

## MPhil and PhD Programmes in History AUD School of Liberal Studies 2019 Admission Cycle

**Medium of instruction:** English, and thesis must be written in English. Various forms of support are available through the university for building of language skills.

**Study seats available in 2019:** 10 MPhil seats and 5 PhD seats. *Reservation of seats in accordance with Government of NCT rules and instructions of the relevant AUD authority. There will be supernumerary seats available for international applicants: see related statements about foreign/international student admission.*

Reservation category	# MPhil seats	# PhD seats
Unreserved	1	0
OBC	7	3
SC	2	2
ST	0	0
Total seats	10	5

**Duration of the programme:** Normal duration/normal enrolment period of the MPhil Programme is two years (four semesters) and of the PhD Programme five years (ten semesters). This includes the period of required course work.

**Minimum eligibility:**

**For MPhil admission.** . . Master's degree in any field of the social sciences and humanities from a recognized institution with 55% marks or equivalent CGA. A relaxation in marks of 5% or an equivalent relaxation of grade is allowed for those belonging to SC/ST/OBC/ differently abled categories (DOPT/UGC list). Note that admission under OBC category is possible only for Delhi applicants.

**For PhD admission.** . . same as for admission to MPhil, plus MPhil degree (with thesis) in any field of the social sciences and humanities from a recognized institution.

**FEES in 2019 - 2020:** Rs. 1680 per credit for course work + Rs. 500 per semester for Student Welfare Fund + Rs. 5,000 refundable Security Deposit. After completion of required course work and until submission

of thesis for examination, candidates pay in every semester of enrolment a candidate fee (currently Rs. 6370/semester).

**SC, ST and differently-abled research scholars are exempt from tuition fees but they must pay the security deposit and SWF fees.**

For other candidates, partial/ full fee waivers are available based on income status, per university rules.

**STIPEND AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** Candidates who do not have JRF/SRF/other fellowship or who are not in regular employment receive an AUD fellowship (currently Rs. 8,000/month for PhD and Rs. 5,000/month for MPhil) as long as they receive (semesterly) reports of adequate academic progress. Other funds are made available to candidates for study/research/field work expenses upon application and approval of the relevant committees.

**HOSTEL:** AUD has a women's hostel at the Kashmere Gate (Lothian Road) campus and expects to have some hostel seats in 2019 - 2020 in its Karampura campus. Female research scholars may apply for available hostel seats.

### **ABOUT THE PROGRAMMES:**

The School of Liberal Studies offers admission on an annual basis to *MPhil and PhD Programmes in History*. Both programmes emphasize development of research competency. Research scholars shall acquire or improve skills for effective review of and engagement with scholarship (professional or expert literature) in their chosen areas of research. They are helped to discover and apply methodologies necessary to carry out original research through a variety of sources, be they written, oral, visual or material, with a view to evolving interdisciplinary and connected engagement with historical studies. Research scholars will actively contribute to the intellectual life of the University through regular communication about research work with faculty and fellow students. The main output of history research scholars' efforts will be a thesis (dissertation). In line with UGC guidelines, MPhil History scholars are expected to submit a thesis for examination within two years of their enrolment in the programme. PhD History scholars must submit theses within five (5) years of enrolment. Enrolment periods can be extended under conditions identified in the AUD MPhil and PhD regulations.

**Research specialization areas:** The following is a profile of the areas in which MPhil and PhD history research may be supervised.

- Medieval, modern and contemporary political, economic and social history of India and South Asia, with specific focus on Partition, labour, urbanization/urban society, gender, environment.
- Regional history, especially of Punjab, Northeast India and Rajasthan, and history of frontiers and borderlands.
- Oral history and memory studies.
- The sacred, religious consciousness and identity.
- History of science, medicine, disease and famine in South Asia.
- History of philanthropy, social duty and service.
- History of caste formations and relations and social exclusion/inclusion.
- History of Indian migrations and diasporas.
- History of empire, especially the British empire c. 1600 to 1960.
- Comparative history of political thought and political culture, especially Indian, European.

Specific information about programme faculty members' research interests and accomplishments can be found on the AUD website. It is crucial that there be a close match between a candidate's proposed area/topic of research and the expertise of one or more AUD faculty members. Co-supervision of a candidate by AUD faculty and an external expert is possible and advisable under some circumstances. *However, applicants should be aware that even an excellent research proposal/application could be rejected if the university lacks the 'in-house' capacity to supervise the candidate's research.* If particular programme faculty are already supervising many MPhil and PhD scholars (i.e., are nearing their designated supervisory capacity) and/or are tasked with heavy administrative and other teaching duties, they could be unavailable for supervision of new research scholars. Programme applicants will be informed about such circumstances as necessary during the admission process or after offer of admission. Some applications may be 'screened out' if it is evident that the proposed research cannot be competently supervised by the present faculty of AUD.

## **ABOUT COURSES AND SUPERVISION:**

**MPhil candidates** are required to complete four courses over two semesters for a total of 16 credits (see descriptions below). The candidates may be permitted to enrol in additional courses (adding to more than 16 credits) according to their research interests or particular

needs, and these course credits and grades will be combined with those of the four required courses in calculation of a programme grade average. However, MPhil candidates are expected to complete their course work requirements within one year of initial enrolment. The programme enrolment period (2 years) will not be extended in order to accommodate completion of additional courses or repetition of courses if a student does not pass them during the first year. Each and every required course must be completed with grade B ONLY or higher, or it must be repeated.

**Doctoral candidates** are required to complete courses in research methodology *even if they completed such courses or modules at the MPhil level*. Therefore, most history doctoral candidates are required, per recommendation of the Research Studies Committee of the School, to complete up to 16 credits of the courses prescribed for MPhil scholars. They are expected to complete the prescribed course or courses during the first year of enrolment with grades of B ONLY or higher in each. *The specific courses and credits prescribed a doctoral scholar shall depend on their academic background (for example, the field in which their postgraduate degree and/or MPhil was awarded) and particular skills demanded by their proposed research (for example, quantitative analysis skills, languages). Almost all doctoral candidates shall be required to complete SLS3HS003 (review essay of secondary literature: as SLS3HS053) and SLS3HS004 (primary sources essay: as SLS3HS054) during their first year under the direction of their provisional supervisor.*

Participation in course work presumes a scholar's residence in Delhi region during the academic year/learning sessions and the scholar's regular attendance of classes and related exercises. Exceptions could be made for scholars who are prescribed course work or 'pre-thesis' learning activities of a kind which cannot be fulfilled at AUD or which the Research Studies Committee specifically prescribes to be done in some other place/under special conditions.

A **Research Advisory Committee (RAC)** shall be constituted for each doctoral scholar within the first semester of their enrolment and for each MPhil scholar after s/he completes the required course work. The role of an RAC, which shall include the candidate's designated supervisor/s, is to advise the candidate and monitor his/her progress until completion of the degree.

The courses required for all MPhil History scholars and some doctoral scholars are as follows:

**SLS3H001: Historical Methods** (4 credits, in the Monsoon Semester).

**SLS3H002: Studying India's Past: Traditions and New Approaches** (4 credits, in the Winter Semester).

**SLS3H003: Research Paper I- Historiographical/Secondary sources** (4 credits, usually in the Monsoon Semester). This course does not involve classroom instruction. The candidate is matched to a faculty member who guides the candidate towards completing an essay of 2500 – 3000 words about the scholarship related to her/his proposed research topic. Doctoral candidates enrol for this course as SLS3HS053.

**SLS3H004: Research Paper II- Primary sources essay** (4 credits, usually in the Winter Semester). This course is transacted like SLS3HS003/53. The output is a research essay of 2500 – 3000 words on primary sources and research material. Doctoral candidates enrol for this course as SLS3HS054

Course work is followed by active research and writing of the dissertation/thesis. Every MPhil scholar is expected to defend a **thesis synopsis** within six months of completion of course work. Every doctoral scholar is expected to defend a synopsis within five semesters of enrolment. Every MPhil scholar and doctoral scholar is expected to pass a thesis **pre-submission presentation** 4 – 6 weeks before submission of the thesis for examination.

### **ABOUT THE ADMISSION PROCESS:**

To be considered for admission candidates must submit a **research proposal**, take a **written test** and participate in an **entrance interview**. SEE THIS WEBSITE FOR DATES OF ALL ADMISSION ACTIVITIES. These steps apply also to PhD applicants and to any candidates who have already been awarded JRF/SRF or similar competitive fellowship.

Applicants to both programmes must submit a research proposal at the time of online application. *Applications submitted without a proposal will not be considered. Written proposals found to be plagiarized will result in disqualification of the applicant.*

The **research proposal** (whether for MPhil or PhD) should be a statement of up to five double-spaced pages (1200 – 1500 words) inclusive of a formal bibliography or list of sources (single spaced). The proposal should clearly describe the theme/subject/area of the research;

it should provide information about scholarly work done (or not) in the area; it should provide information about the historical or geographical or conceptual framework of the proposed research; it should identify some research questions or intended objectives of the research; and it should comment on relevant/viable methodology (i.e., methods, techniques or practices that would help the researcher fulfil the identified research objectives). Applicants taking admission to the programmes will have opportunity to revise and refine their initial proposals.

A list of applicants eligible for taking the written examination, will be uploaded to the AUD website. The exam (2 hours) presumes an applicant's understanding of areas of historical knowledge featured in MA History programmes/syllabi of most Indian universities as well as general awareness of contemporary societal issues that 'have a history'. The question paper may contain questions for analysis, or that test reading comprehension (interpretation/analysis of a short text given in the QP), or that invite the applicant to comment on a published work of historical scholarship. Sample question papers can be found on this admissions webpage.

Applicants who reach the interview stage (following the written examination) will be invited to discuss their proposals with the interview committee/faculty group. While focusing on an applicant's research proposal, the interview could also be used to assess the candidate's understanding of historical issues and/or other relevant social sciences and humanities areas.

**On weightage of the admission components:** research proposal counts for 25% of total marks scored, the written test counts for 50%, and the interview counts for 25%. Applicants must score marks in (participate in) all of these activities to be considered. The university cannot pay for travel of applicants participating in the admission activities.

**For answers to questions contact the MPhil & PhD History Programmes Coordinator at [pcreshistory@aud.ac.in](mailto:pcreshistory@aud.ac.in).**

**Be sure to check the admissions website from time to time to confirm dates of admission events and to see lists of eligible applicants at each stage of the admission process.**

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