

INFORMATION BROCHURE

NATIONAL APTITUDE TEST IN ARCHITECTURE

(Aptitude test required for admissions to 1st year B.Arch. At all institutes / schools / colleges of Architecture in India (including Govt., Govt-aided, Private Unaided, University Depts., Deemed Universities, etc.), offering courses, leading to Bachelor's degree in Architecture)

NATA

2008

Overview

What Is It?

The National Aptitude Test in Architecture (NATA) measures aptitude of the applicant for specific field of study, i.e. Architecture. The test measures drawing and observation skills, sense of proportions, aesthetic sensitivity and critical thinking, that have been acquired over a long period of time, and that are related to specific field of study, i.e. Architecture.

Who Takes It and Why?

Prospective applicants desirous of taking admission to First year of undergraduate course in Architecture (Bachelor of Architecture) in India take NATA. NATA scores are used by admissions authorities of different unaided & Govt. aided schools / colleges of Architecture, to provide common measures for comparing the qualifications of applicants.

Where Do People Take It?

NATA is offered year-round at designated Test Centers located at colleges / schools of architecture in India.

Who Accepts It?

All schools / colleges of Architecture, Govt., Govt aided, University Departments, private unaided, including colleges affiliated to self-financed Deemed Universities and Private Universities, or any department of Architecture within a college, requires that its applicants take the NATA.

Test Fees

NATA Fees are **Rs.800**, and are to be paid at the time of Registration and before collection of the appointment voucher from the Test Center. The test fees may be paid in cash or by demand draft in favour of the Test Center. Exact name in whose favour the draft has to be drawn may be obtained from respective Test Center.

Requesting a Refund

Only if the candidate cancels the appointment for NATA no later than 3 full working days prior to the candidate's test date, the candidate will receive **Rs.400** as refund.

Register for the NATA

NATA is offered as a paper based + computer based test.

- The NATA Pre-Registration form is available for download at website www.nata.in The same is also available at all the Test Centers.
- Appointments are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Register well in advance to get the candidate's preferred test date.

Registration Process

Approach the Test Center located at college / school of Architecture at a location convenient to the candidate with the documents listed below and test fees.

- Fill up and submit the form

- Pay the fees
- Get the online registration form filled
- Get **receipt cum appointment voucher** with date and time from the Test Center

Documents required for Registration

- Std. X or equivalent exam marklist – attested copy
- One recent passport size colour photograph
- Any valid document of identification bearing photograph and signature of the candidate – attested copy
- Test fees in cash or demand draft as prescribed by the Test Center

Important Things to Remember When Registering

- Register well in advance. During the admission season Test Centers fill up quickly.
- **Take the test as soon as possible so the candidate's scores / Marklist will be received by the candidate in time to be submitted with the application.**
- When registering, be sure that the spelling of the candidate's name matches the name printed on the identification document(s) the candidate will present at the Test Center. If this information does not match, the candidate will not be permitted to test and his / her test fee will be forfeited. *See Identification Requirements.*
- **Information regarding Test Center availability is subject to change.** The most current information regarding Test Centers and other registration information is available on the NATA website.

Repeating NATA

NATA can be given as many number of times as desired by the candidate. For every attempt, however, test fees have to be paid afresh in full. The marklist will show the average of marks scored by the candidate in his last attempt and his previous valid score.

- Data on the such Tests shows that repeaters on average show a slight score gain. However, this finding is tempered by the observation that repeaters are typically a self-selected group who believe that repeating the test will increase their scores.
- **Unless the scores seem unusually low compared with other indicators of the candidate's ability, taking a NATA again is not likely to result in a substantial score increase. In fact, there is some chance that the candidate's scores may drop.**

NATA Dates

- NATA is given from 1st January till 30th September every year at designated Test Centers.
- Appointments are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis.
- The candidate may take NATA any number of times subject to availability of appointment at the Test Centers. However, full fees will have to be paid for every new attempt.

To register, contact the appropriate Test Center. **REGISTER WELL IN ADVANCE TO GET PREFERRED TEST DATE.**

Test Centers

Please check the websites www.niasa.org or www.nata.in for the list of approved NATA Centers

Rescheduling or Canceling the Test Appointment

- The candidate must reschedule or cancel the scheduled test no later than 3 full working days before the scheduled appointment (not including the day of the candidate's test or the day of the candidate's request) or the test fee will be forfeited.
- If the candidate cancels the scheduled test no later than 3 full working days prior to the scheduled test date, the candidate will receive a **Rs.400** refund.
- The rescheduling fee is **Rs.200**

Information for ALL Test Takers

- **The candidate must have an acceptable and valid Identification Document, (ID) details of which are mentioned on the receipt cum appointment voucher, with signature, and appointment voucher to be admitted to a Test Center. ID requirements are strictly enforced. It is the candidate's responsibility to read and understand the instructions and requirements.**
- **REPORT TO THE TEST CENTER AT LEAST 30 MINUTES BEFORE SCHEDULED TIME OF TEST.**
- If the candidate arrives at the Test Center without the required identification:
 - The Test Center in-charge will not admit the candidate
 - The candidate will not be allowed to take the test
 - The candidate will forfeit the test fee.
- When scheduling the appointment, the candidate must use exactly the same name as shown on the primary identification document that the candidate will present at the Test Center. If the name shown on the candidate's primary identification does not match the name on the appointment voucher, the candidate will not be permitted to appear for the test.
- Only mis-spellings of the candidate's name can be corrected at check-in. **NAME CHANGES WILL NOT BE MADE.** If the candidate's name has changed for any reason, including marriage, the candidate still must present primary identification in the name under which he / she made the appointment, or the candidate will not be permitted to test. Marriage certificates and divorce decrees cannot be used to confirm name differences.
- If the Test Center in-charge questions the ID the candidate presents, the candidate will be required to present additional proof of identity. If positive confirmation cannot be made, the candidate may be refused admission to the Test Center and the candidate will forfeit the test fee paid.
- Test Center personnel will check the candidate's identification before assigning the candidate a seat at the Test Center. The administrator will check to verify that the candidate is the person in his photo identification. The test center in-charge will repeat this procedure before and after all breaks.
- Admittance to the Test Center does not imply that the candidate's form of identification is valid or that the candidate's scores will be reported. All reported cases of questionable identification are subject to review and approval by the NIASA of Testing Integrity.

Acceptable Primary Identification Documents

- A government-issued identification document that has not expired (including but not limited to passport, driver's license, state ID cards, national identification, or military identification) in original. There are some exceptions: *see Unacceptable Identification Documents*
- Std X/ Std XII exam admit card with photo and signature (in original)
- Student ID card from the institute where he / she is currently enrolled AND Confirmation of identity letter from the candidate's educational institution. (in original)

Acceptable Supplemental Identification Documents

If the candidate's primary identification is missing either a photo or a signature, the he / she must present one of the following *supplemental IDs* in addition to the primary ID. Supplemental IDs that can be used to meet the photo and/or signature requirements are:

- A government-issued identification document that has not expired (including but not limited to passport, driver's license, state ID cards, national identification, or military identification). There are some exceptions: see *Unacceptable Identification Documents*.
- Confirmation of identity letter from the candidate's educational institution

The confirmation of identity letter must contain the candidate's date of birth; a recent, recognizable photo; the candidate's signature; and the date issued.

The confirmation of identity letter must be typed on the original letterhead of the educational institution the candidate attend(ed), and the signature of the school official and the school seal must overlap the candidate's photo. A letter of identity is valid for only one year after the date issued.

Unacceptable Identification Documents

- Any expired ID
- Credit card of any kind
- Learner's permit or any temporary identification document (e.g., Learner's driving license)
- Notary-prepared letter or document
- Employee identification card
- Photocopies (Attested / unattested) of the acceptable identification documents

What to Bring to a Paper-Based Test Administration

- Official identification document mentioned on the receipt cum appointment voucher
- **The appointment voucher** - The receipt cum appointment voucher is issued to the candidate at the time of registration. The appointment voucher confirms the candidate's test date, time of test and Test Center. The voucher will also show Candidate ID and **Appointment Number with Exam Key**.
- Three or four sharpened soft-lead (2B & HB) pencils and a good eraser (Pencils and erasers will **not** be supplied at the Test Center.) Mechanical pencils are not permitted.
- Set of colours (Water/ Poster colours, crayons, pastels) with appropriate instruments (Brushes, dish, etc.)
- Geometry instrument box
- Blue pen

The Receipt cum Appointment voucher

- When the candidate receives the appointment voucher, he / she should check it carefully to make sure the identifying information and address are correct.
- If not, apply for the correction (name changes are not allowed, but misspellings can be corrected) to Test Center in-charge.
- The Appointment voucher also shows Candidate ID, Appointment Number and Key. **The Appointment Number and Exam Key are used by the candidate to log in at the time of the test.**
- There are two counterfoils on the appointment voucher. **The applicant has to sign the counterfoil in presence of the Hall supervisor at the time of the test, and hand over the same to him / her.**
- **Please do not sign the counterfoil in advance. Sign the counterfoil only when the hall supervisor asks you to. If the hall supervisor finds the counterfoil already signed he may disallow the candidate to proceed with the test and his candidature will get forfeited.**

Test Center Procedures and Regulations For Both Paper-Based and Computer-Based Tests

- Dress so that you can adapt to any room temperature.
- Friends or relatives who accompany the candidate to the Test Center will not be permitted to wait in the Test Center or be in contact with the candidate while the he / she is taking the test. Except for NIASA-authorized observers, visitors are not allowed in the testing room while testing is in progress.
- ID verification at the Test Center may include thumbprinting, iris scan, photographing, videotaping, or other form of electronic ID confirmation. If the candidate refuses to participate, he / she will not be permitted to appear for the test and the candidate will forfeit the test fee. This is in addition to the requirement that the candidate must present acceptable and valid identification.
- Other than ID, personal items are not allowed in the testing room. Before the test, the candidate will receive instructions from Test Center staff regarding where the candidate must deposit items such as mobile phones, PDAs, digital music players, MP3 players, or any other electronic devices with memory, handbags, and study materials. The candidate may also be asked to empty his/ her pockets. Storage space is limited, so plan accordingly. The candidate may not have access to his/ her personal items during the test or break.
- Test Centers assume no responsibility for personal belongings.
- The test administrator will assign the candidate a seat.
- On occasion, electrical supply failure, internet connectivity failure, weather conditions or other circumstances beyond the test administrator's or NIASA's control may require a delayed start or the rescheduling of the test appointment. In the event that it is then necessary to cancel the test session, or if it is later determined that the candidate's marks could not be reported, **the candidate will be offered the opportunity to schedule another test appointment free of charge or receive a full refund of the original test fee.** To request refund, contact NIASA with the following information within 30 days of the candidate's original appointment: candidate's name, date of birth, mailing address, daytime telephone number, e-mail address, original test date and appointment number, and a brief description of what occurred at the Test Center. All refunds will be made in Indian Rupees.

For Paper-Based Tests

The following procedures and regulations apply during the entire test session, which begins when the candidate is admitted to the Test Center, ends when the candidate leaves the Test Center, and includes breaks.

- Supervisors will not honor requests for schedule changes.
- Take the appointment voucher and acceptable photo ID to the Test Center.
- Take 3 or 4 sharpened soft-lead (No. 2 or HB) pencils and a good eraser. Pencils and erasers will not be supplied at the center. Mechanical pencils are not permitted.
- Set of colours (Water/Poster colours, crayons, pastels) with appropriate instruments (Brushes, dish, etc.)
- Geometry instrument box.
- Blue pen
- The candidate will be required to sign the Test Center attendance register before and after the test session and any time the candidate leaves or enter the testing room.
- No candidate will be admitted after test materials have been distributed.
- On reporting for the test and establishing the candidate's identity he/ she will be asked to log on into the computer system and request test.
- A question paper consisting of two questions – free hand drawing and memory sketch, will be generated and printed for the candidate. Test Center supervisor will hand over the print out along with drawing paper (Answer sheet) with preprinted barcode to the candidate and lead him / her to the testing room.

- Paper of any kind, other than officially distributed, is not permitted in the testing room.
- The candidate must have the supervisor's permission to leave the room during the test. Any time lost cannot be made up.
- The candidate may wish to pace himself / herself with his / her own watch, but the supervisor is the official timekeeper. The candidate will not be permitted to continue the test or any part of it beyond the established time limit. *Watch alarms and clocks on mobile phones are not permitted.*
- At the conclusion of the test the candidate will be required to return the answer sheet (drawing paper) and question paper to the test supervisor. These materials are the property of NIASA.
- The candidate shall attempt the question on the drawing paper supplied by the test center on the side where barcode is printed. The Appointment number, Candidate ID and test center stamp with supervisor's signature shall be on the reverse side of the paper.

For Computer-Based Tests

The following procedures & regulations apply during the test session, which begins at log-in, ends at log-out.

- The candidate must take appointment voucher with him/ her to the Test Center.
- Computer based test will be given only after completing the Paper based test.
- The Test center in-charge will provide the candidate with rough paper that may be replaced after the candidate have used all pages of the rough paper initially given to the candidate. The candidate may not take his/ her own rough paper to the test, nor may the candidate remove rough paper from the testing room at any time. Rough paper is provided to assist the candidate in working out problems and for appropriate note taking during timed sections of the test.
- If the candidate needs to leave his / her seat at any time, he / she must raise his / her hand for permission; timing of the section will not stop.
- If at any time during the test the candidate has a problem with the his / her computer, or for any reason needs the attention of the administrator, the candidate shall raise his/ her hand.
- Testing premises are subject to videotaping or any other type of electronic surveillance.
- NATA includes an optional 10-minute break after the Drawing section. This break time cannot be exceeded.
- When the test gets disrupted because of failure of internet connectivity or electricity supply failure, candidate can resume the test from the point of disruption onwards if resumed within four hours. In case disruption lasts for more than four hours the candidate may have to give entire test again.

Dismissal from a Test Center

A test center in-charge/supervisor is authorized to dismiss the candidate from a test session and/or the candidate's marks may be canceled by NIASA for actions such as, but not limited to

- Attempting to take the test for someone else or having someone else take the test for the candidate
- Failing to provide acceptable identification
- Obtaining improper access to the test, a part of the test, or information about the test
- Using a telephone or mobile phone, personal digital assistants (pda), digital music players, mp3 players, or any other electronic device having memory during the test session or during breaks.
- Using any aids in connection with the test, such as: mechanical pencils, pagers, beepers, calculators, watch calculators, books, pamphlets, notes, rulers, highlighter pens, stereos or radios with headphones/earphones, telephones, cell phones, watch alarms (including those with flashing lights or alarm sounds), stop watches, dictionaries, translators, and any hand-held electronic or photographic devices.
- Creating a disturbance (disruptive behavior in any form will not be tolerated; the test administrator has sole discretion in determining what constitutes disruptive behavior.)

- Attempting to give or receive assistance — or otherwise communicate in any manner with another person about the content of the test during the administration, during breaks, or after the test.
- Removing or attempting to remove test content from the Test Center. Under no circumstances may test content or any part of the test content be removed, reproduced, and/or disclosed by any means (e.g., hard copy, verbally, electronically) to any person or entity
- Tampering with a computer
- Attempting to remove rough paper from the computer-based testing room.
- Bringing a weapon or firearm into the Test Center
- Bringing food, drink, or tobacco into the testing room
- Leaving the Test Center vicinity during the test session or during breaks
- Leaving the testing room without permission
- Taking excessive or extended unscheduled breaks during the test session. Test Center supervisors are required to strictly monitor unscheduled breaks and report the candidates who take excessive or extended breaks.
- Referring to, looking through, or working on any test, or test section, *when not authorized to do so*, or working after time has been called
- Failing to follow any of the test administration regulations contained in this *bulletin*, given by the test administrator or specified in any test materials.
- If the counterfoils of the receipt cum appointment voucher is already signed.

NIASA reserves the right to take all action — including, but not limited to, barring the candidate from future testing and/or canceling the candidate's scores/ marks — for failure to comply with test administration regulations or the test administrator's directions. If the candidate's scores/ marks are cancelled, they will not be reported and the candidate's fees will not be refunded.

Although tests are administered under strict supervision and security measures, testing irregularities may sometimes occur. Please contact NIASA as soon as possible to report any observed behavior that may lead to an invalid score — for example, someone copying from another candidate, taking a test for someone else, having access to test questions before the exam, or using notes or unauthorized aids. All information will be held in the strictest confidence.

Phone: 020-6573-1088 TeleFax: 020-2295-2262 (Office Hours: 10am-4pm)

E-mail: niasa_2005@yahoo.co.in , niasa@rediffmail.com, admin.nata@gmail.com

Test Content

The test is in two parts. A paper based drawing test for two hours and computer based online aesthetic sensitivity test for one hour.

The test measures aptitude of the candidate through two sections – a paper based section for drawing and computer based section for aesthetic sensitivity.

Drawing Test

The drawing aptitude is judged on the following aspects –

- Ability to sketch a given object proportionately and rendering the same in visually appealing manner.
- Visualising and drawing the effects of light on the object and shadows cast on surroundings.
- Sense of perspective drawing.
- Combining and composing given three dimensional elements to form a building or structural form.
- Creating interesting two dimensional composition using given shapes and forms.
- Creating visual harmony using colours in given composition.

- Understanding of scale and proportions.
- Drawing from memory through pencil sketch on themes from day to day experiences.

Aesthetic Sensitivity Test

The aesthetic sensitivity test measures perception, imagination and observation, creativity and communication along with architectural awareness and comprises of –

- Visualising three dimensional objects from two dimensional drawings.
- Visualising different sides of three dimensional object.
- Identifying commonly used materials and objects based on their textural qualities.
- Analytical reasoning.
- Mental Ability.
- Imaginative comprehension and expression.
- Architectural awareness.

The Scoring Process

The drawing paper will be examined by the designated examiners over the internet in absence of the candidate and marks will be uploaded to NATA server. The drawing papers are scanned and uploaded to NATA server for the purpose, within four hours of printing the question paper. NATA administrator reserves the rights to moderate the marks given by the examiners to achieve parity.

During the computer based test, with adaptive testing, an examinee is administered a set of questions with a difficulty level that is specifically designed to match the examinee's ability level. The mathematical process for calculating a score in this situation incorporates the statistical properties of the questions, the examinee's performance on the questions, and the number of questions that are answered.

How the Sections of the Test Are Scored

Drawing Section

- The primary emphasis in scoring the drawing section is on the candidate's drawing, imagination and observation skills. In memory drawing, the candidate's sense of proportion & perspective is evaluated.
- The candidate shall receive a single score for his / her performance on the drawing section.
- The candidate will receive a NS (No Score) if the he / she do not draw a response for either of the two tasks in the drawing section.

Aesthetic Sensitivity Section

- The candidate's score will depend on his / her performance on the questions given and on the number of questions answered in the time allotted.
- **This section is computer adaptive, meaning that the computer selects questions based on the candidate's performance on preceding questions** (When correct answer is given, next question will be of higher difficulty level whereas, if wrong answer is given next question is of lower difficulty level) **and on the requirements of the test design. Test design factors that influence which questions are presented to the candidate include:**
 - **The statistical characteristics (including difficulty level) of the questions already answered**
 - **The required variety of question types**
 - **The appropriate coverage of content.**
 - **The final score depends on average difficulty level of all questions and of those questions answered correctly.** e.g. person with correct answer for less number of questions of higher difficulty

level may score higher marks than someone who answers more number of questions correctly but of lower difficulty level.

- **Average time allotted to answer the question is 90 seconds and the countdown begins 30 seconds before the time ends, however, for certain questions depending upon their difficulty level, time allotted to provide the answer may be reduced to 60 seconds or may be extended to 120 seconds.**

Score Report / Marklist announcement Dates

The candidate may collect his/ her score card from the Test Center where the candidate appeared, in person on fourth day of appearing for the test or later. Alternatively, on specific request in writing to the center in-charge, they can be mailed to the candidate, at his / her risk, approximately 3 to 4 days after the candidate takes the test.

For receiving the marklist / Score card by Mail, the candidate shall handover to the Test Center in-charge application requesting marklist by mail together with Self-addressed Envelope suitably stamped.

NOTE: Occasionally, delays in processing may occur. Some scores will not be available on the dates specified. Please enquire again.

Cumulative Reporting (Score Retention)

NATA score reporting is cumulative. Current NATA policy states that the candidate's scores are retained for the two years following the testing year in which the candidate tested.

Applying to institutions for admission

As per COA rules, a candidate applying to any school / college of architecture in India should have achieved 40% score in the total NATA score, i.e. at least 80/200, for consideration of admission into first year B.Arch.

After receiving score card / Marklist and HSC / std XII results, the candidate may apply for admission to any of the participating institutions as per the time schedule specified by the appropriate admission authority, along with all the documents desired by it.

Council of Architecture and NIASA, does not guarantee any admissions and is not involved with the admission procedure. Appearing at a particular center for the test does not imply that the candidate could be given any priority for admission to that institute.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Is giving NATA compulsory for taking admission to any Architectural College in India?

Ans: Yes it is; as prescribed by the Council of Architecture, a statutory body under MHRD created under the Architects Act of 1972, prescribed with the authority to regulate architectural education in India.

2. By giving NATA, do I get automatic admission into any Architectural College in India?

Ans: No. NATA is just an Aptitude Test. On receiving the Score Card, the candidate will have to contact various admission authorities with NATA Score Card and other details (as prescribed by the respective Admission Authorities). Admission in India lies with the State (usually under Directorate of Technical Education for that state). Usually around summer, Admission Authorities will bring out admission notices in National & Regional newspapers. The candidate may contact schools of architecture directly for information as to when the admission process is scheduled to begin.

3. What is the last date for giving NATA?

Ans: Technically, 30th September. NATA runs continuously from 1st January till 30th September, usually on working days. The dates on which NATA is available depends on the Test Centre. Candidates may request Test Centres for the preferred dates. If the candidate is available for NATA only on a particular date (or range of dates) that a particular Test Centre is not able to give, the candidate may register at any other Test Centre throughout India that is able to administer NATA on that date / time. TEST CENTRE LOCATION HAS NO BEARING ON CHOICE OF ADMISSION AND APPEARING AT A PARTICULAR CENTER FOR THE TEST DOES NOT IMPLY THAT THE CANDIDATE COULD BE GIVEN ANY PRIORITY FOR ADMISSION TO THAT INSTITUTE. The logical *last date* for giving NATA for candidates seeking admission this year itself would be 5 days before the last date for submitting application for admission under a particular Admission Authority. This varies from authority to authority.

4. What is the meaning of Admission Authority?

Ans: Admission Authority is a body, authorised by the State Govt. / University to conduct and monitor admissions in that area. This may vary from the Directorate of Technical Education itself, a major University, a body created by an association of Architectural Schools in that State (eg. MASA), or any other Admission Authority recognised by the state. The candidate may be advised to check up in advance with Schools of Architecture where he / she is applying for the details of the admission authority and other information on the exact admission process.

5. How do I practice for NATA? Where can I take tuitions?

Ans: NATA is designed in such a manner that prior tutelage is not required. COA-NIASA is aware that candidates will have no or minimal knowledge of architecture. NATA measures aptitude of the candidate in his / her aesthetic sensibilities (3D visualisation, logical understanding, etc.) and drawing skills, that are in-built in every candidate and developed right from childhood to the present day. There will be certain questions on architectural awareness wherein candidates may be required to identify building of national or international importance. The candidate is expected to know about these structures through General Knowledge. The candidate may also prefer to update his knowledge on this by some reading, internet browsing or even by talking to architectural students, architects and other knowledgeable persons. In all probability, this will not be required. There will be a model NATA interface available on the NATA website to help candidates get acquainted with the visual format of the test. There will be no model questions available as such. The language medium of the test will be English. Minimal computer skills are required (pointing and clicking Mouse buttons).

6. I am a foreign student / NRI. Can I take the test from my country of residence?

Ans: No. The candidate will have to register in India and give the test from any of the designated Test centres of his / her choice in India. The qualification process for giving NATA stands the same. Admission will be given by the respective admission authorities according to the rules laid down by it for students of such category.

7. If I belong to a particular quota (SC/ST/NT/etc.), do I get score waiver during admission?

Ans: This issue lies with the Admission Authority in the particular state of application for B.Arch.