

CHAPTER – 3

ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATION

3.1 Age Criteria

For appearing in the JEE (Main) - 2026, there is no age limit for the candidates. The candidates who have passed the class XII / equivalent Examination in **2024, 2025 or appearing in 2026** irrespective of their age can appear in JEE (Main) - 2026 Examination. However, the candidates may be required to fulfill the age criteria of the Institute(s) to which they are desirous of taking admission.

3.2 List of Qualifying Examinations

- i. The final Examination of the 10+2 system, conducted by any recognized Central/ State Board, such as the Central Board of Secondary Education, New Delhi; Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, New Delhi; etc.
- ii. Intermediate or two-year Pre-University examination conducted by a recognized Board/ University.
- iii. Final examination of the two-year course of the Joint Services Wing of the National Defence Academy.
- iv. Senior Secondary School Examination conducted by the National Institute of Open Schooling with a minimum of five subjects.
- v. Any Public School/ Board/ University examination in India or any foreign country is recognized as equivalent to the 10+2 system by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU).
- vi. Higher Secondary Certificate Vocational Examination.
- vii. A diploma recognized by AICTE or a State board of technical education of at least 3 years duration.
- viii. General Certificate Education (GCE) examination (London/Cambridge/Sri Lanka) at the Advanced (A) level.
- ix. High School Certificate Examination of the Cambridge University or International Baccalaureate Diploma of the International Baccalaureate Office, Geneva.
- x. Candidates who have completed the Class XII (or equivalent) examination outside India or from a Board not specified above should produce a certificate from the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) to the effect that the examination they have passed is equivalent to the Class XII Examination.
- xi. In case the Class XII Examination is not a public examination, the candidate must have passed at least one public (Board or Pre-University) examination earlier.
- xii. Board of Open Schooling and Skill Education (BOSSE), Sikkim.

Note 3.2:- The candidates can appear in JEE (Main) - 2026 conducted by NTA as per the above mentioned qualifying Examination. However, the candidates should satisfy themselves for eligibility to appear or get admission in any Institute/ University etc, as per their eligibility criteria and visit the respective websites/ view notifications. NTA is responsible only for conduct of JEE (Main) Examination and no grievances / RTI etc, will be entertained regarding qualification criteria for any particular Institute/ University etc.

3.3 Year of Appearance in Qualifying Examination

Candidates those who have passed the Class XII / Equivalent Examination in 2024, 2025 or those who are appearing in the Class XII / equivalent Examination in 2026, are eligible to appear in JEE (Main) - 2026.

Candidates who passed the Class XII / equivalent Examination in 2023 or before are not eligible to appear in JEE (Main) - 2026. Passing year for class XII (or Equivalent Examination) means the year, in which the result of the candidate has been declared as 'pass' for the first time in that particular Examination (Class XII/ Equivalent Examination).

For example, if a candidate has passed Class XII with Physics, Chemistry and Biology subjects in the year 2023 and further passed Class XII in Mathematics in the year 2024, then year 2023 will be considered as passing year of Class XII for appearing in JEE (Main). Similarly, any attempt of improvement in marks/percentage of class XII/ Equivalent Examination will not be considered as their first attempt.

Note 3.3: The Candidates who are appearing for Class XII Board Examination in the year 2026 can mention their Roll Number/ Registration Number / Enrollment Number etc. in the relevant fields during filling up the Online Application Form for JEE (Main)- 2026.

3.4 State of Eligibility

State code of eligibility means the code of the State from where the candidate has passed the Class XII (or Equivalent) qualifying Examination by virtue of which the candidate becomes eligible to appear in JEE (Main) - 2026. It is important to note that the State code of eligibility does NOT depend upon the native place or the place of residence of the candidate. For example, if a candidate appears for the Class XII (or Equivalent) qualifying Examination from an Institution situated in New Delhi and is a resident of Noida, Uttar Pradesh, then the candidate's State code of eligibility will be Delhi and NOT Uttar Pradesh.

If a candidate has passed the Class XII (or Equivalent) qualifying Examination from one State but appeared for improvement from another State, the candidate's State code of eligibility will be from where the candidate first passed the Class XII (or Equivalent) Examination and NOT the State from where the candidate has appeared for improvement.

Candidates passed / appearing for Class XII from NIOS should select the State of Eligibility according to the State in which the study Centre is located.

For Indian nationals passing the Class XII (or Equivalent) Examination from Nepal/Bhutan, the State code of eligibility will be determined based on a permanent address in India as given in the passport of the candidate.

The State code of eligibility for OCI passing the Class XII (or Equivalent) Examination in India is at par with Indian nationals. However, OCI passing the Class XII (or Equivalent) Examination from an institution abroad are eligible for All India quota seats (but NOT for Home State quota seats) in all NITs, IIITs and Other-CFTIs.
