

DRDO Scientist Career in India – Eligibility, Recruitment, Salaries & Pathways

1. Overview

DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) is India's premier defense R&D body under the Ministry of Defence. It includes over 50 labs and centres that develop defence technologies in areas like aeronautics, missiles, materials, electronics, life sciences, and naval systems. Its scientific cadre is part of the DRDS (Defence Research and Development Service).

2. Eligibility & Academic Criteria

- First-class B.E./B.Tech or M.E./M.Tech in relevant disciplines OR
- First-class M.Sc. in specified science fields
- A valid GATE score is typically required for Scientist 'B' posts

3. Age Limits

- General/EWS: ≤ 35 years
- OBC (Non-creamy layer): ≤ 38 years
- SC/ST: ≤ 40 years
- Additional relaxations for PwBD, government employees, ex-servicemen

4. Selection Process

- Stage 1: Shortlisting based on GATE score (at a ratio of 1:7 or 1:10)
- Stage 2: Written test and/or interview depending on post

5. Application Details

- Apply via DRDO's RAC portal: <https://rac.gov.in>
- Example (2025): 148 Scientist 'B' positions were opened for freshers
- Last recruitment opened in June 2025

6. DRDS Scientist Pay Scale & Career Progression

- Scientist 'B' – Pay Level 10 (₹56,100+)
- Scientist 'C' – Level 11 (₹67,700+)
- Scientist 'D' – Level 12 (₹78,800+)
- Scientist 'E' – Level 13 (₹1,23,100+)
- Scientist 'F' – Level 13A (₹1,31,100+)
- Scientist 'G' – Level 14 (₹1,44,200+)
- Scientist 'H' – Level 15 (₹1,82,200+)
- Distinguished Scientist – Level 16 (₹2,05,400+)

7. DRDO Internships

- DRDO offers paid internships for UG/PG students
- Example: ■30,000/month stipend for BE/BTech final year or M.Sc. students
- Apply via DRDO website or individual lab announcements