



ashoka
UNIVERSITY

PHD

PROGRAMME IN
SOCIOLOGY AND
ANTHROPOLOGY

About Ashoka University



Ashoka University is a private, non-profit university, established under the Haryana Private Universities Act of 2006 and recognised by the University Grants Commission (UGC). An unprecedented example of collective public philanthropy in India, it is a pioneer in its focus on providing a liberal education at par with the best in the world.

We believe education must be a transformative experience, based on rigorous pedagogy and real-life challenges, with a strong emphasis on core foundational knowledge.

We aim to nurture individuals who will be innovative, insightful and principled leaders for tomorrow.



The Department of Sociology and Anthropology

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology builds on the unique relationship between sociology and social anthropology as it has developed and flourished over time. We emphasise the critical empiricism, theoretical engagement and comparative approach central to our best disciplinary traditions. Our department encourages interdisciplinary explorations with allied fields of social thought and inquiry, including history, economics, political science, psychology, philosophy, linguistics, environmental studies, computer science, planning and design, natural sciences, arts and aesthetics, law and media. We invite applications for our PhD programme from dedicated individuals with a strong commitment to research.



PhD Course Structure

Graduate students will be required to complete 36 credits of coursework spread over four semesters/two years. Three semesters of rigorous coursework and one semester of preparation for the qualifying exams will allow students to explore a wide range of concepts, theories and ethnographies as they move towards formulating their dissertation topic. The core courses include 1. **Concepts, Contemporaneity and the Social**, which will introduce contemporary debates and ethnographies ranging from the ecological crisis to contemporary religiosity and the problems of the secular, from collective violence to public health, from gift economies to commodity cultures and the market, from states and borders to migration and mobilities 2. **Research Methodology**, where students will be trained in anthropological methods tailored to specific research projects as well as writing proposals for external funding. 3. **Critical Writing**, which will ensure that students receive dedicated instruction and mentorship in academic writing and narrative techniques. The department also offers several elective courses, such as Imagining South Asia; Kins and Neighbours; Power, Resistance and Legitimacy; Economy, Ecology and Infrastructure; Medicine, Technology and the Body; Language, Science and the Social; Gender and Sexuality; Gaze, Screen & Performativity; Law and Society; Constructing Disciplinary Pasts etc. The students can take a maximum of two electives from outside the department.

The 2-year course outline is given below:

Semester I	Concepts, Contemporaneity and the Social (with module on South Asia) <u>4 credits</u>	Critical Writing <u>4 credits</u>	One Elective <u>4 credits</u>
Semester II	Research Methodology <u>4 credits</u>		Two Electives <u>8 credits</u>
Semester III	Proposal Writing <u>4 credits</u>		One Elective <u>4 credits</u>
Semester IV	Qualifying exams <u>4 credits</u>		

Teaching Experience

Students will acquire teaching experience as Graduate Assistants during the first four semesters of coursework. Assistance in teaching will include (among others) supervision of students' work, grading assignments, quizzes, or reports, data collection and/or analysis. Graduate Assistants will also help in coordinating department events.

Dissertation Work

Students will carry out a preliminary exploration/ pilot study of their field site in the summer after their first year. From the monsoon semester of the third year, students will carry out fieldwork until the summer of the fourth year. The fifth and sixth years will be spent in writing the thesis. Students are expected to deliver a dissertation defense no later than the end of the sixth year.

Admission Requirements

Candidates with a background in Sociology or Anthropology or related disciplines, including history and the humanities, and a thorough knowledge of at least one Indian language are encouraged to apply. The minimum requirement to apply is a Masters degree with at least 55% aggregate. Required documents include a cover letter (1 page), resume, research proposal (3-5 pages, including bibliography), and one writing sample (15-20 pages).

Financial Support

All students admitted to the PhD programme will receive a monthly stipend of Rs. 35,000 for six years, including during their fieldwork semesters. In addition to this, students will be eligible for an annual contingency grant of Rs. 20,000 for research support, and medical insurance coverage up to one lakh per annum. The university may also extend additional financial support for PhD students to participate in conferences.



Application window opens on
October 20, 2020

Application process closes on
February 28, 2021

Shortlisted candidates appear for interview on
April 2 & 3, 2021

Final list of candidates will be published here after the
complete evaluation.

For inquiries, please write to phd.soa@ashoka.edu.in