



## **Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode**

### **PGP-Liberal Studies and Management (PGP-LSM)**

### **Admissions Policy and Procedure for 2026-2028 Batch**

IIM Kozhikode adopts a three-staged selection process for its admissions to the PGP-LSM 2026-2028 batch. The details of the three stages are given below:

#### **Stage 1: Registration of Candidates Meeting the Eligibility Criteria**

##### **Basic Eligibility**

- Candidates must secure at least 60 percent aggregate marks in their Graduation/Post-Graduation Degree<sup>1</sup>. The Graduation degree or equivalent qualification obtained by the candidate must entail at least three years of education after completing higher secondary schooling (10+2) or equivalent.
- Candidates who possess or do not possess a Graduation degree but have completed CA, CMA (ICWA), or CS must have secured at least 50 percent aggregate marks in their CA, CMA (ICWA), or CS examinations.
- Candidates must possess a valid score in CAT/GRE/GMAT, taken between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2025 (both days inclusive). Candidates who are applying through CAT must obtain a positive (greater than zero) scaled score in all sections of CAT 2025.
- Those appearing for the final year of Post-Graduation/Bachelor's degree/equivalent qualification examination and awaiting results can also apply. Such candidates, if selected, will be admitted provisionally till the final results and degree certificates are available.
- These candidates, if selected, will be allowed to join the program provisionally, only if they submit a certificate from the Principal/Registrar of their University/Institution during the Personal Interview stating that they have completed all the requirements (the results may, however, be awaited) for obtaining the Bachelor's degree/equivalent qualification on the date of the issue of the certificate. Their admission will be confirmed only when they submit the original mark sheet and qualifying degree certificate, which must prove that they have passed the Bachelor's degree/equivalent qualification referred to in the certificate issued by the Principal/Registrar of their university or institution.
- The deadline for submission of the qualifying degree/equivalent mark sheet and certificate is December 31, 2026. Non-fulfilment of this condition will automatically result in the cancellation of the provisional admission.

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<sup>1</sup> Candidates who have not received any marks in their Post Graduation/ Graduation/Class 12<sup>th</sup>/Class 10<sup>th</sup> (due to the Covid-19 pandemic) but have a pass certificate will be accepted to Stage 2, subject to providing a self-declaration in Stage 1 about the non-availability of marks. Independent vetting may be conducted for Graduation/post-graduation by the concerned University/College.

In Stage 1, in addition to the basic eligibility, the following minimum eligibility criteria will be applied to all candidates who have opted for IIM Kozhikode.

**Table 1: Minimum Eligibility Criteria**

Category	Verbal Section Percentile*	Reasoning Section Percentile**	Other Section Percentile***
<b>GEN</b>	80	80	60
<b>OBC-NCL/EWS</b>	70	70	60
<b>SC</b>	60	60	60
<b>ST/PwD</b>	55	55	55

\* Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension (CAT), Verbal (GMAT/GMAT Focus Edition), Verbal Reasoning (GRE).

\*\* Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning (CAT), Integrated Reasoning (GMAT)/Data Insights (GMAT Focus Edition), Analytical Writing (GRE).

\*\*\* Quantitative Ability (CAT), Quantitative (GMAT/GMAT Focus Edition), Quantitative Reasoning (GRE).

IIMK accepts GMAT Focus edition scores also for admission to the IIMK PGP-LSM program, while **GRE/GMAT home test scores are not accepted** for admission.

**Note:** General (GEN), Economically Weaker Section (EWS), Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Other Backward Classes- Non Creamy Layer (OBC-NCL), Persons with Disability (PwD).

All CAT 2025 candidates who have opted for IIM Kozhikode and are fulfilling the above-mentioned minimum eligibility criteria are eligible to register for the IIM Kozhikode PGP-LSM program and will receive an email for online registration. GRE/GMAT candidates who fulfil the above-mentioned minimum eligibility criteria may register for the IIM Kozhikode PGP-LSM program by using the link that will be provided on the IIMK website by the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of January 2026. Only those candidates who have completed the online registration process will be considered for Stage 2. Please note that this is a pre-interview registration process, not a call for interviews.

## **Stage 2: Shortlisting for Writing Ability Test (WAT) and Personal Interview (PI)**

The Stage 2 process applies to all eligible candidates who have completed the registration process in Stage 1 for admission to IIMK, and it is used to determine which candidates will be called for a personal interview (PI). A shortlist of candidates in each category will be prepared based on an Aggregate Index Score (AIS). The weightage of each component in the AIS is as follows:

**Table 2: Aggregate Index Score Computation for Stage 2 Shortlist**

Component	Weightage
Verbal and Reasoning Sections Scaled Scores	40%
Class X Percentage Score*	20%
Class XII Percentage Score**	20%
Academic Diversity Score	10%
Gender Diversity Score	5%
Work Experience Score	5%

\* For candidates who have not received any marks for their SSC/Class X/IB/Equivalent due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the weightage allocated (20%) shall be proportionately split between the Verbal and Reasoning Sections Scaled Score and Class XII Percentage Score.

\*\* For candidates who have not received any marks for their HSC/Class XII/IB/Equivalent/Diploma due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the weightage allocated (20%) shall be proportionately split between the Verbal and Reasoning Sections Scaled Score and Class X Percentage Score.

The details of each component are given as follows:

### ***1) Verbal and Reasoning Sections Scaled Score***

Scaled scores from the Verbal and the Reasoning Sections (with equal weightages) of CAT/GRE/GMAT will be considered for the computation of the Verbal and Reasoning Sections Scaled Score. The Verbal and Reasoning Sections' Score will carry a weightage of 40%. An equivalent scaled sectional score for GRE/GMAT will be calculated as per the following method:

*If a candidate receives an  $x$  percentile in GMAT/GRE, the equivalent CAT scaled score may be computed as the median of all the scaled CAT scores belonging to the interval  $(x-0.5, x+0.5]$ .*

### ***2) SSC/Class X/IB/Equivalent Percentage Score***

The percentage of marks obtained in SSC/Class X/IB/Equivalent would be calculated **based on the aggregate marks of all subjects** that appear in the marks sheet or grade sheet, irrespective of whether the respective Board considers them for the calculation of the percentage. The SSC/Class X/IB/Equivalent percentage scores are first adjusted by dividing each score by the respective Board's highest percentage score, and then that adjusted score is multiplied by 20. The database of SSC/Class X/IB/Equivalent percentage scores for all CAT applicants over the past three years, including the current year, is used to identify the highest percentage score of a Board. For candidates who have not received any marks for their SSC/Class X/IB/Equivalent due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, the weightage allocated (20%) shall be proportionately split between the Verbal and Reasoning Sections Scaled Score and Class XII Percentage Score.

### ***3) HSC/Class XII/IB/Equivalent/Diploma Percentage Score***

The percentage of marks obtained in HSC/Class XII/IB/Equivalent/Diploma would be calculated based on the **aggregate marks of all subjects that appear in the marks sheet or grade sheet**, irrespective of whether the respective Board considers them for the calculation of the percentage. The HSC/Class XII/IB/Equivalent/Diploma percentage scores are first adjusted by dividing each score by the highest percentage score obtained in the stream of that Board, and then that adjusted score is multiplied by 20. The database of HSC/Class XII/IB/Equivalent/Diploma percentage scores for all CAT applicants over the past three years, including the current year, is used to identify the highest percentage score in a stream for a particular Board. For candidates who have not received any marks for their HSC/Class XII/IB/Equivalent/Diploma due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the weightage allocated (20%) shall be proportionately split between the Verbal and Reasoning Sections Scaled Score and Class X Percentage Score.

### ***4) Academic Diversity Score***

Marks are awarded for academic diversity. A candidate holding (or pursuing) a Bachelor's degree or equivalent in a discipline outside of Engineering/Technology qualifies for an academic diversity score of 10. A candidate with an engineering/technology degree and a bachelor's degree in a non-engineering/technology discipline is also eligible for the same academic diversity score of 10, provided the candidate scores an aggregate of 60% marks in the non-engineering degree as well.

### ***5) Gender Diversity Score***

Marks are awarded for gender diversity. Only female/transgender candidates are eligible for a gender diversity score. The Gender Diversity Score will carry a weightage of 5%.

## 6) Work Experience Score

a) Previous work/professional experience will carry a weightage of up to 5%, depending on the length of service as of December 31, 2025. Only full-time remunerative work experience after graduation/(CA/CMA(ICWA)/CS)\* will be considered. Part-time/Project/Internship/Articleship/Pre-Graduation/Fellowship work experience will not be counted as work experience. A candidate with work experience of 6 months or above will be eligible for a work experience score. The details are provided in [Annexure 1](#).

\*For details refer Stage-1, minimum eligibility criteria

b) Regarding Self-employment/partnership experience: full-time self-employment must be established using **income tax returns** pertaining to years of employment or assessment year preceding the year of CAT registration, and any two of the following documents:

- i. Registered partnership deed,
- ii. MCA/RoC firm registration certificate,
- iii. GST registration of the firm,
- iv. Firm's audited statements of account (for at least two continuous financial years),
- v. DIPP Certificate of Recognition.

At least one of these documents must indicate the name of the firm and the candidate's name as Promoter/Director. The other document must refer to the firm's name or registration number. The later date in these two submitted documents will be taken as the start date of self-employment. Both dates used to calculate the start of self-employment must be after the date of the award of the candidate's qualifying educational degree. The details are provided in [Annexure 1](#).

### Stage 3: Final Shortlist

The short-listed candidates must appear for a Written Ability Test (WAT) followed by a Personal Interview (PI). IIM Kozhikode will conduct the WAT and PI in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Kozhikode, Mumbai and New Delhi. The entire process will last for a half-day (morning or afternoon). In this process, the candidates will write an essay, followed by a PI. The essay topic will be announced at the venue just before the start of the WAT session. During the PI process, the panel will evaluate candidates based on their Communication, Attitude, and Personality, as well as General and Business Awareness, Liberal Studies Aptitude, Managerial and Leadership Aptitude, and Quality of Work Experience.

After the conclusion of the WAT and PI process, the final scores will be computed (see Table 3) based on the performance in AIS Score, WAT, and PI Score. A common and category-wise merit list will be prepared based on the final scores. Admission offers will be made to candidates based on the merit list, as per the Government of India's reservation norms.

**Table 3: Final Score Computation**

Component	Weightage
AIS Score (computed in Stage 2)	40%
WAT Score	20%
PI Score	40%

## **Reservation Policy**

IIM Kozhikode will adhere to the Government of India's reservation policy for admission to Central Educational Institutions (CEIs).

**Any dispute concerning admissions for the PGP-LSM Batch of 2026-2028 would be subject to the jurisdiction of the competent courts within Kozhikode only.**

## **Important Information**

1. Stage 1 is a pre-interview registration process and not a call for PI.
2. Only candidates who have successfully registered online for admission to IIMK will be considered for Stage 2 (PI). A successful registration does not automatically qualify a candidate for the Stage 2 selection process.
3. The number of candidates shortlisted for Stage 2 would be at the discretion of IIMK and would depend on the batch size planned for 2026-28.
4. Each IIM shortlists candidates for PI based on its own criteria. Hence, it is natural to observe variations in the lists of candidates shortlisted by different IIMs.
5. The Stage 2 (PI) shortlist, along with the details of the PI process, will be made available on the IIMK registration portal at an appropriate time.
6. After the completion of Stage 2 (PI), a merit list for admissions will be prepared. The required number of admissions offers will be made in the order of merit, in accordance with the Government of India's reservation policy.
7. A limited number of candidates will be kept on the waiting list. Offers to candidates on the waiting list will depend on the number of candidates who decline offers from the initial lists. The number of candidates in the waiting list would be at the discretion of IIMK and will depend on the batch size planned for 2026-28.
8. All the candidates are advised to check their emails regularly and visit the IIMK registration portal for updates on admission-related activities.
9. If a candidate fails to complete the admission formalities within the stipulated time period, irrespective of reasons, the seat will be forfeited, and the next candidate in the waiting list will be given the offer.
10. IIMK reserves the right to change, modify or adopt any new admission policy and process to comply with Government/Judicial requirements or as it deems necessary. IIMK also reserves the right to adopt an admission policy that best suits its purpose of identifying and admitting the most appropriate candidates to its postgraduate program.
11. IIMK is not responsible for other institutions using the PI scores of IIMK for their admission process.
12. Originals of all certificates (academic/reservation/work experience/professional) must be produced for verification at the time of PI. ***Any candidate failing to produce any of the relevant original certificates mentioned will be disqualified from attending the PI process.***

13. All communication about IIM Kozhikode PGP-LSM admissions will be done only through the admissions office of IIM Kozhikode. The admissions office does not authorise any other individual or organisation to manage PGP-LSM admissions on its behalf. Any candidate attempting to gain admission through fraud will be disqualified from the process immediately.
14. The disclosure of information regarding the admission process is shaped by various concerns that may occasionally conflict. IIM Kozhikode strives for transparency in its admissions, while also prioritising candidates' privacy and the confidentiality of the process to prevent potential misuse. As a result, individual performance details are not disclosed to others. Similarly, specifics of a candidate's performance during the interview process, including evaluations of attributes, are kept confidential to avoid placing unnecessary pressure on the panellists involved in the admission and selection process. Careful measures are taken when forming interview panels, establishing objective assessment criteria, and randomly assigning candidates to different panels, among other practices.
15. IIM Kozhikode does not permit the postponement of an admission offer to subsequent years.
16. Any misrepresentation or suppression of information by a candidate at any stage during the admissions process or later will lead to immediate disqualification of the candidate from IIMK.
17. A candidate receiving the admission offer from IIM Kozhikode and accepting the offer within the stipulated date needs to remit an amount of Rs. 1,00,000/- along with the offer acceptance. The candidate must register on the designated registration day for the postgraduate program and pay the required fees to complete the admission process.
18. A candidate withdrawing from the program will receive a fee refund if the withdrawal is made before the date and time specified in the PGP-LSM 2026-28 withdrawal procedure, duly uploaded on the IIMK admission portal. Please note that the refund will be processed after deducting the processing charges as per the Government of India Order: F. No. 21-166/2007-TS—II dated 18.05.2007, which encloses order No.14-4/2007-U.3(A). Refunds typically take 2 to 3 months to process after the withdrawal request is received, due to various administrative approvals.
19. A candidate who withdraws from the program after the specified date and time in the withdrawal procedure will only be eligible for a refund if their withdrawal does not result in the admitted batch size falling below the approved batch size for 2026-28.
20. All requests for withdrawal from the program before the registration date would be handled only through the IIMK admission portal.
21. The Institute shall not interfere in any way with due process of law, initiated and enforced by law-enforcing authorities, against students who violate laws and statutes in India. In the event of any such misconduct, the student shall be responsible for the consequences, and the Institute may take suitable action.
22. Any changes in the above procedure due to any unforeseen reasons or circumstances beyond the control of IIMK will be communicated accordingly.

**Annexure 1: Score for Work Experience in Completed Months**

<b>Months</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Months</b>	<b>Score</b>
Below 6	0.00	33	4.67
6	0.17	34	4.83
7	0.33	35-36	5.00
8	0.50	37	4.80
9	0.67	38	4.60
10	0.83	39	4.40
11	1.00	40	4.20
12	1.17	41	4.00
13	1.33	42	3.80
14	1.50	43	3.60
15	1.67	44	3.40
16	1.83	45	3.20
17	2.00	46	3.00
18	2.17	47	2.80
19	2.33	48	2.60
20	2.50	49	2.40
21	2.67	50	2.20
22	2.83	51	2.00
23	3.00	52	1.80
24	3.17	53	1.60
25	3.33	54	1.40
26	3.50	55	1.20
27	3.67	56	1.00
28	3.83	57	0.80
29	4.00	58	0.60
30	4.17	59	0.40
31	4.33	60	0.20
32	4.50	61 and above	0.00