Area-wise Admission Process - 2026 Batch

All applicants to the Doctoral programme in Management in 2026, must meet the eligibility and test scores criterion as mentioned in the "Application and Admission Procedure - 2026 Batch" document for consideration. This document provides details on admission process in each area of specialization.

Areas	Accepted Scores for Application						After Shortlisting	
	GMAT	GRE	CAT	GATE	UGC-CSIR NET	IIMB Test	Area Test	Technical Interview
Decision Sciences	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Economics	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	Yes	Yes
Entrepreneurship	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Finance & Accounting	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
Information Systems	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marketing	To be decided.							
OBHRM	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
POM	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Public Policy	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Strategy	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Decision Sciences

Area Test Required: Yes.
Technical Interview Required: Yes.

The Decision Sciences Area at the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore seeks to admit PhD students for the upcoming academic year. Candidates with a strong interest in Statistics, Operations Research, Business Analytics, or a closely related field are invited to apply. We are particularly interested in students who have a background in optimization theory, operations research, machine learning methods, statistical methodology, applied statistics, and big data analytics. Students who have demonstrated academic excellence and are motivated towards a career in academia and research are encouraged to apply.

1. For all applicants meeting the eligibility criterion, the criteria used for shortlisting for technical interviews are as follows:
   a. Academic performance: 10th standard, 12th standard, Bachelor's, and Master's (if applicable) degrees
   b. Research publications in relevant journals/conferences
   c. Statement of Purpose (SoP) and recommendation letters
   d. Overall research potential, such as Honors degree, gold medals, and other academic achievements
   e. Performance on standardized tests: GMAT / GRE / CAT / GATE / UGC-CSIR NET* / IIMB Test. *For UGC-CSIR NET and GATE, while applications from all disciplines will be accepted, preference will be given to mathematical sciences, statistics, computer science, information technology, electrical engineering, data science and artificial intelligence, and related areas.

2. Shortlisted candidates will need to take a written test on the subject matter on the day of the technical interviews. Details will be shared with candidates after shortlisting.

3. Criteria used during technical interviews.
   a. Understanding and conceptual clarity of the subject matter
   b. Aptitude for research
   c. Communication and writing skills

The final ranking of applicants for offers will be based on the composite score comprising the pre-interview, written test, and technical interview scores.

For more information about the area, visit:
https://www.iimb.ac.in/decision-sciences
https://www.iimb.ac.in/programmes/doctoral-programme/specializations/decision_sciences

Economics

Area Test Required: Yes.
Technical Interview Required: Yes.

The Economics Area at the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore seeks to admit PhD students for the upcoming academic year. Candidates with a strong interest in pursuing careers in research and teaching are invited to apply.

1. All eligible applicants will take an online area test. Based on performance in the area test, candidates will be shortlisted for a technical interview.

2. Interviewees will be evaluated on the following criteria:
    a. Research background (publications, awards, research proposal, research experience, programming skills)
    b. Clarity of concepts in Economics, Mathematics and Statistics
    c. Aptitude for research (motivation, communication skills, interpersonal skills, recommendation letters)

    The final ranking of applicants for offers will be based on the pre-interview composite score, area test score, and technical interview score.

For more information about the area, visit:
https://www.iimb.ac.in/Economics
https://www.iimb.ac.in/programmes/doctoral-programme/specializations/economics
Link to View Economics Area Test Syllabus

Entrepreneurship

Area Test Required: Yes.
Technical Interview Required: Yes.

The Entrepreneurship Area at the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore seeks to admit PhD students for the upcoming academic year. Candidates with a strong interest in pursuing careers in research and teaching are invited to apply.

1. The PhD Admissions Committee in the area will develop an initial shortlist based on the following criteria:
   a. Academic performance based on marks obtained from 10th through to the highest prior qualifications obtained.
   b. Performance on tests: GMAT / GRE / CAT / GATE / IIMB Test
   c. Quality of work experience, if any.
   d. Overall research potential based on recommendations, any prior research work and research statements.

2. Candidates from the shortlist above will be interviewed in a two-stage process as specified below:
   a. First stage
      i. Participants will read a recent research paper and write a one-page summary of the research question, contribution, theoretical background, evidence, critique, and future research (one- or two-hour exercise).
      ii. The participants will then attend a half hour seminar with a faculty discussing the research paper (this discussion will follow the typical format of a PhD seminar, with the instructor acting as a facilitator, and participants discussing key points of the paper).
      iii. The first stage may be a whole day exercise to provide ample time to get the best out of this stage of the process, in which case the second stage could be carried out the next day.
   b. Second and final stage
      i. Participants shortlisted from the previous round will have one-on-one technical interviews.
      ii. The criteria used for assessing performance in interview will be:
         1. Communication skills
         2. Motivation for research
         3. Understanding of the research process and an academic career
         4. Understanding of the broad area of interest

The final ranking of applicants will be based on performance in technical interview triangulated with the criteria used for shortlisting for the technical interview.

For more information about the area, visit:
https://www.iimb.ac.in/Entrepreneurship
https://www.iimb.ac.in/programmes/doctoral-programme/specializations/entrepreneurship

Finance and Accounting

Area Test Required: Yes.
Technical Interview Required: Yes.

The Finance and Accounting (F&A) area at the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore seeks to admit students to its Ph.D. program. Our program requires candidates to possess strong quantitative and analytical skills. Candidates who have demonstrated academic excellence and are motivated to become researchers are encouraged to apply.

The admission process is described below. It consists of two rounds: (i) Shortlisting Round and (ii) Post-Shortlisting Round.

1.   Shortlisting Round: The applicants will be shortlisted based on the following criteria:
        a. Prior academic performance in 12th standard and bachelor's degrees,
        b. Performance on any one of the following tests: CAT /GATE/GMAT/GRE.

2.   Post-Shortlisting Round. The shortlisted applicants will be assessed on:
        a.   The relevance of their academic/professional achievements for doing high-quality research: The assessment will be based on the strength of their application and the Statement of Purpose. Candidates are encouraged to provide all the relevant pieces of information.
        b.   An Area Test will be administered on the specified date: Candidates will be evaluated on an understanding of basic differential and integral calculus, statistics, probability theory, and algebra. The test will also assess their written communication, report-writing skills and analytical thinking ability.
        c.   Technical Interview: Candidates will be assessed on communication skills, motivation for doing research, and conceptual clarity.

The final selection of candidates will be based on the points obtained in both the Shortlisting Round and the Post-Shortlisting Round.

For more information about the area, visit:
https://www.iimb.ac.in/finance-account
https://www.iimb.ac.in/programmes/doctoral-programme/specializations/finance-accounting

Information Systems

Area Test Required: Yes
Technical Interview Required: Yes.

The Information Systems Area at the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore seeks to admit PhD students for the upcoming academic year. Candidates with a strong interest in pursuing careers in research and teaching are invited to apply.

1. The PhD Admissions Committee in the Information Systems Area will shortlist candidates for technical interviews by assessing their potential to become academic scholars. The criteria used for making this assessment are as follows:

    a. Prior academic performance based on marks/rank in 10th standard, 12th standard, Bachelors and Masters (if applicable)
    b. Relevance and quality of work experience
    c. Prior training in Information Systems and research potential
    d. Performance on tests: CAT / GRE / GMAT / GATE / IIMB Test / UGC-CSIR NET*
    e. Overall research potential based on recommendations, any prior research work, research statements etc.
    * UGC-CSIR NET Subject tests accepted by the area: All tests listed in Appendix

2. Shortlisted applicants will appear for a written ability test conducted by IIMB

3. The criteria used for assessing performance in technical interview are as follows:
    a. Motivation for research
    b. Conceptual skills
    c. Prior research / writing
    d. Clarity in communication

The final ranking of applicants will be based on criteria used above for shortlisting, the written ability test as well as performance in technical interview.

For more information about the area, visit:
https://www.iimb.ac.in/faculty-information-systems
https://www.iimb.ac.in/programmes/doctoral-programme/specializations/is

Marketing

To be decided.

Organizational Behaviour & Human Resource Management

Area Test Required: Yes.
Technical Interview Required: Yes.

The Organizational Behaviour & Human Resource Management Area at the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore seeks to admit PhD students for the upcoming academic year. Candidates with a strong interest in pursuing careers in research and teaching are invited to apply.

1. The applicants will be shortlisted for technical interview based on the following criteria:
    a. Academic performance
    b. Work experience and quality
    c. Performance based on tests: GMAT/ GRE/ CAT / GATE/ JRF – NET* / IIMB Test
    d. Overall research potential based on any prior research work, research statements, publications (please attach a copy if any), Recommendation letters or other available information
    *JRF-NET Subject tests accepted by the area: Only Anthropology – Code 7, Business Economics – Code 01, Human Resource Management – Code 55, Management- Code 17, Psychology – Code 04, Sociology – Code 05.

    For shortlisting, we also screen applications to see if the candidate has a Master's level degree from institutions such as the IIMs, MDI, TISS, XLRI and other reputed institutions. We do welcome applications from diversity of schools and from abroad.

2. The criteria used for assessing performance in technical interview are as follows:
    a. Motivation for Research and Academic Work: For example, can the candidate conceptualize a research problem, outline ways to operationalize (or measure) conceptual ideas.
    b. Ability to communicate: For example, can the candidate outline coherently how they may want to teach, carry out research projects, their motivations to join IIMB.
    c. Conceptual skills: For example, formulating ideas, understanding relationships between ideas, ability to analyse.
    d. Area specified test

The final ranking of applicants will be based on the performance in the technical interview and Area Test Score.

For more information about the area, visit:
https://www.iimb.ac.in/organizational-behavior-human-resources-management
https://www.iimb.ac.in/programmes/doctoral-programme/specializations/obhrm

Production & Operations Management

Area Test Required: Yes.
Technical Interview Required: Yes.

The Production & Operations Management Area at the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore seeks to admit PhD students for the upcoming academic year. Candidates with a strong interest in pursuing careers in research and teaching are invited to apply.

1. The applicants will be shortlisted for technical interview based on the following criteria:
   a. 10th marks, 12th marks, Max (Bachelor's, Master's)
   b. Research Publications in relevant journals
   c. Work Experience: Ideally 2 to 5 years.
   d. Statement of Purpose (SoP) and Recommendation letters:
   e. Overall research potential (honors candidates, gold medals, doing well in relevant courses in class 10, 12, bachelor' and Master'; *nature / quality of experience*)
   f. Test scores in GMAT / GRE / CAT / GATE / IIMB Test

2. Shortlisted applicants will be called for an Area Test and a technical Interview.

3. The criteria used for assessing performance in technical interview are as follows:
   a. Communication Skills
   b. Motivation for Research
   c. Conceptual skills

The final ranking of applicants will be based on criteria used above for shortlisting as well as performance in the area test and technical interview.

For more information about the area, visit:
https://www.iimb.ac.in/production-operations
https://www.iimb.ac.in/programmes/doctoral-programme/specializations/production-operations-management

Public Policy

Area Test Required: Yes.
Technical Interview Required: Yes.

The Public Policy Area at the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore seeks to admit PhD students for the upcoming academic year. Candidates with a strong interest in pursuing careers in research and teaching are invited to apply.

1. The applicants will be shortlisted for Public Policy area technical interview based on the following criteria:
   a. Prior academic performance: 12th marks, Bachelor's and Master's (if applicable) degrees
   b. Quality of Work Experience
   c. Overall research potential based on Statement of Purpose (SoP) and Recommendation letters
   d. Test scores in GMAT / GRE / CAT / GATE / UGC-CSIR NET * / IIMB Test
   e. Broad fit with interests of current public policy faculty's research interests and/or expertise
   * UGC-CSIR NET Subject tests accepted by the area: All tests listed in Appendix

2. Shortlisted applicants will be called for an Area Test.

3. Based on performance in the Area Test, candidates will be shortlisted for technical interviews

4. The criteria used for assessing performance in the technical interviews are as follows:
   a. Communication Skills
   b. Motivation for Research
   c. Conceptual clarity

The final ranking of applicants will be based on performance in the area test, technical interviews and the criteria used for shortlisting for the technical interview.

For more information about the area, visit:
https://www.iimb.ac.in/centre-for-public-policy
https://www.iimb.ac.in/programmes/doctoral-programme/specializations/public-policy

Strategy

Area Test Required: No.
Technical Interview Required: Yes.

The Strategy Area at the Indian Institute of Management-Bangalore seeks to admit PhD students for the upcoming academic year. Candidates with a strong interest in pursuing careers in research and teaching are invited to apply.

1. The PhD Admissions Committee in the Strategy Area will shortlist candidates for technical interviews by assessing their potential to become academic scholars. The criteria used for making this assessment are as follows:
    a. Academic performance based on marks/rank in 10th standard, 12th standard, Bachelors and Masters (if applicable)
    b. Quality of work experience (if applicable)
    c. Performance on tests: GMAT / GRE / CAT / UGC-CSIR NET * / IIMB Test
    d. Overall research potential based on recommendations, any prior research work, and research statements.
    * UGC-CSIR NET Subject tests accepted by the area: Only Management- Code 17

2. The criteria used for assessing performance in technical interview are as follows:
    a. Communication skills
    b. Motivation for research
    c. Conceptual skills

The final ranking of applicants will be based on criteria used above for shortlisting as well as performance in technical interview.

For more information about the area, visit:
https://www.iimb.ac.in/strategy
https://www.iimb.ac.in/programmes/doctoral-programme/specializations/strategy

Appendix: Information on UGC-CSIR NET Exams accepted for admission to Doctoral Programme

UGC/CSIR - NET Subjects*	Decision Science	Info. Systems	Public Policy	OBHRM	Strategy
UGC-NET-1-Economics / Rural Economics etc.	YES	YES	YES	YES	
UGC-NET-2-Political Science	YES	YES	YES		
UGC-NET-4-Psychology	YES	YES	YES	YES	
UGC-NET-5-Sociology	YES	YES	YES	YES	
UGC-NET-7-Anthropology	YES	YES	YES	YES	
UGC-NET-8-Commerce	YES	YES	YES		
UGC-NET-9-Education	YES	YES	YES		
UGC-NET-10-Social Work	YES	YES	YES		
UGC-NET-11-Defence and Strategic Studies	YES	YES	YES		
UGC-NET-14-Public Administration	YES	YES	YES		
UGC-NET-15-Population Studies	YES	YES	YES		
UGC-NET-17-Management (including Business Admn. Mgt./Marketing etc.)	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
UGC-NET-55-Labour Welfare/Personnel Management etc	YES	YES	YES	YES	
UGC-NET-58-Law	YES	YES	YES		
UGC-NET-63-Mass Communication and Journalism	YES	YES	YES		
UGC-NET-74-Women Studies	YES	YES	YES		
UGC-NET-81-Social Medicine & Community Health	YES	YES	YES		
UGC-NET-87-Computer Science and Applications	YES	YES	YES		
UGC-NET-88-Electronic Science	YES	YES	YES		
UGC-NET-89-Environmental Sciences	YES	YES	YES		
UGC-NET-90-Politics including International Relations/International Studies etc.	YES	YES	YES		
CSIR-NET-704-Mathematical Sciences	YES	YES	YES		
UGC/CSIR NET exams in other subjects are not accepted by IIM Bangalore for admission into the Doctoral Programme in Management					
Areas not listed in the table do not accept UGC/CSIR NET exams for admission into the Doctoral Programme in Management					
See document on PhD 2025 Area-wise Admission Process for more details					