



Azim Premji
University

Master of Arts in Education (2019-21)



POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Developing Leaders for Social Change

About 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 trained professionals in education, development and allied social sectors in India 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.

The University started in 2011 and since then has admitted over 2000 students. It currently offers four postgraduate programmes; M.A Education, M.A. Development, M.A. Public Policy and Governance & LL.M. in Law and Development. We offer Undergraduate Degrees in Social Science, Science, Humanities and a Dual Degree in Science and Education. Six batches of postgraduate students have graduated and consistent with our social purpose, almost all of them work in the social sector.

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.

In a very short span of time, the University has built a team of 200 dedicated people engaged in teaching, research and administration.

Postgraduate Programmes

The postgraduate programmes follow a semester and credit-based system. The Curriculum consists of a set of essential core courses, a wide range of elective courses, a well-structured field engagement and Open courses.

Core Courses develop foundational understanding of the domain (Education, Development, Public Policy). In the second year of study, option to focus on sub domains/ themes by choosing a specified set of electives. In the academic year 2017-18, more than 100 theme-based electives were on offer. Students can also opt to do an Independent study in lieu of one elective course.

The Integrated Field engagement is a mix of projects and internships spread across all semesters.

Students have to do two open courses which provide them with an opportunity to expand their horizons by exploring areas outside the main curriculum. The open courses are on a wide range of subjects relating to art, cinema, music, theatre, science, history, sports, literature etc.

M.A. Programmes at Azim Premji University

<u>Master of Arts in Education</u> (Two year, Full time, 72 credits)	The M.A. Education programme seeks to provide students with a rigorous and challenging educational experience aiming to develop sound theoretical grounding and the capabilities and competencies required to work in the field of education. The program also offers the opportunity for students to further focus on sub domains within Education.
<u>Master of Arts in Development</u> (Two year, Full time, 72 credits)	The M.A. Development programme aims to prepare individuals capable of informed and thoughtful development action, aware of the complexity, depth and scope of development, its ethical imperatives and its implications for policy and action. Students can meaningfully contribute to meeting India's growing need for individuals who can engage with diverse development challenges. The program also offers the opportunity for students to further focus on sub domains within Development.
<u>Master of Arts Public Policy & Governance</u> (Two year, Full time, 72 credits)	The M.A. Public Policy & Governance programme exposes students to a grounded understanding of theoretical frameworks, practical challenges and institutional arrangements that are important to a holistic understanding of public policy. The Programme also develops the ability to devise and use diverse research methods to evaluate public policies.

Master of Arts in Education



Education is so closely associated with people's lives that every individual in the society holds a view about it. However, one begins to recognize the complexity when we discuss the specific problems facing public education in India such as differential access to schooling, problems of infrastructure, lack of quality teaching, children's learning problems and so on, among others.

The Master of Arts (M.A.) Education Programme at Azim Premji University is a broad-based programme of study that includes theory, practice, research, policy and planning in Education. It aims to preparing people with good understanding of education, capabilities for action and deep social commitment.

The structure of curriculum with core and elective courses ensures that the students are initiated into thinking and studying the whole range of educationally important areas of knowledge as well as get a chance to focus in the area of their interest. Therefore, most of the students go out with an enquiring mind, a set of capabilities to act and to work for social justice in the society.

The key objectives of the programme are:

- ✓ **Understanding educational theory:** Introduce students to theoretical approaches in Education
- ✓ **Understanding educational practices in Indian school education:** Help understand educational practices, policies, settings and contexts.
- ✓ **Implementing independent educational interventions:** Develop capabilities to plan and implement independent educational interventions
- ✓ **Nourishing professional development:** Build capabilities for self-learning and self-motivated professional development.

Programme Design

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

- Core courses (Semesters I and II) : 32 Credits
- Electives (Semesters III and IV) : 26 Credits
- Field practice (All the semesters) : 10 Credits
- Open courses (Any semester) : 4 Credits

SEMESTER I	SEMESTER II	SEMESTER III	SEMESTER IV
Philosophy of Education- 1	Philosophy of Education- 2	Curriculum and Pedagogy Elective 1	Elective - 6
Child Development and Learning- 1	Child Development and Learning-2	Curriculum and Pedagogy Elective 2	Elective – 7
Sociology of Education	Introduction to Research	Elective – 3	Elective – 8 or Independent Study
Educational Policy and School Systems	Curriculum Studies	Elective – 4	
Comparative History of Education	Political Economy of Education	Elective – 5	
Open Course	Open Course	Open Course	Open Course
Field immersion (2 Credits)	Research (2 Credits)	Field Project (6 Credits) across 3 rd and 4 th semesters	
20	20	15	17

Note: Students are required to take elective courses worth 24 credits including the curriculum and pedagogy electives. They can opt any number of electives that meet this requirement

Core Courses (32 credits): The core courses will introduce students to key issues in educational thinking and practice. Courses are designed to help students understand education in general as well as in a large democratic, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-religious society. The idea is to introduce students to issues, problems, key ideas of investigation in each area of study. These courses are mandatory for all students and are 3 or 4 credit ones.

Electives (26 Credits): The elective courses are designed to build knowledge bases – theoretical, practical or procedural -- in particular areas of education. They are meant to supplement and extend

understanding acquired in the core areas through deeper engagement with specific aspects of educational theory and practice. Typically, 40 – 50 electives are on offer each year. Electives could be 2, 3 or 4 credits.

Some of the areas covered by the elective courses are Pedagogy of specific subject area, Curricular material development, Early Childhood care and Education, Assessment, Class, Caste and Gender, School Leadership and Management, Teacher Professional Development, Language and Education, Educational Decentralization and Governance, Education Policy and Programmes Etc.

Students are required to opt for at least two compulsory electives in the same subject areas from Social Sciences, Mathematics, Science or Language and Literature.

The first compulsory elective will focus on the nature, method and content while the second will focus on curricular and pedagogical content knowledge. This understanding of the interaction between school curriculum, subject knowledge and Pedagogy is essential for educational practice. The remaining electives may be chosen

- A. from the set of courses offered within a focus area
- B. opt for electives from full range of courses on offer without choosing a focus area

Focus area: The focus area comprises of a set of three elective courses spanning the 3rd and 4th semesters. These taught courses constitute a total of 10 credits. Focus areas will also require students to do their third semester six credit field internship/projects in that chosen area. Apart from these three courses they can take up other electives of their choice to accrue the remaining 16 credits as required for the elective courses.

Some of the focus areas on offer are:

- Science Education
- Mathematics Education
- Social Studies Education
- Language and Literature Education
- Early Childhood Education
- Teacher Professional Development
- School Organisation and Leadership.

Each year only a limited set of focus areas will be available for students to choose from. This will also subject to a minimum number of students opting for a particular focus area.

Independent Study: Students can choose to do a faculty guided independent study, in the fourth semester. This gives students the freedom to go beyond the 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.

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. [Click here](#) for details on Open Courses.

Field Practice: Engagement with field practice forms an integral part of this Programme. It attempts to help students develop a deeper understanding of the implications of the theoretical and conceptual ideas being developed in the programme. The objective is to expose students to a variety of field settings in Indian educational contexts in order to sensitize them to issues related to the practice of education. 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 an organized set of activities outside the classroom with the aim of embedding theoretical learning in practical experiences. They run in parallel with the courses and students learn to conceptualize, plan and implement, critically examine some of the practices in various institutions. They also learn to work in groups.
Field Immersion, SEM I, Two Weeks	The key objective of the first semester field engagement is to provide students with exposure to different levels of the government education system and to offer first-hand experience. They will be provided with a variety of alternatives in terms of levels and contexts of exposure to the different structures, processes and activities that are important parts of the education system.
Research Project SEM II Two Weeks	The primary objective is to provide students a chance to work independently on a research project. They will be in field settings, conducting and recording observations and interviews, to complete a small, supervised research project. All phases of the research project from conceptualization to implementation, analysis and writing will be completed through guidance received through the "Introduction to Education Research" course.
Internship Project SEM III and IV Six Weeks	This is aimed at providing students a focused opportunity to work on a specific issue/problem related to the practice of education. The work will develop capacities in students in all phases of a project from reading and planning, to implementation, analysis and reflection, and oral as well as written reporting. The work could take a variety of forms such as Research, Teaching, Internship and Curriculum Development. Each student will have a mentor at the placement institution, along with the University faculty member.

Faculty

Our faculty come from disciplines such as Philosophy, Sociology, Psychology, History, Political Science, Organizational studies and a keen interest in applying this to the domain of education. Many of them also come with a deep field experience in setting up and running schools, working with grass root organizations, government educational programmes etc. 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 Education. Students will also benefit from the University's close association with Azim Premji Foundation which has been working with eight State Governments in India in shaping and implementing policies and programmes in the primary education sector.

Detailed profiles are available at: <http://azimpremiuniversity.edu.in/faculty-EDU>

Career Opportunities in Education sector:

There is a pressing need for people who understand education and can assume a variety of responsibilities ranging from classroom teaching, policy formulation, theoretical or conceptual analyses in education.

Students with an M.A. Education can thus look forward to roles in organizations that work in the broad domain of education; NGOs working in the implementation of educational programmes in the public and private space, in design and development of teaching learning materials connected to the school curriculum, as researchers with educational / policy work institutions, teacher educators in teacher training institutions, schools / school chains both mainstream and alternative, early childhood centres etc. Some students also choose to be school teachers or pursue higher education opportunities.

[Click here](#) to read more about our placements in the Education sector.

[Click here](#) to see a video of an NGO formed by our Alumni to enable the educational inclusion of the migrant 'out of school' children.

Unique Learning Environment

The teaching and learning processes at Azim Premji University are designed to ensure that students and faculty engage each other in dialogue and discussions so that students develop deep critical thinking, self-learning abilities and capabilities for social action. We offer a unique and vibrant environment with multiple opportunities for learning beyond the classroom.

Courses

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. to expand the students' horizon.

Faculty

The faculty team of 130 comes with extensive experience in teaching, research and field practice. The teacher-student 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, organizational internships, faculty-mentored research projects and independent field projects.

Vibrant Environment

An engaging class room experience with interactive pedagogic tools. Learning opportunities through various events - weekly colloquiums, national and international conferences, workshops etc.

Learning from Diversity

Students come from almost all states of India with different educational and socio-economic backgrounds, fresh undergraduates and those with work experience. Over 50 percent of our students are women.

We value and encourage this diversity and you will enjoy and learn with this experience



ADMISSIONS

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

[Apply now](#) for the programme commencing in 2019. Admissions are through a National Entrance Test, followed by a personal interview by faculty 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 2019 can also apply. We actively encourage applicants with prior work experience and provide additional weightage in the interview process.

Financial assistance: Azim Premji University has an explicit commitment towards supporting students from disadvantaged backgrounds. We offer need based scholarships (both full and partial) and facilitate education loans for students.

Working professionals are encouraged to apply and we provide 50% tuition fee waiver for candidates with 3 years of work experience

Apply now at www.azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/apply

National Entrance Test and Interviews: February/March 2019

Contact Us

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