

The Ashoka Scholars Programme (fourth year)

Ashoka University offers a year-long **Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Studies and Research (DipASR)** to students who have completed the three-year Bachelor's Programme, during which students can take a wide range of elective options across a variety of subjects, as well as gain valuable research experience in specific disciplines.

Students must complete 32 credits to graduate from the ASP and may choose to complete an advanced major in a particular discipline or may choose to study subjects across disciplines.

Economics Department

The Economics department offers students who have completed a major in Economics, Economics and Finance, Politics Philosophy and Economics, or History and Economics, the following opportunities during their fourth year:

- 1) Advanced Major in Economics
- 2) Research project in Economics
- 3) Course-work in Economics

Advanced Major

The advanced major represents an opportunity for students to undertake a serious graduate level study of selected topics in Economics by studying further subjects in economics and by engaging with an extended research project in close supervision with a faculty member. Selected students may also be permitted to study one of the first-semester Masters courses in Economics offered at Ashoka. In addition, they get an opportunity to build skills by taking courses in related disciplines such as Mathematics and Computer Science, among others. **This is an invaluable experience for students considering graduate school in Economics or looking for substantial research experience.**

Students should identify a faculty member with whom they can work closely on a project they are interested in, and who is able to supervise them.

Requirements: In addition to completing the ASP requirements, students must

- 1) Take 3 courses in Economics (of 4 credits each)
- 2) Complete a capstone thesis (worth **8 credits**)

Students wanting to do the capstone project **MUST** send a one-page research proposal describing the broad research questions or issues that they want to address in their dissertation. At this stage, the faculty does not expect anyone to be very specific about the topic of research. However, what is not acceptable is a proposal saying "I want to work in Experimental Economics or "I want to work in Development Economics. Students are strongly advised to talk to some faculty member(s) about their research proposal.

The research proposal must be sent to Bhaskar.dutta@ashoka.edu.in by **April 26**.

Note that students who have majored in Politics, Philosophy and Economics cannot complete an advanced major in Economics. However, they can complete an advanced major in Politics, Philosophy and Economics. Please see the PPE page for more details. Similarly, students who have majored in History and Economics cannot complete an advanced major in Economics.

Research project

For students who do not want to do a capstone thesis, they may find opportunities to work on shorter 4-credit research projects with faculty members, especially on projects that faculty members are already working on. This will take the form of an independent study module (ISM) where students will produce a piece of written work closely related to the work they have been doing on the research project, and will be evaluated both on their written work and on their performance on the research project.

Students are responsible for finding faculty members to supervise them or engage them on a research project.

Coursework

Students can take any courses in Economics for which they have completed the prerequisites. They may apply to first-semester courses in the Masters Programme in Economics which will give them valuable insights into graduate level economics, prepare them for making applications to graduate programmes as well as allow students to develop technical skills.