

## 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)

The capstone thesis is an academically rigorous exemplar of postgraduate-level research. For applied work, students must be able to show original work by empirically testing a hypothesis. For theoretical work, students must at least complete a very high-quality review and critique of the literature on a particular question.

Students writing a capstone thesis must defend their thesis proposal by the end of examination week of the Monsoon semester and defend the thesis by the end of examination week of the Spring semester. Both presentations will take place before faculty members of the economics department.

Students who want to take the Advanced Major MUST send a one-page research proposal describing the research question that they want to address in their capstone thesis and indicating which faculty member they have spoken to about supervising their thesis. The research proposal must be sent to the Head of the Department and the ASP coordinator by April 15 of the preceding calendar year.

Note: Credits earned while working as a TA cannot substitute for one of the 3 courses.

#### *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.

Note: Students doing the advanced major can substitute at most one research project in the form of an ISM with a faculty member in the economics department for one of the three required economics courses.

#### *Coursework*

Students can take any courses in Economics for which they have completed the pre-requisites. 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.

(Last Updated on May 2020)