

KMAT Kerala Counselling 2026: Process, Dates, Documents, Top Colleges and How to Secure Admission

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KMAT Kerala Counselling 2026

Process, Dates, Documents, Top Colleges and How to Secure Admission

KMAT Kerala Counselling 2026: Overview

KMAT Kerala 2026 is the state-level MBA entrance exam conducted by the **Commissioner of Entrance Examinations (CEE), Government of Kerala**, twice a year for admission to MBA and PGDM programmes at universities and AICTE-approved colleges across Kerala. Session 2 registration opened on 27 April 2026 and was extended to 14 May 2026, 6:00 PM, while Session 1 was conducted on 22 February 2026 in CBT mode with results declared on 2 March 2026.

Unlike CAT or CMAT, where a single centralised score is followed by individual institute calls, **KMAT Kerala counselling has two parallel tracks** that aspirants must understand before planning their MBA admission:

1. **Centralised counselling** for Kerala state universities and government/aided colleges — coordinated by CEE Kerala / LBS Centre.

2. **Institute-level counselling** at the over 120 AICTE-approved private and self-financing colleges that accept KMAT Kerala scores.

This guide breaks down both tracks in detail for MBA aspirants targeting **MBA admission 2026** in Kerala.

KMAT Kerala 2026 Key Dates

The following table consolidates exam scheduled and the KMAT Kerala 2026 counselling dates.

KMAT Kerala 2026 Session 2: Exam Date & Schedule

Particulars	Dates
KMAT Kerala Application Start Date 2026	April 27, 2026
KMAT Kerala Application Closing Date 2026	May 14, 2026 (6.00 PM)
KMAT Kerala Exam Date 2026	May 31, 2026
KMAT Kerala Result Release Dates 2026	June (Expected)
KMAT Kerala Counselling Start Date 2026	July (Expected)

KMAT Kerala Counselling 2026: Conducting Authority and Structure

A common point of confusion among aspirants is "who exactly conducts KMAT Kerala counselling?" Here is the clear answer:

- **CEE Kerala (Commissioner of Entrance Examinations)** is the exam-conducting body. CEE releases the KMAT scorecard, rank list and acts as the regulator for the admission process.
- **LBS Centre for Science and Technology** is the technical agency that handles centralised allotment for several Kerala state higher education courses on behalf of the Government of Kerala.
- **Individual Colleges and Universities** such as CUSAT (Cochin University of Science and Technology), University of Kerala, Mahatma Gandhi University Kottayam, University of Calicut, Rajagiri Centre for Business Studies, SCMS Cochin and others conduct their own counselling rounds for their respective seats.

For most aspirants targeting top KMAT-accepting institutions, the admission flow is **institute-led counselling** based on the KMAT score, supplemented by **GD-PI rounds** at each college.

KMAT Kerala 2026 Counselling Process: Step-by-Step

The counselling process for KMAT Kerala 2026 unfolds in the sequence below. While individual colleges may add or rearrange steps, the broad flow is consistent.

Step 1: KMAT Kerala Result and Scorecard Download

After each session, candidates download their digitally signed scorecard from

cee.kerala.gov.in. The scorecard carries the candidate's overall score (out of 720 marks), sectional scores across the four sections, and the all-Kerala rank.

Step 2: Check Cutoffs of Target Colleges

KMAT Kerala 2026 has two cutoff layers:

- **Qualifying cutoff released by CEE:** Varies by category. Historically, the General category qualifying cutoff has been around 108 marks; SEBC around 72 marks; SC/ST around 54 marks.
- **College-specific shortlist cutoff for GD-PI:** Set independently by each college based on seat availability and applicant pool. Top institutes such as Rajagiri Centre for Business Studies and SCMS Cochin typically shortlist candidates in the 90th+ percentile range; raw scores of 400+ are generally competitive for the top tier.

Step 3: Apply to Individual Colleges

Within roughly 2–4 weeks of the KMAT result, leading KMAT-accepting colleges open their MBA admission application windows. Aspirants must apply separately to each institute. There is no single common application that covers all KMAT-accepting colleges. KMAT Kerala 2026 Counselling Fees vary by institute and is typically Rs 500 to Rs 1,500.

Step 4: GD-PI Shortlist and Admission Rounds

Shortlisted candidates are called for GD and Personal Interview rounds — currently a mix of online and offline modes depending on the college. Some institutes also include a **Written Ability Test (WAT)** or essay-writing component.

Step 5: Final Merit List and Seat Allotment

The final merit list is prepared by each college based on the **composite score** (KMAT + GD + PI + academic record, in proportions defined by the institute). Selected candidates receive provisional admission letters and are required to pay the admission fee within a stipulated window to confirm the seat.

Step 6: Document Verification and Final Admission

On reporting day, candidates produce all original documents for verification before admission is confirmed. Failure to produce any required document at this stage can lead to cancellation of the seat.

Documents Required for KMAT Kerala Counselling 2026

Aspirants should keep the following documents ready in **both original and two sets of photocopies** before the counselling round:

- KMAT Kerala 2026 Admit Card (Session 1 / Session 2 as applicable)
- KMAT Kerala 2026 Scorecard (digitally signed download from CEE Kerala portal)
- Class 10 Marksheet and Pass Certificate
- Class 12 Marksheet and Pass Certificate
- Bachelor's degree marksheets — all years/semesters

- Provisional Degree Certificate / Final Degree Certificate (Provisional acceptable for final-year applicants)
- Transfer Certificate (TC) from the last institution attended
- Migration Certificate (where applicable)
- Conduct Certificate
- Nativity / Domicile Certificate — required to claim Kerala state quota benefits
- Caste / Community Certificate — for SC/ST/SEBC reservation
- Non-Creamy Layer Certificate — for OBC/SEBC candidates (issued within the past 12 months)
- Income Certificate — where fee concessions are applicable
- Aadhaar Card and PAN Card
- Passport-size photographs (8–10 copies)
- Work experience certificates (where applicable, for executive MBA tracks)

Out-of-state candidates should note that without a Kerala domicile certificate they are eligible to apply but cannot claim the state-quota reservation in government and aided colleges. Most private and self-financing colleges admit candidates from across India without domicile restrictions.

Top MBA Colleges Accepting KMAT Kerala 2026 Counselling Snapshot

Over 120 AICTE-approved institutions in Kerala accept KMAT Kerala 2026 scores. Below are some of the prominent KMAT-accepting MBA/PGDM colleges that MBA aspirants of 2026 should consider, grouped by category.

Government and University Colleges

- **Institute of Management in Kerala (IMK), University of Kerala,** Thiruvananthapuram
- **Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT) School of Management Studies**
- **Mahatma Gandhi University,** Kottayam School of Management & Business Studies
- **University of Calicut** Department of Commerce and Management Studies
- **Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies (KUFOS) School of Management Studies**

Top Private and Autonomous Institutes

- **Rajagiri Centre for Business Studies (RCBS),** Kochi
- **SCMS Cochin School of Business,** Cochin
- **DC School of Management and Technology (DCSMAT),** Trivandrum and Vagamon

KMAT Kerala Counselling: Common Mistakes

Drawing from MBAUniverse.com's editorial experience over the past several years, here are recurring mistakes aspirants should avoid:

1. **Treating KMAT Kerala as a centralised counselling like MAH MBA CET CAP.** It is largely institute-led; track each target college separately.
2. **Missing institute-specific application windows.** Application deadlines vary college to college; calendar them carefully.
3. **Ignoring the GD-PI weightage.** 20% of final selection is decided in GD-PI; prepare for current affairs, business news and personal-interview frameworks.
4. **Not preparing a domicile certificate in advance.** For Kerala aspirants targeting government and aided colleges, missing this document forfeits state-quota advantage.
5. **Sitting only for Session 1 or Session 2.** Appearing in **both sessions** is permitted, and the higher score is typically considered for admission. This is one of KMAT Kerala's biggest advantages over single-attempt exams.
6. **Underestimating the score required for top institutes.** A percentile-only view can mislead; check the **previous year cutoff raw scores** at your target college before fixing a preparation target.

Summary

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