MASTER OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT (2020-22)

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES
Developing Leaders for Social Change
What is Development?

If you ask an ordinary person on the street about what is development, she will tell you about her dream of a good house, good education for her children, peaceful life, safe and secure place, pollution free air and water, and so on. On the other hand, if you ask the same question to the head of your Municipality, or city corporation, you may hear that development means good roads, good transport, new market places, metro rail, etc. If you ask a person working in the corporate world, you may hear that development means double digit economic growth, roaring stock markets, world class infrastructure, comfortable foreign exchange savings, export surplus, etc.

For Azim Premji University, development constitutes improving social, economic, political and ecological conditions in which every human being of the present and future generations can live with dignity, peace, fraternity, happiness, equity, justice and within nature’s tolerable limits.

M. A. Development Programme at Azim Premji University is built around these values and principles.
M. A. Development

This two year programme prepares students to work for social change. The programme

- Enhances capability to understand and question the status quo, and dream about an alternative desired future
- Develops capabilities for analysis and reflection
- Exposes students to ground realities in multiple settings through field practice – people’s lived realities, organisations working on development issues, social movements, and others

Courses are taught by academics and practitioners. Students will learn through class room lectures and discussions, workshops, games and simulations, and time spent in the field observing and understanding people’s lived realities. Students will learn to express their ideas and work through writing, films, photography, posters and oral presentations.
8 core courses in the first year

- Indian Economy and Development
- Sociology of Modern India
- Ecology and Development
- Foundations of Social Research and Reasoning
- State, Democracy and Civil Society
- Theories and History of Development
- Methods for Social Research and Action
- Social Interventions

Field Practice

- 2 week Field Immersion during first semester
- 6 week Summer Apprenticeship after second semester
- 8 week Winter Field Project after third semester
- Field learning in many electives

Assessment and Grading

- Continuous assessment through multiple tests, assignments, and presentations.

50-60 electives in the second year

Elective change from year to year. Some examples:

- Agrarian Concerns, Food Security and Sustainability
- Sustainability in Planning & Practice
- Competencies for Livelihood Interventions
- Environmental Justice
- Financial Inclusion
- Health, Medicine and Society
- Food Nutrition and Society
- Poverty: Concepts, Measurement and Critiques
- Programme Planning, Implementation and evaluation
- Water: Resource, History, Management and Challenges
- Women and Work
- Work, Labour and Informality

Academic Support

- English language support course
- Quantitative Skills course
- Supplementary workshops on emerging issues
Our faculty come from diverse backgrounds and expertise (such as Economics, Sociology, Anthropology, Political Science, Ecology, Public Health) and with long standing experience in the world of development practice.

The faculty members provide a vibrant class room learning environment through a range of pedagogies including simulation games, power walk, role play, student seminars etc. Faculty members provide academic mentoring support to the students beyond the class rooms.

We have students from 20+ states, diverse socio-economic backgrounds and different previous degrees (ranging from literature to sociology, mass communication, engineering and social work).

We offer 50% tuition waiver for those with at least 3 years of prior work experience
**Student Life**

Our diverse student population, clubs, student committees, sports and other initiatives have created a vibrant community life for our students.

**Financial Aid**

Azim Premji University has an explicit commitment towards supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds. We provide financial assistance for deserving students to pursue their education with us. We offer need based scholarships (both full and partial) and facilitate education loans for students.

We offer 50% tuition fee waiver for those with at least 3 years of prior work experience.

**Placement**

Over 300 organizations have participated in our campus placements so far, and the number is increasing. These range from large NGOs, small grassroots organizations, research and advocacy institutions, CSR organisations, quasi-government institutions, schools, etc.

90% of our students are working in the social sector, reflecting their social commitment. They are in roles such as programme officers, managers, supervisors, domain specialists, etc. Some alumni have set up their own social enterprises, and some are pursuing higher studies or fellowships.

**Student Support**

We invest time and resources to ensure overall student well-being, in many ways:

- High faculty-student ratio
- Tutoring and mentoring
- Career guidance
- Peer counseling
National Entrance Test and Interviews:  
February-March 2020

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