

School of Human Ecology

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi

(Established by the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi)

Lothian Road, Kashmere Gate, Delhi- 110 006

Bulletin of Information

Ph.D. Program in Human Ecology

Admissions 2020—2021

School of Human Ecology (SHE)

School of Human Ecology is one of the oldest schools of Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD), set up in 2009 as a first-of-its-kind interdisciplinary department focused upon issues of environment and society. Research and teaching at the School of Human Ecology brings together ideas, methodologies and toolkits from disciplines in the natural sciences and social sciences to understand interactions between the biophysical environment and human society.

The School's thematic focus areas include environmental change, biodiversity conservation, ecological restoration, rural and urban transformations, environmental and social impact assessment and public health. The School offers a full-time MA program in Environment and Development (MAED) and a full-time PhD program in Human Ecology.

Research at SHE deploys social science, ecological and geospatial methods, with the aim of understanding complexity and causality in the intertwined lives of humans and other species, to contribute to the 'big questions' of justice, well-being and sustainability in local, empirical contexts.

PhD Program in Human Ecology

The Human Ecology PhD program is designed to nurture early career scholars who will be able to conduct and lead high-quality and high-impact research in the disciplinary fields of Human Ecology. The program is guided by the idea that environmental concerns and challenges such as resource depletion, ecological degradation and conflicts result from complex interactions

of social and environmental factors; meaningful interventions therefore should be informed by disciplinary as well as cross-disciplinary expertise. The uniqueness of the PhD program stems from the synergistic linkages between the natural sciences and social sciences evident in the doctoral theses produced by graduates of the program.

Graduates of the program are employed in national and international research institutions and non-government organizations. Doctoral scholars currently enrolled in the program have developed valuable research profiles with active participation in prestigious conferences, academic bodies, and publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Program Details and Requirements

- The PhD program strictly adheres to the rules and regulations of the University Grants Commission, as they are enforced and revised from time to time. The current regulations in force can be found [here](#).
- The PhD program is guided by the research studies ordinance and regulations of the University, which can be found [here](#).
- Minimum duration of **three years** and maximum duration is **six years**. Extensions and relaxations are applicable as per Ph Regulations 2021 here.
- Doctoral candidates are required to complete a course work of **16 credits** in the first year (**two semesters**) of admission, including course(s) on Research Methodology. Course work is prescribed by the Research Studies Committee (RSC) of the School.
- Candidates already holding M. Phil. degree and admitted to the Ph.D. programme, or those who have already completed the course work in M.Phil. and have been permitted to proceed to the Ph.D. in integrated course, may be exempted by the School Research Studies Committee (RSC) from the Ph.D. course work. All other candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programme shall be required to complete the Ph.D. course work prescribed by the School.
- A doctoral supervisor is appointed from the School within a year of admission to the program. Experts and scholars with academic credentials from outside the School or university can be appointed as co-supervisors in case the candidate requires additional or specialized guidance.

- A Research Advisory Committee (RAC) is appointed for every candidate, with the supervisor as the convener of the committee. The RAC advises the candidate and monitors her/his progress in the PhD program.
- Every candidate is expected to complete the **six milestones** of the PhD program
 - Course work
 - Presentation and defense of a research synopsis
 - Pre-submission presentation
 - Pre-submission requirements of conference presentations and publication
 - Production of an original thesis
 - Viva-voce examination of the PhD thesis

Fees

- Rs. 1,680/- per credit for Course Work, and
- Rs. 6,370/- per semester during Research/ Dissertation
- Rs. 500/- per semester for Student Welfare Fund
- Rs. 5,000/- as refundable Security Deposit
- Partial/full fee waivers are available as per University norms.

Stipend for Research Scholars

- At present, all PhD candidates who are not drawing any other scholarship/ fellowship are eligible for a stipend of Rs. 16,000/- per month for a maximum duration of **three (03) years**, subject to satisfactory work progress in every semester. The amount and duration may be revised by the University from time to time.
- “AUD Research Excellence Scholarship” will be awarded to 25 meritorious candidates in the University, commensurate with UGC-JRF (Social Sciences and Humanities) fellowships. Other scholarships and research internships may be announced by the university from time to time.
- PhD candidates may be employed as Teaching Assistants subject to need of the School and the approval of their supervisors and Chair RSC. Teaching Assistants will be paid a remuneration as per University norms.

Hostel

- AUD has about 40 seats for women candidates in its hostel at Kashmere Gate
- Details of admission to the hostel can be found [here](#).

Admission to the Ph.D. Programme (2020—2021)

Potential applicants to the PhD program are encouraged to familiarize themselves with research specializations at the School and get in touch with faculty members at the stage of applications. The research profiles of doctoral supervisors are available at <https://she.aud.ac.in/>

Areas of Research

- Applied Ecology
- Social and Political Ecology
- Biodiversity Conservation and Natural Resource Management
- Displacement, Resettlement and Rehabilitation
- Ecological Restoration and Urban Ecology
- Rural Change and Critical Agrarian Studies
- Remote Sensing, Land Use and Land Cover Change
- Environmental Impact Assessment
- Environment, Development and Public Health
- Indigenous Knowledge and Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Seats

- Total **07** | UR 04 | OBC 02 | SC 01 | Foreign Student (Supernumerary) 01
- Reservations are as per rules of the university and orders of the Government of NCT of Delhi, as applicable from time to time.
- Candidates' proposed research should align with the specializations of SHE faculty. The School reserves the right to decline admission to candidates in cases where the topic does not align with faculty specializations or the School does not possess the necessary infrastructural requirements/ laboratories.

Eligibility

- Master's degree or a professional degree declared equivalent to the Master's degree by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent grade in the ten-point scale or an equivalent degree from or its equivalent grade 'B' in the UGC 7-point scale (or an equivalent grade in a point scale wherever grading system is followed) or an equivalent degree from a foreign educational Institution accredited by an Assessment and Accreditation Agency which is approved, recognised or authorised by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country for the purpose of assessing, accrediting or assuring quality and standards of educational institutions.
- A relaxation of 5% of marks, from 55% to 50%, or an equivalent relaxation of grade, is allowed for applicants belonging to SC/ST/OBC (non-creamy layer)/ Persons with Disability categories.

Procedure for Admission

- The admission to the PhD program is based on a two-stage process consisting of an Entrance Test and a Personal Interview.
- Applicants are required to submit a Statement of Purpose and an original Research Proposal at the time of online application. The Statement of Purpose will be a brief note (maximum 500 words) outlining the applicants' research and career goals, and interest in the SHE PhD programme.
- The Research Proposal will be a write-up of up to five pages (Times New Roman; Font Size 12; 1.5 line spacing). It should give a background of the proposed research, its questions/ objectives, a description of the chosen conceptual frameworks, and the historical-geographical context of the research.
- Applicants are required to apply online on the admissions portal of the University with relevant documents.
- In view of the Covid-19 pandemic, the admission process, entrance test and interview will follow the format (online or offline) as decided by the University from time to time.

Applicants are strongly advised to regularly check the [University Admissions website](#) regularly for details, updates and modifications.

- The Entrance Test shall be qualifying with qualifying marks as 50%. The syllabus of the Entrance Test shall consist of 50% of research methodology and 50% shall be subject specific.
- The Entrance Test will comprise subjective and objective-type questions addressing contemporary issues at the interface of environment and society. Select readings for the Entrance Test will be circulated to applicants before the Test.
- An interview will be organized for the qualified applicants. The applicants are required to discuss their research interest/ area through a presentation of their research proposal before the Ph.D. Programme Faculty (RSC). The interview shall consider the following aspects, viz. whether
 - The applicant possesses the competence for the proposed research;
 - The research work can be suitably undertaken in the School;
 - The proposed area of research can contribute to new/ additional knowledge.
- The Entrance Test shall be of 70% weightage and performance in the interview shall carry a weight of 30%.
- The interview, the Entrance Test and exemptions from the Entrance Test are guided by the Regulations Relating to the Award of Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, 2021 that can be found [here](#).

Important Dates

- The timelines related to the admissions process, date of Entrance Test and Personal Interview, and venue of the Test and Interview, and declaration of merit list will be announced on the University admissions website.

Fees for Applications

- For SC, ST and PwD candidates: Rs. 340/-
- For UR, OBC and EWS candidates: Rs. 700/-

IMPORTANT

Please consult the [University admissions website](#) regularly for details and updates.

For any queries, write to **Dr. Budhaditya Das, Ph.D. Programme Coordinator, School of Human Ecology** at pcphdhe@aud.ac.in