About Us, Our Vision and Mission

Azim Premji University was established by the Azim Premji Foundation, in 2010. The Foundation’s vision is to contribute to the realization of a just, equitable, humane and sustainable society. To realize this vision Azim Premji Foundation has been working since 2001 towards making deep, large scale and institutionalised impact on the quality and equity of education in India, along with related development areas.

The Foundation established the University for an explicit and clear social purpose, as a part of a larger strategy to contribute to the Education and Development sectors in the country.

Arising from the vision of education for social change, to realize a just, equitable, humane and sustainable society, the University aims to create outstanding and effective programmes that

- Prepare graduates with great competence, integrity and social commitment
- Expand the frontiers of knowledge in education, development and allied fields through research
- Support and enhance the work of the education and development sectors in the country through continuing education
- Contribute to change in policy and practice in the Indian education and development sectors through advocacy and public communication

Postgraduate Programmes Overview

The postgraduate programmes are full time, 2 year (4 Semester) programmes. The curriculum consists of core courses, electives and field practice. Students may choose specializations or do a general programme.

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<th>M.A. DEVELOPMENT</th>
<th>M.A. PUBLIC POLICY AND GOVERNANCE</th>
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<td>Early Childhood Education</td>
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Student Diversity

A community of students from over twenty five states, different educational and socio cultural backgrounds, fresh and experienced students. We value and encourage this diversity and you will enjoy and learn from this experience.
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, 32 Credits – In Semester I and II
- Electives, 24 Credits – Semester III and IV
- Open courses, 4 Credits – May be taken in any Semesters
- Field practice, 12 Credits– In all the Semesters
### 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.

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<th>Short Description</th>
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<td>Weekly Practicums</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>One Day per week</td>
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<td>Field Immersion, SEM I Two Weeks</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>Field Internship End of SEM II Six Weeks</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Project End of SEM III Eight Weeks</td>
<td>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. 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.</td>
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**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 specialisations through taking electives as well as doing their final semester independent field project from their specialisation area. In total 18/72 credits should be from the specialisation area. Currently, the specialisations on offer are as follows and more may be added.

Students can also do a general programme, without opting for any specialisations and in that may choose any elective, based on their interest.
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| **Health and Nutrition**  
Specialisation electives example:  
- Health and Development  
- Public Health: Policy, Planning, Programs  
- Measuring Development  
- Health, Nutrition and Education  
- Social Determinants of Health | Studies in health, health care and nutrition need to address some of the complex challenges India is facing today around health inequities, implementation challenges of health and nutrition programs and persistent malnutrition. The Health, Nutrition and Development specialization aims to offer a broader and integrated understanding of health by locating it within the larger development narrative and by necessarily engaging with multiple perspectives, approaches and methods. |
| **Livelihoods**  
- Competencies for Livelihood Interventions  
- Livelihoods: Policies, Practices and Challenges  
- Understanding Livelihoods: Perspectives, Concepts and Theories | 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. |
| **Law and Governance**  
- Law and Justice  
- Governance Challenges in India  
- Legal System reform  
- Welfare Rights in India | The Law and Governance specialization intends to create reflexive development practitioners who can sensibly engage with institutions (local, national, international and global), policies, processes, and contexts involving the state, market, social movements, civil society organisations, and individuals. |
| **Sustainability**  
- Sustainability in Planning and Practice  
- Energy, Environment and Social Change  
- Agrarian concerns, Food security and Sustainability in modern India | 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. |
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/SitePages/school-of-development-faculty.aspx

Student Support

We are committed to student learning, wellbeing and care. We provide extensive student support to ensure that students engage with the program fully and are able to realise their potential. A comprehensive set of support initiatives are offered on campus

- **Academic Support**: Language support, reading and writing classes, tutorials, dedicated faculty contact hours and workshops covering a range of support needs
- **Personal Wellbeing**: Counselling and Medical services, Self-Development programmes etc.

Financial Support

We provide extensive financial support for deserving students. Financial support is based on family income

- **Scholarships**: Full (100%) or part (70%, 50%) for tuition fees, accommodation and food charges
- **Educational loans**: Facilitated by the University through bank tie ups
- **Insurance**: All students are covered under illness, accidents and life insurance
- **Monthly living support**: In very exceptional cases, facilitated through project based work opportunities on campus.
- Applicants with work experience may be considered for additional support.

Career Opportunities and Placement

Currently, there is a great 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.
Central to realizing our vision is to see our students engaged with the social sector after they graduate. For the third year running, the University has had very healthy placements. 420 students have successfully graduated so far and many of them are currently working in NGO’s, corporate social responsibility units, research institutions, schools etc.

**The dedicated placement cell at the University comprises students and faculty mentors. They provide active support by way of workshops, panel discussions, career counseling sessions, and skill development.**

**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 realise 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.

**Eligibility**: Undergraduate degree in any discipline. Applicants completing their undergraduate degree in 2016 can also apply.

We actively encourage applicants with prior work experience and provide additional weightage in the interview process.

- Online application at azimpemjiuniversity.apu.edu.in
- Last Date for Applications: **January 28, 2016**
- National Entrance Test: **Feb 14, 2016**

**Contact Us**

Website: azimpemjiuniversity.edu.in/admissions

E-mail: admissions@apu.edu.in; Call 1800 843 2001

https://www.facebook.com/azimpemjiuniversity

https://www.youtube.com/user/AzimPremjiUniversity

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