

Government of India  
**NATIONAL BOARD FOR HIGHER MATHEMATICS**  
Department of Atomic Energy  
Anushakti Bhavan, C.S.M. Marg, Mumbai-400 001  
**The Doctoral and Master's Scholarship Schemes 2026**  
Scholarships for pursuing Doctoral and Master's studies in Mathematics

## Contents

<b>1 NBHM Scholarships and Written Test</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2 Other Uses of Test Scores</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3 Terminology</b>	<b>3</b>
3.1 Definition of "Master's programme" . . . . .	3
3.2 Definition of "Qualifying Programme" . . . . .	3
<b>4 Doctoral Scholarship</b>	<b>3</b>
4.1 Tenure and Benefits . . . . .	3
4.2 Eligibility and Conditions . . . . .	4
<b>5 Master's Scholarship</b>	<b>4</b>
5.1 Tenure and Benefits . . . . .	4
5.2 Eligibility and Conditions . . . . .	4
<b>6 Selection Process</b>	<b>4</b>
6.1 Written Test . . . . .	4
6.2 Test Centres . . . . .	5
6.3 Short-listing, Interviews, and Final Selection . . . . .	5
<b>7 Application Procedure</b>	<b>5</b>
7.1 Online Application Portal . . . . .	5
7.2 Important Dates . . . . .	6
7.3 Contact Details of Zonal Coordinators . . . . .	6

# 1 NBHM Scholarships and Written Test

The National Board for Higher Mathematics (NBHM) invites applications for its 2026 Scholarship Written Test (“*the test*”), to be held on

**Saturday, 24 January 2026, from 10:30 to 13:30 IST.**

The test serves as the first stage of a two-stage selection process for the following scholarships:

- NBHM Doctoral Scholarship 2026 (“the Doctoral Scholarship”)
- NBHM Master’s Scholarship 2026 (“the Master’s Scholarship”)

A single written test is used for both scholarships. Applicants may choose to be considered for either or both. Shortlists shall be drawn based on test performance, following which shortlisted candidates shall be interviewed online. Final selection shall be based primarily on the performance in the written test and interview, but may also rely on the applicant’s academic track record.

The scholarships and the selection process are described in more detail below. The [web page](#) carries even more information, such as an official [FAQ](#) that is updated continually.

## 2 Other Uses of Test Scores

The test scores are also used by select institutions (listed here in alphabetical order) to screen applicants for admission to their PhD / Integrated PhD / Master’s programmes:

- [Harish-Chandra Research Institute \(HRI\)](#)
- [Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Berhampur \(IISER Berhampur\)](#)
- [Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Bhopal \(IISER Bhopal\)](#)
- [Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Mohali \(IISER Mohali\)](#)
- [Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Pune \(IISER Pune\)](#)
- [Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Thiruvananthapuram \(IISER Thiruvananthapuram\)](#)
- [Kerala School of Mathematics \(KSoM\)](#)
- [Krea University \(Krea\)](#)
- [National Institute of Science Education and Research \(NISER\)](#)
- [The Institute of Mathematical Sciences \(IMSc\)](#)

The manner in which these institutions use the scores lies outside NBHM’s purview; applicants should contact the institutions directly.

## 3 Terminology

### 3.1 Definition of “Master’s programme”

For this document, a Master’s programme refers to any of the following:<sup>1</sup>

1. a two-year Master’s programme requiring a Bachelor’s degree for admission
2. the final two years of a five-year Integrated Master’s programme
3. the first two years of an Integrated PhD programme requiring a Bachelor’s degree for admission

Thus the “final year of a Master’s programme” could mean the second year of a two-year Master’s programme, or the fifth year of a five-year Integrated Master’s programme, or the second year of an Integrated PhD programme.

### 3.2 Definition of “Qualifying Programme”

In this document, the phrase qualifying programme appears several times. A programme is so designated if<sup>2</sup>

1. It is a recognised full-time programme offered by an accredited university or institution in India; and
2. The name of the degree that it leads to contains at least one of: “Mathematics”, “Statistics”, “Mathematical Science(s)”.

For instance, a programme leading to a degree in “Applied Mathematics” satisfies Condition 2.

## 4 Doctoral Scholarship

### 4.1 Tenure and Benefits

The scholarship is initially awarded for four years, subject to annual renewal based on satisfactory progress. It may be extended by up to one additional year at NBHM’s discretion. Benefits include:

- Monthly stipend: ₹ 37,000 for the first two years; ₹ 42,000 thereafter (subject to review)
- Yearly contingency grant: ₹ 40,000
- HRA as per Government of India norms
- Maternity leave for women scholars subject to rules

For candidates who are (or have been) already in a PhD programme prior to August 2026, the tenure and benefits shall be suitably modified.

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<sup>1</sup>Portions of such other programmes as integrated six-year M.Ed. programmes may also qualify for consideration as “Master’s Programmes”. Clarification regarding this could be sought by writing to one of the Zonal Coordinators (see below) via email with details of the programme in question.

<sup>2</sup>Given the diversity of Master’s and Ph.D. programmes in India that involve substantial higher mathematics, NBHM reserves the right to decide which programmes qualify for its Scholarships, notwithstanding any definition in this advertisement or explanation given elsewhere on the [web page](#). Application for such exceptional treatment (of programmes not meeting the conditions specified here) shall be considered only from candidates who have qualified for the NBHM scholarship (Master’s / Doctoral, as the case may be), on a case-by-case basis.

## 4.2 Eligibility and Conditions

To receive the Doctoral Scholarship, a candidate must:

1. Be selected via the written test and doctoral interview, and
2. Enrol in a qualifying PhD programme by September 2027 (or be already enrolled).

The recipient must remain continuously enrolled in a qualifying PhD programme. The scholarship cannot be held concurrently with any other doctoral scholarship. It is open only to Indian nationals and is administered through the scholar's institution.

## 5 Master's Scholarship

### 5.1 Tenure and Benefits

A monthly stipend Rs 8,000 is payable for up to two years. For those who are already in the second year of a qualifying Master's programme during the academic year 2026–27, the tenure is limited to one year. For those who enrol in the first year of such a programme in 2026–27, continuation for the second year is applicable, but is contingent on satisfactory progress in the first.

### 5.2 Eligibility and Conditions

To receive the Master's Scholarship, a candidate must:

1. Be selected via the written test and Master's interview, and
2. Be enrolled in a qualifying Master's programme for 2026–27, and
3. Not have previously drawn the NBHM Master's Scholarship.

The recipient must remain continuously enrolled in a qualifying Master's programme. The scholarship cannot be held concurrently with any other Master's scholarship. It is open only to Indian nationals and is administered through the scholar's institution.

## 6 Selection Process

For selection purposes, the country is divided into five geographical zones, each led by a Zonal Coordinator. Contact information of these coordinators is provided at the end.

### 6.1 Written Test

The test shall be held on Saturday, 24 January 2026, from 10:30 to 13:30 hours IST. It assesses mathematical skills relevant to Master's and Doctoral study. While there is no prescribed syllabus, question papers from previous years (2005 onward) along with keys are available at this [repository](#). The pattern and level of difficulty of the test may however vary from those of previous editions.

Anyone who meets at least one of the following criteria is eligible to write the test:

- Currently enrolled or wanting to enrol by September 2027 in a qualifying PhD programme;
- Currently enrolled or wanting to enrol by August 2026 in a qualifying Master's programme;
- Wanting to enrol during the academic year 2026–27 in a programme that uses the NBHM test scores for admission.

Nationality is no bar to write the test: foreign nationals are welcome to write it although the Scholarships are only open to Indian nationals. (The test scores serve purposes other than the Scholarships.)

## 6.2 Test Centres

The test is planned to be held in the following cities, listed zone-wise. However, some centres could later be revoked for lack of sufficient demand or other reasons beyond our control. Applicants shall be asked to list five centres, in descending order of their priority. Allotments shall be on first-come-first-served basis. Arrangements for travel and stay to take the test are the applicant's responsibility.

- **Zone 1 (North):** Chandigarh, Delhi, Jodhpur, Shimla, Srinagar (Kashmir).
- **Zone 2 (North Central):** Bhopal, Indore, Kanpur, Patna, Prayagraj, Raipur, Srinagar Garhwal, Varanasi.
- **Zone 3 (West):** Ahmedabad, Dharwad, Goa, Mumbai, Nagpur, Nanded, Pune, Vallabh Vidyanagar.
- **Zone 4 (East):** Agartala, Aizawl, Bardhaman, Berhampur (Odisha), Bhubaneswar, Dimapur, Guwahati, Imphal, Jamshedpur, Kharagpur, Khurda (Odisha), Kolkata, Ranchi, Rangpo (Sikkim), Sambalpur, Shillong, Siliguri, Tezpur.
- **Zone 5 (South):** Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kozhikode, Madurai, Mangaluru, Pondicherry, Salem, Thiruvananthapuram, Tirupati.

## 6.3 Short-listing, Interviews, and Final Selection

Two test scores shall be computed for every candidate:

- **M-score:** Raw score
- **D-score:** Weighted score, with sections devoted to advanced topics having higher weight

M- stands for Master's and D- for Doctoral. Two cut-offs (D- and M-) shall be announced. Short-listing for the interviews is done as follows:

- Doctoral shortlist: applied for Doctoral Scholarship and  $D\text{-score} \geq D\text{-cut-off}$ ;
- Master's shortlist: applied for Master's Scholarship and  $M\text{-score} \geq M\text{-cut-off}$  or  $D\text{-score} \geq D\text{-cut-off}$ .

Interviews shall be conducted online, tentatively in March 2026. Final selection shall be based mainly on the performance in the written test and interview, but may also consider the academic track record.

## 7 Application Procedure

### 7.1 Online Application Portal

Applications must be submitted online at the following once it opens (in the first week of December, 2025):

<https://nbhmexam.puchd.ac.in/>

Application fee: ₹400 for a single scholarship (either Master's or Doctoral); ₹700 for both scholarships. The [policies of NBHM](#) must be accepted.

Applicants shall have an opportunity to request a centre change, challenge the key (which shall be published within a few hours after the end of test), or challenge their evaluation, during appropriate brief intervals of time, for a fee.

## 7.2 Important Dates

03 Dec 2025	Online application portal scheduled to open
21 Dec 2025	Deadline for applications; end of the day (23:59 hrs, IST)
31 Dec 2025	Admit Cards to be ready for download from the portal
24 Jan 2026	The written test to be held during 10:30–13:30 hrs, IST
27 Feb 2026	Interview Shortlists published on the <a href="#">web page</a> and test scores uploaded to the portal
March 2026	Interviews to be held (exact dates to be decided later)
30 Apr 2026	Final selection results for the Scholarships to be announced

There might be some slight changes to the above schedule due to technical or administrative reasons. All such changes shall be published exclusively on the [web page](#).

## 7.3 Contact Details of Zonal Coordinators

Do not contact any Coordinator expect as a last resort. Check the documentation carefully (e.g. the [FAQ](#)) first. Email is the preferred medium, if contacting is a must.

- **Zone 1 (North):** Professor Gurmeet Kaur Bakshi, email: [gkbakshi@pu.ac.in](mailto:gkbakshi@pu.ac.in), Department of Mathematics, Panjab University, Hans Raj Gupta Hall, Chandigarh 160 014.
- **Zone 2 (North Central):** Professor R. Thangadurai, email: [thanga@hri.res.in](mailto:thanga@hri.res.in), Harish-Chandra Research Institute, Chhatnag Road, Jhusi, Prayagraj 211 019.
- **Zone 3 (West):** Professor Vivek Mohan Mallick, email: [vmallick@iiserpune.ac.in](mailto:vmallick@iiserpune.ac.in), Department of Mathematics, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Homi Bhabha Road, Pashan, Pune 411 008.
- **Zone 4 (East):** Professor Pradipta Bandyopadhyay, email: [pradiptabandyo@gmail.com](mailto:pradiptabandyo@gmail.com). Stat-Math Division, Indian Statistical Institute, 203, B T Road, Kolkata 700 108.
- **Zone 5 (South):** Professor K. N. Raghavan, email: [knr@imsc.res.in](mailto:knr@imsc.res.in), School of Interwoven Arts and Sciences, Krea University, 5655 Central Expressway, Sri City, Andhra Pradesh 517 646.