

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 2022 are discussed here.

One must note that UPSC 2021 is an ongoing examination. Notification for 2022 is expected to be released in February 2022.

UPSC Eligibility – Latest Update An extra chance in UPSC 2021 for the candidates who stayed away from their final shot at the civil services exams in 2020 has been consistently in the news. Recently, the Supreme court had allowed candidates to submit a representation before the Central government for what it termed as ‘lenient view’ over this appeal. However, the court denied sending any directions to the central government for the same. “We are not expressing any opinion regarding resolution,” the Court noted.

IAS Eligibility Overview IAS Exam Age Limit 21 to 32 years Age Relaxation As per category (mentioned below) Educational Qualification for IAS Graduation Nationality Indian citizens only UPSC Age Limit – Minimum and Maximum Age for IAS UPSC Exam Age Limit For Civil Services Exam 2021

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.

UPSC Age Limit for Civil Services Exam 2022

The candidates must have attained 21 years of age and be less than 32 years of age as of 1st August 2022. *The official notification will carry UPSC Age Limit 2022 details. The official notification will carry the details about the age for UPSC Exam 2022.

Category	Minimum Age Limit for UPSC	Maximum Age Limit for UPSC
IAS exam Age Limit for General Category	21	32
EWS	21	32
SC/ST	21	37
IAS OBC Age Limit	21	35

Candidates should check the EWS Reservation Eligibility in the linked article for in-depth understanding.

Civil Services Age Limit is an essential factor in the eligibility criteria. Therefore, candidates applying for UPSC Exam should check what is the age for IAS exam before filling the online application form.

IAS Eligibility – Age Relaxation & Number of Attempts (Civil Services Age limit relaxations, as discussed below, will apply).

UPSC Exam Age Limit for General, SC/ST, OBC & Other categories		
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 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:-

A citizen of India, or

A subject of Nepal, or

A subject of Bhutan, or

A Tibetan refugee who came to India before 1st January 1962 intending to settle in India permanently, or 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

Given below is a summary of IAS eligibility criteria mentioning the UPSC maximum age limit, count of attempts, relaxations, and more. 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 Civil Services Exam Age Limit: Candidate must be a minimum of 21 years of age and must not be more than 32 years of age.

Category wise UPSC CSE age limit, relaxation and maximum attempts-

General Category & EWS: 32 years; 6 attempts.

OBC (with certificate): 32 years + 3 years; 9 attempts.

SC/ST: 32 years + 5 years; unlimited attempts.

Physically Disabled: 32 years + 10 years; Gen/OBC/Person with Benchmark Disability(EWS category)- 9 attempts & SC/ST unlimited attempts.

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.

Disabled and discharged Defence service personnel: 32 years + 3 years + (3 years, if Gen/OBC OR 5 years, if SC/ST) Ex-Servicemen Commission Officer: 32 years + 5 years + (3 years, if OBC OR 5 Years, if SC/ST)