



# **BITSAT 2026**

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## Waitlist & Upgrade Guide

Understand How Upgrades Work in Later Iterations

For Students Who Did Not Get Their Preferred Seat

# First Things First – Don't Panic

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Not receiving your preferred branch in Iteration 1 is extremely common. Many students find themselves in this position initially.

BITS counselling is designed as a dynamic process that continues through multiple iterations. Seats keep moving because candidates often explore multiple options simultaneously:

**Join IITs through JoSAA:** High scorers often opt for established IITs.

**Accept Engineering elsewhere:** Admissions in NITs, IIITs, or international universities.

**Withdrawal:** Some candidates withdraw for personal reasons.

**Chain Upgrades:** A single withdrawal at the top can trigger a cascade of upgrades below it.

Every time a student higher in the merit list leaves, it creates a vacancy that moves everyone below them one step closer to their dream branch.

# How Upgrades Actually Happen

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The system is automated and merit-based. Here is a simplified scenario of how the chain reaction works:

## Example Scenario:

1. A student receives **Chemical Engineering** at BITS Hyderabad in Iteration 1.
2. In the meantime, another student elsewhere withdraws from **Electrical Engineering**.
3. A vacancy is created in the Electrical department.
4. The counselling system automatically checks the next eligible candidate on the merit list who had Electrical above Chemical in their preference form.
5. That student is then **Upgraded**.

**Important Point:** Upgrades are strictly based on:

- **Merit Position:** Your original BITSAT score.
- **Available Vacancies:** Seats cleared by withdrawals.
- **Preference Order:** The list you submitted during registration.

This process is repeated automatically across **every single iteration**.

## Examples of Possible Upgrades

While actual movement varies every year depending on the batch's behavior, here are typical jumps students see:

Initial Allotment	Movement	Possible Upgrade
MSc Physics	→	MSc Economics
MSc Chemistry	→	MSc Mathematics
Chemical Engineering	→	Electrical Engineering
Electrical Engineering	→	Electronics & Communication
Electronics & Communication	→	Computer Science

**Note:** BITS Pilani does not publish official round-wise closing scores during the counselling process. Any "cutoff" you see online during rounds is likely speculative or based on crowdsourced data.

# Why Seats Move During Counselling

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The movement in BITS iterations is primarily driven by the following four factors:

## 1. IIT Admissions

The JoSAA counselling for IITs runs parallel to BITS. Many toppers who secure seats in Iteration 1 of BITS eventually leave once they get their preferred IIT branch.

## 2. NIT and IIIT Admissions

Some candidates prefer government institutions (like NIT Trichy or Surathkal) due to proximity or cost factors, freeing up seats in BITS.

## 3. Financial Decisions

The fee structure of BITS is a significant consideration. After the first iteration, some families decide not to proceed, creating room for waitlisted candidates.

## 4. Campus Preference Changes

A student may move from BITS Goa to BITS Pilani (main campus) or vice-versa as vacancies arise in their preferred location.

# What Waitlisted Students Should Do

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- 1 Don't Lose Hope:** Do not assume counselling is over for you. The most significant movement often happens in the middle iterations.
- 2 Track Diligently:** Check the official website for every single iteration result. Missing a notification is the biggest risk.
- 3 Financial Readiness:** Keep your admission funds ready. If you are allotted a seat in a later round, you will have a very short window to pay the fees to secure it.
- 4 Verify Sources:** Follow official BITS Pilani notices only. Social media often spreads panic with incorrect cutoff predictions.

## Final Message

Receiving a lower preference or being waitlisted in Iteration 1 does not determine your final outcome. BITS counselling is a dynamic process. Stay informed, follow deadlines, and keep tracking every iteration until the process concludes.