

Azim Premji University  
Bengaluru  
Information Brochure

Right to Information Act 2005

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# Right to Information Act 2005

## 1. Introduction

This Information brochure is prepared in order to provide relevant information about the Azim Premji University in line with the requirements of the Right to Information Act 2005. It is intended to make information accessible suo moto to the public.

## 2. Background

Azim Premji University is part of Azim Premji Foundation. Azim Premji Foundation's vision is to contribute towards a more just, equitable, humane, and sustainable society as envisaged in the Constitution of India. The Foundation does extensive and deep 'on-the-ground' work across the country – both directly through its own operations and through partners. The work spans education to other important areas of equity and human well-being.

In order to concretize this vision, Foundation has established three institutions - Field Institutes, Azim Premji Universities and Philanthropy.

### **Field Institutes and 'On-the-ground' work**

The Field Institutes are district-level institutions that work in collaboration with the government school systems in respective states on improving the capacities of teachers, school leaders, teacher educators, and other education functionaries to strengthen the public-school education system, with a focus on the more disadvantaged regions of the country. As of January 2024, we work in 57 districts across 7 states and 1 union territory.

Several Field institutions also have Azim Premji schools – 9 such schools are spread across India. Azim Premji Schools are an integral part of the vision for improving K-12 education in India through quality education with an emphasis on instilling constitutional values through teaching-learning practices, both within and beyond the classroom.

In recent years, some Field Institutions have also started working in the domains of health and livelihoods 'on-the-ground'. The health work aims to strengthen the public health system and also establish primary health clinics, secondary and tertiary hospitals, and medical colleges. The livelihoods work aims to strengthen livelihoods of disadvantaged groups in the central parts of the country.

### **Philanthropy**

Azim Premji Philanthropy provides financial support through multi-year grants to not-for-profit organizations (NPOs) who work for the most disadvantaged and marginalized people in our society.

These include urban poor (homeless, manual scavengers, rag pickers, migrant workers, elderly), people with disability, survivors of gender violence, adolescents at risk, children in need of care, marginal farmers, landless labourers and tribal communities. To these vulnerable groups, the grants offer immediate care, access to essential services, and the possibility of a dignified future.

The Philanthropy also engages in systematic collaboration with State Governments and not-for-profit organizations to address large scale humanitarian and development challenges through primarily a governance lens. Illustratively, reducing child malnutrition, offering legal access to under-trials, strengthening local democratic institutions, welfare delivery, rescuing lost, runaway or trafficked children at major railway junctions and improving livelihoods of small farmers through agro-ecological farming practices. In this space, the grants build capacity of stakeholders, strengthen existing Government service delivery systems in addition to providing access to immediate care and services for the vulnerable.

### **Azim Premji Universities**

The Foundation is building a network of universities to contribute to capacity development and research for the social sector.

Azim Premji University, Bangalore was established in Karnataka by the Azim Premji University Act 2010 as a not-for-profit University. The University was founded as one of the key responses to the constraints and challenges that the Foundation encountered in education and as part of a larger strategy to contribute to the education and development sectors in the country. The University offers Bachelors, Masters and Diploma level teaching programmes, conducts research, and engages with the world of practice. There are close linkages between the work in the field and the Universities to ensure a strong two-way connection between theory, research and actual practice.

Azim Premji University, Bhopal is the second University established by Azim Premji Foundation in the year 2023.

### **Guiding Principles**

Two key principles guide the process of the University's continued evolution. Firstly, the University exists to make significant contributions to education in a manner consistent with social justice, equity, humane values and sustainability within the framework of a secular and democratic Indian polity. This commitment to a specific value orientation is not to be interpreted as a narrowly utilitarian view of the University and is at all times, consistent with academic and institutional autonomy and excellence.

Secondly, the University, though constituted as an independent entity, is organizationally continuous with and integral to Azim Premji Foundation's vision. This intimate and unusual linking of the two organizations creates valuable synergies. The close working of the University with the Foundation and its practice informs all learning and research programmes. The Foundation and its teams in turn gain from the interaction with a vibrant academic community that contributes rigour and focus to the field of practice.

### **Goals**

The objectives of the University are:

- To develop outstanding, creative and socially committed professionals for the education and development sectors in India.
- To significantly invest in research to expand the frontiers of knowledge in education and development and continuously stretch the boundaries of our thought and action.
- To contribute to strengthening existing professionals in the education and development domains by creating high quality continuing education programmes and learning content.
- To significantly impact practice in the areas of education and development in the country.
- To serve as a national education and development resource centre.

The Foundation operates as an integrated organisation, with the Field Institutions, Philanthropy, and Universities as the three operating units working seamlessly together in a complementary manner.

### 3. Azim Premji University, Bangalore

Azim Premji University, Bangalore was established by Azim Premji Foundation in 2010 as a State Private University in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

The University has an explicit social purpose to contribute towards a more just, equitable, humane and sustainable society.

The University aspires to do this through the development of talent and the creation of knowledge which can facilitate systemic change in education and allied development areas. This is an explicit commitment to the idea that knowledge and learning have human and social consequences and that their pursuit cannot be separated from these consequences.

#### 3.1 University Act

The University was established under the Government of Karnataka Act number: 14 of 2010, The Azim Premji University Act 2010.

The full text of the Act is available on the university website under the Governance Section.

#### 3.2 Programmes

The University offers Undergraduate, Postgraduate, and Executive Education Programmes.

Details of the programmes are available at the University website

<https://azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/programmes>.

Our programmes are designed through a rigorous process to ensure high academic standards and quality. Each programme is subject to a thorough review and evaluation.

The programmes are designed such that both fresh students and working professionals can benefit from an exciting learning environment. Our faculty members are reputed academicians as

well as practitioners with years of rich, on the ground experience. The curriculum is modern, multi-disciplinary and contextually relevant.

Students at the University experience a vibrant and engaging learning environment with:

- An enriching blend of theory and practice that informs the curriculum, learning processes, field work and institutional design at all levels.
- A faculty group of leading academicians and practitioners who integrate academic rigour with real world experience.
- A supportive yet challenging culture of enquiry and discovery.
- Curated practice components (field immersions, internships, projects), integrated tightly with the learning objectives of each program
- 'Creative Expressions' courses in music, dance, woodwork, sports, etc., to provide an opportunity for students to explore working with their hands and feet and develop creativity

The curriculum of the programmes is available on the website.

### 3.3 Admissions

The selection procedure for degree programmes is based on a written test and interviews. The admission tests are held at various centres throughout the country on dates which are announced in advance. Depending on the number of seats available in each program, a certain number of students who clear the written test are invited for interviews. .

Information on the qualification and admissions criteria for each programme is available on the University website.

### 3.4 Faculty

The University has a diverse group of faculty members who are highly accomplished in their respective areas of work. Their research is published in reputed academic journals, books, reports and policy briefs. Many of the faculty have personally contributed to the social sphere and their work has been on the cutting edge of education and development policy, research and Our faculty are committed to high standards of teaching and learning at the university, bringing an enriching blend of theory and practice that informs the curriculum, learning process, fieldwork and institutional design at all levels. They use a variety of devices to facilitate learning, such as direct instruction, classroom discussions, group work, peer learning, lab work, field work, journaling and more. All faculty members are available to students for one-on-one office hours.

Profiles of faculty members are available on the website under the 'people' section.

### 3.5 Financial Assistance

The University provides financial assistance to deserving candidates based on family income. The financial assistance will be given in the form of fee waivers (not in the form of cash) to cover the tuition and accommodation expenses. In exceptional cases, the University also provides financial

assistance towards food expenses. Financial assistance is provided entirely at the discretion of the University.

The different types of financial assistance are as follows:

- Assistance or tuition, accommodation and food, in part or full
- Facilitating educational loans
- All students in full-time degree programs are covered under group insurance for hospitalization, accident and life, without extra charge.

### 3.6 Student Support

The University provides a range of student support services, that enable students realise their full potential. The Academic Resource Centre (ARC) that helps students improve English language fluency, academic reading and writing, quantitative competencies, etc. In addition, students in full-time degree programs are assigned faculty mentors to guide them through their time at the University. The mentoring programme acts as a safety-net for those students who are struggling to cope both emotionally and intellectually in a highly vibrant and demanding educational environment.

Students can access the Conversations centre for counselling support addressing the mental and emotional health of students.

### 3.7 Governance

The governance structure of the University is in line with the stipulations provided in the Azim Premji University Act, 2010, under which the University was formed. The University functions in accordance with the statutes approved by the Board of Governors.

The full text of the statutes and governance structure and people forming part of these committees are provided in the university website, under the governance section at this link - <https://azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/governance>

The statutory committees of the University are as below

- Board of Governors
- Board of Management
- Academic Council
- Research Council
- Finance Committee
- Fee Regulation Committee
- Anti-Discrimination Cell
- Student Grievance Redressal Committee
- Anti-Ragging Committee
- Prevention of Sexual Harassment Committee - – Internal Complaints Committee

The University notifications are also available on the website.

The employee profiles are available on the website under the 'People' section.

### 3.8 Decision Making Process at the University

The University follows a decentralized decision-making process with the respective individuals or sections, making decisions to ensure smooth day to day functioning. In addition to the governance structure in place, there are other bodies which have been constituted to ensure smooth functioning and decision making at the University. These are:

- Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee
- Course Review Committees
- Academic Affairs Committees
- Student Affairs Committee
- Placement Committee
- Disciplinary Committee
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Health and Wellness Committee
- Residence Management Committee
- Food Committee
- Sustainability Committee
- Programme Office Committee
- Sports and Fitness Committee
- Art and Culture Committee

The Registrar's office handles academic and administrative functions, admissions, placements, fees, facility and infrastructure etc. In addition, different committees discuss and make decisions as per their mandates.

### 3.9 Campus

The University campus at Sarjapur is a 100 acre, 1.5 million sqft. state of the art campus hosting all facilities for a vibrant academic environment. This includes classrooms, laboratories, seminar halls, indoor and outdoor sports facilities, multimedia studio, first-aid centre, student hostels, guest house, etc. An additional 1.1 million SFT including residences for members and a second student hostel will be ready by 2027. The campus is built to be sustainable, with facilities for extensive rainwater harvesting, water treatment, local and biodiverse vegetation, and high energy efficiency machinery.

**The full postal address of the University is**

**Azim Premji University, Survey No 66, Burugunte Village,  
Bikkanahalli Main Road,  
Sarjapura, Bengaluru 562125**

## 4. Procedure for accessing information

### 4.1 RTI Contacts

The RTI Act 2005 requires nomination of a Public Information Officer for the University. The details of the Public Information Officer are given below.

- **Name:** Rishikesh B S, Registrar
- **Contact:** [rtiqueries@apu.edu.in](mailto:rtiqueries@apu.edu.in)
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#### **First Appellate Authority**

- **Richa Govil, Vice Chancellor**
- **Contact:** [vc@apu.edu.in](mailto:vc@apu.edu.in)

### 4.2 RTI Application fees

The application fee prescribed by the University is as follows

- Rs 10/ per application. This fee covers information upto 10 printed pages on standard A4 size paper. The fee is to be remitted through a Demand Draft in favour of AZIM PREMJI UNIVERSITY, payable at Bangalore. The Demand draft payable to “Azim Premji University” should be enclosed along with the application.

The requested information will be sent only after the receipt of the full application fee and additional fee for additional pages. In line with the act, no fee will be charged for applicants who qualify as BPL (Below Poverty Line).

### 4.3 Application process

The University website has all relevant information published and updated time to time. Applicants are requested to study these in detail and then, if necessary, request for additional information under the RTI Act 2005.

Requests for information under the RTI Act 2005 may be sent through post, courier or e-mail to the following address:

**The Public Information Officer**  
**Azim Premji University, Survey No 66, Burugunte Village,**  
**Bikkanahalli Main Road,**  
**Sarjapura, Bengaluru 562125**  
**E-mail: [rtiqueries@apu.edu.in](mailto:rtiqueries@apu.edu.in)**

The application should contain

1. Demand draft for required application fee
2. The RTI application or a scanned copy of the same if the application is by e-mail
3. Full postal contact details of the applicant and an e-mail ID if available
4. A detailed description of the query to be provided.
5. Copy of the BPL certificate if applicable

**In line with the RTI Act 2005, all efforts will be made to respond to the applicant at the earliest and in any case within 30 days of the receipt of application and the required fee**

## 5. Records maintained by the University

- Student admission records
- Student academic records
- Student financial assistance
- Minutes of meeting of governance committees
- Payroll data
- General Procurement - Purchase orders, invoices and payments
- University Notifications
- General correspondence with other entities

The records maintained by the University are not available to anyone in the public even under the RTI provision.