



**SRISHTI MANIPAL**  
INSTITUTE OF ART, DESIGN  
AND TECHNOLOGY  
*(A Constituent Unit of MAHE, Manipal)*



**MANIPAL**  
ACADEMY of HIGHER EDUCATION  
*(Institution of Eminence Deemed to be University)*

## Srishti Manipal Selection Protocols 2026\_PhD

Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology (Srishti Manipal/SMI) has a uniquely defined learning approach and pedagogy. It is critical that applicants who aspire to study in Srishti Manipal have the necessary capabilities, aptitude, and attitude to undertake an inquiry driven program of study that demands both agency and the ability to self-manage their own learning.

Admission to Doctoral Program offered by Srishti is in accordance with rules, procedures and guidelines set down under the Srishti Manipal Selection Protocols 2026\_PhD (SMSP 2026\_PhD).

### The Selection Process

Admission to any course at the 3.5 Years(Full-Time) or 4.5 Years (Part-Time) Doctoral Program level into Srishti Manipal comprises the following:

1. Submission of a completed Application Form for a chosen course.
2. Successful completion of the Srishti Manipal Entrance and Aptitude Test (SMEAT 2026\_PhD).
3. Declaration and verification of Minimum Educational Qualifications (MEQ).
4. Payment of all required fees.

### The Selection Protocols

Admission to the Doctoral Program of study at Srishti Manipal is subject to the following protocols:

#### A. Protocol: Nationality

MAHE admits students under the following categories: All admissions to all programs will be on a merit basis as specified in the Eligibility Criteria & Admission Process of the respective programs. Applicants must view the fees structure for each category which is shown under each program on the SMI website

##### (A) General Category

- Indian Nationals

##### (B) OCI/PIO Category

- Overseas Citizen of India (OCI)
- Person of Indian Origin (PIO)

### (C) NRI/Foreign/International Category

- Applicants under this category are subject to equivalence of their prior learning as verified by the Association of Indian Universities. This is the responsibility of the applicant.

## B. Protocol: Application

1. **An applicant can submit only one application at the Doctoral Research level.**
2. An Admissions Timeline with dates, deadlines and deliverables is shown on the Srishti Manipal Admissions page of the website. Information on this is updated regularly and all responsibility for checking any changes rests entirely with the applicants only.
3. Application forms for the Academic Year 2026-27 are available from the Srishti Manipal Admissions webpage.
4. All forms are to be submitted via the online application process
  - a. All application forms must have the required documents as listed uploaded in the application form.
  - b. The **non-refundable** application fee is to be paid online through the payment portal provided with the online application.
  - c. All submitted documents and fees paid will be verified by the Srishti Manipal Office.
5. Srishti Manipal will not inform an applicant if the application is incomplete. Incomplete applications will be disqualified, and application fees will not be refunded.
6. Once the application is submitted, changes are not possible and requests to do so will not be entertained.
7. The last date for the receipt of the relevant application forms for the academic year will be published on the website. Any changes to the last date will be notified on the website. All responsibility for checking any changes rests entirely with the applicants only.
8. Only application forms received by the Srishti Manipal Office before the published deadlines will be issued a hall ticket.

## C. Protocol: Eligibility Criteria and Minimum Educational Qualifications (MEQ)

1. Applicants seeking admission into Srishti Manipal must fulfil the eligibility criteria of minimum educational qualifications as published for the Doctoral Program by Srishti Manipal on its website for the academic year in which admission is sought.
2. An applicant seeking admission to the Doctoral program must meet any of the following eligibility criteria:
  - 3 Years Bachelors Degree + 2 Years Masters (60% aggregate)
  - 4 Years Bachelors Degree+ 1 Year Masters (60 % aggregate)
  - 5 years Bachelors Degree (75% aggregate)
  - 4 Years Bachelors Degree (75% aggregate)
3. Applicants with Masters degrees or equivalent from foreign universities will have to produce a certificate or recognition/ equivalence by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), as equivalent to the corresponding Indian degrees, for the purpose of higher studies.
4. Srishti Manipal reserves the right to update and change the eligibility criteria for each course. Each applicant is responsible for verifying their eligibility prior to submission of the application form.
5. The responsibility for correct and accurate information with the inclusion of the necessary documents of proof lies solely with the applicant. Srishti Manipal has the right to cancel, at any stage, the admission of an applicant in accordance with the rules and regulations in force, if it is found that any information provided by the applicant is not true and/ or is misleading.

## D. Protocol: Age of Applicant

1. Srishti Manipal encourages mature and experienced applicants to apply for the Doctoral Program.

## E. Protocol: Rounds

### 1. Round

- a. **Round** represents a specific timeframe comprising a set of published dates and times, within which applicants can apply.
- b. **An applicant can apply in any ONE round in a given academic year.**
  - i. Applications made by the applicant for subsequent Rounds in the same course of study in a subsequent Round will be disqualified.
- c. Rounds are restricted as per availability of a course; and also, by number of seats available in each course.
- d. The Admissions Timeline published on the website will provide information on each Round. All responsibility for checking details of the Rounds rests entirely with the applicants only.

## F. Protocol: SMEAT 2026\_PhD

1. Applicants seeking admission to the Doctoral Program should appear for the SMEAT 2026\_PhD.
2. The test dates will be published under the Admissions Timeline on the Srishti Manipal website. Any updates as well as changes in dates or times will be published on the website.
3. Each round in the SMEAT 2026\_PhD will have different question papers, but with same total marks and with similar difficulty levels.
4. Each round of SMEAT 2026\_PhD will be conducted remotely. The details of this will be available for each Round as published on the application portal for that Round.
5. Applicants unable to take the test will NOT be refunded the application fee. Such applicants are not eligible to apply for transfer to further rounds of SMEAT 2026\_PhD.

## G. Protocol: SMEAT 2026\_PhD– Testing Procedures and Processes

1. The SMEAT 2026\_PhD is a set of procedures and processes that will evaluate an applicant's readiness, capability, and aptitude. This process is outlined below.
  - a. All tests will be conducted remotely.
  - b. The SMEAT will consist of these FOUR components:
    - i. **Test 1:** Statement of Purpose 1200-1500 words (The applicant has to upload this along with their application).
    - ii. **Test 2:** Writing Sample For "Regular Path" (Five to 10 pages, published or unpublished but completed in the last five years, to upload at the time of Application) OR Artistic Portfolio For "Practice Research Path" (Max 20MB to upload at the time of application).
    - iii. **Test 3:** SMEAT (Entrance Synchronous Test for 3 hours) ONLINE.
    - iv. **Test 4:** Interview (In person/Online presentation & interaction with a committee, subject to clearing at the above levels).
2. The decision of the Srishti Manipal Admissions Committee is final and binding.

## H. Protocol: Grounds for Disqualification from the Admission Tests

### 1. Grounds for Disqualification

- a. Not being present on time or on the date given for any of the tests.
- b. Not having the hall ticket issued by Srishti Manipal and not having a valid ID (issued and recognised by a government authority – such as a driving license, passport, PAN or Aadhar card).
- c. Cheating or copying during a test and plagiarism.
- d. Use of unauthorised electronic transmitting or Wi-Fi enabled devices during a test.
- e. Disruptive or non-cooperative behaviour.
- f. The onus of correctly submitting test papers is on the candidate.

### 2. Decision for Disqualification

- a. The decision to disqualify an applicant rests with the Test Coordinator and the Srishti Manipal Admissions Committee.

### 3. Consequences of Disqualification

- a. Applicants who have been disqualified for any of the reasons listed above or any other reason will not be able to claim a refund of their application fees.

## I. Protocol: Admission Results and Registration

1. The results of each **Round** published as an Accept or Regret will be announced via the Srishti Manipal Online Admissions Portal.
2. Each list will be published with a last date for registration and acceptance of admission at Srishti Manipal.
3. Appearing in SMEAT 2026\_PhD or being named on a published waiting list neither guarantees nor entitles an applicant to automatic admission.
4. Payment of all fees as published in the Fee Schedule will constitute acceptance of admission to Srishti Manipal.
5. Application fees from applicants who have not been selected will not be refunded.
6. Applicants who have successfully completed the SMEAT 2026\_PhD are awaiting results of their qualifying degree examinations will be given provisional admission upon meeting all other admission requirements. Admission will be confirmed upon submission of all required documents before the deadline given on the website; failing which the admission will be revoked.
7. The SMEAT 2026\_PhD score is valid only for admission in the academic year 2026-27.

## J. Protocol: Special Needs

1. Srishti Manipal has an affirmative and inclusive philosophy regarding diversity and the differently abled among its student community.
2. All applicants with declared special needs with supporting documents, as stated in the relevant section on the application form, will be:
  - a. provided with assistance during the SMEAT 2026\_PhD as far as possible, within the limits of the existing infrastructure at the place or venue where the SMEAT 2026\_PhD is conducted. (Note: The test can take place **online**).
  - b. given admission only if they make the merit criteria set by the Srishti Manipal Admissions Committee of the SMEAT 2026\_PhD.
3. While Srishti Manipal's policy on inclusion and diversity allows applicants with varied needs to join the institute. It will not be possible to cater to the specific needs of all applicants and admission will be based on the infrastructure (both soft and hard) currently available within Srishti Manipal, that will enable the applicant to function and work alongside others as equals.

## **K. Protocol: Financial Aid**

1. Applicants admitted to the Doctoral Program come under the Self-Financed Category.
2. Srishti Manipal does not have an active student loan or scholarship scheme. All applicants with financial assistance needs will be directed to banks that provide educational loans.
3. Note: Srishti Manipal hosts Dr TMA Pai Doctoral scholars and National scholars (e.g JRF) subject to the availability of the expertise. Applicants are advised to explore those options well in advance.

## **L. Protocol: Power of Srishti Manipal Admissions Committee**

1. In all matters concerning the results of SMEAT 2026\_PhD, the decision of the Srishti Manipal Admissions Committee will be final and binding on all the applicants.
2. With regard to the interpretation of the provisions on any matter not covered in this document, the decision of the Srishti Manipal Admissions Committee 2021 shall be final and binding on all parties concerned.
3. In case of any claims or disputes arising with respect to SMEAT 2026\_PhD, it is hereby made absolutely clear that Srishti Manipal Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Bangalore shall have the sole and exclusive jurisdiction to entertain and settle any such disputes and claims.

*Note: Please email [kiranmayi.i@manipal.edu](mailto:kiranmayi.i@manipal.edu) for any clarifications on the protocols for admission to any Doctoral Program.*