

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.