



CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STUDIES

(Planning Department, Government of Telangana & ICSSR, Ministry of Education, Government of India)
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Ph.D. ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

ACADEMIC YEAR 2026–27

Established in 1980, the Centre for Economic and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad, is an autonomous research institution supported by the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi, and the Government of Telangana. The Centre undertakes interdisciplinary research on issues relating to the economy, polity, society, and development, with particular emphasis on India and Telangana. CESS has a well-equipped library, computing facilities, and a strong academic environment for research and training.

CESS invites applications for admission to its regular, full-time Ph.D. Programme for the academic year 2026–27. The programme is offered by CESS in collaboration with Telangana University, Nizamabad, with a focus on Development Studies.

DISCIPLINES

The Programme is offered in the following disciplinary categories:

- Economics
- Sociology /Anthropology/Social Work
- Political Science / Public Administration
- Commerce / Business Management

NUMBER OF SEATS AND RESERVATION

A maximum of 10 seats is available for the 2026–27 academic year. Admissions are subject to the research areas and supervisory expertise available at CESS. The Reservation Policy of the Government of Telangana is followed for the admissions.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND DURATION

The Ph.D. Programme comprises credit-based coursework of about ten months, conducted over two semesters, followed by supervised research leading to the submission of a thesis. The Programme is pursued on a full-time basis. Its duration is governed by the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedures for the Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022, read with the UGC Public Notice dated 27 March 2024 on the use of UGC-NET scores for admission to Ph.D. programmes.

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates must possess the prescribed educational qualifications, as detailed in the Prospectus, and must have qualified under one of the following UGC-NET categories:

Category	Description
Category 1	Candidates qualified for the award of Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) and appointment as Assistant Professor through UGC-NET.
Category 2	Candidates qualified for appointment as Assistant Professor and admission to PhD through UGC-NET.
Category 3	Candidates qualified for admission to PhD only through UGC-NET.

Applicants must hold a valid UGC-NET qualification as on the closing date of the application.

SELECTION PROCEDURE

Applications are screened to verify eligibility and completeness. Eligible candidates are shortlisted and called for an interview held at CESS, Hyderabad. There is no separate written entrance test.

Category	Basis of Selection
Category 1	Performance in the interview
Categories 2 & 3	70% weightage to the UGC-NET score and 30% weightage to the interview

Final admission is subject to merit, the applicable reservation policy of the Government of Telangana, availability of seats, alignment with the research areas of CESS, and the availability of Research Supervisors.

HOW TO APPLY

Candidates should complete and submit the online application through the Ph.D. application portal on the CESS website (www.cess.ac.in), uploading self-attested copies of the documents specified in the online application to establish eligibility, together with:

- a **Statement of Purpose** of about 500 words, setting out the candidate's motivation, academic and professional background, and reasons for choosing the Ph.D. Programme at CESS; and
- a **Research Proposal** of about 1,000 words, reflecting the candidate's understanding of the proposed research area, the research objectives, and a tentative methodology.

A non-refundable application fee of ₹1,000 is payable online. Candidates belonging to the SC, ST, and Persons with Disabilities (not less than 40% disability) categories are exempt from the application fee.

Applications must be submitted on or before the closing date. Incomplete applications, and applications submitted after the closing date, are liable to be rejected. Detailed instructions on the application process and required documents are provided in the Prospectus 2026–27, available on the CESS website.

IMPORTANT DATES

Release of call for applications	1 August 2026
Opening of the online application portal	5 August 2026
Closing of the online application portal	31 August 2026

Only shortlisted candidates will be individually notified for the interview. Candidates are advised to check the CESS website regularly for updates.

Division for Graduate Studies

Centre for Economic and Social Studies, Hyderabad