

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS APPLYING
for
MA in Performance Studies

SCCE is visualised as a location that implements a new vision of art pedagogy and practice in the country. The School will provide a nurturing ground for the development of new and different art making practices and theoretical insights across the areas of Visual Art, Literary Art, Performance Art and Cinematic Art.

MA in Performance Studies at AUD is a unique programme and the first of its kind in India. In the present context of globalized culture and its products to study it in transition and to reconnect with the society, Performance Studies has been established as a discipline in many renowned universities. "Performance Studies" is an interdisciplinary field of research that draws on the social sciences, the humanities, art and theatre. It focuses on the pervasiveness of performance as a central element of social and cultural life, including not only theatre and dance but also such forms as rituals and practices of everyday life, avant-garde performance art, popular entertainment, sports, political demonstrations and potentially any instance of expressive behaviour or cultural enactment. Thus, the programme aims to contribute to the development of engaged scholarship in the field with a unique perspective given the rich and varied experience situated in and informed by the culture and heritage of India. This program allows the students to develop a unique critical thinking in the field of performance, which can be further implemented in their own practice.

Structure:

The Programme is of two-year duration with four semesters. A semester is 16 weeks long. A course meeting for four credit hours a week for the duration of a semester enables students to earn four credits. Students should register for a minimum of 16 credits each term and need to earn 64 credits to complete the programme successfully. They may register for more credits on payment of extra fees.

All students of SCCE in the four different MA programmes offered need to take three common Foundational Courses, one each in the first three semesters, for 12 credits in total. In the spirit of fostering interdisciplinary learning they are encouraged to take four Elective Courses offered by the School or any other School in the University, one each in all the four semesters, for 16 credits in total. They need to take seven compulsory Core Courses pertaining to their respective discipline for 28 credits in total. Their MA Dissertation work in the final semester will earn them 8 credits.

Careers

On successful completion, graduates can pursue a broad range of careers. The choices could be as varied as the interests of the students. The basic thrust of the Programme is to push forward expertise and innovation in the field. They would be able to make use of the exceptional variety of critical thinking stimulated by a performance-based programme of study. This research-orientated MA programme would encourage the graduates to pursue further specialisation in the field in the form of MPhil/PhD, which in turn would create a new cluster of scholars as faculty, curators, performers, writers, directors, independent researchers and community activists in this emerging field with a strong social connect.

Medium of instruction: English

Eligibility: The minimum eligibility criterion is a Bachelor's degree in any discipline with pass marks (or an equivalent grade) from a recognised University. It is necessary that the candidates have reasonable exposure to the historical and formal elements of the art of performance and a keen interest in the critical analysis of performance. Candidates appearing for the final year examination of a degree can also apply.

Fees:

Tuition Fees: Rs. 25120 per semester (Rs. 1570 per credit)

Extramural Interface Cost: Rs. 5000 per year

Caution Deposit: Rs. 5000 (One-time, Refundable)

Student Welfare Fund: Rs. 500 per semester

If a student opts for extra credits an additional fee of Rs. 1570 per credit has to be paid.

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

Instructions for Entrance Examination:

The entrance test will generally check your familiarity with formal elements of various forms of performance, critical appreciation of performance genres, broad historical outlines of performance, and development of performance studies as an academic discipline (both in the Indian and international contexts). Since MA Performance Studies is designed as a specialization programme, some basic familiarity with the world of performance is expected. Those candidates who have had some sustained interest and/or experience in performance practice, watching, discussing and learning about performance formally or from elders and peers over the years, are encouraged to apply.

The question paper will consist of four parts:

- a) The first part will be multiple choice questions in which candidates may be asked to identify performances, genres, actors, nationality, language, historical period etc. They may be provided with verbal or visual clues. This section carries 15 marks.
- b) The second part consists of 10 short responses not exceeding 30 words each. This section carries 20 marks.
- c) The third section will consist of two short essays of 100 to 300 words (general themes related to performance). This section carries 20 marks.
- d) The final section will be a long essay of 500 to 800 words on a general topic related to performance. This section carries 20 marks.

Shortlisted candidates from the entrance test will then be interviewed.

Tips for preparation:

Candidates are advised to go through introductory literature on performance studies that is easily accessible online. (Richard Schechner, Victor Turner, Patrice Pavis).

Familiarity with key practitioners and artists and their contribution to artistic practice in the field of theatre, dance and music in contemporary times is also anticipated.

Knowledge and experience of watching, participating, reading about 'classical' and 'traditional' forms of theatre, dance and music genres in India will be useful for the entrance exam.

Candidates are encouraged to bring forth conceptual understanding and insights from their previous study, especially from the arts and social sciences.

Candidates are also advised to update themselves on recent developments and events in the fields of music, dance, theatre nationally and internationally.