

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS APPLYING
for
MPhil and PhD in Comparative Literature and Translation Studies (CLTS)

The School of Letters, Ambedkar University Delhi, offers a range of interdisciplinary courses and programmes in the literary humanities that support, encourage and redefine the meanings of literature, culture, language and humanisms in historical and contemporary perspectives.

Tagore translated “Comparative Literature” into Bengali as “*visva sahitya*” or world literature. The choice of *sahitya* for literature reveals the possibilities of comparative studies of literature in our part of the world. Comparison is not just comparing disparate objects but nurturing a conceptual space in which the imagination can be confronted with otherness. The aim of the research programmes in CLTS in SOL is precisely to turn literature into an experience of that otherness, which both questions and redraws the sense of culture, nation and identity.

While close-reading skills in the original will be a key aspect of the comparatist–translator’s brief, researchers in our integrated MPhil and PhD programmes may also choose to bring literary studies in close dialogue with other disciplines from the humanities and social sciences. The programme encourages the practice of translation and recognizes its significance in ways that will promote the reading and dissemination of literatures in as many languages as possible, with a focus on Indian and South Asian literary cultures.

Currently supervision in the following research domains is available: theories of comparative literature, South Asian literary cultures (Bengali and Urdu), politics and aesthetics of translation, and minor literatures.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE:

MPhil: Total credits: 40

Semester 1: 8 credits (2 core x 4 credits)

Semester 2: 8 credits (2 electives x 4 credits)

Semester 2/3: 4 credits (synopsis/dissertation writing workshop)

Semester 3: 4 credits (Work in Progress seminar)

Semester 4: 16 credits (dissertation)

Core courses:

1. Research Methodology
2. Genealogies of Comparative Literature and Translation Studies

Electives (seminar/guided reading):*

1. Issues in Thematology: Minor Literature
2. Theory of Genres: Life Writing
3. Literatures of the Tribes of North East India
4. Translating South Asia: Problems in Translation, Linguistic and Cultural

* This is an indicative list.

MPhil/PhD: MPhil students having obtained a grade average of ‘A only’ (8.5 to 9.49 points on the AUD grade scale) in the MPhil coursework and having satisfied other requirements of the M.Phil. programme may be eligible for upgrading to the doctoral programme upon recommendation of the CLTS Faculty Research Committee and the Research Studies Committee of the School.

Direct PhD: In some cases, a direct PhD scholar may be asked to fulfil some coursework requirements.

Dissertation/Thesis:

The MPhil dissertation in the second year of the programme allows students to do independent research under supervision. The MPhil will focus on *one* question but attempt to harbour its possibilities as well as explore its depths. The MPhil lends itself to focussed philological-comparative work.

The PhD thesis will raise the student's fundamental question to the level of the humanities in general. There will be an option of submitting major translation work with substantial introduction in lieu of dissertation/thesis.

Medium of instruction: English

Eligibility:

MPhil: Postgraduate degree in a relevant discipline (such as Comparative Literature, Translation Studies, English, Cultural Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, Disability Studies) with at least 55% marks (50% for SC/ST/OBC of NCT Delhi only (non-creamy layer)/PWD) or equivalent grade from a recognised University.

Direct PhD: MPhil with at least 55% marks (50% for SC/ST/OBC of NCT Delhi only (non-creamy layer)/PWD) or an equivalent grade from a recognised university. Applicants without an MPhil but quality publications in a relevant field may also apply.

Fees:

Tuition Fee (during course work): Rs 1680 per credit.

Student Welfare fund: Rs 500 per semester.

Caution deposit: Rs 5000 (to be paid one time at the time of admission)

Research/Dissertation Fee: Rs 6370 (to be paid every semester after the course work is over).

Instructions for Entrance Examination and Interview:

MPhil:

1. Research proposal (1000 words) to be submitted with application (25%)
2. Written test (based on readings uploaded on AUD website) (50%)
3. Interview of selected candidates (25%)

PhD:

1. A research proposal (3000 words; with a substantial bibliography not included in the word count) to be submitted with the application (30%)
2. Written test (based on two general questions about the nature of the disciplines of Comparative Literature and Translation Studies and the candidate's own research question) (45%)
3. Interview of selected candidates (25%)