

Forensic Aptitude and Caliber Test 2024

FACT
and
FACT Plus

Information Brochure

Mode of Test: Fully online



Organizing Institute:
National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU),
Delhi Campus (LNJN NICFS)
Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, Delhi

FACT 2024 website: www.nfsu.ac.in

IMPORTANT DATES

A.	Schedule for Online Application	
	(i) Start of Online Submission of Application Form and Fee deposit through Credit Card, Debit Card or Net Banking	01.04.2024
	(ii) Close of Online Submission of Application Form and Fee deposit through Credit Card, Debit Card or Net Banking	21.04.2024
B.	Issue of e-Admit Card to registered candidates	01.05.2024
C.	Date of FACT	12.05.2024 (Forenoon)
D.	Date of FACT Plus	12.05.2024 (Afternoon)
E.	Issue of Question/Answer Keys (After Examination)	13.05.2024
F.	Last date for the Filing of Challenge	15.05.2024
G.	Declaration of Final Key and Result	30.05.2024

1. Preamble

Forensic Science Laboratories (FSLs) in the country are facing an acute shortage of skilled manpower for disposal of pending cases. Currently, FSLs are hiring professionals on contractual basis with a view to provide assistance to expedite finalization of forensic reports.

Forensic science curricula as well as the quality of forensic science education imparted vary widely across the country. There is also certain disconnect between the theory component and corresponding practical exercises along with skill development.

The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has decided to conduct an All-India Test with the objective of benchmarking forensic science graduates and professionals.

A consolidated list of qualified personnel will be made available for recruitment to central and state Forensic Science Laboratories (FSLs) which can utilize the services of these qualified professionals for need-based and short term skilled forensic assignments to expedite disposal of pending cases. This national level test ensures minimum standard for forensic science postgraduates involved in conducting laboratory tests of crime evidence in FSLs in India. Assurance of better qualified professionals will contribute in the quality of forensic science services across the country will be same.

2. FACT and FACT Plus

Forensic Aptitude and Caliber Test (FACT) and FACT Plus are All-India Tests that aim to test the comprehensive aptitude and skills of Post Graduate subjects in Forensic Science. FACT is a screening test being introduced in 2018 as a test of forensic science caliber for students obtaining their degrees from various universities. The FACT qualification of a candidate reflects the relative knowledge and certifies minimum level of understanding of forensic science.

The FACT (Basic examination for post-graduate candidates) will test the candidates in pure sciences to understand their command over basic concepts. FACT Plus (Advanced level of examination for post-graduate candidate who have cleared NET/GATE/GPAT/Working Experience, will test the aptitude of the candidates towards forensic science related matters.

FACT qualification is intended to be used as a qualifying criterion for recruitment by FSLs and other such agencies. The test will be conducted for two levels i.e. FACT for assessing the skill level of the candidates to analyze the crime exhibits referred in the FSLs and interpret the results with basic training to assist in simple cases and FACT Plus for testing the candidates as specialized personnel to handle precision instruments and infer precise results. The eligibility for recruitment for FACT qualified candidates will be subject to fulfilling the criteria laid down by the recruiting organization.

3. National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU)

National Forensic Sciences University (NFSU), is the nodal Institute for forensic science education and training in the country. MHA has entrusted NFSU, Delhi Campus (LNJN NICFS) with the responsibility of administering FACT.

4. Structure of FACT 2024

FACT 2024 will consist of objective type questions and will be conducted as an online test. The test will be of 2-hour duration and shall consist of two Parts: **Section A** and **Section B**. The questions will be so designed as to measure the forensic aptitude and skills required to handle scientific tests of crime material exhibits from crime scenes and interpretations of test results at the Scene of Crime and/or forensic laboratories to deduce their evidential values.

Section A shall be compulsory to all candidates for testing the aptitude in Forensic Science.

Section B shall consist of **Five** specialized forensic science subjects viz., **Forensic Ballistics and Physical Sciences, Forensics Document Examination, Forensic Chemical Sciences (Toxicology, Chemistry, Narcotics and Explosives), Digital Forensics (Mobile Forensic, Audio-Video, etc.,) and Forensic Psychology.** A candidate has to **attempt any one of these Five** specialized Forensic Science subjects.

The test consists of only multiple-choice questions and will be a mix of questions of low, moderate and high level of difficulty. Four possible options (A), (B), (C) and (D) will be given for each question of which only one option will be correct. There will be no negative marking. The marking scheme will be included as part of the Instructions to the online test.

5. Eligibility Criteria:

5.1 Eligibility Criteria for Appearing in FACT 2024

In order for being eligible to appear in FACT or FACT Plus, the candidate must fulfill the following eligibility requirements:

- (i) Candidate must be an Indian national.
- (ii) To appear for FACT, the candidate must possess educational qualifications as per the detailed Table 1 or must be in final semester waiting to appear for the final semester examination of the educational qualification as per the detailed Table 1.
- (iii) Those who are going to appear for the final semester examination will be provisionally allowed to appear for the FACT or FACT Plus exam. However, FACT or FACT Plus Certificate will be issued only after clearing the said eligibility criteria in the current academic year
- (iv) To appear for FACT Plus, in addition to being eligible to appear for FACT, the candidate must be qualified in UGC NET examination or CSIR-GATE or GPAT or possess Experience in analytical methods and/or research in the relevant field as per Table 2.

- (v) Some candidates are also mandated to have studied specified subjects at the graduate level.
- (vi) There is no upper age limit.
- (vii) A candidate may appear in FACT or FACT Plus any number of times.
- (viii) A candidate may appear for FACT or FACT Plus or Both based on their eligibility.

Table 1: Details of educational qualifications for eligibility for FACT and FACT Plus are as follows:

Elective Subjects	Qualifying degree	Mandatory subject at graduate level
Forensic Ballistics and Physical Sciences	MSc in Physics /Biophysics /Applied Physics/Mathematics/Applied Mathematics	None
	Bachelor of Engineering (Civil/Electrical/Mechanical/Electronic/ Telecommunication/Computer Science/Instrumentation)	Not applicable
	M.Sc. in Forensic Science	Physics or Mathematics
Forensic Document Examination	M.Sc. in Physics	None
	M.Sc. in Chemistry/Biochemistry	
	AIC by examination	
	M.Sc. in Forensic Science	Physics or Chemistry
Digital Forensics	B.Tech/BE in Computer Science / Electrical / Electronic engineering	Not applicable
	Master's Degree in any subject and Certification/Diploma in Cyber Forensic/Digital Forensics/Information Security	None
	Master's Degree in Physics/Mathematics/Applied Mathematics/Forensic Science	None
	M.Sc. in Digital Forensics and Information Security	None
Forensics Chemical Sciences	Master's Degree in Chemistry/Toxicology/Biochemistry/ Pharmacology/Pharmacy/Forensic Science	Chemistry
	Associateship of Institute of Chemist (AIC) by examination	
Forensic Psychology	Master's Degree in Psychology/Criminology	None
	Master's Degree in Forensic Science	Forensic Psychology or Forensic Criminology

Table 2. Details of additional qualification/experience for eligibility for FACT Plus are as follows:

Elective Subjects	GATE	CBSE UGC NET	CSIR UGC NET	GPAT	Experience
Forensic Ballistic and Physical Sciences	Physics/Mathematics/ Electronics and Communication Engineering/ Electrical Engineering / Chemistry /Chemical Engineering	Electronic Science / Forensic Science	Physical Sciences / Mathematical Science/ Chemical Science	---	---
Forensics Document Examination	Physics/Mathematics/ Electronics and Communication Engineering/ Electrical Engineering / Chemistry /Chemical Engineering	Electronic Science / Forensic Science	Physical Sciences / Mathematical Science/ Chemical Science		

Digital Forensics	Electronics and Communication Engineering/ Electrical Engineering / Computer Science and Information Technology/ Physics/ Mathematics	Computer Science and Applications / Electronic Science / Forensic Science/ Criminology	Physical Sciences/ Mathematical Sciences	---	---
Forensics Chemical Sciences	Chemistry / Chemical Engineering	Forensic Science	Chemical Sciences	GPAT	---
Forensic Psychology	---	---	---	--	3 years of post-qualification experience in analytical methods and/or research in the relevant field

5.2 Eligibility Criteria for Persons with Disabilities (PwD)s

PH Category	PH Sub-category	Eligibility
Orthopedically Handicapped or Locomotor Disability or Cerebral Palsy	OL- One leg affected (R or L)	Eligible for all
	Other sub-categories	Scientific staff have to perform bench work in laboratory which include operating different types of scientific sensitive equipment, operating various types of arms, conducting chemical tests. These operations require very high precision of tests conducted on Case Exhibits obtained from the Investigation Agencies. Besides these, they also have to visit different courts of Law in different locations, including the locations in very remote areas of the country. Therefore, these categories of Physical Disabilities are not suitable for scientific posts in the divisions of Forensic Science Laboratories.
Blindness or Low Vision	B- Blind	
	PB- Partial Blind	
Hearing Impairment	D- Deaf	Eligible for all except Forensic Physics Division
	PD-Partial Deaf	

6. DATE AND SCHEME OF THE TEST

The FACT and FACT Plus will be held tentatively on 12.05.2024 as under:

Test	Session	Timings	Duration
FACT	Forenoon	10:30AM -12:30 PM	2hrs
FACT (Plus)	Afternoon	02:30PM - 04:30 PM	2hrs

Paper	Questions
SECTION A: Questions for testing aptitude in forensic science	50
SECTION B: (attempt any one of these five subjects) 1. Forensic Ballistics and Physical Sciences 2. Forensics Document Examination 3. Digital Forensics 4. Forensic Chemical Sciences 5. Forensic Psychology	70
<u>Total</u>	120

Note:

- (i) The date and time of FACT and FACT Plus is liable to be changed at the discretion of NFSU Delhi Campus (LNJN NICFS).
- (ii) The medium of examination will be English.
- (iii) There will be 120 questions carrying **one mark each** and all questions will be mandatory.
- (iv) No negative marking for wrong answers shall be applicable as per the scheme of examination.
- (v) Each candidate must individually obtain 50% or more marks in each of the sections of the examination and the overall qualifying marks will be 60% and above. However, there will be relaxation of 5% in the qualifying marks of SC/ST/OBC/PwD candidates.
- (vi) The list of qualifying candidates will be declared subject-wise according to each elective subject.

7. Registration for FACT and FACT Plus

7.1 ONLINE APPLICATION:

Interested & eligible candidates may apply online through a link available at NFSU Delhi Campus website: www.nfsu.ac.in. In order to pay the registration fee, the candidates may use Credit Card, Debit Card, Net Banking and UPI. Before applying online, candidates are advised to go through detailed notification available at NFSU website.

Before filling the form, candidates must select the examination which they wish to take ensuring their eligibility for the same. Candidates must write their name, father/mother's name as written in their Matriculation (Xth Class Board) Certificate and should ensure that the same are matching with their educational qualification certificates and caste certificate except for married females who may submit an undertaking, in case of any change in their name.

After filling the online application, candidates should recheck their entire application form and make changes if required before final submission of online application. No change in the particulars entered in the application form will be possible after final submission of online application and no correspondence in this regard will be entertained.

After successful submission of ONLINE Application, a Registration Number will be generated. The candidates must preserve the Registration Number for future reference and for downloading your e-Admit Card. They must also keep a printout copy of the duly filled-in application form for future use.

The registration portal may also be used by candidates to check the status of their candidature, download e-admit card as well as FACT and FACT Plus result.

Candidates should note that successful submission of online application does not mean that they have been registered for this test. To ensure their candidature, candidates should check their registration status on website (www.nfsu.ac.in).

Detailed instructions regarding the registration and online applications will be issued separately on www.nfsu.ac.in. Instructions pertaining to conduct of candidate at the examination centers will be issued along with e-admit card.

7.2 REGISTRATION FEE AND MODE OF PAYMENT

The registration fee to be submitted by the candidates will be given below:

Candidate category	Gender	Registration Fee for FACT	Registration Fee for FACT Plus
GEN	Male	Rs. 1000/-	Rs. 1000/-
	Female	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 500/-
OBC-NC, SC, ST, PH	Any	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 500/-

Registration fee must be paid via Debit Card / Credit Card / Net Banking / UPI only

After filling all the details for applying online for FACT, the candidate will have the option to select the mode of payment of examination fee either by credit/debit card or through net banking indicating their details therein.

The candidates are required to check the status of fee payment at NFSU Delhi Campus (LNJN NICFS) website www.nfsu.ac.in and if the status is 'OK' the candidate will be able to take the printout of Confirmation Page.

If the fee is paid through credit/debit card and status is not OK, it means the transaction is cancelled and the amount will be refunded to concerned credit/debit card. Such candidates have to pay the fee once again.

Please note that Fee submitted by any other modes like money order, demand draft, IPO etc. will be summarily rejected. Fee once paid will not be refunded under any circumstances

IN ORDER TO AVOID LAST MINUTES RUSH, THE CANDIDATES ARE ADVISED TO APPLY EARLY ENOUGH. NFSU Delhi Campus (LNJN NICFS) WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR NETWORK PROBLEMS OR ANY OTHER SUCH TYPE OF PROBLEMS.

8. CANDIDATE SEEKING FEE CONCESSION

Scheduled Caste (SC)/Scheduled Tribe (ST)/Persons with Disability (PwDs) / Other Backward Classes (OBC) (Non-creamy layer), as per the central list of Other Backward Classes available on National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC), Government of India website: www.ncbc.nic.in, candidate will be given such special concessions as may be decided by the NFSU Delhi Campus (LNJN NICFS).

The candidate should mention clearly his/her category to seek concession in fee. The candidate will be required to fill out an undertaking stating that if at any point, before/during/after the examination the information is found to be false, his/her candidature will be cancelled with immediate effect and the issued certificate will be declared invalid. OBC candidates, who are not covered under the provision of Non-Creamy Layer (NCL) as per the provisions of Govt. of India shall not be eligible to get the benefit of relaxation in fee concession.

Candidate must note that for availing OBC category benefit, only Central Govt. list and not the State Govt. lists would be applicable. Similarly, candidates applying under physically handicapped (PH)/ visually handicapped (VH) category may note that Govt. of India rules will be applicable in this regard; otherwise they **shall not be eligible** for any concession.

9. Syllabus of the FACT Examination

The syllabus & scheme of exam may be seen at NFSU website www.nfsu.ac.in. The syllabus for FACT and FACT Plus will be the same, only the level of questions will be different. The question paper shall be as per syllabus and scheme of exam.

10. Examination Centers

Name and address of the test center will be printed on the admit card. A candidate may opt for their Examination Center, from the following cities:

Agartala	Bhopal	Chennai	Delhi
Gandhinagar	Kolkata	Mumbai	Nagpur

If sufficient number of candidates do not opt for any of the above Centers, that particular Center may stand deleted from the above list OR otherwise also, the concerned candidates may be allotted another Centre at the discretion of NFSU Delhi Campus (LNJN NICFS).

The Allotted Examination Center will be final and no request for change of center will be entertained. No TA/DA will be admissible to any candidate, in any circumstances.

11. Declaration of Result

The officially correct answers (Answer Key) will be announced on the same or next day after the examination. The provisional result of FACT and FACT Plus may be declared on 30th May 2024.

If a question for any reason found wrong, the benefit of marks will be given to only those candidates who attempt the question. On review of representations by the subject experts, if it is found that along with the original answer key one more option(s) is correct then marks will be awarded to all those candidates who have attempted any one of the correct options.

Any representation from the appeared candidates will be addressed within 3 days from the date of the examination via NFSU website only i.e. latest by 15th May 2024. Challenge Fee of Rs. 1000/- per question has to be paid by the candidate. The Final Answer Keys and Result will be uploaded on www.nfsu.ac.in on 22.05.2024.

Fee may be paid by credit/debit card/net banking/UPI. In case the challenge of any candidate regarding answer key is accepted, fee will be refunded. Refunds will be transferred online to the concerned bank account only, so, the candidates are advised to pay from their own bank accounts. In all other cases fee once paid will not be refunded. The decision of Competent Authority on challenges shall be final and result will be declared on basis of final answer keys. Validity period of FACT and FACT Plus certificate will be 3 years from date of issue. Results shall remain for up to one month on NFSU website www.nfsu.ac.in and can be downloaded.

12. Issue of FACT and FACT Plus Certificate

All the candidates declared provisionally qualified will be expected to produce original copy of all the certificates/testimonials for verification by the recruiting agency. The FACT and FACT Plus certificate will be issued on the basis of the undertaking from the candidates during registration stating *'Declaration: I hereby declare that the details furnished above by me are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and I undertake to inform you of any changes therein, immediately. In case any of the above information is found to be false or untrue or misleading or misrepresenting, I am aware that I may be held liable for legal action'*.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS

- (i) While applying for FACT or FACT Plus, the candidates must ensure that they fulfill all the eligibility conditions and follow all the laid down procedures/guidelines for this test.
- (ii) While applying Online, apply early enough to avoid any last minute rush.
- (iii) Facility for downloading e-Admit Card to the registered candidates will be provided on NFSU Delhi Campus (LNJN NICFS) website www.nfsu.ac.in. No Admit Card will be sent by post. No duplicate e-admit cards shall be issued to the candidates at the Exam Centre. *NFSU Delhi Campus (LNJN NICFS) will not be responsible for any delay on the part of the candidates.*

- (iv) Each and every candidate needs to fulfill the eligibility criteria, complete in every respect, for successful candidature.
- (v) Provisional result based on the information provided by the candidate during filling up the online application form will be declared on 30th May 2024.
- (vi) The candidature shall be cancelled at any stage, even after declaration of result, if found that any given eligibility criterion is not fulfilled, and/or wrong information(s) has been provided by the candidate.
- (vii) Separate forms need to be filled for FACT or FACT Plus examination. Multiple registrations from a single candidate will be cancelled and the examination fee forfeited.
- (viii) Candidate should exercise due care in filling up the application form. In case of any error on the part of the candidate, he/she will be held solely responsible for any loss suffered by him/her. No change in the entries made in the original application form will be allowed under any circumstances at a later stage.
- (ix) No relevant column of the application form should be left blank. Incomplete applications shall be summarily rejected.
- (x) All information will be provided through NFSU website only. No individual intimation by any mode will be sent to the candidates.
- (xi) OBC candidates whose caste is not listed in Central List (as available on NCBC website) and are not covered under the provisions as applicable to OBC Non-Creamy Layer (NCL) shall be treated as a General Category candidates for all purposes and shall not be eligible to get the benefit of fee concession, etc. Accordingly, OBC Candidates not belonging to OBC Non Creamy Layer shall indicate their category as 'General'.
- (xii) Hard copy of online application form is not required and will not be accepted by NFSU Delhi Campus (LNJN NICFS).
- (xiii) Candidates are neither required to send any certificates/documents in support of their eligibility nor printout of their Application Form (Confirmation Page) to NFSU Delhi Campus (LNJN NICFS). However, the candidates, in their own interest, must satisfy themselves about their eligibility for the Test. In the event of any ineligibility being detected by the NFSU Delhi Campus (LNJN NICFS) at any stage, their candidature will be cancelled, and they shall be liable for legal action.
- (xiv) Candidates having post-graduate diploma/certificate awarded by Indian University/ Institute or foreign degree/diploma/certificate awarded by the foreign University/institute should in their own interest, ascertain the equivalence of their diploma/degree/certificate with Master's degree of recognized Indian universities from Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi. (www.aiuweb.org).
- (xv) No applications can be submitted after the last date 21.04.2024 and no fee will be accepted after closing date in any circumstances.
- (xvi) The Candidate should note that their candidature is strictly provisional. The mere fact that e-Admit Card has been issued and the candidate is allowed to appear in the test shall not imply that his/her candidature has been accepted.
- (xvii) NFSU Delhi Campus (LNJN NICFS) may change the city of examination or the date of examination due to unforeseen circumstances without assigning any reason. No candidate will be allowed to appear at examination center other than that allotted to them in the admit

- card. No candidate will be allowed to appear in the examination whose admission card is not issued by NFSU Delhi Campus (LNJN NICFS).
- (xviii) The candidates are required to bring a photo identity card along with their printout of online e-Admit Card on the day of examination.
 - (xix) Calculators, log tables, paper chits, books/note-books, mobile phones, smart watches, electronic devices, etc. are not allowed in the Examination. Possession of any of these items will be treated as unfair means and result of the candidate will not be declared.
 - (xx) Canvassing in any form will disqualify the candidate.
 - (xxi) NFSU Delhi Camps (LNJN NICFS) representatives will be in-charge of the overall conduct of the examination at the Examination Centers and any immediate decisions taken by them will be final.
 - (xxii) The decision of FACT Council shall be final in all matters. All legal disputes pertaining to this Test shall fall within the jurisdiction of Delhi Courts only.
 - (xxiii) The result of all the candidates will be uploaded on NFSU Delhi Campus (LNJN NICFS) website www.nfsu.ac.in. Besides this, NFSU Delhi Campus will not issue any mark-sheet to qualified/non-qualified candidates.
 - (xxiv) Delhi Campus (LNJN NICFS) shall not be responsible for any printing error(s) in this notification.

CONTACT DETAILS

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