

Government of India
NATIONAL BOARD FOR HIGHER MATHEMATICS
Department of Atomic Energy
Anushakti Bhavan, C.S.M. Marg, Mumbai-400 001
The Doctoral Scholarship Scheme 2020
Scholarships for pursuing doctoral studies (PhD) in
Mathematics / Applied Mathematics for the academic year 2020-21

The National Board for Higher Mathematics (NBHM) invites applications to appear for its **Doctoral Scholarship Test** (hereafter called “the test”) scheduled for Saturday, **25 January 2020**. The test is the first of two steps in the selection process for grant of the **NBHM Doctoral Scholarship 2020** (hereafter called “the scholarship”).

The test scores are also used for screening of candidates for admissions to PhD / integrated PhD programmes of certain institutions including:

- Harish-Chandra Research Institute (HRI)
- Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali (IISER Mohali)
- Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune (IISER Pune)
- National Institute of Science Education and Research (NISER)
- The Institute of Mathematical Sciences (IMSc)

The scholarship and the test are described in more detail below. The official [FAQ page](#) that is updated from time to time is intended to provide further clarification.

Whom is the scholarship for?

The scholarship is intended to support pursuit of research leading to the PhD degree in Mathematics / Applied Mathematics. To qualify for it, one **must satisfy both** these conditions:

- qualify in the test and the subsequent interview;
- enrol by August 2020 (if not already enrolled) in a recognised PhD programme in Mathematics / Applied Mathematics in a university or institution in India.

Whom is the test for?

Anyone who fits at least one of the following three descriptions may apply:

- enrolled in a full time PhD programme in Mathematics / Applied Mathematics in a recognised university or institution in India;
- aspiring to enroll in such a programme by August 2020;
- aspiring to enroll by August 2020 in the PhD / integrated PhD programme of an institution that receives from NBHM the test scores for screening for admission to that programme (such as the five mentioned above).

Details of the scholarship

The scholarship is granted for a term of four years starting August 2020, but needs to be renewed every year, the renewal being subject to satisfactory progress as judged by NBHM. It is extendable to a fifth year at NBHM's discretion.¹ It consists of a monthly fellowship and a contingency grant, the rates of which are revised from time to time. The current rates are as follows: monthly fellowship ₹31,000/- for the first two years and ₹35,000/- for the subsequent two / three years; yearly contingency grant ₹40,000/-. In addition, house rent allowance (HRA) is payable as per central government norms.

Provision for maternity leave: Women scholars are eligible for maternity leave once during the term of the fellowship for a period not exceeding 180 days. If the leave is availed, the total period of fellowship will be increased accordingly.

A precondition for tenability of the scholarship is that throughout its term the candidate must be enrolled in a recognised full time PhD programme in Mathematics / Applied Mathematics in India. This means that the candidate must get enrolled in such a programme by August 2020 (if not already enrolled) and such enrolment must continue for the entire duration of the scholarship. If the enrolment should cease for any reason, the scholarship will also cease at the same time. The scholarship will be paid only through the scholar's institution.

Selection procedure for the scholarship

Selection will be on the basis of performance in the test and the subsequent interview. Candidates will be shortlisted for the interview based on the performance in the test. At the time of the interview, the academic track record of the candidate will be scrutinised and taken into consideration.

The test is scheduled for **Saturday, 25th January 2020**, 1030 to 1330 hrs. It will feature questions requiring short answers (including multiple choice, possibly with negative marking as indicated) from areas of mathematics that a student with a masters degree is expected to know. Question papers from previous years along with the keys are available from the NBHM website and also from this [repository](#). These however should be taken with a pinch of salt: the pattern and difficulty level of the test are subject to change without any notice whatsoever.

The test will be conducted at the following centres, divided into five zones:

- **Zone 1:** Chandigarh, New Delhi, Srinagar.
- **Zone 2:** Indore, Jabalpur, Prayagraj, Raipur.
- **Zone 3:** Goa, Mumbai, Pune, Vallabh Vidyanagar.
- **Zone 4:** Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Kolkata, Ranchi, Shillong, Tezpur.
- **Zone 5:** Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kozhikode.

Candidates must make their own arrangements for travel and stay to take the test.

The interview will be conducted in only one centre, to be announced later, in each zone. The date(s) of the interview will also be announced later and may vary with the zone.

Each zone has a coordinator who is responsible for the administration of the test and interviews in that zone. The names and addresses of the zonal coordinators can be found at the end of this advertisement.

¹Extension beyond five years with reduced financial support is also possible, at NBHM's discretion.

How to apply?

Applications to appear for the written test will be accepted **exclusively online** through the following portal:

<https://nbhmscholarships.in/>

(cut and paste the address on to your web browser; security issues if any are being addressed and should be resolved soon). The application portal will open around 26th November and will remain open until 5th January 2020.

An application fee (along with applicable collection charges) needs to be paid online at the time of the application. For applications completed on or before 25th December, the application fee will be ₹500; for applications completed after that date, the fee will be ₹650.

The first centre-wise sorted list of candidates for the test will be published around 20th December. A second list will be published around 1st January and a third list around 12th January.

Important Dates

26 November 2019	Online application portal scheduled to open
20 December 2019	First centre-wise list of candidates for the test published
26 December 2019	Application fee hike will kick in
01 January 2020	Second centre-wise list of candidates published
05 January 2020	Application portal closes
12 January 2020	Third and final centre-wise list of candidates published
25 January 2020	The test

The application process

The process has drastically changed from that of the previous years, which is all the more reason to pay close attention to the following. There are three steps in it:

- **Step 1 (Registration):** Register on the portal. This requires a valid email address.
- **Step 2 (Application):** Login to the portal with your registered email address and password (created in Step 1). You will be asked to fill out some details about yourself and also choice of zone, and choice of two centres within that zone. (**Important:** It is in your own interest to provide your name and postal address in full and a valid mobile number.) You will also be asked to self-certify that you meet at least one of the three eligibility criteria for the test (see section above with title “Whom is the test for?”). After confirming for correctness the entries you made, you will be lead through the fee payment process.

Once the fee is paid, an application number will be generated, and you will be able to download a receipt-cum-pre-admission-ticket showing the following: the registered email address (from Step 1), the entries you made in Step 2 (name, mobile number, etc.), your application number, and details of the fee payment. The receipt-cum-pre-admission-ticket will also be sent to the registered email.

- **Step 3 (The Admission ticket)** Make two photocopies of the downloaded receipt-cum-pre-admission-ticket. Using these, you need to produce two original copies of the admission ticket as follows. On each photocopy, paste a recent, colour photograph of yourself; ensure that the postal address for correspondence is complete (complete it if it is not); enter your roll number and sign. To find your roll number, you have to wait until the centre-wise lists of candidates are published. These lists will have names, application numbers, and roll numbers. You can find your roll number by looking up the entry for your name. Carry both original copies of your admission ticket to the test centre.

Some clarifications

- All correspondence regarding your application will be sent only to the registered email address. For every registered email, you can file only one application.
- You should remember the password you set. But in case you forget, you can always reset it, by entering your registered email address and clicking on the “Forgot password” link.
- In order that there is a secondary means of communication on which to fall back in case the registered email address should fail, you are well advised to provide a valid mobile number in Step 2 (one that you can be contacted on).
- Once you pay the fees and download the receipt-cum-admission-ticket, you don’t need to login again to the portal at all. You will of course need to look up your roll number but this does not require you to login: the centre-wise lists of candidates are public documents that anyone can access.
- You need to generate two original hard copies of the admission ticket and carry both to the test centre with you. One of these copies will be signed by the invigilator and returned to you; the other will be retained by the invigilator.
- There will be, at this stage, no other verification or checking of your eligibility than your own self-certification. Later on, during the interview, the academic track record will be scrutinised and taken into account (only for those who make it to that stage, of course). The performances in the test and subsequent interview will by far be the most significant determining factor in selection for grant of the scholarship (although other factors will also be considered).
- Some of the centres have limited capacity. Centres will be allotted on a first-come-first-served basis. Thus, to have a better chance of being allotted the centre of your choice, you must **complete** the application process early.

Resolution of issues with application

Keep the following in mind:

- If you are facing a technical difficulty (like being unable to register or login), you are well advised to try again after a few hours or days, for it is likely that the technical issue is being addressed and will be resolved without any action on your part. Only if the difficulty persists after multiple attempts should you bother trying to resolve it.
- There may be a delay of a few days due to technical reasons of the publication of the centre-wise sorted candidate lists. This is no cause for panic.

For issues relating to the online application process (e.g., if you paid the fee twice for the same application), you may raise a complaint through the link provided for that purpose on the portal. Access to this link requires that you login. For efficient resolution of an issue, it is important that all the relevant details of your application and the particular issue be included in the complaint.

If you are having persistent trouble registering or logging in, then **and only then** an email may be sent to query@nbhmscholarships.in.

Names, affiliations, and contact details of Zonal Coordinators

The contact details of the zonal coordinators listed below are to be used only in case it is absolutely necessary and only as a last resort. Before trying to contact the zonal coordinator, ensure that all other avenues of resolving your problem (such as through the portal as mentioned above) are exhausted, and keep in mind that:

- The clarification you seek may already be provided by the official [FAQ page](#) that is updated from time to time.

Email is the preferred mode of communication (in case you absolutely must contact a zonal coordinator).

- **Zone 1:** Professor Gurmeet Kaur Bakshi, email: gkbakshi@pu.ac.in, Department of Mathematics, Panjab University, Hans Raj Gupta Hall, Chandigarh 160 014.
- **Zone 2:** Professor Kalyan Chakraborty, email: kalyan@hri.res.in, Harish-Chandra Research Institute, Chhatnag Road, Jhusi, Prayagraj, 211 019.
- **Zone 3:** Professor Vivek Mohan Mallick, email: vmallick@iiserpune.ac.in, Department of Mathematics, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Homi Bhabha Road, Pashan, Pune, 411 008.
- **Zone 4:** Professor Shashi Mohan Srivastava, email: smohan53@gmail.com, School of Mathematical and Computational Sciences, Indian Association for Cultivation of Science, 2A & 2B Raja S C Mullick Road, Jadavpur, Kolkata, 700 032.
- **Zone 5:** Professor K. N. Raghavan, email: knr@imsc.res.in, The Institute of Mathematical Sciences, CIT Campus, Taramani, Chennai, 600 113.