

CHAPTER 6

ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATIONS FOR MBBS AND BDS COURSE

1. ELIGIBILITY TO APPEAR IN NEET (UG) – 2026

Eligibility for appearing in **NEET (UG)**, as per related Regulations of NMC and DCI are as follows: -

As per the Graduate Medical Education Regulation-2023 (Amendment) dated 16.06.2023, following amendment with respect to minimum age has been notified in GMER-2023, which mandates that:

- i) He/She has completed the age of 17 years as on or before 31st December of the year that the candidate shall be appearing for NEET-UG examination.
- ii) **Accordingly, the lower age limit shall be as under:**

For Candidates of General (UR)/General-EWS	born on or before 31.12.2009
For Candidates of SC/ST/OBC-NCL/PwBD/PwD Category	

- iii) **Upper age limit: (As per Letter No. U-11022/2/2022-UGMEB, dated 09 March 2022 received from National Medical Commission (NMC), Under Graduate Medical Education Board (UGMEB) regarding the upper age limit) there is no upper age limit.**

(As per Letter No. U-14023/19/NEET(UG Exam)/UGMEB dated 13.01.2026)

- iv) Indian Citizens/ Overseas Citizens of India (OCI) intending to pursue Undergraduate Medical Courses in a foreign Medical/ Dental Institute also need to qualify for NEET (UG).

2. CRITERIA FOR NRI / OCI / FOREIGN NATIONALS

- i) Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Overseas Citizens of India (OCI), and Foreign Nationals are eligible for admission in Medical /Dental Colleges subject to rules and regulations framed by the respective State Governments, Institutions, and the Government of India, as the case may be. The NRI and OCI Applicants/Candidates have to upload a Certificate from the concerned Indian Diplomatic Mission in the country of their residence in support of their claim as an NRI/OCI Candidate, along with their online Application Form for NEET (UG) - 2026 and retain the original of such document for producing it at the time of Counselling / Admission to the Courses covered under NEET (UG). Similarly, a foreign applicant for NEET (UG) 2026 shall also upload Documentary Proof (e.g. relevant pages of a valid passport or a Certificate from the Competent Authority in the country of his/her Nationality regarding his/her citizenship status) in support of his/her Nationality, along with online Application Form. The format of Embassy Certificate and Citizenship Certificate or any Documentary proof of Citizenship are given in **Appendix – VI and Appendix – VII**. Foreign nationals may confirm their eligibility from the competent state authorities and counselling authorities, as the case may be.

- ii) **Eligibility of OCI cardholders for NEET (UG):**
- Indian Nationals, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Overseas Citizen of India (OCI), Persons with Indian Origin and Foreign Nationals are eligible for admission in Medical/Dental/Ayurveda/Siddha/Unani/ Homoeopathy Colleges subject to the rules and regulations framed by respective State Governments, Institutions and The Government of India, as the case may be.
 - In compliance of the Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 03.02.2023 in WP No. 891 of 2021, OCI will be entitled to the rights and privileges which had been conferred on them earlier to the notification dated 04.03.2021.

3. QUALIFICATIONS AND QUALIFYING EXAMINATION CODES

As per approval conveyed by the NMC (As per Letter CDN-20011/289/2024-Cordination-NMC dated 05.12.2025 and Letter U-14023/19/NEET(UG Exam)/UGMEB dated 13.01.2026 and Email vide NMC UGSection dated 28.01.2026)

To be eligible for NEET (UG) – 2026, candidates need to refer to the following table for qualifying examination criteria.

CODE: 01	A candidate who is appearing in the qualifying examination, whose 12th result is awaited, may apply and appear in the test but he/she shall not be eligible for admission to the Undergraduate Medical Courses if he/she does not pass the qualifying examination at the time of first round of Counseling. Candidates who have undertaken study of the requisite subjects i.e. Physics, Chemistry, Biology / Biotechnology along with English even as additional subjects after passing Class 12th from duly recognized boards by the concerned Govt. such candidates shall be permitted to appear in NEET-UG Test and resultantly also be eligible for grant of Eligibility Certificate as per Public Notice dated 22.11.2023. However, their candidature will be considered only if they provide documentary evidence of having passed the qualifying Examination with the required subjects.
OR	
CODE: 02	The Higher/Senior Secondary Examination or the Indian School Certificate Examination which is equivalent to class 12 Higher/Senior Secondary Examination after a period of 12 years of study, the study of the requisite subjects i.e. Physics, Chemistry, Biology / Biotechnology along with English even as additional subjects after passing Class 12th from duly recognized boards by the concerned Govt. (which shall include practical tests in these subjects) and Mathematics or any other elective subject with English at a level not less than the core course for English as prescribed by the National Council of Educational Research and Training after the introduction of the 10+2+3 educational structure as recommended by the National Committee on Education. <i>Public Notice dated 22.11.2023 (Para-7), consequent to the introduction of NEP and various legal issues, further adds that: The National Medical Commission in its meeting held on 14.06.2023 after detailed deliberations while taking into consideration the NEP, which permits great extent of flexibility in the study of various subjects in Class 12th, decided that the previous approach of the erstwhile Medical Council of India needs to be</i>

	<i>revisited by permitting candidates to undertaken study of the requisite subjects (Physics, Chemistry, Biology / Biotechnology alongwith English) even as additional subjects after passing Class 12th from boards duly recognized by the concerned Govt. Such candidates shall be permitted to appear in NEET-UG Test and resultantly also be eligible for grant of Eligibility Certificate.</i> If the institute has to consider an examination of an Indian University or of a foreign/university to be equivalent to the Class 12 under intermediate science examination, the candidates shall have to produce a certificate from the concerned Indian University/Association of Indian Universities to the effect that the examination passed by him/her is considered to be equivalent to the class 12 under intermediate science examination.
	OR
CODE: 03	The Intermediate/Pre-degree Examination in Science of an Indian University/Board or other recognized examining body with Physics, Chemistry, Biology /Biotechnology (which shall include practical test in these subjects) and also English as a compulsory subject.
	OR
CODE: 04	The Pre-professional/Pre-medical Examination with Physics, Chemistry, Biology/Biotechnology, and English after passing either the Higher Secondary Examination or the Pre-University or an equivalent examination. The Pre-professional/Pre-medical examination shall include practical tests in these subjects and also English as a compulsory subject.
	OR
CODE: 05	The first year of the three years' degree course of a recognized University with Physics, Chemistry, and Biology/Biotechnology including practical tests in these subjects provided the examination is a University Examination and the candidate has passed the earlier qualifying examination with Physics, Chemistry, Biology/ Biotechnology with English at a level not less than a core course.
	OR
CODE: 06	B.Sc. Examination of an Indian University provided that he/she has passed the B.Sc. Examination with not less than two of the subjects Physics, Chemistry, Biology (Botany, Zoology)/Biotechnology and further that he/ she has passed the earlier qualifying examination with Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and English.
	OR
CODE: 07	Any other examination which in scope and standard (Last 02 years of 10+2 Study comprising of Physics, Chemistry and Biology/Biotechnology; which shall include practical test in these subjects) is found to be equivalent to the Intermediate Science Examination of an Indian University/Board, taking Physics, Chemistry and Biology/Biotechnology including practical tests in each of these subjects and English.

NOTE: Due to the COVID outbreak, no examinations were conducted for 2021 batch of Class 10 (Tamil Nadu State Board). Accordingly, no marks were given in the marksheet and 'pass' is printed in all subjects with a disclaimer – "As per G.O. (Ms) No. 48, School Education (G.E.) department dated: 25.02.2021, all candidates who studied SSLC in the academic year 2020-21 are declared passed."

While filling up of the online Application Form of NEET (UG) - 2026, when the candidate selects 'Passing year' as 2021 with 'School Board' as Tamil Nadu State Board of School Examination (Sec.), the Result Mode field will be disabled and the associated fields for Marks/CGPA will be invisible for Tamil Nadu State Board candidates who have passed their Class 10 in year 2021

Note:

- The candidates who have studied from the Foreign/International Board should ensure that the qualifying examination passed by them is, in scope and standard, as explained in CODE: 07.