

**Indian Institute of Management Lucknow**  
**Admission Policy for the MBA, MBA-ABM, and MBA-SM**  
**Academic Year 2026-28 (CAT-2025)**

Criteria for shortlisting and final selection of MBA, MBA-ABM & MBA-SM candidates for the Batch 2026-28

**Stage 1: Shortlisting for Writing Ability Test (WAT) – Personal Interview (PI)**

As mentioned below, candidates will be shortlisted based on CAT 2025 score, previous academic performance, and other criteria. For MBA-SM, a minimum work experience of 24 months is an additional eligibility criterion.

**Stage 1a: Eligibility Criteria for WAT-PI**

<b>Table 1: Minimum Sectional and Total Cut-off Percentile for Shortlisting for WAT- PI Stage</b>												
Category	MBA				MBA-ABM				MBA-SM			
	VARC	DILR	QA	Total	VARC	DILR	QA	Total	VARC	DILR	QA	Total
General	85	85	85	<b>90</b>	80	80	80	<b>85</b>	80	80	80	<b>85</b>
EWS	77	77	77	<b>82</b>	72	72	72	<b>77</b>	72	72	72	<b>77</b>
NC-OBC	77	77	77	<b>82</b>	72	72	72	<b>77</b>	72	72	72	<b>77</b>
SC	55	55	55	<b>65</b>	55	55	55	<b>65</b>	55	55	55	<b>60</b>
ST	50	50	50	<b>60</b>	50	50	50	<b>55</b>	50	50	50	<b>55</b>
PwD	50	50	50	<b>60</b>	50	50	50	<b>55</b>	50	50	50	<b>55</b>

VARC=Verbal Ability and Reading Comprehension; DILR=Data Interpretation and Logical Reasoning;  
 QA=Quantitative Ability

**Stage 1b: Calculation of the Composite Score for Shortlisting for WAT-PI stage**

Only the candidates securing the above-mentioned minimum sectional and total percentiles for the respective category in CAT 2025 will be considered for Stage 1b. The composite scores in Stage 1b shall be computed based on the factors described in Table 2.

<b>Table 2: Weights Assigned to Various Components for Generating the Shortlist for WAT-PI Stage</b>					
Sl. No.	Component	Weight (MBA)	Weight (MBA-ABM) <sup>#</sup>	Weight (MBA-SM) <sup>#</sup>	Method of scoring
1	Scaled CAT score (CS)	60	60	60	$CS = \left( \frac{\text{Candidate's CAT score}}{\text{Highest CAT score of 2025}} \right) \times 60$
2	HSC marks (12M) <sup>^^</sup>	10	10	10	$12M = [\{\text{Max (P, 80)} - 80\} / 20] \times 10$ , where P = Candidate's Class 12 <sup>th</sup> percentile computed based on CAT applicants' pooled data of the past five years for the respective Boards and Disciplines.
3	Graduation <sup>^^</sup> marks(GM) <sup>@</sup>	10	10	10	To be normalized as per Academic Discipline: (i) Engineering; (ii) Science; (iii) Commerce; (iv) Arts; (v) Others. $GM = \left[ \left\{ \left( \frac{\text{Candidate's Grad.\% Score} - \mu}{\sigma} \right) \times \left( \frac{50}{3} \right) \right\} + 50 \right] \times \frac{10}{100}$ Marks will be amended to take values between 0 – 10. ( $\mu$ = Mean and $\sigma$ = Standard Deviation of the respective Academic Discipline)

4	Work Experience (WE) <sup>\$</sup>	10	0	10	IF (Prog = MBA & $x > 6$ )	WE = $\min\{(x - 6) \times 0.50, 10\}$
					ELSE IF (Prog = MBA-ABM)	WE = 0;
					ELSE (Prog = MBA-SM & $x > 24$ )	WE = $\min\{(x - 24) \times 0.50, 10\}$
					Where, $x$ = Number of completed months of work experience as of <b>July 31, 2025.</b>	
5a	Diversity Factor: (DFa): Academic Discipline (AD)	5	20*	5	IF (Prog = MBA/MBA-SM) & the bachelor-level degree is Non-Engineering	DFa = 5
					ELSE IF (Prog = MBA-ABM & AD listed in Table 3)	DFa =20
					ELSE	DFa = 0
5b	Diversity Factor (DFb): Gender	5	5*	5	IF (Prog = MBA/MBA-ABM/MBA-SM & Gender = Female)	DFb = 5
					ELSE	DFb = 0
Composite Score		100	100	100		

Notes to Table 2:

<sup>@</sup> For the candidates appearing in their final year examination, the marks up to one year before the final examinations (for instance, up to the second year for a three-year degree course, and up to the third year for a four-year degree course) shall be considered for the entire admission process. Such candidates will have to complete all requirements, including all examinations, practical examinations, and supplementary examinations for a bachelor's/qualifying degree on or before June 30, 2026, and secure the minimum percentage of marks in their graduation examination as per the CAT 2025 eligibility criteria.

\* The maximum marks for the diversity factors (DFa and DFb) cannot exceed 20 for the MBA-ABM program.

# The candidates seeking admission to MBA-ABM/ MBA-SM programs need to fill up and submit the 'Special MBA-ABM/ MBA-SM form' mandatorily by the stipulated deadline. Else, such candidates shall not be considered for the WAT-PI process for MBA-ABM/ MBA-SM programs.

\$ the work experience, as of July 31, 2025, entered at the time of CAT-2025 registration will be considered as final for the admission process. Only full-time work experience after graduation will be considered for assigning the marks for work experience. In the case of work experience in fractional months at more than one organization, a sum of 30 calendar days (across organizations) will be considered as one complete month. The work experience will be verified based on the relevant documents (including experience certificate, appointment letter/relieving letter, first & last pay slips, bank statement, etc.) to be produced by the candidate at the time of WAT-PI and subsequent admission-related processes.

^^ For calculating the aggregate percentage for HSC, the marks obtained for all the subjects, which appear on the mark sheet, will be considered. The same rule will apply to the calculation of the aggregate percentage for graduation if the aggregate marks/ percentage for the course is not provided. In case the marks obtained are not available, the CGPA will be converted into an equivalent percentage as per the conversion formula/norms provided by the board/university/institution. In case a conversion formula is not provided by the university/ institution, the obtained CGPA computed as the percent of maximum cumulative grade points shall be considered the aggregate percentage. In the cases where both the marks obtained and CGPA are provided in the mark-sheet(s), the 'marks obtained' will be considered for the calculation of the aggregate percentage for graduation.

<b>Table 3: Academic Disciplines (AD) for MBA-ABM Program</b>
<b>Agriculture:</b> (including Agriculture, Agronomy, Soil Science, Agricultural Biochemistry, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Extension, Plant Breeding and Genetics, Entomology, Plant Pathology)
<b>Science</b> (including Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Biotechnology Engineering, Botany, Home Science, Life Science, Zoology)
Veterinary Science, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Dairy Science
Agricultural Engineering, Dairy Technology, Food Technology, Food Technology & Management
Forestry, Horticulture
Rural Studies, Rural Sociology, Rural Cooperatives, Rural Banking

### **Stage 1 c: Scheduling for WAT-PI**

The composite score (based on Stage 1b) for the candidates who qualify in Stage 1a, and the shortlist for the WAT-PI process shall be available on our official website, [www.iiml.ac.in](http://www.iiml.ac.in). Such candidates shall be required to fill in and submit the WAT-PI form online by the stipulated deadline. The candidates who fail to submit their WAT-PI form online by the prescribed time limit, shall not be allowed for the WAT-PI process. Furthermore, no queries in this regard shall be entertained by IIM Lucknow. **Candidates are advised to check the official website of IIM Lucknow ([www.iiml.ac.in](http://www.iiml.ac.in)) regularly after the declaration of CAT-2025 results for updates/notifications related to the admission process.**

### **Stage 2: Criteria for Final Selection of Candidates for MBA/MBA-ABM/MBA-SM program**

A candidate's final score for selection in the MBA/MBA-ABM/MBA-SM program for the batch 2026–28 will be calculated on the basis of the assigned weights as summarized in Table 4.

<b>Table 4: Weights for Final Score calculation after the WAT-PI stage</b>			
<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Component</b>	<b>Weight</b>	
		<b>MBA &amp; MBA-SM</b>	<b>MBA-ABM</b>
1	Common Admission Test (CAT)	30	35
2	Academic performance (12M + GM)	5+5	5+5
3	Diversity Factor (DFa +DFb)	5	5
4	Work Experience	5	NA
5	Writing Ability Test (WAT)	10	10
6	Personal Interview (PI)	40	40
<b>Final Score</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

#### **Notes:**

- The minimum requirement for getting a pass in PI is 12 out of 40 marks. Names of candidates who do not pass in PI will not be included in the final merit list.
- Final discretion on the academic category that an academic program will be classified into rests with the Admissions Committee of IIM-Lucknow.
- **Reservation Policy:** IIM Lucknow applies the Government of India reservation policy for admission to Central Educational Institutions (CEIs).
- **Any dispute concerning Admissions for the batch 2026-28 would be subject to the jurisdiction of the competent Courts within the territorial jurisdiction of the city of Lucknow only.**

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