

LEARNING AND CAPABILITY

# Open Learning / NIOS Study Centre

## WHAT THIS INSTITUTION IS

A National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) Study Centre is a local institution – usually a school, college, or coaching centre – accredited by NIOS to support students studying through the open schooling system. NIOS offers secondary (Class 10 equivalent) and senior secondary (Class 12 equivalent) education through distance learning for people who dropped out of formal school or could not attend regular school. Students attend Personal Contact Programme (PCP) sessions at the centre, submit assignments, and take exams. NIOS certificates are equivalent to Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) certificates for university admission and competitive exam eligibility. Most states also run their own state open school boards alongside NIOS.

### WHY THIS MATTERS TO YOU

If you dropped out of school and want to complete Class 10 or 12 without going back to a regular school, NIOS lets you do that at your own pace. The certificate you receive is accepted everywhere a CBSE certificate is.

## GOVERNANCE

LAW / POLICY	SCOPE
NIOS Charter	NIOS is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Education for open and distance learning
National Education Policy (NEP), 2020	Emphasises open schooling and multiple pathways for re-entry into education
State Open School Board Acts	Several states run parallel open school boards with state board equivalency

- **Centre:** NIOS headquarters (NOIDA) → NIOS Regional Centres (23 nationally)
- **Institutional oversight:** NIOS Regional Centre monitors study-centre performance, conducts periodic accreditation reviews, and handles de-recognition of non-compliant centres. AVI (Accredited Vocational Institution) centres are additionally empanelled by relevant Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) for trade-specific assessment.
- **Institution:** Study Centre Coordinator (may be a school principal)
- **Funding:** Study centres are self-sustaining through student fees; NIOS is funded by the Ministry of Education

## KEY POSITIONS

POSITION	RESPONSIBILITY
Coordinator	Head of the study centre; admissions, PCP scheduling, assignment collection, exam coordination
Academic Facilitators / PCP Tutors	Conduct face-to-face sessions; often regular school teachers with additional responsibilities
Administrative Staff	Admissions, fee collection, record-keeping



## MANDATED SERVICES

- Register students for NIOS Secondary (Class 10) and Senior Secondary (Class 12) programmes
- Conduct Personal Contact Programme (PCP) sessions: minimum 30-40 hours per subject per year
- Distribute NIOS textbooks and study materials (also available free on [nios.ac.in](http://nios.ac.in))
- Collect and process Tutor Marked Assignments (TMAs) from students
- Conduct practical examinations for science and vocational subjects
- Offer On-Demand Examination facility so students can take exams when ready
- Offer vocational courses at Accredited Vocational Institution (AVI) centres

## LINKED SCHEMES

- **NIOS-JSS Partnership** – educational equivalency alongside Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) skill training
- **Post-matric Scholarships (National Scholarship Portal (NSP) – National Scholarships Portal)** – NIOS students from Scheduled Caste (SC) / Scheduled Tribe (ST) / Other Backward Classes (OBC) / minority categories are eligible
- **Samagra Shiksha** – states can use funds to support open schooling for out-of-school children
- **State Open School Boards** – UP (Uttar Pradesh State Open School Board, UPSOSB at [upsosb.up.gov.in](http://upsosb.up.gov.in)), MP (Madhya Pradesh State Open School, MPSOS "Ruk Jana Nahi"), Rajasthan (Rajasthan State Open School, RSOS), Bihar (Bihar Board of Open Schooling and Examination, BBOSE), Haryana (Haryana Board of School Education, HBSE open school wing)

## HOW TO LOCATE

**Portal:** Academic study centres – `[sdmis.nios.ac.in/registration/locate-study-center`](http://sdmis.nios.ac.in/registration/locate-study-center) (filter by state, district, regional centre, medium and status). Vocational / AVI centres – `[voc.nios.ac.in/registration/locate-study-centre`](http://voc.nios.ac.in/registration/locate-study-centre) (filter by sector, programme/course, Accredited Institution (AI) code, regional centre).

**Also:** Ask at the District Education Office (DEO) or at local schools – many NIOS study centres are hosted within regular schools

## KEY FACILITIES

A functioning NIOS study centre should have: a signboard displaying the centre name, NIOS logo, and centre code; a notice board with the current PCP schedule and exam dates; classrooms for PCP sessions; a science laboratory if science subjects are offered; NIOS textbooks available for distribution; and a computer with internet for online admission processing.

## WHAT A FUNCTIONING NIOS STUDY CENTRE LOOKS LIKE

- PCP sessions are being conducted per the published schedule with attendance records maintained
- The notice board displays current exam dates, PCP schedules, and NIOS announcements
- Students enrolled in the last cycle have appeared for exams, with minimal gap between enrolment and exam attendance
- Fee charged matches the NIOS prescribed fee structure
- Science labs are functional with recent practical exams conducted, where science subjects are offered
- Students are aware that NIOS certificates are equivalent to CBSE for all purposes



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## GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL

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**During service delivery.** The first point of contact is the Study Centre Coordinator. Issues around PCP scheduling, textbook distribution, TMA submission, fee disputes, or exam-registration delays are raised here first.

**After service.** Administrative issues like change of study centre and name corrections are handled by the relevant Regional Centre (23 nationally; directory at [nios.ac.in](http://nios.ac.in)). For AVI-specific vocational-course issues, the linked Sector Skill Council also accepts complaints.

**Central – Learner Support Centre (LSC).** Toll-free 1800-180-9393, 9:30 AM–5:30 PM (live executives); Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) after hours. Email [lsc@nios.ac.in](mailto:lsc@nios.ac.in) for general learner queries; [mpdd@nios.ac.in](mailto:mpdd@nios.ac.in) (Material Production and Distribution Department) for non-receipt or delay of study material / books.

**External.** NIOS operates a public grievance system on [nios.ac.in](http://nios.ac.in) under the Resident Commissioner's office and via online complaint form. The Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS, [pgportal.gov.in](http://pgportal.gov.in)) handles Ministry of Education grievances. State Open School boards (UPSOSB, MPSOS, RSOS, BBOSE, HBSE open wing) have their own grievance routes for state-board learners.

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