

JOINT CSIR-UGC NET DECEMBER 2026

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

This document is merely an attempt to provide answers to some common questions posed to us, by the candidates. However, this list is neither exhaustive nor does it purport to be a source of complete information on the subject. Hence candidates are advised, in their own interest to refer to the “Information Bulletin” on this site, besides referring to the CSIR website for detailed information, and ensure that they meet eligibility criteria. FAQs may be referred for a quick reference only:

S. No.	FAQ	Response of NTA
REGISTRATION		
1.	Can I apply for multiple subjects while filling the online application of JOINT CSIR UGC NET DECEMBER 2026?	A candidate can fill the application form in only one subject. However, filling multiple forms will lead to cancellation of all the application forms. Any candidate with more than one Application Number (more than one SCORE CARDS) will be treated as UFM, even if found at a later stage, and strict action will be taken against that Candidate.
2.	Can I fill more than one online application of JOINT CSIR UGC NET DECEMBER 2026?	A candidate can fill only one application. If a candidate submits multiple Application Forms for the same subject, only the first one will be considered, and all the others will be rejected automatically
3.	If a candidate for any reason has not appeared in the exam, is there any provision for refund of fee?	No
4.	How do I apply for JOINT CSIR UGC NET DECEMBER 2026 Exams?	Application Forms can only be submitted through online mode on the website https://csirnet.nta.nic.in/ . The Application Form other than online mode will not be accepted.
5.	What documents or certificates do I need to upload along with the Application Form?	Candidates need to upload the scanned images of the following while applying: • Photograph • Signature • Category certificate, if applicable • Disability/UDID certificate if applicable • Result awaited attested, if applicable The documents / certificates etc., shall be verified directly at the time of admission by the admitting university.
6.	How can I pay Application Fee?	• Fee can be paid using SBI/CANARA Bank Payment Gateway through Debit Card/Credit Card/Net Banking/UPI. Candidates need to keep proof of fee paid. • In case the Confirmation Page is not generated after payment of fee then the transaction is cancelled, and amount will be refunded to the candidate's account after reconciliation. • However, the candidate has to make another transaction, in case the Confirmation Page is not generated.

7.	What is the amount of exam fee?	Category	Fee Rs.	Late Fee Rs. Rs. 500/-
		General	Rs. 1,150/-	
		Gen-EWS/OBC(NCL)	Rs. 600/-	
		SC/ST/PwD/PwBD/ Third Gender	Rs. 325/-	
8.	Do I need to send Confirmation Page to NTA/CSIR?	The Candidates are NOT required to send/submit the Confirmation Page of Online Application Form (or any document) to the NTA/CSIR. However, they are advised to retain the following documents with them for any future reference/correspondence: ○ Copy of the Confirmation Page of Online Application Form (Download, save and Print at least 3 copies) ○ Proof of fee paid (Download, save and Print at least 3 copies) ○ Photographs (same as uploaded on the Online Application Form)		
9.	If I have made any mistake(s) while registering/applying, can I make changes later in the Application Form?	Once 'Final Submit' button has been clicked, the candidate's details cannot be edited/changed. However, NTA shall open the "Correction Window" as per the schedule and Correction in particulars of Application Form can be incorporated on the website only during "Correction Window". No corrections shall be allowed after the closure of correction window and all particulars entered by the candidate would be considered as final.		
10.	I have made the online payment but my confirmation page has not been generated. What to do?	Such problem occurs because of drop in connectivity from Banks' server to the server on which NTA website has been hosted. You are advised to wait for 24 hours if such problem has been faced by you. • In case the Confirmation Page is not generated after payment of fee then the transaction is cancelled, and amount will be refunded to the candidate's account. • In such cases, the candidate has to make another transaction, to confirm and complete the application process.		
11.	I have made the online payment but my status is not updated on the system.	If it is not updated within 24 hours, raise a query in Query Redressal System or send a mail at csirnet@nta.ac.in giving details of your mobile number, application number, payment reference number and proof of payment		
12.	I have made double payment of exam fee. When will I get refund of extra payment made by me?	Any extra payment made by you will be refunded to you, after reconciliation. In case you do not receive the refund as stated above, you may write to NTA at csirnet@nta.ac.in stating your application number, name, email ID, phone number, payment reference number, name of the bank through which payment was made.		

13.	I carried out corrections and submitted. After submission, I found that still there is some more correction to be done. Can I do so?	After submission of corrections, you cannot reopen the application and add more corrections. Please check the corrections before submission.
14.	Why am I asked to pay additional fee after making corrections, in the correction window?	• No fee is charged for making corrections in the details of application form, if there is no change in the Category. • As amount of exam fee depends on the Category to which a candidate belongs, an additional fee may be applicable in certain cases when a candidate changes his category. • Please check the Information Bulletin for the amount of fee payable by different Categories.
15.	What should candidate do, when 'continuous timeout', 'Server Error' or 'file not found error' occurs while making correction in Application Form of JOINT CSIR UGC NET DECEMBER 2026?	• Use updated version of Mozilla Firefox/Internet Explorer/Chrome and good internet connection while filling application form. In case of continuous time out, one can clear cookies and history of the browser and fill during off-peak hours
16.	Will I get a refund of fee in case I change my category from General to others, in the correction window?	• No
17.	I have forgotten my application number. How do I get it?	• On the log in screen of the portal, click the "forgot application number" button and follow the procedure given there. You will get your application number.
18.	Can I use my friend's email address when registering for Online Application Form?	No, you need to use a valid and unique email address of applicant only. As, all communications are through registered e-mail ID • or SMS.

ABOUT THE EXAM

19.	What is JOINT CSIR UGC NET Exam?	CSIR-UGC NET exam is conducted for test to determine the eligibility of Indian Nationals for 'award of Junior Research Fellowship and appointment as Assistant Professor', 'appointment as Assistant Professor and admission to Ph.D.' and 'admission to Ph.D. only' in Indian universities and colleges.
20.	What is the difference between UGC NET and JOINT CSIR UGC NET exam?	The main difference is that the UGC NET is conducted in Humanities including languages, Social Sciences, Forensic Science, Environmental Science, Computer Science and Applications and Electronic Science and JOINT CSIR UGC NET is for other science subjects such as Life Sciences, Physical Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Mathematical Sciences and Earth Atmospheric Ocean and Planetary Sciences jointly with UGC.
21.	How many times will JOINT CSIR UGC NET be conducted in a year	Generally, it is conducted twice a year in June and December
22.	Can a Non science student appear in the JOINT CSIR UGC NET exam?	The JOINT CSIR UGC NET exam is conducted for Science Student. Non science students can appear in UGC NET exam for making a career in lectureship and research
23.	What are the dates of the JOINT CSIR UGC NET DECEMBER 2026 Exams?	JOINT CSIR UGC NET DECEMBER 2026 Exam will be held on 19 th , 22 nd and 27 th December 2026. Candidates are advised to be in touch with the NTA website i.e. https://csirnet.nta.nic.in/

SCHEME OF EXAM

24.	What is the Scheme of exam JOINT CSIR UGC NET DECEMBER 2026 How many questions would be there in the test?	Please refer to the Information Bulletin hosted on the website https://csirnet.nta.nic.in/
25.	What subject areas are assessed in the test?	A candidate is required to opt for any of the following subjects, while applying: • Chemical Sciences • Mathematical sciences • Physical Sciences • Earth, Atmospheric, Ocean and Planetary Sciences • Life Sciences and Bio-Technology The QP has three parts. • Part A (General Aptitude with emphasis on logical reasoning, graphical analysis, analytical and numerical ability quantitative comparison, series formation puzzles etc.) • Part B contain questions on the subject. • Part C will contain higher order questions that may test the candidate's knowledge of scientific concepts and /or application of the scientific concepts. The questions shall be of analytical nature where a candidate is expected to apply scientific knowledge to arrive at the solution to the given scientific problem.
26.	Is there any negative marking?	Please refer to the Information Bulletin hosted on the website https://csirnet.nta.nic.in/
27.	What is the syllabus of the Examination?	The Questions in the test shall be based on the syllabus prescribed by the CSIR which is available at the website www.csirhrdg.res.in
28.	What is the duration of the examination?	Duration of the examination is 180 minutes (3 hours).
29.	In which cities would be JOINT CSIR UGC NET DECEMBER 2026 conducted in India?	The JOINT CSIR UGC NET DECEMBER 2026 will be conducted at 209 cities all over the country. (Please refer to Annexure-III of the Information Bulletin for the list of exam cities)
30.	What is the role of NTA in the JOINT CSIR UGC NET DECEMBER 2026 exam	Role of NTA is confined to registration of candidates, conduct of exam, finalising answer keys after challenge and processing and declaration of results.
31.	What is the eligibility criteria for appearing in JOINT CSIR-UGC NET exam?	Please refer to the Information Bulletin hosted on the NTA website.

32.	What is the maximum age for appearing in JOINT CSIR UGC NET DECEMBER 2026 exam?	The maximum age limit for applying for the award of JRF shall be 30 years as on the 1 st day of the month in which the examination is concluded i.e. December, 2026 which is relaxable upto 5 years for OBC-NCL/SC/ST /Third Gender/ PwD/PwBD/Female candidates. However, for other details refer to the Information Bulletin “Chapter-2”. However, there is no upper age limit for those applying for Assistant Professor and Admission to Ph.D.
33.	Can I appear in JOINT CSIR UGC NET exam while doing graduation? I am an engineering student?	Please refer to the Information Bulletin hosted on the NTA website.
34.	Will the question paper be bi-lingual or only in English?	The Question Paper will be bi-lingual, i.e., in English and in Hindi. In case of any discrepancy between English & Hindi version of a question, English Version would be considered as valid

ADMIT CARD

35.	How will I get my admit card?	The admit card will be uploaded on NTA website https://csirnet.nta.nic.in/ as per the schedule communicated through the website. Candidates need to check the admit card carefully for all particulars e.g Roll No., Name, Subject Group, Date of Birth, Gender, Category Examination Centre Name, City, etc.
36.	If I do not get my Admit Card, whom should I contact?	You can call 011-4075 9000 or 011 6922 7700 or send a mail at csirnet@nta.ac.in
37.	Whom can I contact in case my admit card has some issue, or I am not able to download my admit card?	In case of any problem related to Admit card, please contact the given helpline numbers between 10:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. or send a mail at csirnet@nta.ac.in
38.	Where can I get the details of test centre?	The name of test centre along with the address will be mentioned in admit card.
39.	Can I change my test city after receiving admit card?	- No, you will not be allowed to change your test city once admit card has been issued. - While applying candidates have to select any four cities of their choice. - Selection of cities will be limited to the State of permanent and present address of the candidates. - Efforts will be made to allot city of examination to the candidates in order of the choice opted by them in their application form. Please select your preferred choices carefully. - The Examination City, once opted, shall not be changed. However, NTA reserves the right to change the city based on the feasibility.

CONDUCT OF EXAM

40.	What is the reporting time at the centre?	Candidates are advised to report 02 hours prior to the commencement of the examination on the scheduled date and shift mentioned in the Admit Card in order to avoid crowding during verification of the admit cards, registration, frisking, etc.
41.	What is the last time for entry?	Candidates are required to be in the exam centre latest, half an hour before the commencement of the exam.
42.	What documents do I need to carry to the examination centre on the day of examination? What are the things allowed to be carried or not to be carried to the examination centre?	Candidates MUST bring the following documents on the day of examination at the test centre. I. Admit Card along with Undertaking downloaded from the NTA website (a clear printout on A4 size paper) II. A simple Ball Point Pen. III. Any one of the authorized photo IDs (must be original, valid, and non-expired) –PAN Card/ Driving License/ Voter ID/ Passport/Aadhaar Card (With photograph)/E-Aadhaar with photograph/ Ration Card with photograph/ Bank Passbook with Photograph. All other ID/Photocopies of IDs even if attested/scanned photo of IDs in mobile phone will NOT be considered as valid ID Proof. IV. PwD/ PwBD certificate and UDID issued by the authorized medical officer, if claiming the relaxation under PwD/PwBD category. You also need to carry IV. Personal transparent water bottle V. 02 Additional photograph (same as uploaded on the Online Application Form) to be pasted on the admit card and the attendance sheet (in examination Room/ Hall). VI. Sugar tablets/fruits (like banana/apple/orange) in case the candidate is diabetic. <i>Note: Candidate will not be allowed to take personal items such as mobile phones, digital/analogue watches, food items, study material, lockets, bags, electronic gadgets or any other prohibited items into the testing room. You are advised not to bring these to the test centre.</i>

43.	I am a PwD candidate or have physical limitation? Can I bring my own scribe?	Scribe will be provided by the National Testing Agency to the candidate with bench mark disabilities or persons having less than 40% disability and having difficulty in writing. However, the candidate is also permitted to bring his/her own scribe, if he/she so chooses. However: The qualification of the scribe should be one step below the qualification of the candidate taking the examination You must indicate that you need a scribe while applying and upload the necessary medical certificate. You will be provided a scribe only if you fall within the categories of disabilities eligible for a scribe.
44.	I am PwD or have physical limitation. Will I get extra time?	Those with bench mark disabilities or having less than 40% disability and having difficulty in writing, who had indicated their status in their application form and also uploaded the specified medical certificate while applying will be given extra time. Please refer Information Bulletin Chapter-4.
45.	Clarification regarding candidate appearing in one subject and serving as a scribe in another subject?	Candidate bringing own scribe must ensure that the scribe is not a candidate in the Joint CSIR UGC NET December-2026. If found at a later stage, the candidature of both will be cancelled and strict action will be taken against both the candidates.
46.	What precaution should I take while carrying document?	The name on the photo identification must match with the name as shown on the Admit Card. If the name has been changed due to events such as marriage, candidate must show the relevant document like Marriage Certificate / Divorce / Decree / Legal Name Change Document at the time of examination.
47.	Should I carry a paper to the exam hall for doing some rough work?	No. Blank Sheets for doing rough work/calculations will be provided to the candidates at the exam centre. All calculations/rough work are to be done only in the Blank Sheets provided at the Centre in the Examination Room/Hall. On completion of the test, candidates must hand over the Rough Sheets to the Invigilator on duty in the Room/Hall.
47.	How do I answer questions in the computer-based mode?	Detailed guidelines on the procedure for appearing in Computer Based Tests are given in the Information Bulletin. You may go through them.
48.	Can I take the exam from any computer?	No, a candidate will have to appear for the exam on a pre-assigned workstation of the test center allocated to him/her.

49.	Can I move back and forth between the questions?	Yes, candidates will have the option to navigate between the questions by following instructions available on the User Interface. They may change even answer options, any time before they enter submit button.
50.	What precautions do I need to take during the examination?	• Each candidate has to attempt subject as per the choice in the Application Form. • Please ensure that name of the subject on the screen is the same as per your admit card. In case of any discrepancy please inform Invigilators immediately. • The candidates must attempt subjects as per their choice in the Application and indicated on their admit card. • Attempting different paper would lead to cancellation of the candidature.
51.	What if I could not appear in the examination on scheduled date?	No candidate will be allowed to appear at the examination centre/date/timings other than that allotted to them in their Admit card. <i>Important: For those who are unable to appear on the scheduled date of test for any reason, retest shall not be held by the NTA under any circumstance.</i>
52.	What will I be provided with during the exam?	At the test centre, each candidate will be allotted a desk with a computer terminal and white sheets for rough work. Rough work cannot be done on any other paper/sheet, as no other material will be allowed inside the examination room. On completion of the test, candidates must hand over the Rough Sheets to the Invigilator on duty in the Room/Hall
53.	How do I know when the exam time has ended?	There will be an on-screen timer on the top right corner of your screen which will count down for the allocated time. Candidates are advised to check this timer regularly and allocate their time carefully.
54.	Will I be able to leave early if I finish the exam before the allocated exam time has ended?	No, candidates will not be allowed to leave until the entire duration of the exam is over with the exception of genuine medical emergency.
55.	In case of any technical problems with the computer system, at the exam centre, what should I do? Will I lose time?	NO. In case of any technical problems with the computer at the exam centre, and you are not able to continue the exam, inform invigilator. She/He would fix the issue or will map you to another PC through a proper process. Your exam time in the next session will commence from the time you discontinued your exam, There would be no loss of time for you.

POST EXAM MATTERS

56.	Will I get an opportunity to view my responses, the questions and the answers? Will I get an opportunity to challenge the answers, in case I feel that the answer to any question is incorrect, in my opinion?	- After the conduct of test, NTA will display provisional answer keys of the Questions along with candidate recorded responses on the NTA's website https://csirnet.nta.nic.in/ Candidates will be able to challenge the provisional answer keys with the non-refundable online payment of Rs. 200/- per question. - After exam, experts will examine all the challenges received. - NTA will display the Final Answer Keys on the NTA website, on a date communicated to candidates through NTA website and public notice/press release in advance. - No grievance with regard to answer key(s) after declaration of result will be entertained. The NTA's decision on the challenges shall be final and no further communication will be entertained. - Candidates are advised to remain in touch with the NTA website www.nta.ac.in / https://csirnet.nta.nic.in/ for the exact dates and other updates.
57.	What is the evaluation methodology?	Responses will be processed based on the answer keys verified and finalised. Exceptions will be handled in the following manner: If a question for any reason is found to be wrong, the benefit of marks will be given to only those candidates who attempted the question. - • On examining the challenges by the subject experts, if it is found that along with the original answer key one more option(s) is correct, then marks will be awarded to all those candidates who have attempted any one of the correct options. (Except in Part C of Mathematical Sciences where rules as prescribed in Chapter 3 "Section 3.2" shall apply)
58.	When will results be declared	Will be announced in the NTA website later.
59.	Can I apply for re-checking my answers, after results?	No.
60.	Whom should I contact in case of any need?	You can write to NTA at csirnet@nta.ac.in or call NTA Help Desk at: 011 4075 9000, 011 6922 7700 Candidates are advised to be in touch with the NTA website www.nta.ac.in or https://csirnet.nta.nic.in/ for latest updates.

NEW INITIATIVES

61.	MeriPehchaan-National Single Sign-On (NSSO) Platform	The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, in collaboration with NIC, C-DAC and NeGD, launched the National Single Sign-On (NSSO) platform “Meri Pehchaan”. Application form registration for Joint CSIR UGC-NET December 2026 has been enabled through the Meri Pehchaan Single Sign-On service of MeitY for the convenience of applicants
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