

MBBS vs BDS vs BAMS

Which Medical Career is

Best After NEET?

Complete Career Comparison Guide for NEET Students

MBBS

BDS

BAMS

4.5–5.5 Yrs

Duration

Rs.5–50 LPA

Salary

Pan-India

Scope

1.72 Lakh+

Seats

NEET 2026 Verified Data | Expert Career Counselling | shiksha.com

Quick Overview — MBBS vs BDS vs BAMS at a Glance

Parameter	MBBS	BDS	BAMS
Full Form	Bachelor of Medicine & Surgery	Bachelor of Dental Surgery	Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine & Surgery
Duration	5.5 yrs (1 yr internship)	5 yrs (1 yr internship)	5.5 yrs (1 yr internship)
Regulating Body	NMC (Natl. Medical Commission)	DCI (Dental Council of India)	CCIM (Central Council Indian Medicine)
Total Seats	~1,12,112	~27,868	~32,000+
Govt. Fees/yr	Rs.50K–2 Lakhs	Rs.50K–1.5 Lakhs	Rs.20K–1 Lakh
Pvt. Fees/yr	Rs.12–25 Lakhs	Rs.8–15 Lakhs	Rs.2–8 Lakhs
NEET Cutoff (Gen)	~720–138 marks	~720–100 marks	~720–75 marks
Difficulty	Very High	High	Moderate
PG Degree	MD / MS (3 yrs)	MDS (3 yrs)	MD Ayurveda (3 yrs)
Avg. Salary	Rs.6–15 LPA (fresher)	Rs.3–8 LPA (fresher)	Rs.3–8 LPA (fresher)
Govt. Jobs	Excellent — NHM, ESIC, Def, UPSC	Good — Dental Officer posts	Very Good — AYUSH MO
Private Practice	Excellent (any specialty)	Excellent — own clinic	Good — Ayu. clinic
Abroad Scope	Very High — USA, UK, Gulf	Moderate — Gulf, UK	Limited — Gulf only
AI Risk	Low — surgery & empathy	Moderate	Very Low
Best For	High scorers wanting full clinical medicine & surgery	Oral health interest; own clinic dream	Holistic medicine; affordable education; AYUSH jobs

* Fees & cutoffs are indicative (2025-26). Verify from NMC, DCI, CCIM & MCC portals before counselling.

Salary Comparison — MBBS vs BDS vs BAMS (2026)

Career Stage	MBBS	BDS	BAMS
Intern / Fresher	Rs.30K–60K/month	Rs.15K–35K/month	Rs.15K–30K/month
Govt. MO (0–2 yrs)	Rs.56K–80K/month	Rs.40K–65K/month	Rs.40K–60K/month
Pvt. Hospital (3–5 yrs)	Rs.60K–1.5L/month	Rs.40K–80K/month	Rs.35K–70K/month
Own Practice (8+ yrs)	Rs.1–10 Lakhs/month	Rs.80K–4L/month	Rs.60K–2L/month
PG Specialist	Rs.2–20 Lakhs/month	Rs.1–5L/month (MDS Ortho)	Rs.1–3L/month (MD Ayu)
Gulf (DHA/MOH)	USD 6,000–15,000/month	USD 4,000–8,000/month	USD 2,000–5,000/month
USA/UK (post-licence)	USD 15,000–25,000/month	USD 8,000–15,000/month	Very limited
Annual Range (India)	Rs.6–50 LPA+	Rs.4–25 LPA+	Rs.4–20 LPA+

Important

The biggest salary jump in all three courses comes AFTER PG specialization. MD Dermatology/MD Radiology earns Rs.5–15 Lakhs/month in metros. MDS Orthodontist with own practice earns Rs.2–5 Lakhs/month. MD Ayurveda Panchkarma specialist earns Rs.1–3 Lakhs/month. Choose a course you can commit to for 8–12 years.

Detailed Factor-by-Factor Comparison

Factor	MBBS	BDS	BAMS
Difficulty	Very High (5 theory papers/yr)	High	Moderate
Study Pressure	Extreme — PG prep adds 2 yrs	High during clinicals	Moderate
Work-Life Balance	Poor during residency	Good after settling	Good
Clinical Exposure	Daily, all specialties	Oral health focused	Holistic OPD
Social Status	Highest	Very Good	Good & Growing
Total Pvt. Cost	Rs.50L–1.25 Crore	Rs.25–70 Lakhs	Rs.5–40 Lakhs
ROI Timeline	Excellent — 10–15 yrs	Good — 7–10 yrs	Good — 5–8 yrs
Private Practice	Excellent — any specialty	Excellent — own dental clinic	Good — Ayu. clinic
Govt. Job Scope	Excellent — UPSC, NHM, ESIC, Defence	Good — Dental depts, CGHS	Very Good — AYUSH, NHM
Foreign Scope	Very High — USA, UK, Gulf	Moderate — Gulf, UK	Limited — Gulf wellness
AI Impact	Low — empathy & surgery	Moderate — diagnostics	Very Low
Future Demand 2035	Very High	High	High — wellness boom
Time to 1st Income	6–7 years	5–6 years	5.5–6 years

Which Course is Best For YOU?

■ Choose MBBS If...

Your NEET score is above 500 and you qualify for a government seat OR can afford private fees
You want maximum career flexibility — physician, surgeon, researcher, or specialist
You are ready for 10–14 years of intensive study + residency
You dream of working abroad — USA (USMLE), UK (PLAB), or Gulf (DHA/HAAD)
Financial investment of Rs.50L–1.25 Crore (private) is manageable for your family

■ Choose BDS If...

Your NEET score is 300–500 and MBBS government seat is not realistic
You are interested in oral health, dental aesthetics, and precision hands-on work
You want your own clinic within 5–7 years of graduation
You prefer good work-life balance while building strong private practice income
You are looking at Gulf (DHA/HAAD licence) or UK opportunities
Total budget of Rs.25–70 Lakhs is comfortable

■ Choose BAMS If...

Your NEET score is below 350 and MBBS/BDS government seats are out of reach
You are genuinely interested in Ayurveda, holistic wellness, and preventive medicine
You want affordable medical education — Rs.5–40 Lakhs total
You want strong government job prospects (AYUSH Medical Officer posts, NHM)
You are excited by the growing wellness, Panchkarma, and herbal pharma industry

Myths vs Reality — 6 Common Misconceptions

■ MYTH: Only MBBS has real career value.

■ REALITY: All three are Government of India-recognised degrees. BDS and BAMS doctors are licensed medical professionals with full practice rights. Many BDS/BAMS specialists earn more than general MBBS doctors in private practice.

■ MYTH: BDS has no scope in India.

■ REALITY: India has 1 dentist per 10,000 people vs WHO recommended 1 per 7,500. Orthodontists and oral surgeons earn Rs.2–5 Lakhs/month. India's dental market is Rs.9,000 Crore growing at 12% annually.

■ MYTH: BAMS doctors cannot prescribe modern medicines.

■ REALITY: BAMS doctors are trained in modern medicine subjects. Many states permit integrated practice. The AYUSH Ministry actively integrates BAMS doctors into national health programmes alongside allopathic teams.

■ MYTH: Government jobs are impossible after BDS or BAMS.

■ REALITY: Thousands of sanctioned government posts exist for BDS (State Dental Officers, CGHS, ESIC) and BAMS (AYUSH Medical Officers, NHM). AYUSH MO recruitment in 2025 alone listed 15,000+ vacancies across states.

■ MYTH: Private medical colleges are a waste of money.

■ REALITY: Top private colleges — KMC Manipal, SRIHER, SRM, CMC Vellore — rank among India's best. Graduates from reputed private colleges perform equally well in PG exams and get placed in top hospitals.

■ MYTH: BAMS doctors earn much less than MBBS/BDS doctors.

■ REALITY: BAMS doctors running Panchkarma centres and Ayurvedic clinics commonly earn Rs.80K–2 Lakhs/month. Ayurvedic pharma sector managers earn Rs.50K–1.5 Lakhs/month. Income depends on specialization, not stream alone.

NEET Counselling Tips — Don't Make These Mistakes

Mistake to Avoid	What to Do Instead
Filling only 2–3 college preferences	Fill 15–20 preferences in order of priority to maximise chances
Choosing only by NEET rank, not interest	Match your personality, goals, and finances — not just rank
Skipping State Quota counselling	Always participate in BOTH AIQ (MCC) AND your State counselling
Not verifying college recognition	Check NMC/DCI/CCIM portal — never join an unrecognised college
Paying capitation fee	Strictly illegal under NMC Act 2019 — report to NMC if demanded
Ignoring hospital bed strength	MBBS needs 300+ beds attached; verify before confirming seat
Choosing college by ranking alone	Check faculty, PG results, hostel, clinical exposure, and total cost

Expert Tip

Govt. seat in any BAMS/BDS college > expensive private MBBS seat if family finances are tight. A government BAMS seat costs Rs.2–5 Lakhs over 5 years with strong AYUSH job prospects. A private MBBS seat can cost Rs.80–125 Lakhs. Don't overlook the ROI.

Top Colleges — MBBS | BDS | BAMS (Quick Reference)

MBBS College	State	Fees (Approx.)
AIIMS New Delhi	Delhi	Rs.6K–12K/yr (Govt.)
JIPMER Puducherry	Puducherry	Rs.10K–15K/yr (Govt.)
Madras Medical College	Tamil Nadu	Rs.18,073/yr (Govt.)
Christian Medical College, Vellore	Tamil Nadu	Rs.15K/yr (State Quota)
Kasturba Medical College, Manipal	Karnataka	Rs.23 Lakhs/yr (Deemed)
SRIHER (Sri Ramachandra)	Tamil Nadu	Rs.27 Lakhs/yr (Deemed)
MS Ramaiah Medical College	Karnataka	Rs.22 Lakhs/yr (Pvt.)

BDS College	State	Fees	BAMS College	State	Fees
Maulana Azad Inst. of Dental Sci.	Delhi	Rs.30–50K/yr	BHU — Faculty of Ayurveda	Uttar Pradesh	Rs.15–30K/yr
Govt. Dental College, Mumbai	Maharashtra	Rs.40–60K/yr	Gujarat Ayurveda Univ., Jamnagar	Gujarat	Rs.25–50K/yr
SDM College of Dental Sci.	Karnataka	Rs.8 Lakhs/yr	Natl. Inst. of Ayurveda, Jaipur	Rajasthan	Rs.20–40K/yr
Manipal College of Dental Sci.	Karnataka	Rs.12 Lakhs/yr	SDM College of Ayurveda, Udupi	Karnataka	Rs.2 Lakhs/yr
Saveetha Dental College	Tamil Nadu	Rs.14 Lakhs/yr	JSS Ayurveda Med. College, Mysuru	Karnataka	Rs.3 Lakhs/yr

Career Roadmap — Timeline to Success

Timeline	MBBS Path	BDS Path	BAMS Path
Yr 0–5/5.5	MBBS + 1 yr Internship	BDS + 1 yr Internship	BAMS + 1 yr Internship
Yr 5.5–6	House Job / Residency	Associate Dentist / Clinic	AYUSH MO / Private Clinic
Yr 6–9	NEET-PG prep → MD/MS	Build Practice / NEET-MDS	MD Ayurveda / Clinic Growth
Yr 9–12	PG Residency → Specialist	Own Multi-Chair Clinic	Senior MO / Wellness Brand
Yr 12+	Senior Consultant / Professor	Clinic Chain / MDS Specialist	Pharma Tie-up / Own Brand
Peak Earnings	Rs.3–20 Lakhs/month	Rs.1–5 Lakhs/month	Rs.80K–3 Lakhs/month

Final Verdict

Course	Best For	Key Strength	Main Challenge
MBBS	High scorers, full clinical medicine, abroad goals	Maximum flexibility, prestige, foreign	High cost (pvt), long study, intense
BDS	300–500 NEET, dental interest, own clinic dream	Great practice income, work-life balance	Slow initial income, limited outside dental
BAMS	Below 350 NEET, holistic medicine, AYUSH jobs	Affordable, AYUSH jobs, wellness boom	Perception challenges, limited surgery scope

Our Final Word

No stream is universally 'best'. Your right choice depends on your NEET score, family finances, personal interest, and long-term lifestyle goals. A passionate BDS or BAMS doctor lives a more fulfilling life than a miserable MBBS doctor who chose the degree only for prestige. India needs great doctors in ALL streams.

For best college comparison visit:

■ [MBBS Colleges in India](#)

■ [BDS Colleges in India](#)

■ [BAMS Colleges in India](#)

Disclaimer: Fees, NEET cutoffs, salary figures, and seat data are indicative (2025-26). Actual 2026-27 values may vary. Verify from NMC (nmc.org.in), MCC (mcc.nic.in), DCI, and CCIM official portals before any admission decision. Salary ranges are national averages and vary by location, specialization, and performance. This guide is for information only.