

# Becoming a University Professor in India

## 1. Eligibility Criteria (UGC Guidelines)

• A Master's degree with at least 55% marks. • Qualifying UGC-NET, CSIR-NET, or State Eligibility Test (SET/SLET) is mandatory. • PhD holders are exempt from NET. • Draft UGC Regulations (2025) propose expanding eligibility to ME/MTech and other postgraduates.

## 2. Competitive Exams for Entry

• UGC-NET (National Eligibility Test): Mandatory for lectureship. • CSIR-NET: For science/technical subjects. • SET/SLET: State-level tests for local universities.

## 3. Recruitment Procedures & Trends

• UPPSC is planning 3-phase Assistant Professor selections. • Rajasthan and other states face faculty shortages. • MP is digitizing guest faculty hiring via GFMS. • MPPSC to hire ~2,000 Assistant Professors in 2025.

## 4. Career Progression Path

Position	Eligibility	Typical Experience
Assistant Professor	NET/SET or PhD + Master's (55%)	Entry-level
Associate Professor	PhD + Research + Experience	8+ Years
Professor	PhD + Strong Publication Profile	Senior-level

## 5. Additional Notes

• States are involving external bodies for transparency in hiring. • Supreme Court rulings have helped fast-track VC and faculty appointments. • CAS (Career Advancement Scheme) supports promotion based on academic contributions.