

MA Environment and Development, School of Human Ecology

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

School of Human Ecology (SHE)

SHE aims to develop a deep and multifaceted understanding of environmental concerns that includes perspectives from the social and the natural sciences. The School expects its students to graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to analyse and address environmental concerns keeping in mind social equity, academic rigour and ecological sustainability. SHE promotes field-based teaching and field research, which connects theory with praxis.

MA Environment and Development (MAED)

The MAED is a rigorous, full-time programme with a heavy emphasis on reading, writing and field-based research. The goal of this MA programme is to foster interdisciplinary learning about issues at the intersection of human society and the biophysical environment with a perspective grounded in the experiences of the global South. It is unique in India given its orientation and scope, which is guided by the idea that ecological challenges such as atmospheric pollution, resource depletion, and the attendant threats to ecosystems and biodiversity, result from a complex interaction of socio-political and biophysical factors.

Structure

- MAED comprises 64 credits spread over two years (4 semesters).
- Each semester is of 16 credits carried out over 16 weeks of academic work including assessments and field projects.
- The 64 credits required for completion of the Programme are distributed between Core courses, specialised Elective courses, a summer internship (2 credits) and an MA dissertation (8 credits).
- Students have the option to exit the MA programme with a postgraduate diploma in Human Ecology after completing two semesters and the summer internship, subject to the assessment rules of the School.
- Students are required to take up an independent research project under a designated faculty supervisor at the end of Semester III, which will lead to a dissertation. Assessment is based on a written dissertation thesis and a viva voce.

Teaching Methodology

Class lectures are combined with workshops, seminars and field projects with an emphasis on analytical skills, oral and written communication and field based research. Students are required to read extensively, write regularly and be available for field-based learning.

Faculty

The faculty at SHE deploy their core training in disciplines such as ecology, history, economics, anthropology, planning and geography to carry out interdisciplinary teaching and research on the interface of human society, non-human beings and the biophysical environment. SHE also has a distinguished list of Adjunct and Visiting Faculty from the academic and practitioner community.

Assessment and Evaluation

The MAED programme follows a system of continuous assessment. Students are expected to be regular in attending classes, workshops and other educational exercises as assessments are held continuously throughout the semester. Students are evaluated and graded on the basis of a variety of assessment situations including written tests/examinations, take-home assignments, term papers, class participation and discussion, presentations, field-based projects and independent study. The mode and pattern of assessment differs from course to course. The purpose of assessment and evaluation at SHE is to facilitate academic learning and supplement it with practical understanding and hands-on exposure.

Careers

The MAED programme has a very high rate of placement, and students graduating successfully from the MAED programme have secured employment in government agencies, academia, research organizations, think tanks, non-governmental organisations, consultancy firms, civil society initiatives and the media. Several students have successfully obtained admission to programmes of higher study in India and abroad. Field based learning experiences and independent researches during internship and dissertation have contributed strongly to their success in the workplace

Total seats: 42

Medium of instructions: English

Fees:

Tuition fee of Rs.92,800/- (@Rs. 1450/- per credit i.e. Rs. 23,200/- per semester) + Rs.5000/- (one-time, refundable caution deposit) + Rs.500/- per semester for student welfare fund.

If a student opts for extra credits, an additional fee of Rs.1450/- per credit.

Partial/Full fee waiver and scholarships are available. Full fee waiver of tuition fee will be extended to students belonging to SC/ST/PwD categories.

Instructions for Entrance Examination:

The entrance examination will test the candidate's general awareness of environmental and social issues, logic and reasoning abilities and quantitative skills. Candidates will also be tested for their ability to read, comprehend and interpret English language texts and write independently in English at a level appropriate for a postgraduate degree. The final selection for admission will be based on the performance of the candidates in the entrance test and personal interview conducted by the School.