

Shoot for the Moon: Discover Your Future in Space!

Ever caught yourself staring at the moon and wondering what's actually up there? Or maybe you've dreamed of being part of a team that sends a robot to another planet? Whether you love solving puzzles, building cool gadgets, or just want to understand how the universe works, there is a place for you in the space industry!

Our career seminar is all about showing you that space isn't just for "rocket scientists." It's for **explorers, creators, and big thinkers** of all kinds. We'll break down how your favorite subjects—like math, art, or even law—can lead to an amazing job with organizations like **ISRO** or **NASA**. Come find out how you can turn your curiosity about the stars into an exciting, real-world career. The sky isn't the limit anymore—it's just the beginning!

Top Universities for Space & Astronomy (2026)

If you're ready to start your journey, here are some of the best places to study. Most students begin with a solid foundation in **Physics, Mathematics, or Engineering** before specializing.

IN Top Institutes in India

- **Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), Thiruvananthapuram:** The premier choice for those specifically wanting to work with ISRO.
- **Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru:** World-class research facilities for pure science and astrophysics.
- **Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs):** Especially **IIT Indore** (which has a dedicated Space Engineering department), **IIT Bombay**, and **IIT Kanpur**.
- **Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Mumbai:** Ideal for advanced research in the mysteries of the cosmos.
- **Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA), Pune:** A major hub for students interested in deep-space observation.

Top Global Universities

- **California Institute of Technology (Caltech), USA:** Frequently ranked #1 globally for space science.
- **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA:** The "gold standard" for aerospace engineering and technology.
- **Harvard University, USA:** Famous for its historic and cutting-edge astrophysics programs.
- **University of Cambridge & University of Oxford, UK:** Both offer legendary programs in theoretical physics and astronomy.
- **ETH Zurich, Switzerland:** One of the top-ranked universities in Europe for physical sciences.

Getting into the space and astronomy field in India is an exciting journey that often starts with a few key national exams. Since admission cycles can be quite specific, here is a breakdown of the primary entrance tests for 2026.

Primary Entrance Exams for 2026

For most undergraduate programs at top institutes like **IIST** and **IISc**, you must first clear the engineering or science-focused national exams.

Institute [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9]	Primary Entrance Exam(s)	2026 Status/Key Dates
IIST (Thiruvananthapuram)	JEE Main & JEE Advanced	JEE Advanced is on May 17, 2026 .
IISc (Bengaluru)	JEE Advanced or IAT (Aptitude Test)	IAT 2026 is typically in June ; JEE Advanced is in May .
NISER & UM-DAE CEBS	NEST (Screening Test)	Exam is on June 6, 2026 ; registration closed April 6.
Various PhD/MSc	JEST (Screening Test)	Exam was held on April 12, 2026 .
IUCAA (Pune)	INAT (National Admission Test)	Written test was held on January 18, 2026 .

Exam Details & Preparation

If you are planning your path, keep these specific requirements in mind:

- **JEE Advanced (for IIST & IISc B.Tech):** This is the only way into IIST's Aerospace or Avionics programs. You must first rank in the top 2.5 lakh candidates of JEE Main to qualify for this exam on **May 17, 2026**.
- **IAT (for IISc B.Sc Research):** The **IISER Aptitude Test (IAT)** is now a major channel for IISc's 4-year Bachelor of Science program. It tests Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics.
- **GATE (for M.Tech/Postgrad):** If you already have a degree, the **GATE** exam (held in February 2026) is the standard for Master's programs in Space Engineering at IITs like **IIT Indore**.
- **TIFR GS (for Research):** For deep research in Astrophysics, the **TIFR Graduate Studies** exam is held annually in December (the GS-2026 test was on **December 14, 2025**).

Quick Tips for Aspirants

- **Focus on PCM:** Almost all these exams require a very strong foundation in **Physics, Chemistry, and Mathematics**.
- **Check Eligibility:** Most top institutes require at least **75% aggregate** in your Class 12 board exams (65% for reserved categories).

- **Stay Updated:** Admission portals for IIST and IISc usually open their registration windows in **late May** after the JEE Advanced results are announced.

*This document is an information guide only. The actual and updated real time situation of the courses, programmes offered by the above institutes may vary. Contact the respective institutes for real time scenario. We do not collaborate with any of these institutes for this document or any sort.