

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

DEVELOPING LEADERS FOR SOCIAL CHANGE



Master of Arts in Development

(Brochure 2017-19)

Brief overview of the University



Azim Premji University was established under the Azim Premji University Act 2010 of the Government of Karnataka. Azim Premji Foundation, the sponsoring body set up the University as a fully philanthropic and not-for-profit entity, with a clear social purpose.

The availability of talent in education, development and allied social sectors in India today is grossly inadequate, given the scale, complexity of issues and the wide range of competencies required to work in these areas. Azim Premji University's key mission is to address this significant talent gap and prepare competent, motivated, socially committed graduates and enable them to engage with social sector and thereby contributing to social change.

The University started in 2011 and since then has admitted over 1500 students. It currently offers four postgraduate programmes with eight specialization options and an undergraduate programme with honors option. Four batches of postgraduate students have graduated and consistent with our social purpose, almost all of them work in various roles in the social sector contributing to the development of the country.

In a very short span of time, the University has built a team of 200 including faculty, administration and research. The University conducts several continuing education programmes, in collaboration with many state governments, for functionaries in the education and development domains.

Research is an important area of emphasis and the University Research Centre is currently engaged in several research projects in the Education and Development domains. In addition the University also hosts national and international conferences, seminars, workshops, public lectures and brings out resource material and publications in English, Kannada and Hindi as a contribution to India's school education.

About the Programme

The programmes follow a semester and credits based system, consisting of a set of essential core courses that develop foundational understanding and a wide range of elective courses (in the academic year 2016-17, we have more than 100 electives on offer).

Students can acquire specializations within the programme by choosing a specified set of electives within their area of specialization. Innovative curricular approaches include the option to design and conduct an "Independent Study". Students also have the opportunity to choose courses in areas like Art, Cinema, Music, Theatre, Sports, and Literature etc. to expand their area of interest.

Field practice is an integral component of the programme and students spend 16 weeks in field work at partner organizations engaged in different formats; Immersion, Internships, Research and Independent interventions, mentored and guided by faculty and field supervisors.

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES OVERVIEW

Postgraduate Programmes	
Programmes	Specialisations
<p>Master of Arts in Education (Two year, Full time, 72 credits)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Organization, Leadership and Management • Curriculum and Pedagogy • Early childhood education • Teacher Professional Development
<p>Master of Arts in Development (Two year, Full time, 72 credits)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livelihoods • Law, Governance and Policy • Public Health • Sustainability
<p>Master of Arts in Public Policy & Governance (Two year, Full time, 72 credits)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specializations being planned
<p>Masters' Programme in Law – LL.M. (One year, Full time, 36 credits)</p>	<p>Law and Development</p>



Unique and Challenging Learning Environment

The teaching and learning processes inside and outside the classroom are designed to ensure that students and faculty engage each other in dialogue and discussions so that they develop deep critical thinking and self-learning abilities.

Curriculum

Foundational understanding of the domain through core courses and over 100 electives for students to choose from. Open courses in Art and Craft, Music, Cinema, Literature, Science etc. going beyond the domain to cater to student interests.

Faculty

The faculty team of 130 comes with extensive experience in teaching, research and field practice. The high student teacher ratio of 1: 10 enables close support, mentoring and feedback. [Click here](#) for details on faculty profiles.

Integrated Field Practice

A mix of field experiences spread across all semesters consisting of Immersion visits, 6 week organizational internships, faculty mentored research projects and 8 week independent field projects.

Vibrant environment

Learning opportunities through various events - Weekly guest lectures, national and international conferences, workshops.

Learning from Diversity

Students from twenty five states, different educational and socio economic backgrounds, fresh and with work experience. Over 50 % of our students are women.

[We value and encourage this diversity and you will enjoy and learn with this experience](#)

Master of Arts in Development



*Development, broadly construed, refers to the creation of social conditions that secure and contribute to **individual and collective well-being in a sustainable and equitable manner**. A robust engagement with this domain needs a large number of persons with varied backgrounds, capacities and interests and an ethical outlook that provide inspiration for development action.*

The Master of Arts (M.A.) Development Programme at Azim Premji University aims to prepare individuals capable of informed and thoughtful development action, aware of the complexity, depth and scope of the discourse of development, its ethical imperatives and its implications for policy and action. They will be in a position to meaningfully contribute to meeting India's growing need for individuals who can engage with development challenges.

The key curricular objectives of the programme are

- Acquire core understandings in and across disciplines that inform the complexities of development.
- Critically relate these conceptual and theoretical frameworks to dimensions of development in areas such as health, education, livelihoods and sustainability
- Enable students to engage with lived realities of people and communities through field opportunities.
- Explore ethical dimensions of individual and collective agency in processes of development.

Programme Design

The M.A. Development is a full-time 2 year, 4 semester programme of 72 credits with credit distribution as follows comprising

- Core courses (Semester I and II) : 32 Credits
- Electives (Semester III and IV) : 24 Credits
- Field practice (All the semester) : 12 Credits
- Open courses (Any semester) : 4 Credits

SEMESTER I	SEMESTER II	SEMESTER III	SEMESTER IV
Sociology of Development	Law and Governance	Elective 1	Elective 6
Economics of Development	Theory and Philosophy of Development	Elective 2	Elective 7
Political Philosophy and Politics in India	Introduction to Research	Elective 3	Elective 8 OR
Ecology and Development	Social Interventions	Elective 4	Option of Independent Study
	Intro. to Education, Health and Livelihoods	Elective 5	
Open Course 1	Open Course 2		
Field Immersion (2 Credits)	Field Internship (4 Credits)	Field Project (6 Credits)	
20	22	15	15

Core Courses: The core courses will set the context and provide the theoretical and analytical background for understanding the key debates and issues in the domains associated with development. While some core courses are drawn from selected disciplines to help students to develop a deep understanding of the nature of development, other core courses are 'inter-disciplinary', and attempt to integrate the learnings in sociology, economics, politics and provide students an opportunity for transformative learning. Core courses are expected to provide adequate knowledge, skills and attitude to embark on a deeper exploration of specific themes and practices in development. These courses are mandatory for all students and are 3 or 4 credit ones.

Electives: The elective courses are designed to build knowledge bases – theoretical, practical or procedural -- in particular areas of development. They are meant to supplement and extend understanding acquired in the core areas through deeper engagement with specific aspects of developmental theory and practice. Typically, 40 – 50 electives are on offer each year. Electives could be 2, 3 or 4 credits

Field Practice: Field Practice forms an integral part of the M.A. Development programme. It helps develop a deeper understanding of the practical implications of the learning acquired through course work. The Field Practice allows students to reflect on their role as

change agents in the development domain and build skills for development action effectively.

Field practice is held in all the semesters, either during the semester or in the intervening period between semesters.

Type	Short Description
Weekly Practicums One Day per week	Practicums are field experiences comprising of an organized set of activities outside the classroom with the aim of embedding theoretical learning in practical experiences. Students also learn to work in groups.
Field Immersion, SEM I Two Weeks	Field Immersion is the first of the field experiences for the students in the M.A. Development programme. The focus is on immersing oneself, experiencing and connecting with the lived realities of the groups and communities, keeping in view the diverse profiles of the students and the fact that, for many, this will be the first time they will be engaging with communities as a learner. The Field Immersion is designed to enable the students to relate and engage with people in rural/urban/tribal communities, where they are expected to view it from an observer/student point of view rather than from that of an actual participant.
Field Internship End of SEM II Six Weeks	Students spend six weeks interning with an organization engaged in development action. This internship is designed in consultation with the host organization to help the students understand various development issues through on the ground field experiences. This practical experience of working with development organizations provides the students with skills and understanding that help them relate their course learning to real-world problems.
Field Project End of SEM III Eight Weeks	<p>The eight weeks Field Project is structured to offer the students a rich and rigorous field-oriented learning experience. Students are encouraged to focus on a specific development issue, identify specific areas of intervention or study, develop a proposal and implement it. The projects are mentored by faculty from proposal to final report.</p> <p>The field engagement work of the third semester will be linked to the students' areas of specialization. The work could take a variety of forms such as implementing interventions, research etc.</p>

Independent Study

Students can choose to do an independent study, in place of an elective, in the fourth semester. This gives students the freedom to go beyond a set syllabus and explore a topic of their interest in depth. They will have the freedom to define not just the topic of their study but also to shape the final work and the parameters for evaluation in consultation with their faculty mentor.

Specializations

Students have the option of choosing specializations through taking electives as well as doing their final semester independent field project from their specialization area. In total 18/72 credits should be from the specialization area. Currently, the specializations on offer are as follows and more may be added.

Students can also do a general programme, without opting for any specializations and in that may choose any elective, based on their interest.

Specialization	Description
<p><u>Public Health</u></p> <p>Specialization electives example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health, Medicine and Society • Understanding Health System and Policies • Essentials of Program Planning and Evaluation • Health, Nutrition and Education • Health Financing 	<p>Public health is central to development and is closely linked to the societal goals of equity, social justice and human rights. There is a need for training in perspectives and skills that enable public health professionals to be sensitive to the study of people, society, institutions and systems that produce and intervene in public health knowledge and practice. This specialization aim at promoting such a holistic understanding of public health locating it necessarily within the development narrative that is integrally connected with other development domains.</p>
<p><u>Livelihoods</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competencies for Livelihood Interventions • Livelihoods: Policies, Practices and Challenges • Understanding Livelihoods: Perspectives, Concepts and Theories 	<p>The specialization will enable students to critically engage with, and intervene in issues related to Livelihoods, such as poverty, resource crises and sustainability, livelihood security and diversification, migration, labour standards and regulations, financial inclusion, technological change and skills development. It will provide students with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills and competencies relevant to making a meaningful intervention to improve the livelihood conditions and prospects of the poor and disenfranchised.</p>
<p><u>Law, Governance and Policy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State and Governance : Concepts and Practices 	<p>The specialisation intends to create reflective development practitioners who can engage with institutions (local, national,</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Public Policy • Law and Social Transformation • Governance Challenges in India • Legal System reform • Governing Public Services in India • Law and Anthropology 	<p>international and global), policies, processes, and contexts involving the state, market, social movements, civil society organisations, and individuals. The students will be equipped to make meaningful interventions in academia, government, the legal system, the policy process and direct modes of social transformation.</p>
<p><u>Sustainability</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainability in Planning and Practice • Energy, Environment and Social Change • Agrarian concerns, Food security and Sustainability in modern India 	<p>This specialization will enable students to understand and engage with the national and global debates on sustainable development. Students are helped to understand the relationship between Nature, Society and Economy. It will provide students the means to gain depth and breadth in sustainability.</p>

Open Courses

A well-rounded and balanced curriculum that allows students to explore areas that focus on themes related to the arts, culture, the sciences and other subjects of topical interest. Students are required to study two courses from a wide range of subjects such as literature, arts, cinema, epics, science, history, dance etc. based on their interest. About 10-15 open courses are offered each semester.

Faculty

Our faculty come from disciplines such as Philosophy, Sociology, Law, Economics, Political Science, and a keen interest in applying this to the domain of development. Many of them also come with deep field experience in setting up and working with grass root organizations, Governments and other policy making institutions. This breadth allows us to offer several interdisciplinary courses as part of the curriculum. Apart from teaching they also are engaged in research projects, with policy issues, institutional reforms and other areas in Development.

Detailed profiles are available at - <http://azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/faculty-DEV>

Career Opportunities in Development sector

Currently, there is a great need for need for people who understand the domain of Development. Students with a M.A. Development degree can look forward to a variety of roles in organizations that work in the broad domain of Development in Health, Livelihoods, Agriculture, Urban issues etc. Some students also choose to do research or higher studies.

[Click here](#) to read more about our placements.

ADMISSIONS: Apply Now

We strive hard to ensure that students from disadvantaged economic, social, regional backgrounds can access quality higher education. This inclusion and diversity is important for us to realize our vision and purpose

- Admission tests and interviews in 30/15 locations, providing easy access
- Socio economically disadvantaged students are given additional scores in the admission process

Admissions are through a National Entrance Test (common for all the postgraduate programmes), followed by a personal interview for shortlisted students. The University may also decide to accept other entrance tests/ conduct more entrance tests if required.

Eligibility: Undergraduate degree in any discipline. Applicants completing their undergraduate degree in 2017 can also apply. We actively encourage applicants with prior work experience and provide additional weightage in the interview process.

- Online application at azimpremjiuniversity.apu.edu.in
- Last Date for Applications: **January 12, 2017**
- National Entrance Test : **January 22, 2017**

Contact Us

Website: azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/admissions

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<https://www.facebook.com/azimpremjiuniversity>

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