

UPSC Eligibility Criteria

The complete UPSC eligibility criteria for the IAS exam is explained in detail in this article.

The IAS preparation procedure starts with incurring accurate knowledge on Eligibility criteria for the exam. The IAS Eligibility and UPSC Age Limit for the Civil Services Exam 2021 will be updated here once the commission releases the official notification.

UPSC Notification 2021 is released. Check and download the UPSC Notification 2021 in the linked article.

UPSC Latest Update

Candidates who exhausted their last attempt by appearing in CSE 2020, will have one more chance in UPSC 2021. The Central Government has decided to extend one more attempt to all those candidates who had given their last UPSC attempt in UPSC CSE 2020. This is being done due to the Covid pandemic and is a one-time relaxation. This is not extended to candidates who have not exhausted their permissible number of attempts or who are otherwise age-barred from taking the CSE.

IAS Eligibility Overview

IAS Age Limit	21 to 32 years
Age Relaxation	As per category (mentioned below)
Educational Qualification for IAS	Graduation
Nationality	Indian citizens only

IAS Eligibility - UPSC Age Limit

As per the Civil Services Age Limit, the candidate Should be between 21 and 32 years, as on 1st August 2021 (for the UPSC CSE 2021), i.e., he/she must have been born not earlier than 2nd August 1989 and not later than 1st August 2000.

Civil Services Age Limit is an essential factor in the eligibility criteria. Therefore candidates applying for UPSC Exam should check these details properly before filling the online application form.

(Civil Services Age limit relaxations, as discussed below, will apply).

Category	UPSC Age Limit- Upper Relaxation	Number of Attempts
General	32	6
OBC	35	9
SC/ST	37	Unlimited (Up to age limit)
Disabled Defence Services Personnel	35	9
Ex-Servicemen	37	9
Persons with Benchmark Disability - EWS (Economically weaker section)	42	9

For details on the physically handicapped category, check the images below:

(vi) up to a maximum of 10 years in the case of (a) blindness and low vision; (b) deaf and hard of hearing; (c) locomotor disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy; (d) autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness; and (e) multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness.

Note I:—Candidates belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and the Other Backward Classes who are also covered under any other clauses of Rule 6(b) above, viz. those coming under the category of Ex-servicemen, Persons of Benchmark Disabilities [viz. (a) blindness and low vision; (b) deaf and hard of hearing; (c) locomotor disability including cerebral palsy, leprosy cured, dwarfism, acid attack victims and muscular dystrophy; (d) autism, intellectual disability, specific learning disability and mental illness; and (e) multiple disabilities from amongst persons under clauses (a) to (d) including deaf-blindness etc.] will be eligible for grant of cumulative age-relaxation under both the categories.

Note:

As per the IAS Eligibility for Defence Servicemen, the persons Disabled in operations during hostilities with any foreign country or in a disturbed area and released as a consequence thereof have special Civil Services age limit relaxation.

The IAS Eligibility states that ECOs/SSCOs who have completed an initial period of assignment of 5 years Military Service as on 1st August 2020 get five years of age relaxation, provided whose assignment has been extended beyond five years and in whose case the Ministry of Defense issues a

certificate that they can apply for civil employment and that they will be released on three months' notice on the selection from the date of receipt of an offer of appointment.

IAS Eligibility- Educational Qualification

The various academic requirements as per the IAS Eligibility Criteria are given below:

- Minimum qualification for UPSC exam: The candidate must hold a degree from Government recognised Universities or possess an equivalent qualification.
- Candidates who are in their final year or awaiting results are also eligible to appear for UPSC preliminary Examination. All such candidates who are likely to appear for IAS exams must produce proof of having passed the said examination along with the application for the main IAS examination.
- Candidates having professional and technical qualifications recognised by the Government as equivalent to professional and technical degrees.
- Medical students who have passed the final year of MBBS, but are yet to complete their internship also have eligibility for IAS. Although, along with the Main Examination application, a certificate of course completion (including internship) from the concerned authority of the University/Institution has to be submitted.

IAS Eligibility- Nationality

For IAS and IPS:

- Candidate must be a citizen of India

All other Services:

- Candidate must be either:-
 1. A citizen of India, or
 2. A subject of Nepal, or
 3. A subject of Bhutan, or
 4. A Tibetan refugee who came to India before 1st January 1962 intending to settle in India permanently, or
 5. A person of Indian origin (PIO) who has migrated from Pakistan, Burma, Sri Lanka, East African countries of Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, Ethiopia, Zaire and Vietnam intending to settle in India permanently.
- The candidates belonging to categories (2), (3), (4) and (5) should furnish a certificate of eligibility issued by the Government of India. Such candidates may take the exam before getting the said certificate of eligibility, but he/she would get the offer of appointment only after the Government of India has issued the certificate.
- Point to Note: A person belonging to categories (2), (3) and (4) are not eligible for appointment to the Indian Foreign Service (IFS).

Summary of UPSC eligibility criteria for IAS Exam

Candidates must satisfy the following conditions to be eligible for the UPSC IAS Exam:

Nationality for IAS exam: Must be a citizen of India, a person of Indian origin or a subject of Nepal, Bhutan or Tibet settled in India before 1st January 1962.

Education Qualification for IAS exam: Candidate must hold a Graduate Degree from a recognised University.

UPSC Age limit for IAS exam: Candidate must be a minimum of 21 years of age and must not be more than 32 years of age.

Category wise UPSC age limit, relaxation and maximum attempts-

1. General Category & EWS: 32 years; 6 attempts.
2. OBC (with certificate): 32 years + 3 years; 9 attempts.
3. SC/ST: 32 years + 5 years; unlimited attempts.
4. Physically Disabled: 32 years + 10 years; Gen/OBC/Person with Benchmark Disability(EWS category)- 9 attempts & SC/ST unlimited attempts.
5. Jammu & Kashmir Domicile: 32 years + 5 years + (3 years, if OBC OR 5 Years, if SC/ST); Number of attempts depends on the reserved category.
6. Disabled and discharged Defence service personnel: 32 years + 3 years + (3 years, if Gen/OBC OR 5 years, if SC/ST)
7. Ex-Servicemen Commission Officer: 32 years + 5 years + (3 years, if OBC OR 5 Years, if SC/ST)

UPSC Eligibility related queries

What is the age limit for the UPSC Civil Services Exam?

- A candidate belonging to the General category giving the UPSC prelims should not have completed 32 years as on 1st August of that year. Candidates belonging to other categories have relaxations to the upper age limit.

How many attempts are there for the IAS exam?

- A general category/EWS category candidate has 6 attempts in the UPSC IAS exam. OBC candidates have 9 attempts; SC/ST candidates have no bar on the number of attempts (they can take the exam until they reach the upper age limit). EWS category with benchmark disability have 9 attempts, general and OBC physically disabled candidates have 9 attempts. SC/ST physically disabled candidates have no bar on the number of attempts.

Is there any reservation for ex-servicemen in the UPSC exam?

- Yes, ex-servicemen are given age relaxations of up to 5 years in the case of ECOs/SSCOs who have completed an initial period of assignment of 5 years Military Service.

Is there a minimum percentage required in graduation for IAS exam?

- No. Candidates only have to be graduates from a recognised university. There is no minimum graduation percentage required for IAS eligibility.

What is the salary of an IAS officer?

- The basic entry-level pay of an IAS officer is Rs. 56,100. Officers are given other benefits too like residences, official vehicles, etc.

What is the highest post an IAS officer can reach in his career?

- The highest position an IAS officer can aspire to is the Cabinet Secretary of the country.

Is there a lateral entry in the IAS?

- The Government had proposed lateral entry into the civil services in 2018. In July 2018, more than 6000 candidates had applied. But the Government wanted detailed information on the candidates, and so, a new advertisement was issued. But nothing has come so far regarding lateral entry.