



CENTRE FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STUDIES

(Planning Department, Govt. of Telangana & ICSSR, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

Nizamiah Observatory Campus, Begumpet, Hyderabad - 500 016, Telangana, India

Email: admissionsdgs@cess.ac.in | Website: www.cess.ac.in

Ph.D. PROGRAMME WITH FOCUS ON DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

in collaboration with

TELANGANA UNIVERSITY, NIZAMABAD

APPLICATION FOR Ph.D. PROGRAMME 2026-27

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Application No.: _____

Discipline applied for: _____

Fee Paid (Rs.): _____

Transaction ID: _____ Date: _____

Shortlisted for interview: Yes / No Remarks: _____

*Affix a recent
passport-size photograph
(35 x 45 mm, signed across)*

**Double-click above to upload your
photograph. Select a JPG image
measuring 35x45mm**

INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

1. Read the Ph.D. Programme Prospectus 2026–27 before completing this form. Type your answers directly into the form on a computer. Fields marked with an asterisk (*) are mandatory.
2. Attach self-attested copies of all documents listed in the Checklist (Section I). Incomplete applications, and applications without the required enclosures, are liable to be rejected.
3. Where marks are shown as CGPA or grades, convert them to a percentage using your university's official formula, and state the formula used in Section B (item 19).
4. The application fee of ₹1,000 (non-refundable) must be paid online, and the Transaction ID entered in Section G. Candidates belonging to the SC, ST, and Persons with Disabilities (not less than 40% disability) categories are exempt from the application fee.
5. Upload the Research Proposal / Synopsis and the Statement of Purpose as two separate attachments (see Sections D and I).
6. Affix a recent passport-size photograph in the box provided and sign in the space at the end of the Declaration (Section H). *Double click on the space provided to add the photograph with 35x45 mm and signature with 40x20 mm in jpg format.*
7. Candidates are requested to complete the editable application form, attach all required supporting documents, and preferably combine the completed form and all attachments into a single PDF file. The application should be emailed to admissionsdgs@cess.ac.in and must be received by **31 August 2026**.

ELIGIBILITY AT A GLANCE as per UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of Ph.D. Degree) Regulations, 2022

- A Master's degree in a relevant discipline - a 1-year/2-semester Master's (after a 4-year UG degree) or a 2-year/4-semester Master's - with at least 55% aggregate marks or grade B in the UGC 10-point scale; **OR**
- A 4-year/8-semester Bachelor's degree (with Research) with a CGPA of at least 7.5/10 - the direct-to-Ph.D. pathway under NEP 2020 / UGC 2022; **AND**
- A valid UGC-NET / UGC-CSIR-NET / JRF (or equivalent) score. Selection is finalised through a personal interview; CESS does not conduct a separate written test.
- *Relaxation for SC / ST / OBC (non-creamy layer) / EWS / Differently-Abled (PwD): 5% of marks (55%→50%) for the Master's route and 0.5 CGPA (7.5→7.0) for the 4-year Bachelor's route.*
- *The M.Phil. degree has been discontinued under UGC 2022. Candidates who already hold an M.Phil. (with at least 55% marks) remain eligible and may record it under Prior Qualifications (Section C); however, it is not a requirement.*

SECTION A GENERAL / PERSONAL INFORMATION

1. Full name of applicant* (as in Class 10 certificate)	
2. Father's name	

3. Mother's name	
4. Guardian's name (if applicable)	
5. Gender* (Male / Female / Transgender/Prefer not to say)	
6. Date of birth* (dd/mm/yyyy)	
7. Marital status	
8. Category* (UR / EWS / OBC-NCL / SC / ST) - attach certificate if not UR	
9. Person with Disability (PWD)? Yes / No. If Yes, type & % (attach UDID)	
10. Nationality*	
11. Aadhaar / National ID No.	
12. ABC ID (Academic Bank of Credits)	
13. Email* (primary)	
14. Mobile* (primary) & Alternate	
15. Currently employed? Yes / No. If Yes, employer & designation: (attach NOC)	
16. Permanent address* (with PIN)	
17. Address for communication* (with PIN)	

SECTION B EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Enter every examination passed, starting with Class 10. Attach self-attested mark sheets and certificates for each.

Examination	Discipline / Specialization	Board / University	Year	Dur. (Yrs)	Max. marks	Marks obt.	% / CGPA	Mode*
Class 10 (Secondary)								
Class 12 (Higher Secondary)								

Bachelor's - 3-year (specify): _____								
Bachelor's - 4-year/8-sem (specify): _____								
Master's (specify): _____								
M.Phil. (if held - optional)								
Other diploma / certificate								

*Mode: **Regular / Distance / Online**. For the 4-year Bachelor's pathway, CGPA 7.5/10 is required. Medium of instruction (English/Other): _____

18. Is the result of your qualifying degree awaited? _____ If Yes, expected date of result: _____

19. CGPA-to-percentage conversion formula used (as prescribed by your university): _____

20. M.Phil. dissertation title (if applicable): _____

SECTION C UGC ADMISSION CATEGORY & ENTRANCE QUALIFICATION

Tick the one category that applies to you (per UGC 2022). NET/JRF-qualified candidates are admitted on the basis of a personal interview. CESS does not conduct a separate written test; eligible candidates are shortlisted on academic record and research proposal, and final selection is through the interview.

Category	Description	Applicable?
Category 1	Qualified UGC-NET with Junior Research Fellowship (JRF)	Yes / No
Category 2	Qualified UGC-NET for Assistant Professor (without JRF)	Yes / No
Category 3	Qualified UGC-NET for "Ph.D. only" as per UGC regulations	Yes / No

Details of qualifying examination (NET / JRF / CSIR-NET / SLET / other):

Examination qualified		Subject	
Roll No		Month & Year	
Score		Validity	

Attach a self-attested copy of the JRF/NET certificate or NTA scorecard. Candidates who qualified on or after December 2025, up to the last date of application submission, are eligible to apply. NET marks for Categories 2 & 3 are valid for one year.

SECTION D RESEARCH PROPOSAL

21. Broad thrust area of the proposed research (tick one; refer to CESS research areas in the Prospectus):

☐ Agriculture & Rural Development	☐ Economic Growth & Public Finance	☐ Poverty, Inequality & Human Development
☐ Health & Education	☐ Environment, Climate & Natural Resources	☐ Industry, Trade & Services
☐ Governance, Institutions & Public Policy	☐ Population, Migration & Urban Studies	☐ Other

If Other (specify): _____

22. Specific areas of research interest: (1) _____

(2) _____ (3) _____

23. Proposed working title of research: _____

Please attach the following two documents separately (see Checklist, Section I):

24. Research Proposal / Synopsis (about 1,000 words) — a separate attachment covering: title, background and rationale, research objectives, research questions, proposed methodology, and key references.

25. Statement of Purpose (up to 500 words) — a separate attachment describing your motivation for this programme, your academic preparation, your fit with CESS, and your goals. (Please do not repeat the research proposal here.)

SECTION E ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

26. Do you have any academic publications?

If Yes, list below and attach the first page of each.

S.No.	Title	Journal / Book (ISSN/ISBN)	Year	Peer reviewed? (Y/N)	DOI / Link
1					
2					
3					

SECTION F RESEARCH / WORK EXPERIENCE

27. Do you have prior research or relevant work experience?

If Yes, give details below.

S.No.	Project / Position	Designation	Organization / University	From To	Nature of work
1					
2					
3					

SECTION G OTHER INFORMATION & APPLICATION FEE

28. Academic References

S.No	Name	Designation	Affiliation	Email
1				
2				

29. Awards, scholarships or fellowships held (if any): _____

30. How did you learn about this programme? (Website / Advertisement / Faculty / Social media / Other): _____

31. Any other relevant information: _____

Application fee: Rs.1,000 (non-refundable), paid online. Bank details:

Beneficiary	Centre for Economic and Social Studies
Bank & Branch	Indian Bank, Begumpet Branch
Account Number	460807429
IFSC	IDIB000B057
Transaction ID / UTR	_____ Date: _____ Amount (Rs.): _____

SECTION H DECLARATION & CHECKLIST

Declaration

I have read the Prospectus and application guidelines and filled in this form accordingly. I declare that the information given and the documents uploaded are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. I understand that if any information is found false or incorrect, or if I do not meet the UGC 2022 eligibility conditions, my candidature is liable to be cancelled at any stage. I undertake to abide by the rules of CESS and Telangana University, including the UGC anti-ragging regulations, and I consent to CESS processing the personal data in this form for admission purposes.

Date: _____ Place: _____ Signature of Applicant: _____

SECTION I CHECKLIST OF ENCLOSURES (self-attested copies; tick as attached):

Double-click above to upload your signature. Select a JPG image measuring 40x20mm

- ☐ Class 10 certificate & mark sheet
- ☐ Class 12 certificate & mark sheet
- ☐ Bachelor's degree certificate & all mark sheets
- ☐ Master's degree certificate & all mark sheets (or 4-year Bachelor's, if applying via that pathway)
- ☐ MPhil degree certificate (if applicable)
- ☐ UGC-NET / JRF / CSIR-NET certificate or NTA scorecard (if applicable)
- ☐ Category certificate - EWS / OBC-NCL / SC / ST (if applicable)
- ☐ PwD / UDID certificate (if applicable)
- ☐ Photo ID (Aadhaar / Passport) and one passport-size photograph
- ☐ Research proposal / synopsis (about 1,000 words) -separate attachment
- ☐ Statement of Purpose (up to 500 words) -separate attachment
- ☐ ABC ID proof (Academic Bank of Credits)
- ☐ No Objection Certificate from present employer (if employed)
- ☐ Proof of application fee payment (Transaction ID / receipt)

Notes:

- Send the completed form with all enclosures preferably as a single PDF to **admissionsdgs@cess.ac.in** by the last date notified.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be intimated by CESS for the interview.
- For full details, please refer to the Ph.D. Programme Prospectus on **www.cess.ac.in**.