

Guidelines for Attempting the Fundamental Research Skills Test

The final step of the Common Application Process for research internships with professors across universities through Research Mate is taking the Fundamental Research Skills Test. Once the Test is completed, the candidate's Common Konnifel Application Report is created within **96 hours** of completion, consisting of the candidate's verified Konnifel Resume and their Test Score Report. The Test is divided into two primary sections:

- Part 1: Computer-based MCQ Test (Duration: 50 minutes)
- Part 2: Online Interview(Duration: 10-15 minutes)

Part 1: Computer-based MCQ Test

Part 1 of the Test assesses a candidate on the basic research skills that are required to engage in research in their chosen field. Part 1 evaluates fundamental abilities that support research thinking and problem-solving. It does not require additional study materials beyond a candidate's existing academic knowledge base. The difficulty level of this section is commensurate to high-school level. This part is divided into five sections, assessing 5 skills fundamental to research:

- **Critical Reasoning and Aptitude-** This section assesses candidates on their logical thinking and problem-solving skills through pattern recognition, puzzles, and analytical reasoning questions.
- **Basic Data Analysis-** This section assesses candidates on their proficiency in data visualisation techniques, measures of central tendency, and statistical tests.
- **Basic Maths and Statistics-** This section assesses the numerical and quantitative ability of candidates
- **Qualitative Analysis-** This section assesses the candidates' ability to analyse scenarios and make reasoned judgments based on the information provided through written passages.
- **Reading and Writing Comprehension-** This section assesses the candidates' ability to understand written passages and answer questions accordingly.

Part 2: Online Interview

- The online interview is designed to assess the candidate's sincerity rather than their subject knowledge. There are no definitive right or wrong answers.
- The questions will focus on understanding the candidate's work ethic, teamwork, personal development, sincerity, time management skills, interest in research, awareness about their research interest areas and their reasons for wanting to work under the guidance of the professors.
- This interview must be completed within 10 days after finishing Part 1 of the Test.

General Guidelines for Appearing for Fundamental Research Skill Test

- Ensure a stable internet connection for the Test.
- Keep a notebook ready to solve numerical-based questions.
- Allocate a specific amount of time for each question, so as to avoid getting stuck on one question.

Re-attempts for Fundamental Research Skill Test

- Candidates can appear for the Fundamental Research Skills Test multiple times, in incumbent upon two conditions:
 1. Every new attempt can only be undertaken after a gap of **30 days** from the last attempt.
 2. Every new attempt shall carry an exam registration fee to the amount of INR 4400.
- Upon completing a new attempt, candidates shall have the option to keep the new score or retain the old score. Their score report and common application shall be modified accordingly.
- Candidates shall be required to re-attempt the Test in entirety, i.e. they shall have to re-appear for both the MCQ Section and the interview. Section-wise reattempt is not permitted.