



GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA
MAHARASHTRA STATE COMMON ENTRANCE TEST (CET) CELL

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**Roles and Responsibilities of Universities, Colleges and Recognised
Institute in the Admission Process for NRI/OCI/PIO/CIWGC/FNS
Category Candidates to Professional Courses in Maharashtra for the
Academic Year 2026-27**

The Government of Maharashtra has notified the definition of Non-Resident Indian (NRI), applicable to the admission process for the Academic Year 2026-27, as detailed below:

The list of documents required to be submitted by applicants seeking admission under the NRI quota has been revised accordingly. The State Common Entrance Test Cell shall continue to operate the Integrated Web Portal for admissions to undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Maharashtra for the academic year 2026-27. This portal is specifically designed for NRI/PIO/OCI/FNS/CIWGC candidates seeking admission to Technical, Medical, Higher Education, and Fine Art programs in Maharashtra.

All Universities Colleges and Other Institutes Recognized by the respective governing bodies where NRI quota or supernumerary quota is available are hereby directed to strictly follow and support the process for the admission of international students (FNS, PIO/OCI, NRI, CIWGC) to their respective programmes.

- 1) A dedicated facility has been established for Universities Colleges and Other Recognized Institutes for registration and verification of eligibility of candidates for the admission of NRI/OCI/PIO/CIWGC/FNS candidates for academic year 2026-27. The State CET Cell will provide each for universities, colleges and other recognized institutes with unique login credentials (username) to access this portal. The Colleges can set their own password by entering their username and registered mobile number.
- 2) **Access and Review of Student Applications** - Colleges are required to review applications through their login on <https://fn.mahacet.org> portal. Based on the merit of the applicants, they must review and verify the applications; acceptance of the offered seat and the Freeze/Betterment options are exercised by the candidate through his/her own login as per the Schedule of Activities. The universities, colleges and other recognized institutes should ensure timely evaluation to facilitate the admission process efficiently. Course-wise, category-wise, and combined merit lists must be published by the universities, colleges and other recognized institutes and published on the respective college or institute's official website and <https://fn.mahacet.org> portal. Admissions will be carried out strictly on the basis of merit, eligibility criteria and the availability of seats.

Candidates may receive offers from more than one institution; however, a candidate is allowed to accept only a single offer/seat through his/her login. A candidate allotted a seat as per his/her first preference must accept the seat and pay the final college fee through online mode; such allotment shall be treated as final, and the candidate shall not be eligible for participation in any subsequent round. A candidate allotted a seat other than his/her first preference may either (a) Freeze the seat, i.e., accept it and pay the final college fee through online mode, whereupon the allotment shall be final; or (b) exercise the Betterment option, i.e., accept the allotted seat with payment of the applicable part-payment of the college fee through online mode, and be considered for a seat of higher preference in the immediately following round. A candidate first allotted a seat in Round I may exercise Betterment up to Round II at the latest, and a candidate first allotted a seat in Round II may exercise Betterment up to Round III at the latest; in no case shall participation extend beyond Round IV. In the round for which Betterment has been exercised, whether the candidate is upgraded

to a seat of higher preference or retains the earlier allotted seat, the resulting seat shall be final, and the candidate must pay the balance of the final college fee through online mode; upon upgradation, the seat accepted in the earlier round shall stand automatically forfeited and released. No Freeze or Betterment option shall be available to a candidate allotted a seat for the first time in Round III or Round IV; such candidates must accept the allotted seat and pay the final college fee through online mode. The part-payment made at the time of exercising the Betterment option is not a separate, distinct fee; it forms part of the college fee and shall be adjusted against the final fee payable when the candidate's seat is finally confirmed. The final college fee, once paid to confirm a seat, shall be non-refundable under any circumstances. A candidate who, within the stipulated deadline, neither pays the final college fee nor exercises the Betterment option (where available) shall not be considered for any subsequent CAP Round and shall stand out of the admission process, and the eligibility fee (USD 50) and the one-time processing fee (USD 1,150) already paid shall stand forfeited and shall not be refunded. All fee payments shall be made in USD, not later than the cutoff dates in the Schedule of Activities set out below, either via the designated nodal account or partially directly to the college, depending on the institution's approved method of fee collection.

Once the applicants pay the tuition/college fees and the payment is confirmed by the college, then the allotted seat will be marked as filled and frozen. Subsequently, the final allotment letter will be generated through the system, and a copy will be shared with both the candidate and the respective institute. Any other seat previously offered to them will be released and made available to other applicants. If the applicant fails to pay college fees within the deadline, it will lead to automatic seat cancellation of the allotted seat which may then be offered to the next eligible candidate as per the merit. This process must be completed before the last date specified in the Schedule of Activities below.

It is the responsibility of the institution to verify the college fee payment status and confirm the candidate's admission on the portal within 2 days from the date of payment. Failure by the candidate to pay within the given deadline will result in automatic cancellation of the allotted seat, which may then be offered to the next eligible candidate as per the merit list.

Schedule of Activities for NRI/OCI/PIO/CIWGC/FNS Candidates for Academic Year 2026-27

The activities and scheduled dates for NRI/OCI/PIO/CIWGC/FNS candidates, in line with the revised Centralized Admission Process schedule notified for the Academic Year 2026-27, are as follows:

Sr. No.	Activity	First Date	Last Date
1	Online registration of application, submission of the application form, and uploading of required documents by the Candidate, along with payment of the non-refundable eligibility fee (USD 50) and the one-time non-refundable processing fee (USD 1,150).	–	15-08-2026
2	Round I Merit List (Category-Wise Allotment) for FN/OCI/PIO/CIWGC candidates. <i>Colleges having NRI quota shall simultaneously publish a separate NRI category merit list in Round I itself; NRI category seats are not held back for a later round.</i>	17-08-2026	17-08-2026
3	Accepting the offered seat by the Candidate through his/her login – Round I: - Candidates allotted a seat as per their first preference must accept the seat and pay the final college fee through online mode. Such candidates shall not be eligible for participation in any subsequent round. - Candidates allotted a seat other than their first preference, if satisfied with the allotment, may Freeze the seat: accept and pay the final college fee through online mode. Such candidates shall not be eligible for participation in any subsequent round. - Candidates allotted a seat other than their first preference and wishing to be considered for a seat of higher preference must accept the allotted seat with the “Betterment” option and pay the applicable part-payment of the college fee through online mode. A candidate first allotted a seat in Round I may exercise Betterment up to Round II only, which is the maximum wait available to such a candidate.	18-08-2026	20-08-2026
4	New registration for candidates seeking consideration in Round II closes.	–	25-08-2026
5	Round II Merit List (Category-Wise Allotment) for FN/OCI/PIO/CIWGC candidates. <i>Colleges having NRI quota shall simultaneously publish the</i>	28-08-2026	28-08-2026

Sr. No.	Activity	First Date	Last Date
	<i>NRI category merit list. By the conclusion of Round II, all seats reserved for the NRI category shall stand allotted.</i>		
6	Accepting the offered seat by the Candidate through his/her login – Round II: - Candidates who exercised the Betterment option in Round I shall be considered for a seat of higher preference in Round II. If allotted a better seat, the candidate must accept it and pay the balance of the final college fee through online mode; this becomes the candidate's final seat. If not allotted a better seat, the candidate shall retain the seat allotted in Round I and must pay the balance of the final college fee to confirm it as the final seat. In either case, this is final – no further participation in any subsequent round, since Round II is the maximum wait for a candidate first allotted a seat in Round I. - Candidates allotted a seat for the first time in Round II, including new registrants, have the same three options as in Round I: (a) allotted first preference – accept and pay the final college fee, final; (b) allotted a seat other than first preference and satisfied – Freeze: accept and pay the final college fee, final; or (c) allotted a seat other than first preference and seeking a better seat – accept with the “Betterment” option and pay the applicable part-payment. A candidate first allotted a seat in Round II may exercise Betterment up to Round III only, which is the maximum wait available to such a candidate.	29-08-2026	31-08-2026
7	New registration for candidates seeking consideration in Round III closes.	–	07-09-2026
Vacant seats reserved for CIWGC candidates may be allotted to eligible FN/OCI/PIO candidates, and vacant seats reserved for FN/OCI/PIO candidates may be allotted to eligible CIWGC candidates. This interchange shall take place in Round III.			
8	Round III Merit List (Category-Wise Allotment), including the interchange of vacant seats between the FN/OCI/PIO and CIWGC quotas as set out above.	08-09-2026	08-09-2026
9	Accepting the offered seat by the Candidate through his/her login – Round III: - Candidates who exercised the Betterment option in Round II shall be considered for a seat of higher preference in Round III. Whether or not a better seat is allotted, the candidate must accept the resulting seat (upgraded or retained) and pay the balance of the final college fee through online mode. This is final – no further participation in Round IV, as Round III is the maximum wait available to a candidate first allotted a seat in Round II. - Candidates allotted a seat for the first time in Round III, including through the FN/OCI/PIO–CIWGC interchange, are not eligible for any further round. Such candidates must accept the seat and pay the final college fee through online mode; no Freeze or Betterment option is available at this stage.	09-09-2026	10-09-2026
10	New registration for candidates seeking consideration in Round IV (final registration) closes.	–	12-09-2026
Any seats remaining vacant in the FN/OCI/PIO/CIWGC quota after Round III shall be made available to eligible NRI candidates. This interchange shall take place in Round IV only.			
11	Round IV Merit List – Final Round (Category-Wise Allotment), including the interchange of vacant seats to the NRI category as set out above.	13-09-2026	13-09-2026
12	Accepting the offered seat by the Candidate through his/her login – Round IV (Final Round): All eligible candidates allotted a seat in Round IV, including through the NRI interchange, must accept the seat and pay the final college fee through online mode. Round IV is the last round of the admission process; no Freeze, Betterment, or further round is available.	14-09-2026	15-09-2026
13	For Institutes: Last date of uploading the data (details of admitted candidates).	–	_____

Sr. No.	Activity	First Date	Last Date
14	For Students: Last date of reporting to the Admitted Institute for Confirmation of Admission.	—	—

Last Date: The admission process for the Academic Year 2026-27, including all four CAP Rounds and the allotment of seats to the NRI category, must be completed on or before 15th September 2026. The last dates for uploading of admitted-candidate data by the institutes and for reporting of the students to the admitted institutes shall be as notified in the Schedule of Activities above. During this schedule, colleges and candidates are required to complete the activities of review of applications and documents through the college login, publication of merit lists, acceptance of offered seats, confirmation of the offered seat and payment of college fees, and acknowledgment of tuition fees paid, on the <https://fn.mahacet.org> portal.

- 3) **Updating Academic Fees** - Each universities, colleges and other recognized institutes are required to upload and update the programme-wise fees applicable to International Students on the <https://fn.mahacet.org> portal using their login. This information on the portal should be the latest and accurate at any point of time. Also universities colleges and other recognized institutes shall choose the method of payment of college fees whether 1) the nodal account will collect tuition fees on your behalf and settle the payment to bank account of college/university within T+7 days from the receipt of payment from the International Student or 2) Universities, Colleges and Other Recognized Institutes collect fees directly from international students.
- 4) **Provisional Eligibility Certificate** - The applicant will be assessed based on the eligibility criteria applicable to their chosen admission category and academic qualifications. If found eligible, a Provisional Eligibility Certificate (PEC) will be issued online by the State CET Cell. This certificate may be used by applicants to initiate the visa application process. Please note that the eligibility granted by the State CET Cell is provisional in nature. It is the responsibility of the respective colleges/universities to verify all documents and complete the final eligibility process at the time of admission.

In case of any discrepancies or queries, applicants are advised to write to us at college@mahacet.org

- 5) **College Fees Payment and Confirmation** - International students shall pay the College Fees either online in a nodal account or partial fee directly to the college, as instructed on the <https://fn.mahacet.org> portal. Universities, colleges and other recognized institutes shall verify receipt of payment and update the payment status on the portal within 2 days.
- 6) **Verification of Documents by Universities, Colleges and Other Recognized Institutes** - Once the applicants pay the tuition/college fees and the payment is confirmed by the respective college, the allotted seat will be considered filled and frozen. The student must report to the college in person as per the joining schedule specified by the allotted institution/college/university. At the time of physical reporting, the Universities Colleges and Other Recognized Institutes are required to verify the authenticity of all original academic documents by cross-checking them with the copies submitted online. Only after successful verification of documents can the student be formally admitted.
- 7) **Final Confirmation of Admission from Universities, colleges and other recognized institutes** - The universities, colleges and other recognized institutes shall coordinate with the International Student to ensure that the final admission process is completed before the cutoff date of the respective courses. Admission will be confirmed only after physical document verification at college level is completed and is approved by the respective universities, colleges and other recognized institutes on the <https://fn.mahacet.org> portal. The final admission receipt must be uploaded onto the portal and provided to the applicant. The admission is not deemed complete until the final admission receipt is given to the students and uploaded to the <https://fn.mahacet.org> portal.

Note that if a student fails to submit the required original documents, the college has the right to cancel or reject the admission. The reason for rejection must be clearly mentioned in the Note section on the <https://fn.mahacet.org> portal.

- 8) **FRRO/FRO Process** - The universities, colleges and other recognized institutes are responsible for assisting the admitted student in completing the FRRO/FRO registration process within fourteen (14) days of joining. A concerned Administrative Staff shall personally sit with the student to ensure accurate and timely submission of all required documents and information.

- 9) **Medical and Residential Documentation** - The universities, colleges and other recognized institutes shall ensure that admitted students upload the required Medical Reports (including physical fitness, blood investigation, flu tests, COVID-19 tests, etc.) from a registered physician or recognized laboratory, as well as proof of current residential address and resident permit, on the <https://fn.mahacet.org> portal.
- 10) **Food & Accommodation Details** - All universities, colleges and other recognized institutes may mention the details of the mess/food canteen facilities and Hostel facilities if available in their campus on the <https://accommodation.studentscenter.in/> portal.
- 11) **Compliance and Legal Obligations** - All universities, colleges and other recognized institutes must strictly adhere to the above process. Any deviation or non-compliance may result in disciplinary action as per applicable regulations. The State CET Cell reserves the right to inspect the admission process at any time. The affiliated colleges recognized institutes and universities are bound to submit all the necessary information/documentation to the State CET Cell if required/asked.
- 12) **Online Training & Reference Material** - Training sessions will be conducted daily from Monday to Friday, between 4:00 PM to 5:00 PM, for all universities, colleges and other recognized institutes to demonstrate the usage and process of the admission through the new portal. Tutorial videos and reference materials will be made available on the official portal (<https://fn.mahacet.org>) for easy access. The link for joining the training sessions is provided below: <https://meet.google.com/hha-hcax-vba>
- 13) All decisions of the State CET Cell, Maharashtra, regarding the admission of international students should be final and binding to all university's colleges and other recognized institutes.
- 14) For any queries related to portal: mail us college@mahacet.org or Help Line No. +91-7045648325 between 10.00 AM. to 06.00 PM from Monday to Friday. Please visit <https://fn.mahacet.org> to access the portal.

Sd/-
Commissioner and Competent Authority
Maharashtra State Common Entrance
Test (CET) Cell, Mumbai