भारतीय वन्यजीव संस्थान
Wildlife Institute of India

नमामि गंगे

AcSIR

Wildlife Institute of India

(An Autonomous Institution of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India)
Affiliated to Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR)

Advertisement for the Admission to II M.Sc. Course in Freshwater Ecology and Conservation (2026-28)

Advt. No. WII/MSC-FWEC/2026-28/Advt./2026

The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) is a premier National Institute for training, research and academics in the field of wildlife science and management. The Institute's idyllic ambience, *state of the art* infrastructure and reputed faculty provide a vibrant academic atmosphere and an enriching and learning experience to its students. The institute has been running M.Sc. Course in Wildlife Science, Diploma and Certificate courses since its inception in 1986. These courses are widely acclaimed both nationally and internationally. On the similar lines the Institute has started a two-year Masters' (M.Sc.) Course in Freshwater Ecology and Conservation for the period 2024-26, sponsored by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India, which will create a new generation of field researchers and ecologist to be equipped to understand the nuances of the freshwater ecosystems, and their conservation management. This course aims to impart theoretical knowledge on concepts, principles, approaches, analytical skills and field techniques in Freshwater Ecology and Conservation. Students of high calibre, motivation and having passion for wildlife and conservation will be selected for the two-year residential course. The course is affiliated with the Academy of Scientific and Innovative Research (AcSIR) and fully funded by the National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Jal Shakti, Government of India.

AcSIR, an Institution of National Importance established in 2012 by an Act of Parliament, has been mandated to undertake high-quality teaching and research in frontier areas of Science and Technology particularly in inter- and trans-disciplinary areas of STEM. More than 80 R&D institutes including 37 CSIR National Laboratories 28 ICMR Institutes are affiliated with AcSIR for academics/higher education. AcSIR awarded 624 Ph. D degrees in STEM during the calendar year 2023, which is highest among education institutions in India. AcSIR is ranked 12th in NIRF 2023 (Research Category), 3rd in SCImago Rankings and 10th by Nature Index (Aug 1, 2022-Jul 31, 2023), among research Institutions in India.

SEATS AND DATE OF COMMENCEMENT

Twenty (20) meritorious students will be admitted to this two-year residence course (2026-28) comprising four semesters. Applications are open to only Indian nationals. The break-up of seats is: General Candidates – 10; OBC Candidates – 05; SC Candidates – 03; ST Candidate – 01; Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) – 01. If OBC/SC/ST candidates secure seats on their own merit in competition with general candidates, they shall not be counted against reserved seats. A maximum of 02 seats will be offered to in-service candidates from the Forest department, Water resource management, Pollution Control Boards, Central Water Commission, Irrigation department, or other water management institutions and allied government departments under their respective categories. Following the selection of candidates, the course will commence with effect from the August 2026 session at the Wildlife Institute of India, Chandrabani, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

COURSE FEE AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Course Fee for the entire course will be borne by WII and fully sponsored for all selected 20 candidates under the financial support from the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) sponsored project. The total cost of the course (for the year 2026-28) is Rs. 6,24,000 that includes course fees, field expenses and boarding and lodging costs. The course fee of Rs. 1,56,000/- at the beginning of the first semester will have to be deposited by the students in the form of a Demand Draft at the time of joining the course at WII. The fees will be carried forward as the course fee for next consecutive semesters only after successfully clearing the semester. This amount will be reimbursed to the candidate only after the successful completion of the course (award of degree). Additionally, a onetime security deposit amount of Rs. 25,000 will have to be deposited by the selected candidates at the time of admission which will be refunded after the completion of the course. The course fee and security fee deposition will be relaxed for the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) based on the discretion of the Institute as per Government of India rules. For any candidate who wishes to leave/drop the course before its successful completion, the deposited amount of Rs. 1,56,000/- will be forfeited. Hostel accommodation will be provided to selected students depending on the availability.

ELIGIBILITY

(a) Candidates having Bachelor's Degree (B.Sc. or B. Tech) ***(all subject/stream(s) with relevance to 'Science' discipline)*** or allied subjects such as Wildlife Sciences, Forestry, Veterinary Science, Agriculture, Biodiversity and Conservation Science, Sustainable Development, Biotechnology and Environmental Science, Pharmacy, Social Science, Computer Science or degrees recognized as equivalent thereof from a recognized university by the UGC.

(b) Minimum of 15 years of formal education.

(c) The minimum qualifying marks to become eligible to appear for the written examination is 55 percent in aggregate marks or 6.0 CGPA/CPI for general and OBC and 50 percent or 5.0 CGPA/CPI percent in aggregate for SC/ST candidates. Candidates who have appeared OR will be appearing for the qualifying (final) bachelor's degree examination and whose result is still awaited may also apply. However, they need to provide their **Consolidated Mark sheet/Graduation Pass Certificate/Provisional Degree Certificate** prior to the registration in the course at AcSIR by **Thursday, 30th July 2026** or as soon as the concerned university issues the above or relevant certificates, whichever is earlier.

(d) Candidates with Bachelor's Degree from Universities outside India should obtain certificates of equivalence from the Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities, AIU House 16, Comrade Indrajit Gupta Marg, New Delhi 110002 (Website: http://bit.ly/2iFSsBb), email to administration@aiuweb.org, sgoffice@aiu.ac.in (Ph: + 91-11-23230059; 23232429; 23232305, Fax: + 91-1123232131).

The OBC candidates who belong to "Creamy Layer" are not entitled for relaxation admissible (such as Age relaxation) to OBC category and will be treated as General candidates. The OBC (Non-Creamy Layer) candidates are required to submit requisite certificate in prescribed format of Government of India, from a Competent Authority issued in the current year. The name of the caste and community indicated in the OBC (Non-Creamy Layer) certificate must appear in the Central list of Other Backward Classes which can be found at **http://bit.ly/2iz3OJQ**. The SC/ST and EWS candidates need to submit all required documents as per the Government of India notice at the time of submission of application form.

AGE LIMIT

Not more than **25 years** as on **Monday, 20th April 2026** *(closing date of application)* with relaxation of 3 years for OBC candidates and 5 years for SC/ST candidates. For the in-service candidates working with the Forest department, Water resource management, Pollution Control Board, Central Water Commission, Irrigation department, or other water management institutions and allied government departments the age limit is **40 years** as on **Monday, 20th April 2026** *(closing date of application)*.

SELECTION PROCESS

Eligible candidates will be required to appear for an online **National Eligibility Test (NET)** in any one of the 14 Centres (Thiruvananthapuram, Chennai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Mumbai, Delhi, Lucknow, Dehra Dun, Ranchi, Kolkata, Guwahati, Aizawl and Jammu) to be conducted on **Sunday, 24th May 2026** from **1000 hrs.** onward. The allocation of test centres would be decided by the institute based on number of candidates registered for a particular centre and the candidate would be accordingly informed. The NET will be for 2-hours duration for 100 marks, with objective type questions at graduation level covering general aptitude, general knowledge, analytical and language skills, basic mathematical and quantitative skills, knowledge about basic biology, ecology and conservation issues (40 marks); Main subject Domain (40 marks) and an essay maximum 300 words on environmental issues, fresh water conservation or related subjects (20 marks). The regular in-service candidates having at least five years of regular work experience will be exempted from NET. The results of the NET shall be declared and hosted in the Institute's website latest by **Monday, 08th June, 2026**.

Shortlisted candidates based on NET screening will be called for a **Personality and Aptitude Test (PAT)**/interview to be held at WII, Dehradun from **22nd to 24th June 2026**. Final selection to the course will be made on the basis of combined merit of 50% marks obtained in the NET and 50% of PAT. In case of equal marks in NET and PAT, the following criteria shall be adopted for taking admission in the course:

(i) Preference will be given to the candidates who have higher aggregate percentage of marks in the graduation level.

(ii) In case the candidates have equal marks in the above stated examination then the candidate senior in age will be given preference.

Final list of selected/wait-listed candidates after conduct of PAT/interview shall be declared and hosted in the Institute's website latest by **Monday, 6th July 2026** and an offer of selection shall be communicated latest by **Wednesday, 08th July 2026**.

The selected candidates are required to positively confirm *(by e-mail)* their joining to the course by accepting the offer of selection on or before **Monday, 20th July 2026 (17:00hrs)**, although it is encouraged to confirm as early as possible. Failing of acceptance to the offer of selection by the selected candidate(s) within the stipulated time period *i.e.* up to July 20, 2026; vacant seat(s) shall subsequently be offered to the waitlisted candidate(s).

Candidates should note that their candidature is provisional. Their candidature will be deemed final upon verification of eligibility condition with reference to the documents enclosed with their application and as required by AcSIR and payment of First Semester Fee and security deposit which will be reimbursed to the candidates on successful completion of the course.

HOW TO APPLY

(i) The entire process for registration and NET is "Online". Details for online registration and NET would appear on the WII's website (https://wii.gov.in/) as well as AcSIR website (https://acsir.res.in/) latest by **Wednesday, 11th March 2026**.

(ii) **Online Registration** process shall be opened on **Monday, 23rd March 2026 (10:00hrs)** and closes on **Monday, 20th April 2026 (17:00hrs)**. All eligible candidates are advised to follow the latest updates on the WII and AcSIR websites for online registration of applicants, submission of application and payment of application processing fee, etc. The application processing fees (non-refundable) of Rs. 1500 (**Rupees One thousand five hundred only**) for each general category candidate and Rs. 500 (**Rupees Five hundred only**) for OBC non creamy layer, SC and ST category will have to be paid through the prescribed "Payment Gateway".

(iii) All in-service candidates working in Forest department, Water resource management, Pollution control board, Central Water Commission, Irrigation department, or other water management institutions with minimum five years of regular work experience are required to register online and also route their applications (after successful online registration, application submission and payment of required fees) through proper channel to the Dean, Wildlife Institute of India, Chandrabani, Dehradun – 248001 (Uttarakhand) by Registered Post positively by **20th April 2026**. However, they may send an advance copy of application for preliminary consideration. Envelope containing application of in-service candidate being sent through proper channel should be marked **"APPLICATION OF IN-SERVICE CANDIDATE FOR M.Sc. FRESHWATER ECOLOGY AND CONSERVATION COURSE".**

(iv) Candidates will be required to fill in their personal, educational and professional experience profiles online besides uploading a recent passport size photograph, scanned copies of school certificates, class 10th certificate/mark sheet, valid passport as age proof, mark sheet of Graduation degree (Previous/Final year), caste certificate (applicable for candidates seeking reservation quota).

(v) Detailed list of candidates eligible to appear for NET shall be uploaded in the institute's website latest by **Monday, 4th May, 2026**.

(vi) The entrusted online agency will issue an "Admit Card" to the eligible candidates and the same can be downloaded from the link provided. The admit card will have details of Examination Centre, Date and Time of online NET scheduled to be conducted on to be held on **Sunday, 24th May 2026.**

(vii) Applicants appearing in NET shall bear their own cost of travel as no TA/DA will be provided to any category of candidates. Further, applicants will make their own arrangement for stay for appearing in the 2-hour online NET on Sunday, 24th May 2026.

(viii) The Institute will upload the result of NET and shortlisted candidates for PAT at the Institute's website <www.wii.gov.in> latest by **Monday,8th June 2026**.

(ix) The **PAT / interview** will be conducted through a hybrid mode (both online/offline) from **22nd to 24th June 2026** *(may vary depending on number of candidates)*.

(x) SC/ST candidates called for the interview (Personality and Aptitude test) will be paid to and fro train fare (Sleeper Class) by shortest route from their place of residence to Dehra Dun on production of their journey tickets.

(xi) Candidates belonging to the SC, ST and OBC category should submit a caste certificate from the competent authority at the time of PAT, failing which they will not be allowed to appear in the interview

(xii) Candidates appearing for PAT during 22nd to 24th June 2026 shall also come prepare to make their own arrangements for stay at WII, Dehradun.

IMPORTANT DATES

Day & Date	Details
Wednesday, 11th March 2026	Advertisement with details of online registration and NET at WII and AcSIR websites.
Monday, 23rd March 2026	Online registration opens
Monday, 20th April 2026	Online registration closes
Monday, 20th April 2026	Last date of receiving properly routed application from in-service candidates
Monday, 04th May 2026	List of eligible candidates qualify to appear for NET
Sunday, 24th May 2026	Online NET Exam
Monday, 08th June 2026	Declaration of NET results
22nd to 24th June 2026 *(may vary depending on number of candidates)*	Personality and Aptitude Test at WII, Dehradun
Monday, 06th July 2026	Declaration of Final Result for Admission
Wednesday, 08th July 2026	Offer of selection to the selected candidates
Monday, 20th July 2026	Last date for acceptance of joining the course by the selected candidates
Thursday, 30th July 2026	Reporting at WII for joining the course
Monday, 03rd August 2026	Commencement of course

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. Director, WII reserves the right to re-schedule the NET/PAT/interview and/or change the test centre at his sole discretion, without assigning any reasons thereof, and as warranted by the circumstances.
2. Director, WII reserves the exclusive right to reject any application without assigning any reasons thereof.
3. Candidates belonging to the OBC non creamy layer, SC and ST category should submit a caste certificate from the competent authority at the time of PAT, failing which they will not be allowed to appear in the interview.
4. Candidates/Applicants will send all correspondence related to admission only to the O/o the Dean, WII (Telephone: +91-135-2646245, E-mail: dean@wii.gov.in).
5. Incomplete applications or not accompanied by supporting documents will be summarily rejected, if any candidate has been found at any stage to have furnished wrong information or deliberately suppressed any relevant information, his/her candidature/ admission will be rejected/cancelled as soon as it comes to the notice of either WII or the university concerned and the amount deposited, if any will also be forfeited.

- **Dean**
Faculty of Wildlife Science
Wildlife Institute of India, Dehradun