

# NATIONAL ACADEMIC DEPOSITORY

---

**In a nutshell:** An online repository of all academic awards such as degrees, mark-sheets, diplomas and certificates for easier access and safekeeping.

**Nodal agency:** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India

The Indian education system is a large and growing system with approximately 55 school boards, 412 state universities, 124 deemed universities, 53 central universities, 361 private universities and 107 other institutions. These institutions issue academic awards such as degrees, diplomas and certificates along with mark sheets and evaluation reports. Apart from these, institutions under various ministries/departments and other skill-based institutions also issue certificates, diplomas and advanced diplomas.

The Union Cabinet approved establishing a digital depository of academic awards to be known as National Academic Depository (NAD) to create an online repository for students to access all their academic awards at ease. NAD seeks to provide a legitimate and user-friendly method for online submission, verification, and validation of academic awards granted by various educational institutions.

Maintaining academic awards in a digital depository would enable educational institutions, students and employers to access, retrieve and verify digitized academic awards, and would eliminate fraudulent practices such as forging of certificates and mark sheets.

The National academic depository (NAD) is an online storehouse of all academic awards duly digitized and lodged by academic institutions/boards/eligibility assessment bodies. The NAD not only ensures easy access to and retrieval of an academic award, but also validates and guarantees its authenticity and safe storage. Academic institutions submit student data to the site, and students after registration, can download their certificates and documents to their individual DigiLocker account.

## Benefits to students

- DigiLocker is a single digital wallet for the students: Important documents like birth certificate, school certificates, graduation certificate, Aadhaar, PAN, passport etc. are made available at one place.
- Convenient access to all important documents of Indian residents.
- Authentic documents; legally at par with original documents.
- No risk of losing, spoiling or damaging the certificates/documents.

## Impact

- No need for issuing duplicate academic awards and reduced risk of forgery.
- Efficient, effective and transparent administration.
- Immediate availability of academic awards once uploaded by academic institution.
- Online permanent record and verification of academic awards.
- Transforming the admission process - no physical presence and documents required during admission process, since all the required documents can be fetched from DigiLocker.
- Providing 'One Government Experience' to the students by offering integrated digital services through multiple channels, in a contactless, frictionless manner.
- Enhancing the efficiency of delivery of services.
- Enhancing the productivity of employees and agencies through quicker access to up-to-date information for verification of certificate/documents.
- Providing integrated and cross-cutting services through seamless interoperability across the Government.
- Maintaining the right balance between security of data and privacy of personal information.

## Scale up

There are plans for bringing all skill certificates into this repository, and for facilitating the publication of results for all boards and universities on the day of their declaration.

