

NEET 2026 Eligibility Criteria: Age Limit, Qualification & Attempts

Introduction

Before applying for NEET 2026, every aspirant must clearly understand the **eligibility criteria prescribed by the National Testing Agency (NTA)**. Even a small mistake regarding **age limit, educational qualification, or number of attempts** can lead to application rejection. This article provides a **complete and updated explanation of NEET 2026 eligibility criteria**, covering **age requirements, qualification rules, nationality, subject combination, and attempt limits**.

NEET 2026 Eligibility Criteria - Overview

To be eligible for NEET 2026, candidates must satisfy the following conditions:

- Nationality
- Age limit
- Educational qualification
- Minimum qualifying marks
- Number of attempts

Nationality Criteria for NEET 2026

The following candidates are eligible to apply:

- Indian Citizens
- Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)
- Overseas Citizens of India (OCI)
- Persons of Indian Origin (PIO)
- Foreign Nationals

Admission eligibility for foreign nationals depends on respective medical colleges and counselling authorities.

NEET 2026 Age Limit Criteria

Minimum Age Limit

- Candidate must be **17 years old** as on or before **31 December 2026**.

Maximum Age Limit

- **No upper age limit** for NEET 2026 as per current regulations.

Age will be verified using **Class 10 certificate or birth certificate**.

Educational Qualification for NEET 2026

Candidates must fulfill the following academic requirements:

1. Qualifying Examination

- Must have **passed or be appearing in Class 12 or equivalent examination**
- Examination must be from a recognized board

2. Mandatory Subjects

Candidates must have studied:

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology / Biotechnology
- English

3. Minimum Qualifying Marks (PCB Aggregate)

Category	Minimum Marks Required
General / EWS	50%
OBC / SC / ST	40%
PwD (General)	45%

Marks are calculated based on **Physics, Chemistry, and Biology combined**.

Eligibility for Open School & Private Candidates

- Candidates from **National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS)** and private boards are **eligible**, provided they meet subject and marks requirements.

- Biology/Biotechnology must be studied as a **core subject**.

NEET 2026 Number of Attempts

Is There Any Limit on Attempts?

- **No limit on the number of attempts** for NEET 2026.
- Candidates can appear for NEET as many times as they want, provided they meet age and qualification criteria.

This rule benefits repeaters and drop-year students.

Category-Wise Eligibility Summary

Criteria	Details
Minimum Age	17 years
Maximum Age	No limit
Attempts	Unlimited
Qualification	Class 12 pass/appearing
Subjects	PCB + English
Exam Mode	Offline

Documents Required for Eligibility Verification

- Class 10 certificate (Date of Birth proof)
- Class 12 mark sheet / passing certificate
- Aadhaar Card / Passport / Voter ID
- Category certificate (if applicable)
- PwD certificate (if applicable)
- Nationality proof

⚠ Common Eligibility Mistakes to Avoid

- Incorrect date of birth entry
- Insufficient PCB percentage
- Missing Biology subject
- Uploading invalid certificates

- Assuming attempt limit exists

Who Should Apply for NEET 2026?

- Class 12 appearing students (2026)
- Class 12 passed candidates
- Drop-year aspirants
- Candidates improving marks
- Foreign/NRI medical aspirants

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q1. What is the minimum age required for NEET 2026?

Candidates must be **17 years old** by **31 December 2026**.

Q2. Is there any upper age limit for NEET 2026?

No, there is **no upper age limit** as per current guidelines.

Q3. How many attempts are allowed for NEET 2026?

There is **no restriction on the number of attempts**.

Q4. Can Class 12 appearing students apply for NEET 2026?

Yes, students appearing in **Class 12 in 2026** are eligible.

Q5. Are NIOS candidates eligible for NEET 2026?

Yes, NIOS and open school candidates are eligible if they fulfill subject and marks criteria.

Q6. Is Biology mandatory for NEET eligibility?

Yes, **Biology/Biotechnology** is a compulsory subject.

Conclusion

Understanding the **NEET 2026 eligibility criteria related to age limit, qualification, and number of attempts** is essential before applying. Aspirants should carefully verify all requirements to avoid disqualification and ensure a smooth

application and counselling process.

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