Full-time PhD

Residence: Full-time candidates are required to be present on campus throughout the

duration of their doctoral study period.

Duration: The maximum duration allowed for a full-time candidate is 3 years, which can be

extended upto 5 years upon formal application by the candidate and endorsement by their guide and co-guide.

Eligibility for financial support: Occasionally the Institute might make announcements of financial support if sources make such support available. On such occasions only full-time candidates are eligible to apply for the support.

Part-time PhD

Residence: Part-time candidates are required to be present on campus for the duration of scheduled coursework, seminars, and other academic requirements that are declared to be held in person.

Duration: The maximum duration allowed for a part-time candidate is 5 years, which can be extended upto 7 years upon formal application by the candidate and endorsement by their guide and co-guide.

Employer's No-Objection Certificate: Working professionals in employment elsewhere and seeking admission to the part-time PhD programme are required to obtain a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) from their employer, stating that the employer has no objection to the employee pursuing a PhD from the Institute, and that the employee will be available in person or online as the Institute may require for doctoral consultations with the guide, for all Institute coursework, periodic seminars and presentations, as the case may be, and will fulfil residential requirements as per the Institute's requirements. This certificate should be submitted no later than acceptance of offer of admission if made.

Eligibility for financial support: Part-time candidates would NOT be eligible for ANY financial support from the Institute.

Part-time candidates shall also be governed by all rules and regulations of the Institute.

3. Process of Selection

Entry to NID's PhD programme will be granted on the basis of performance in the following four-stage selection process:

Stage 1: Screening for eligibility

Stage 2: Assessment of Research Proposal

Stage 3: Doctoral Research Test

Stage 4: Interview

These are detailed below.

Stage 1: Eligibility Screening

Information in the application forms of candidates is scrutinised to ascertain whether various eligibility requirements, such as that of educational qualification, are met. Those who do not fulfil the eligibility criteria will be rejected at this stage. Those who are found eligible move on to Stage 2.

These educational eligibility qualification requirements are described in detail in Section 5.1.

Stage 2: Assessment of Research Proposal

Candidates are required to submit a research proposal they have formulated outlining their motivation for conducting the doctoral research they are applying for, the strength and relevance of their background for conducting the research, brief review of existing work on the topic, the relevance of their proposed research to the field of Design, the expected outcomes, and a plan to achieve them.

The proposal must be limited to two to three thousand words (20,000 characters including spaces) or less.

The content of the research proposal of the eligible candidates will be examined from the point of view of alignment with NID's research objectives, analytical content, relevance of the proposal to the broad theme of Design, the overall knowledge-creation potential of the research, and other factors.

Only candidates whose proposals pass this assessment would be shortlisted for Stage 3.

Stage 3: Design Research Test (DRT)

Candidates shortlisted in Stage 2 would be required to take the Design Research Test (DRT). The DRT is framed to test the candidate's Design aptitude and research abilities, general awareness, basic numeric and Design abilities, among other factors.

Candidates who have work experience of more than 15 years are exempt from taking the DRT.

Candidates who pass the DRT would proceed to the next and final stage of selection, the Interview.

Stage 4: Personal Interview

Candidates shortlisted in Stage 3 would be invited to appear for the Personal Interview, where the candidates would interact online with appointed representatives of the Institute who would assess the candidate for their aptitude for conducting the proposed research.

Among other things, the interview would assess the candidates for the following:

1. The merit of the Research Proposal for adding to new knowledge in the field of Design
2. Competence of the candidates for conducting the proposed research as assessed by their academic record and work experience and personal accomplishments in relevant areas
3. Match of the candidate's proposed research area with the published interest areas of at least one faculty member of the Institute and with the Institute's overall goals and priorities
4. Exposition of proposed research to panel, demonstrating articulation and conviction.

4. Important Dates

- **Application period :** Date of Announcement, 18:00 hrs (IST) Tuesday, 25 August 2026 to Thursday, 01st October 2026, 23:59 hrs (IST)

- **Application editing window** Friday, 02nd October, 2026 00:00 hrs (IST) to Sunday, 04th October, 2026, 23:59 hrs (IST)

  This window to be used for modifying the details filled in submitted application forms (except the Programme Applying for, Name of the Candidate, Date of Birth, Registered Mobile Number & Registered Email ID)

  In case of change in Reservation category, any difference in Application Form fee would have to be paid by the applicant (if a change in category results in a lower fee to be chargeable, the excess fees paid would NOT be refunded).

  All submission closes at the closing of this window. New submissions or changes to submissions already made would not be allowed beyond the last date of this period.

- **Doctoral Research Test (DRT):**
  22nd October 2026

  Time to be declared on the Admit Cards which will be available for download on the NID website (http://admissions.nid.edu).

- **Interview:**
  02nd, 03rd and 04th November, 2026

  The exact schedule and time of the Interview will be mentioned in Admit Cards which would be sent out to the candidates shortlisted for the Interview. Candidates who do not get shortlisted will be informed so by email.

- **Declaration of final results, dispatch of offers:**
  15 December 2026

Any changes to the above dates and schedule would be notified on the Institute's website (http://admissions.nid.edu).

5. Eligibility Criteria

5.1 Educational Qualifications

Only the following educational qualifications are eligible for admission to the PhD program:

Master's degree in Design from an accredited institution or recognised University or Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Design from the National Institute of Design or Advanced Entry Programme or five and a half year School Leavers' Professional Education Programme Diploma in Design from the National Institute of Design;

or

Master's degree in Architecture or Fine Arts or Applied Arts from a recognised institution or University with 55 per cent. marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC 7 point scale or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed or an equivalent foreign degree from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognised or authorised by an authority established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any statutory authority in that country for the purpose of assessing accrediting or assuring quality and standards of educational institutions and having a graduate or post graduate degree, in Design;

or

Bachelor's degree in Design from National Institute of Design or National Institute of Design's Graduate Diploma Programme in Design with three years' of professional or teaching experience or both;

or

Four and a half year School Leavers' Professional Education Programme Diploma in Design with three years of professional or teaching experience or both;

or

Master' s degree in Philosophy (in Design) with 55 per cent. marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC 7 point scale or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed or an equivalent foreign degree from a foreign educational institution accredited by an assessment and accreditation agency which is approved, recognised or authorised by an authority established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any statutory authority in that country for the purpose of assessing accrediting or assuring quality and standards of educational institutions;

or

Individuals who have successfully completed a Faculty Development Programme in Design having two years or more duration from the National Institute of Design or any other recognised University;

or

Indian nationals with degree from a foreign University subject to equivalence of their educational qualifications with the Master's degree in Design from an accredited institution or recognised University or Post Graduate Diploma Programme in Design from the National Institute of Design of Advanced Entry Programme or five-year School Leavers' Professional Education Programme Diploma in Design from the National Institute of Design.

These may be followed by other academic qualifications but one of the above seven is mandatory for eligibility. Candidates are requested to make sure that their qualifications match this requirement.

6. Number, Reservation of Seats

The number of seats in NID's PhD programme for 2027 is **twelve (12)**.

6.1 Caste-based Reservation

For the 12 seats of NID's PhD Program, the Institute shall follow the Reservation policy of the Government of India for allocation of seats in the final selection of candidates for admission. At the time of this announcement, the requirement of the Reservation policy is as follows:

- Fraction of seats to be reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC): 15%
- Fraction of seats to be reserved for Scheduled Tribes (ST): 7.5%
- Fraction of seats to be reserved for Economically Weaker Section (EWS) of the General category: 10%
- Fraction of seats to be reserved for Other Backward Class (Non-Creamy Layer) (OBC-NCL): 27%
- The remaining fraction, *i.e.*, 40.5%, is to be filled irrespective of caste, on merit alone. This segment is termed 'Open'.

Using the fractions above the total seat capacity of 12 is divided into the following composition of seats:

Total	SC	ST	OBC-NCL	EWS	Open
12	2	1	3	1	5

Non-Indian citizens are eligible to apply for admission but would not be eligible to avail of reservations. They would be counted in the Open category.

The Reservation category chosen by a candidate at the time of submitting the application form will be considered as final, and requests for change of category will not be entertained.

For more information on this, please refer Appendix A.

6.2 Reservation for Persons with Disability (PwD)

For the 12 seats, **5%** of the total seats are reserved for Persons with Disability (PwD), irrespective of caste-category,

For the total of 12 seats, admission will therefore be granted to the top **1 (one)** of the applicants with disability, in order of merit, irrespective of their Reservation category, provided they otherwise qualify for selection.

For more information on this, please refer Appendix B.

7. How to Apply

Visit the NID website at http://admissions.nid.edu and follow the steps given below: Step 0:

Read and familiarise yourself with the eligibility criteria and other relevant information related to the PhD programme (among the above) you are proceeding to apply for. All this information can be found in this handbook and from the website of the institute.

Step 1: Sign up/Registration

1. All candidates are required to download this handbook and fill up the online application form available at http://admissions.nid.edu
2. Please fill up the online application form giving correct information. Provide a valid email address and an active mobile number while filling up the form, since these contacts will be used for all future communication with the applicant. Ensure that this email id and mobile number is active till 31 December 2026. Candidates will be solely responsible in case a wrong email address and/or mobile number has been provided.
3. After registration, login credentials will be sent via an email to the registered email address (do remember to check your spam or junk folders in case you do not find the email in your inbox)**. In case a wrong email address and/or mobile number has been provided during sign up, you are required to register afresh with the correct details.**
4. Do not delete emails sent to you as this will be needed for future reference.
5. Log in to your account using login credentials to proceed further.

Step 2: Fill the Online Application Form

1. Log in.
2. Fill in all the required details.
4. After filling all details, click 'Save & Proceed' to go to the next section to 'Upload Documents'.
5. Click 'Save & Exit' to complete the form at a later time.

Step 3: Uploading Documents & Signature

1. Upload a scanned recent passport-size photograph as per instructions. All photographs must be in colour, taken at a professional studio, must be in JPG/JPEG format, and not exceeding 100 KB in size.

2. Upload your scanned signature as per the instructions. All signature files must be in JPG/JPEG format and not exceeding 100 KB in size. You should have your signature digitally photographed or scanned and cropped to the required size.

3. Indian citizens applying under the EWS category are required to upload their valid EWS Certificate issued by a competent authority, in the prescribed format as available on the website https://admissions.nid.edu. **The date of issue of EWS certificate must be on or after 01 April, 2026,** based on the gross annual income of the financial year **2025-26**. The certificate must be in the name of the candidate and also must have the candidate's photo on the certificate. The certificate must be in PDF format and should be of maximum of 2MB in size. For certificates that are not in the English/Hindi language, the candidate is required to produce / upload a notarized copy of the certificate in English language along with the original copy of the category certificate.

4. Indian citizens applying under the OBC-NCL category are required to upload their valid OBC-NCL Certificate issued by a Competent Authority. The format of the OBC-NCL certificate should be as per the Central format (available on the website https://admissions.nid.edu in Download section). The OBC-NCL certificate must be **issued on or after 01 April 2026** (based on the gross annual income of the financial year **2025-26**) and in the name of the candidate. The certificate must be in PDF format and should be of maximum 2 MB in size. For certificates that are not in the English/Hindi language, the candidate is required to produce / upload a notarized copy of the certificate in English language along with the original copy of the category certificate.

5. Indian citizens applying under the SC and ST categories are required to upload their valid Caste Certificate issued in their name by a Competent Authority. For certificates that are not in the English/Hindi language, the candidate is required to produce / upload a notarized copy of the certificate in English language along with the original copy of the category certificate. The certificate must be in PDF format and should be of maximum 2 MB in size.

6. Indian citizens applying under the Persons with Disability (PwD) category are required to upload their valid Disability Certificate issued by a Competent Medical Authority as per the guidelines of the Government of India (format of which is available on the website https://admissions.nid.edu) along with the Unique Disability Identity Card. The certificate must be in PDF format and should be of maximum 2 MB in size.

7. **Upload Research Proposal attachments in ONE SINGLE PDF FILE not exceeding 5 MB in size.**

8. **Upload certificates of graduation (Bachelors), post-graduation (Masters), any additional qualifications, work experience certificates** (as per the information provided during filling up the application form) in ONE SINGLE PDF FILE not exceeding 10 MB in size.

9. List of documents to be uploaded by Indian citizens of various categories at the time of applying online are as under:

Category	Signature	Photo	Documents
General	Yes	Yes	—
EWS	Yes	Yes	EWS Certificate
OBC-NCL	Yes	Yes	OBC-NCL Certificate
SC	Yes	Yes	Caste Certificate
ST	Yes	Yes	Tribe Certificate

Persons applying under PwD category need to furnish a Disability Certificate and Unique Disability ID issued by the Department of Empowerment of Person with Disability in addition to documents in their caste category above.

10. Once you are done with uploading all the necessary documents, click 'Save and Exit' to complete the form at a later time or date.
11. Click 'Save & Proceed' to go to the next section to pay Application Fees. Your Application Form will be accepted only after successful payment of the application fees.

Step 4: Payment of Application Fee

1. Category-wise Application Fees for Academic Year 2027 are as under:

Category	**Fees**
General	Rs. 5000/-
EWS	Rs. 5000/-
OBC-NCL	Rs. 5000/-
SC	Rs. 2500/-
ST	Rs. 2500/-

The fees indicated above do not change even if the person is applying under PwD category.

2. **Application fee is NEITHER refundable NOR transferable.**
3. The Application fees paid online (by Debit/Credit Card) DOES NOT INCLUDE any bank/ transaction charges, and the same, as applicable, will be borne by the applicant.
4. You will be asked to verify your details, after which you can proceed to make the payment.
5. You will be directed to the payment gateway. After completing the payment process, you will be redirected to the 'Print' section where you can save your form as a PDF file and print it. **You are NOT required to send the print-out of your application form.**
6. Applicants are fully and solely responsible to provide correct information during the application process. At any stage, if it is found that the information provided by the candidate is not correct, NID has the right to cancel his/her candidature. Any direct or indirect attempt to influence the management and employees of the Institute will lead to automatic disqualification of the candidate.
7. Window to Edit Application Form: (**Friday, 02nd October, 2026 00:00 hrs (IST) to Sunday, 04th October, 2026, 23:59 hrs (IST))**
   - If the applicant has inadvertently submitted their application form with wrong information that they wish to correct, this is the time-window in which they may do so. Any information in the application form may be modified except the following:

     Programme Applying

     For Name of the

     Candidate Date of Birth

     Registered Mobile Number

     Registered Email ID

   - In case the candidate changes his/her category of Reservation during this

"Window to Edit" period, the applicable additional application form fees will have to be paid by the candidate. However, no refund of excess fees will be made in the case of any category change.

- **Candidates must proceed to the final step of the application process to ensure that any changes made are saved. If the application form is closed before completing all the steps, any changes made in the application form during the edit window will not be saved or considered.**
- Application fees already paid will not be refunded in case the application is found not eligible for admissions to NID after modifying the information in the application form.
- Candidates are fully and solely responsible to provide correct information during the application process. At any stage, if it is found that the information provided by the candidate is not correct, NID has the right to cancel his/her candidature. Any direct or indirect attempt to influence the management and employees of the Institute will lead to automatic disqualification of the candidate.

7. Announcement of Result

The list of the candidates selected for the PhD Programme 2027 will be declared on the website http://admissions.nid.edu.

To accept the offer of admission, candidates will be required to produce original documents as required which would be informed to them and if in employment at that time, would be expected to produce a no-objection certificate from their employers if selected for a part-time position.

If selected candidates decline the offer of admission or do not pay their programme fees or fail to produce any of the required documents, their candidature stands to be cancelled and their seat will be offered to the next candidate in order of merit.

Contact

National Institute of Design
Paldi, Ahmedabad-380 007
Email: admissions@nid.edu
NID website: admissions.nid.edu

Appendix

Appendix A: Caste-based Reservation

Candidates belonging to the EWS, OBC-NCL, SC, ST and PwD categories will be declared as qualified on the basis of the minimum qualifying criterion as mentioned in the handbook.

Unfilled seats based on minimum qualifying criterion mentioned in this handbook or unavailability of candidates in the OBC-NCL category will be de-reserved and allotted to Open Category candidates in order of merit.

Unfilled seats based on minimum qualifying criterion mentioned in this handbook or unavailability of candidates in the EWS category, SC category and ST categories will not be de-reserved.

The category selected by a candidate at the time of submitting the application form will be final. Requests for any change of category will not be permitted during the later stage of the admission process.

Candidates must note that that benefit of Reservation will be given to them subject to verification of documents. If it is found at any stage that a candidate has used a false/fake/incorrect document or has furnished false/ incorrect/ incomplete information in order to avail the benefit of Reservation, then such a candidate shall be excluded from the subsequent stages of admissions. In case a candidate has already been given admission, then the admission shall stand cancelled.

Candidates should note that the mere appearance in DRT/Interview or being in the rank/merit list neither guarantees nor provides any automatic entitlement to admission to the PhD programme.

A-1: Reservation for Economically Weaker Section (EWS)

General category belonging to Economically Weaker Section (EWS) will be a reserved category in which the percentage of Reservation is 10%. The benefit of Reservation will be given only to those General category candidates who satisfy the condition given in the OM No. 20013/01/2018-BC-II dated 17 January, 2021 issued by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Dept. of Higher Education.

The benefit of Reservation under EWS can be availed upon production of an Income & Asset Certificate issued by a Competent Authority. The Income and Asset Certificate issued by any one of the following authorities in the prescribed format as available on the website http://admissions.nid.edu shall only considered valid

(i) District Magistrate/Additional District Magistrate/ Collector/ Deputy Commissioner/Additional' Deputy Commissioner/ 1st Class Stipendiary Magistrate/ Sub-Divisional Magistrate/ Taluka Magistrate/ Executive Magistrate/ Extra Assistant Commissioner

(ii) Chief Presidency Magistrate/Additional Chief Presidency Magistrate/ Presidency Magistrate

(iii) Revenue Officer not below the rank of Tehsildar and

(iv) Sub-Divisional Officer or the area where the candidate and/or his family normally resides.

The date of issue of EWS certificate must be on or after 1 April 2026.

Based on the information provided by the candidate in the application form while applying online, will be provisionally allowed to appear for the DRT and subsequent test if shortlisted. To provide / upload valid certificate at the time of applying online is the candidate's responsibility.

The verification of the category certificate will be carried out after the DRT. During verification if it is found that the GEN-EWS certificate of the candidate is not valid, then the candidate will be moved to General category, and he/she will be considered as General category candidate for further admissions process.

On verification at any stage during the admission process or ever after admissions, if the information/document/ certificate found to be incorrect / invalid, the candidature of such candidate will stand cancelled.

NID's decision will be final and binding. No further communication in this regard will be entertained.

A-2: Reservation for Other Backward Classes (Non-Creamy Layer)

The name of the caste must be in the current Central list of OBCs available at: http://www.ncbc.nic.in/User_Panel/CentralListStateView.aspx and the format of the OBC-NCL certificate must be as per the Central format (available on the website https://admissions.nid.edu in Download section). The caste of the OBC candidate is mentioned in the state list, but not mentioned in the Central list, such candidates will not be entitled to claim the benefit of Reservation under OBC-NCL category.

Candidates belonging to the Creamy Layer of OBC are not entitled to apply under reserved category (OBC-NCL) and will have to submit their application under General (unreserved) category.

Candidates applying under the OBC-NCL or Non-Creamy Layer category are required to produce (upload) a valid certificate in their name in English issued on or after 1 April 2026 and from the relevant competent authorities of their respective state or union territory, certifying that they do not belong to the Creamy Layer along with the final application form. For certificates that are not in the English language, the candidate is required to produce / upload a notarized copy of the English version along with the original copy of the category certificate.

Based on the information provided by the candidate in the application form while applying online, will be provisionally allowed to appear for the DRT and subsequent test if shortlisted. To provide / upload valid certificate at the time of applying online is the candidate's responsibility.

The verification of the category certificate will be carried out after the DRT. During verification if it is found that the OBC-NCL certificate of the candidate is not valid, then the candidate will be moved to General category.

On verification at any stage during the admission process or ever after admissions, if the information/document/ certificate found to be incorrect / invalid, the candidature of such candidate will stand cancelled.

NID's decision will be final and binding. No further communication in this regard will be entertained.

A-3: Reservation for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes:

The benefit of this Reservation will be given only to candidates belonging to castes and tribes mentioned in the central list published by the Government of India, which can be viewed at the following web links:

https://socialjustice.gov.in/common/76750
https://tribal.nic.in/downloads/statistics/ListScheduledTribes26092025.pdf

Candidates applying under SC and ST categories are required to upload the relevant caste/tribe certificate (in English language only) from the competent authorities of their respective state, union territory or the National Commission of Tribes, valid at the time of applying online. For certificates that are not in the English language, the candidate is required to produce / upload a notarized copy of the English version along with the original copy of the category certificate.

Based on the information provided by the candidate in the application form while applying online, will be provisionally allowed to appear for the DRT and subsequent test if shortlisted. To provide / upload valid certificate at the time of applying online is the candidate's responsibility.

The verification of the category certificate will be carried out after the DRT. During verification if it is found that the SC/ST certificate of the candidate is not valid, then the candidature of such candidates will stand cancelled.

On verification at any stage during the admission process or ever after admissions, if the information/document/ certificate found to be incorrect / invalid, the candidature of such candidate will stand cancelled.

NID's decision will be final and binding. No further communication in this regard will be entertained.

Appendix B: Reservation for Persons with Disability:

The benefit of Reservation will be given only to those candidates with disability as described by the Government of India under RPWD Act 2016.

The candidate should submit a Disability Certificate and Unique Disability ID issued by the Department of Empowerment of Person with Disability.
(*http://www.swavlambancard.gov.in)* No other certificate or document will be valid and no representations in this regard will be entertained.

Candidates seeking admission under this category are required to upload the above-mentioned certificate and UDID at the time of applying online.

The verification of the category certificate will be carried out after the DRT. During verification if it is found that the Disability Certificate and UDID of the candidate is not valid, then the candidature of such candidates will stand cancelled under following scenarios:

- If the candidate has availed either compensatory time or services of a Scribe;
- If the candidate has applied as a PwD under GENERAL or GEN-EWS or OBC-NCL

If the candidate has applied as PwD under SC/ST and if his/her Disability Certificate and/or UDID is not valid & has NOT availed compensatory time and/or services of a Scribe, then he/she will be moved to his/her Parent Category (SC/ST). The candidate will be then considered as SC/ST category candidate for further admissions process.

Based on the information provided by the candidate in the application form while applying online, will be provisionally allowed to appear for the DRT and

subsequent test if shortlisted. To provide / upload valid certificate at the time of applying online is the candidate's responsibility.

On verification at any stage during the admission process or ever after admissions, if the information/document/ certificate found to be incorrect / invalid, the candidature of such candidate will stand cancelled.

NID's decision will be final and binding. No further communication in this regard will be entertained.

AMENDEMENT

- As on 3 October 2026, an amendment has been made regarding the following dates:

Particulars	Previous Date	Revised Date
Last date for filling up the application form	23:59 hrs. (IST) Thursday 01 October 2026	11:59 pm (midnight) (IST) Monday, 30 November 2026
Window to edit the application form	Friday, 02 October 2026 00:00 hrs. (IST) to Sunday, 04 October, 2026 23:59 hrs. (IST)	4 pm, 01 December 2026 to 11:59 pm (midnight), 03 December 2026
Doctoral Research Test (DRT)	22 October 2026	To be announced soon