

## **TIFR-Hyderabad Admissions Process in view of Covid-19**

In view of the disruption to academic calendars caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, and in compliance with the UGC guidelines regarding appropriate measures to be taken by all Universities (found here: [https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/4276446 UGC-Guidelines - on-Examinations-and-Academic-Calendar.pdf](https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/4276446%20UGC-Guidelines-on-Examinations-and-Academic-Calendar.pdf)), TIFR-Hyderabad currently plans to complete the selection process for admission for GS-2020 by 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 2020. Our procedures will be guided by the following two principles.

1. To ensure the health and safety of all students and candidates.
2. To facilitate access of candidates to the admissions process.

To enable these goals, the UGC has advised Universities to make maximal use of online tools, and we have therefore planned to hold interviews using telephone/internet-based communication. However, we are cognizant that some candidates may be faced with a lack of phone/internet connectivity. No candidate will be eliminated due to such constraints. The details are below.

### **Guidelines regarding Admissions Process:**

1. Interview call lists will be posted on the websites of TIFR-Hyderabad (<https://gsadmissions.tifrh.res.in/applicant/>). Candidates will be informed about the call for interviews and mode of interview by email in advance. Those students who have not confirmed their participation via email by due date will be contacted via phone.
2. Upon receiving the confirmation of their interview participation, the Centre will schedule slots for interview and the same will be informed via email/phone.
3. A test-call would also be arranged well before the interview for checking the Internet connectivity of the candidate. Candidates will be fully informed about the phone-based or online-based interview process ahead of time.
4. The candidates are expected to be available online during the interview slot. They are also expected to accept an undertaking of fair practices during the interview.
5. Once a candidate is scheduled for an online interview, if the candidate is unable to use online tools that require data connectivity for whatever reason, they will have the option to be interviewed over the phone. Alternatively, if there is any disruption in connectivity, candidates will be assigned a backup interview slot. The interview committee will make the necessary decision in these regards.
6. Following the interview, the list of selected candidates will be posted on the website of TIFR-Hyderabad. Candidates will be issued offer letters, which will list the final date by which the offer must be accepted. All selected candidates will also be informed over phone.

7. TIFR-Hyderabad's current admission cycle, for which the written test was held in December 2019, will be completed by 31.08.2020. The Academic Session 2020-21 will commence from 01.09.2020 or later, depending on the situation in TIFR-Hyderabad campus. The mode of start of the Academic Session will be confirmed at a later date, will ensure that social distancing and all relevant safety norms are followed, if necessary, by making use of online teaching tools
8. In the event that any candidate has difficulty in being interviewed using these means, they will be given additional opportunities to appear for their interview using phone/internet when they are able to do so, up to the start of the academic semester in the TIFR-Hyderabad they are being interviewed for. No candidate will be eliminated simply based on his or her non-availability for interview. As a last resort, they will be offered the option to defer their interviews to a later date based on mutual convenience. The interview committee's recommendation will be final in all such cases.