

BARC OCES/DGFS Syllabus 2026

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre / Department of Atomic Energy — Bhabha Atomic Research Centre — Officer Trainee Scheme (OCES) & DAE Graduate Fellowship Scheme (DGFS)

Vacancies	Announced yearly for Officer Trainee posts across Engineering and Science disciplines relevant to India's atomic energy programme
Age Limit	Up to 26 years (BE/B.Tech/BSc) or up to 28 years (ME/M.Tech/MSc), typically, with relaxation per government norms
Qualification	BE/B.Tech (Mechanical, Electrical, Electronics, Chemical, Civil, Computer Science, Metallurgy, Instrumentation) or MSc (Physics, Chemistry) from a recognised university, meeting BARC's specific minimum aggregate requirement
Application Fee	As specified in the current BARC Training School notification (typically nominal, waived for reserved categories)
Official Website	barc.gov.in
Last Reviewed	4 Mar 2026

Overview

BARC OCES/DGFS recruits engineering and science graduates into India's Department of Atomic Energy network through the BARC Training School — a rigorous one-year orientation programme covering nuclear science, engineering fundamentals and specialised coursework, before trainees are posted into BARC, NPCIL, or other DAE constituent units. Selection for engineering disciplines primarily uses GATE scores (or a BARC-specific written test, depending on the discipline and cycle), followed by a Personal Interview. The programme is highly selective and academically demanding, reflecting the specialised, research-intensive nature of India's atomic energy sector.

What's New in the 2026 Cycle

- OCES (for engineering/science graduates) and DGFS (a fellowship scheme integrated with select IITs for select disciplines) are the two primary entry routes into the BARC Training School.
- GATE score is commonly used for engineering-discipline shortlisting, though BARC may also conduct its own written test depending on the specific discipline and cycle.
- The one-year BARC Training School programme itself is intensive, combining coursework with practical/lab components before final placement.
- Selected candidates may be posted to BARC, NPCIL or other DAE units based on training performance and organisational requirements.

Exam Pattern

Academic/GATE Score Shortlisting

Mode: Based on the candidate's academic record and/or valid GATE score in the relevant discipline (verify the exact criterion for your discipline and cycle) | Duration: Not applicable for the GATE-based route

Section	Questions	Marks
Academic record and/or GATE score (discipline-specific)	—	Qualifying

Negative marking: Not applicable | **Nature:** Determines the shortlist for the Interview stage.

Interview

Mode: Board interview | Duration: —

Section	Questions	Marks
Interview	—	Qualifying

Negative marking: Not applicable | **Nature:** Counted for final selection.

BARC OCES/DGFS — Detailed Subject-Wise Syllabus

GATE Score / Academic Record (discipline-specific)

Given the programme's selectivity, both a strong GATE score and a consistently strong academic record matter — this isn't a single-test gateway.

- Refer to the GATE syllabus for your specific engineering discipline, or your MSc-level Physics/Chemistry coursework for science-stream applicants

BARC Training School Curriculum (post-selection, not examined at entry)

Understanding this curriculum's demands helps you demonstrate genuine readiness during the Interview stage.

- Nuclear physics & reactor theory fundamentals
- Radiation safety & protection
- Discipline-specific advanced engineering/science coursework
- Practical/laboratory components relevant to atomic energy applications

Selection Process

- 1 Shortlisting based on academic record and/or GATE score, depending on the discipline and cycle.
- 2 Personal Interview.
- 3 Selection into the one-year BARC Training School programme.
- 4 Final placement into BARC, NPCIL or other DAE units based on training performance and organisational requirements.

Salary & Job Profile

During the one-year Training School programme, trainees receive a fixed stipend; on successful completion, they're absorbed as Scientific Officers starting at Pay Level 10 (₹56,100 basic) of the 7th CPC matrix, plus Dearness Allowance, HRA and DAE-specific research allowances.

Best Books for Preparation

- GATE discipline-specific standard textbooks (Mechanical/Electrical/Electronics/Chemical/Civil/CS, as applicable)
- Nuclear Physics fundamentals — for orientation toward the Training School curriculum
- GATE Previous Year Solved Papers — discipline-wise

Previous Cut-off Trends (Approximate)

BARC OCES/DGFS shortlisting criteria and cut-offs vary meaningfully by discipline and academic cycle, given the programme's small, highly selective intake relative to applicant volume. Always check BARC's official notification for the specific discipline's current shortlisting criteria.

Preparation Tips

- If your discipline's route uses GATE, prioritise a strong GATE score as you would for any other GATE-based PSU recruitment.
- Given the programme's selectivity, maintain a strong academic record throughout your degree, not just exam-specific preparation.
- Research the structure and demands of the BARC Training School programme itself, since Interview panels often assess genuine readiness for its intensity.
- Follow developments in India's nuclear energy sector to demonstrate authentic interest during the Interview.

Exam Day Guidelines

- Confirm whether your discipline's shortlisting cycle uses GATE score or a separate BARC written test, and prepare accordingly.
- Keep your academic transcripts and GATE scorecard (if applicable) ready and valid for the shortlisting stage.
- Prepare to discuss your academic background and genuine interest in nuclear science/engineering for the Interview.
- Research BARC's and DAE's mission and recent developments in India's atomic energy programme before the interview.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between OCES and DGFS?

OCES (Orientation Course for Engineering/Science graduates) is BARC's direct entry route into the Training School, while DGFS (DAE Graduate Fellowship Scheme) is a fellowship integrated with select IITs for select disciplines — both ultimately feed into the same Training School programme.

Does BARC use GATE scores for shortlisting?

Commonly yes, for many engineering disciplines, though BARC may also conduct its own written test depending on the specific discipline and recruitment cycle — always verify against the current notification.

What happens after selection into BARC OCES/DGFS?

Selected candidates undergo a rigorous one-year BARC Training School programme covering nuclear science and engineering fundamentals, before being posted to BARC, NPCIL or other DAE constituent units.

Is this recruitment route highly competitive?

Yes, given the small, highly selective intake for this specialised programme relative to applicant volume from GATE-qualified and academically strong candidates nationwide.