MASTER OF ARTS IN DEVELOPMENT (2021-23)

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 classroom 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.
Core Courses
There are 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

Electives
There are 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

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.

Academic Support
• English language support course
• Quantitative skills course
• Supplementary workshops on emerging issues
Our Faculty

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 classroom 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 classrooms.

We have students from 25+ 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.
Selection Process:

Eligibility: Graduation in any discipline
National Entrance Test: Mar 2021
Personal Interviews: Apr 2021

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 economically disadvantaged students. The University provides extensive scholarships, based on the family income of the students.

- Students with an annual family income of less than 7 lakhs are eligible for different levels of scholarships.
- These scholarships are applicable on both Tuition and Accommodation.

In addition, we offer 50% tuition fee waiver for candidates with minimum 3 years of work experience after graduation.

Placement

Every year, a large number of organizations participate in our campus placements process ranging from large NGOs, small grassroots organizations, research and advocacy institutions, quasi-government institutions, etc. Over 90% of our students choose to work in the social sector.

As of 2020, we have over 1000 alumni working in different parts of the country. They are working in roles such as programme officers, managers, supervisors, domain specialists, and others. Some alumni have set up their own social enterprises, and some are pursuing higher studies or fellowships.