IBA GRADS
Gateway to your desired future

FREE STUDENT GUIDE

THE COMPLETE

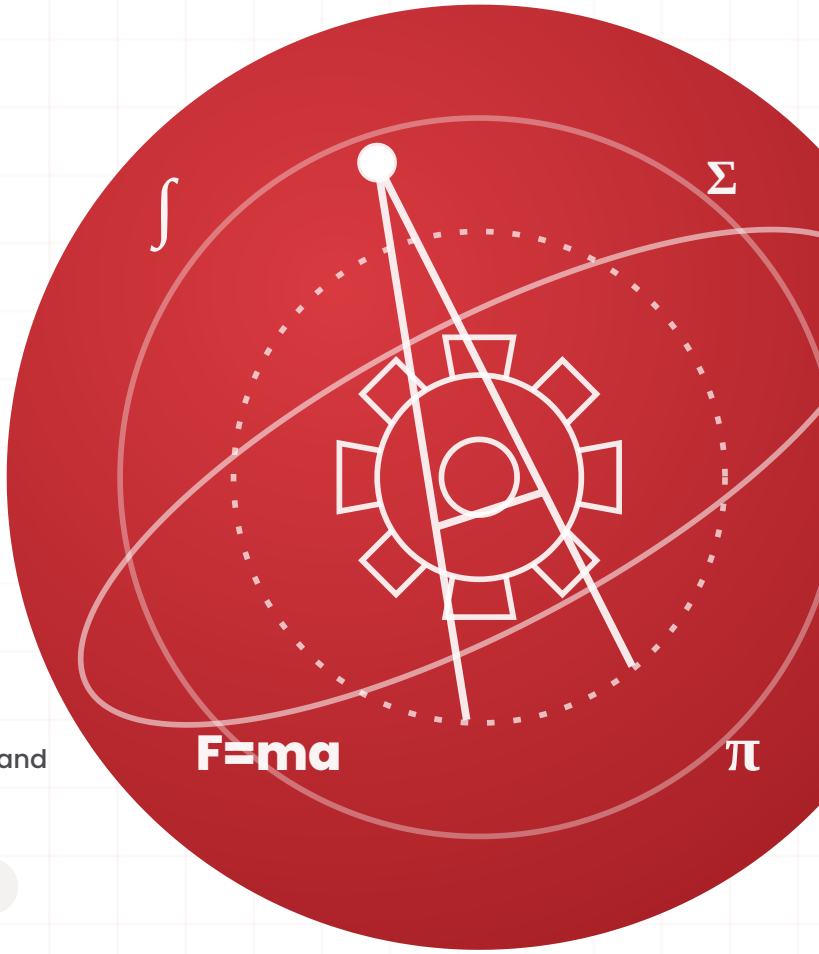
ECAT 2027

Prep Roadmap

Test dates, university merit formulas, month-by-month study plans for Inter and A-Level students, and how to practise. Everything in one place.

2027 EDITION

NUST · NED · FAST · GIKI · PIEAS



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2027 test dates, merit formulas, test patterns

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Month by month for Inter and A-Level

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How to learn, practise and revise

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Talk to us
Six campuses and live online

THE PLAN AT A GLANCE

250+	150+	20K+	18	25+
LECTURE HOURS	CHAPTER TESTS	MCQS	MOCK TESTS	GRAND TESTS

START HERE

There is no single ECAT. Each university has its own test.

In Punjab, "ECAT" is UET's test. For a Karachi student it means preparing for NUST's NET, FAST, NED, GIKI and PIEAS, each with its own pattern, dates and merit formula.

WHERE YOU CAN APPLY

GOVERNMENT

NED · Dawood (DUET) · UET · QUEST · MUET · KU · PU

Lowest fees, highest competition.

SEMI-GOVERNMENT

NUST · PIEAS · COMSATS · IST · Air University · IIEE

Own entry tests, national merit.

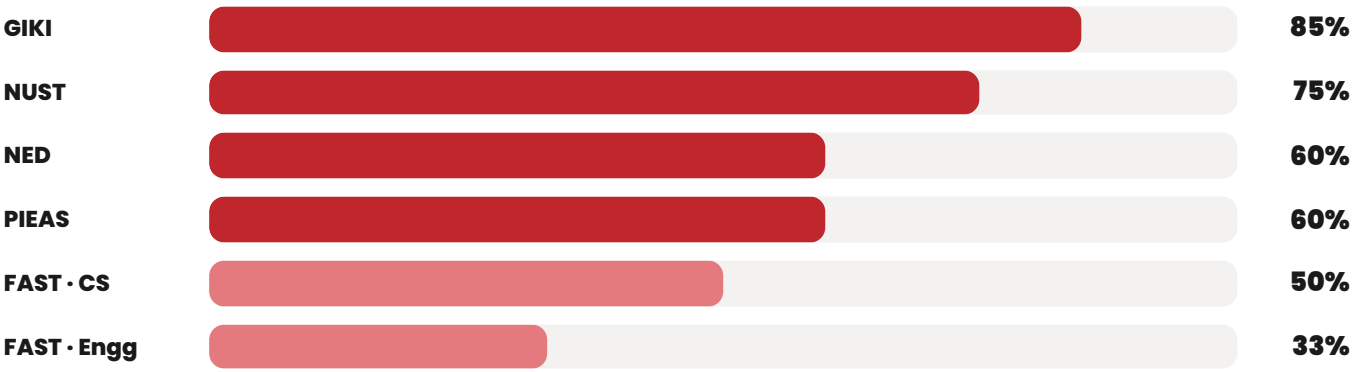
PRIVATE

FAST · GIKI · Habib · DHA Suffa · Usman Inst. · SSUET

Higher fees, scholarships available.

HOW MUCH DOES THE ENTRY TEST COUNT?

Share of the entry test in each university's merit formula



The test decides most seats.

At GIKI, NUST, NED and PIEAS the test is 60–85% of your merit. A strong test score can cover average board marks.

FAST engineering is the exception.

Your Inter marks carry 50%, so board exams matter as much as the test here.

ELIGIBILITY BASICS

60%

minimum in Matric and Inter at most top universities (FAST computing: 50% in Inter)

Pre-Engg

or ICS with Maths and Physics; Pre-Medical with additional Maths at some universities

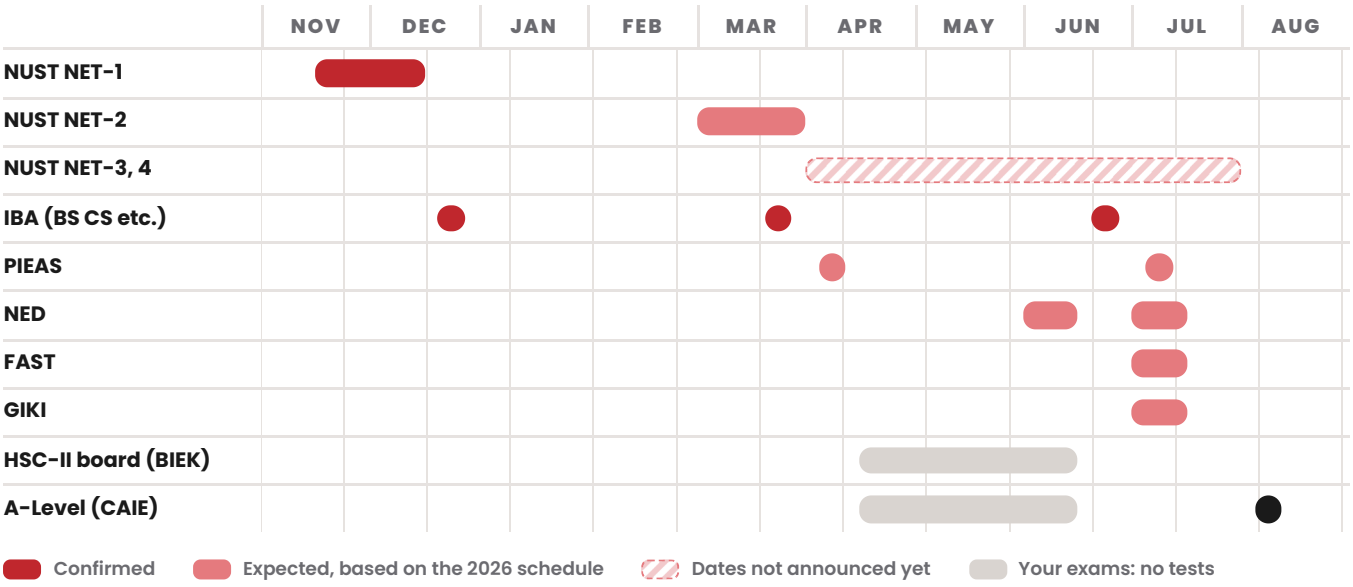
Result awaited?

You can apply and sit the tests before your final result comes out

ENGINEERING ADMISSION TESTS · 2027 INTAKE

Your test calendar, November to July.

Most tests fall in June and July, right after board and A-Level exams. NUST and IBA start much earlier, so students who prepare from now get more attempts.



TEST	DATE	STATUS
NUST NET-1	From 17 Nov 2026 · register by 14 Nov · computer-based, Islamabad	CONFIRMED
NUST NET-2	March 2027 · paper-based test in Karachi · registration Dec–Jan	TENTATIVE
NUST NET-3, NET-4	Spring to July 2027 · check NUST before each series	TBA
IBA	Round 1: 20 Dec 2026 · Round 2: 21 Mar 2027 · Round 3: 20 Jun 2027	CONFIRMED
PIEAS	Two tests: April and July 2027 (2026: 12 Apr and 12 Jul)	EXPECTED
NED	Two phases: June and July 2027 (2026: 12–15 Jun and 6–9 Jul)	EXPECTED
FAST	Early July 2027	EXPECTED
GIKI	July 2027 (2026: 6–10 Jul) · Karachi centre available	EXPECTED
HSC-II (BIEK)	Late April to mid-June 2027 (2026: 29 Apr – 15 Jun)	EXPECTED
A-Level (CAIE)	May/June series · results in mid-August (2026: 11 Aug)	EXPECTED

Universities change dates every year. Always confirm on the official portal before you register. Sources: nust.edu.pk, iba.edu.pk, neduet.edu.pk, admissions.pieas.edu.pk, nu.edu.pk, giki.edu.pk, biek.edu.pk, cambridgeinternational.org (checked Oct 2026).

KNOW YOUR TARGET

Five universities. Five different tests.

See how each one calculates merit. Then put your hours where the marks are.

NUST

NET · Islamabad + other cities

NET 75%	15	10

NET · HSSC · SSC

Maths 50% · **Physics 30%** · **English 20%**

200 MCQs in 3 hours · no negative marking · several NET series a year and your best score counts.

FAST

NU admission test · SAT / NTS also accepted

Test 33%	HSSC 50%	17

Engineering · Computing (CS): 50 · 40 · 10

Adv. Maths 50% · **Basic Maths 20%** · **IQ 20%** · **English 10%**

Negative marking · no calculator · min 60% in Matric and Inter for engineering.

NED

Entry test in two phases · Karachi

Test 60%	HSSC-I 40%

A-Level students: O-Level equivalence instead of HSSC-I

Pass mark 50% in the test

Your Inter Part I marks count, so first-year board results matter for NED.

GIKI

Admission test · centres incl. Karachi

Test 85%	15

Test · SSC / O-Level (HSSC-I not counted)

Maths · **Physics** · **English** · **No Chemistry**

The test decides almost everything. Speed in Maths and Physics is the whole game.

PIEAS

Written test · two attempts a year

Test 60%	Academics 40%

Test (percentile) · academic record

Maths 30 · **Physics 30** · **Chemistry 30** · **English 10**

100 MCQs in 3 hours · no negative marking · min 60% in Matric and Inter.

IBA

For BS CS and maths-based programmes

Round 1 · 20 Dec · **Round 2 · 21 Mar** · **Round 3 · 20 Jun**

Each IBA school has its own form and fee. You cannot add a school after results, so pick your programmes before you apply.

Weightages from each university's 2026 admission documents. Confirm the 2027 policy on the official portal before you apply.

STUDY PLAN · INTERMEDIATE (HSC-II) STUDENTS

October to July, phase by phase.

You prepare for two things at once: your board exams and your entry tests. The trick is to build ECAT early, pause it completely for boards, then sprint.

1 · Build	2 · Practise	3 · Boards	4 · Sprint
OCT NOV DEC	JAN FEB MAR	APR MAY	JUN JUL

Phase 1 · Build

OCT – DEC

2–3 hrs a day for ECAT, alongside college

- Cover Maths and Physics concepts first; they carry most marks in every test.
- One chapter test after every topic. Start your error notebook.
- Optional early attempts: NUST NET-1 (Nov–Dec), IBA Round 1 (20 Dec).

Phase 2 · Practise

JAN – EARLY APR

3–4 hrs a day for ECAT

- Finish the full syllabus by February. Then switch to timed MCQ sets.
- One grand test a week. Fix the weakest chapter before the next one.
- Sit NUST NET-2 (March, Karachi) and IBA Round 2 (21 Mar) for real test practice.

Phase 3 · Board exams

MID-APR – MID-JUN

ECAT on pause. Boards only.

- Stop ECAT prep two weeks before your first paper. Board marks count at FAST (50%) and NED.
- Board study still builds the same concepts the tests ask.
- Keep your formula notebook. Do not start new ECAT topics.

Phase 4 · Test sprint

MID-JUN – JUL

6–8 hrs a day · full-length papers

- Day after boards: one full grand test to see where you stand.
- Practise each university's own pattern in the week before its test: NED, FAST, GIKI, PIEAS, NUST NET-4.
- Last 3 days before each test: past papers and your error notebook only.

REVISION RHYTHM

Daily

15 min: recall yesterday's formulas and mistakes

Weekly

One timed test, then repair the weakest chapter

Monthly

Full-syllabus grand test to check the whole picture

Pre-test

Last week: that university's pattern only

ⓘ **The NED Phase I test may fall in the same week as your last board papers or practicals. Register for both phases so you have a second chance.**

STUDY PLAN · A-LEVEL STUDENTS

Same tests. A different syllabus.

Pakistani entry tests are built on the Inter (HSSC) syllabus. A-Level students know the concepts but face gaps in topics and speed. Close those gaps before your Cambridge exams.

1 · Bridge	2 · Practise	3 · CAIE exams	4 · Sprint
OCT NOV DEC	JAN FEB MAR	APR MAY	JUN JUL

Phase 1 · Bridge the syllabus

OCT – DEC

2 days a week for ECAT, alongside A-Levels

- Map HSSC topics you have not studied in A-Level Maths and Physics. Cover those first.
- Get used to MCQs: A-Level is written answers, entry tests are speed.
- Optional: NUST NET-1 and IBA Round 1 as practice runs.

Phase 2 · Practise

JAN – MID-APR

3 days a week for ECAT

- Timed MCQ sets and one grand test every week.
- Apply for your IBCC equivalence early. Universities use it for your merit.
- Sit NUST NET-2 (March, Karachi) or IBA Round 2 (21 Mar).

Phase 3 · CAIE exams

LATE APR – MID-JUN

ECAT on pause. A-Levels only.

- Your A-Level grades decide eligibility, so give them full focus.
- Check your exam timetable against NED Phase I, NUST and PIEAS dates.
- Keep your formula notebook; no new ECAT topics.

Phase 4 · Test sprint

MID-JUN – JUL

6–8 hrs a day · full-length papers

- Full grand tests in each university's pattern before its test.
- Apply as "result awaited": A-Level results come in mid-August.
- Last 3 days before each test: past papers and error notebook only.

A-LEVEL CHECKLIST

- [ ] IBCC equivalence of O-Levels done (and A-Level once results arrive)
- [ ] HSSC topics missing from A-Level listed and covered
- [ ] Maths speed: 1 minute or less per MCQ
- [ ] Chemistry revised if you are applying to PIEAS
- [ ] Every target university's A-Level policy read
- [ ] Test dates checked against your CAIE timetable

Cambridge publishes the June 2027 timetable closer to the series. The exam window above follows the usual May/June pattern.

HOW TO STUDY

Build concepts. Then build speed.

Build your HSSC foundation first, then practise the MCQ format your target university uses. Take every chapter through these three passes.

PASS 01
Learn
Concepts + examples

→

PASS 02
Practise
Timed chapter MCQs

→

PASS 03
Retain
Revise + error notebook

SUBJECT-WISE STUDY MAP

Mathematics
Algebra & functions · trigonometry · calculus · coordinate geometry

Physics
Mechanics · waves · electricity & magnetism · optics · modern physics

Chemistry
Physical, inorganic & organic chemistry · reactions · numericals

Computer Science (ICS)
Programming logic · data handling · CS fundamentals · applied concepts

ⓘ **Chemistry or Computer Science? It depends on your Inter group and the test requirements of the programme you are aiming for.**

YOUR 2-HOUR SELF-STUDY ROUTINE

40 min	45 min	20	15
LEARN	TIMED MCQs	REVIEW	RECALL

0:00 — 0:40 — 1:25 — 1:45 — 2:00

> **Every chapter, three passes. Every day, two focused hours.**

HOW TO PRACTISE

Practise with a purpose.

The goal is not more tests. It is to spot patterns, fix mistakes and improve before your university test.

150+ **CHAPTER TESTS**
After each topic, take its chapter test and review every error.

18 **SUBJECT MOCK TESTS**
6 MATHS · 6 PHYSICS · 6 CHEMISTRY

GRAND TESTS BY PREPARATION STAGE

STAGE 01 · CORE + EARLY TESTS

01	1st-year syllabus grand test
01	2nd-year syllabus grand test
01	Complete syllabus grand test
03	NUST NET-II pattern grand tests
05	NED Round-I pattern grand tests

STAGE 02 · AFTER BOARD EXAMS

05	FAST pattern grand tests
03	GIKI pattern grand tests
03	PIEAS pattern grand tests
05	NUST NET-IV pattern grand tests
05	NED Round-II pattern grand tests

AFTER EVERY TEST · YOUR IMPROVEMENT LOOP

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4
Check	Diagnose	Repair	Retest
Score + time	Wrong + guessed MCQs	Revise the weak topic	Try again in 7 days

Test schedules and subject-track mock tests can vary by batch. Confirm the plan for your batch with your campus.

COMPLETE GUIDANCE

From your first chapter to your test day.

Start with this 12-week cycle and repeat it. If a test comes earlier, put its syllabus and application deadline first.

W1 W2 W3 W4 W5 W6 W7 W8 W9 W10 W11 W12

WEEKS 01–04

Foundation

Map weak chapters. Finish core concepts. Add chapter tests and a formula notebook.

WEEKS 05–08

Accuracy + speed

Timed MCQ sets. Review every wrong answer. Add subject mock tests.

WEEKS 09–12

Exam mode

Full-length papers, grand tests and university-specific past papers.

EXAM-READY HABITS

- [ ] Keep an error and formula notebook
- [ ] Time every MCQ practice set
- [ ] Practise with original past papers
- [ ] Revise weak areas before you retest

ADMISSIONS CHECKLIST

- [ ] Confirm programme eligibility
- [ ] Check 2027 deadlines and test dates
- [ ] Prepare documents and equivalence
- [ ] Apply only through official portals

CHECK THE OFFICIAL UNIVERSITY PORTALS

NUST	NED	FAST	GIKI	PIEAS
ugadmissions.nust.edu.pk	neduet.edu.pk/admission	nu.edu.pk/Admissions	giki.edu.pk/admissions	admissions.pieas.edu.pk

YOUR NEXT STEP

Pick 3 weak chapters. Plan 7 days. Take your first timed test.

NEED MORE GUIDANCE?

Call us, or walk in to your nearest campus.

Questions about your ECAT plan, batches or university choices? Speak to our team directly. Six campuses across Karachi, plus live online classes.

CENTRAL ADMISSIONS HELPLINE

0340-0252222

www.ibagrads.com

OUR CAMPUSES

North Nazimabad
0342-2222252

Bahadurabad
0333-4918987

Gulshan-e-Iqbal
0331-4222352

Gulistan-e-Jauhar
0340-4501549

DHA
0333-5349966

Malir · Jinnah Avenue
0344-5144040

Live online
Same faculty and tests, from anywhere in Pakistan

0340-0252222

Start early. Start with a plan.