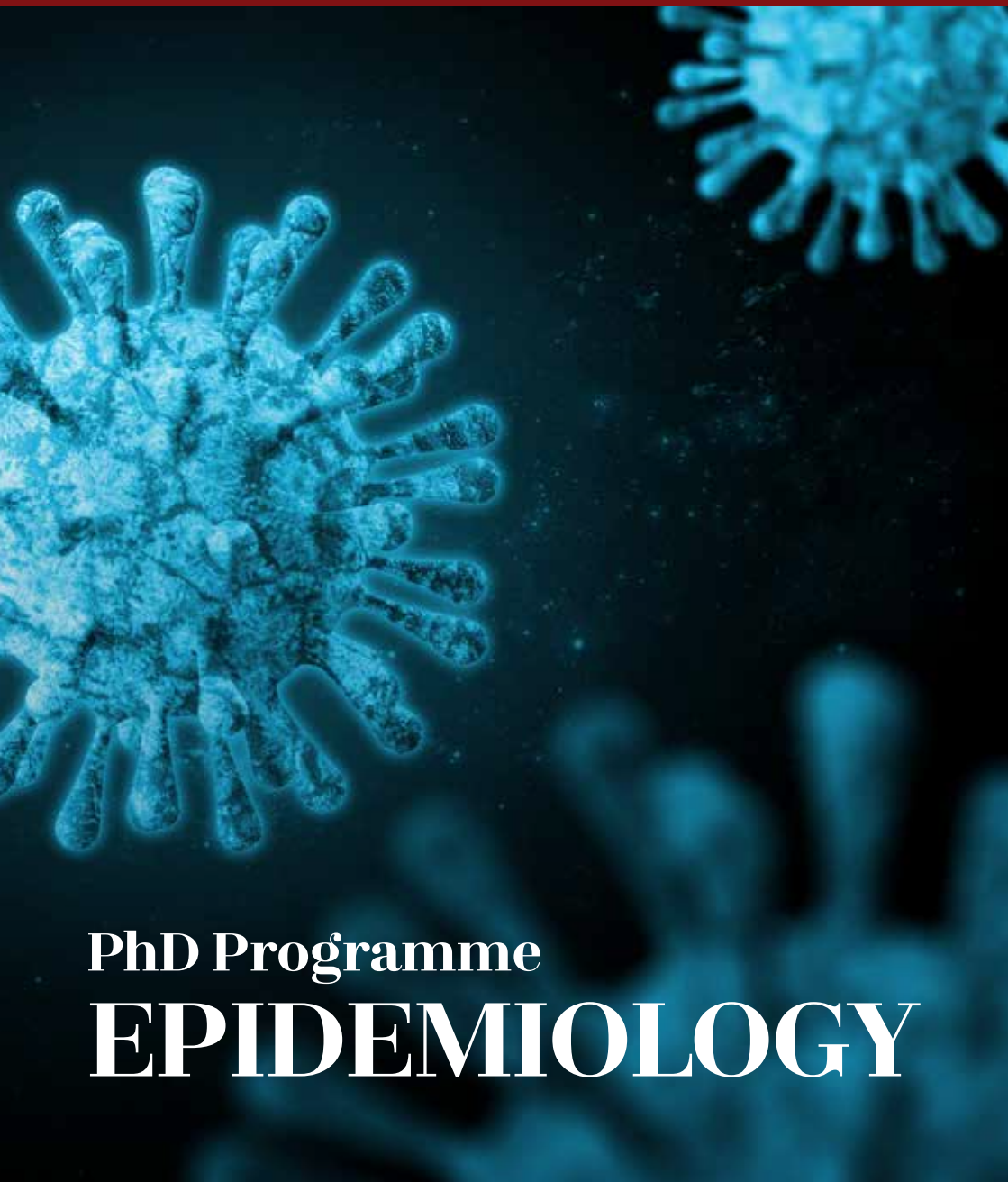
Ahmedabad University

SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



PhD Programme
EPIDEMIOLOGY

About
Ahmedabad University

Ahmedabad University is a private non-profit institution established in 2009. We provide a liberal education, preparing students to reflect deeply and creatively across fields to become independent thinkers and compassionate leaders. This unique learning process is mediated by projects, fieldwork and a belief that a strong theoretical grounding leads to robust practice. As a student-centric research University, we are committed to the discovery of ideas that can enhance our understanding of issues facing our world at the intersection of various axes of influence defined by: disciplines (materials, biology, and behaviour), nature (air, water, land and climate), sectors of impact (health, transport, energy, and education) and society (individual, community, civilisation, and constitution).

Research
Epidemiology

Public health includes many sub-disciplines beyond acquiring a PhD in general public health. This calls for specialised professionals in core public health fields such as Epidemiology. Globally, there is a pressing need for rigorous, structured, discipline-specific PhD programmes.

The school's PhD in Epidemiology aims to fill this critical gap by covering core competencies through didactic training, group practicum projects, and mentoring from a primary advisor and thesis committee with pertinent expertise to prepare trainees for academia, government, non-profit organisations, or industry careers.

The programme will train and mentor doctoral students to design, plan, conduct research studies, and collect high-quality data. They will learn the basics of artificial intelligence and machine learning to collaborate effectively with data science experts. They will also be able to take courses across the University and interact with faculty and students in other disciplines to develop interdisciplinary approaches to address key public health and societal concerns. We will also collaborate with reputed national and global faculty to conduct a high-quality, rigorous programme that meets or exceeds international standards.

HMEDABAD UNIVERSITY

Highlights of the School of Public Health

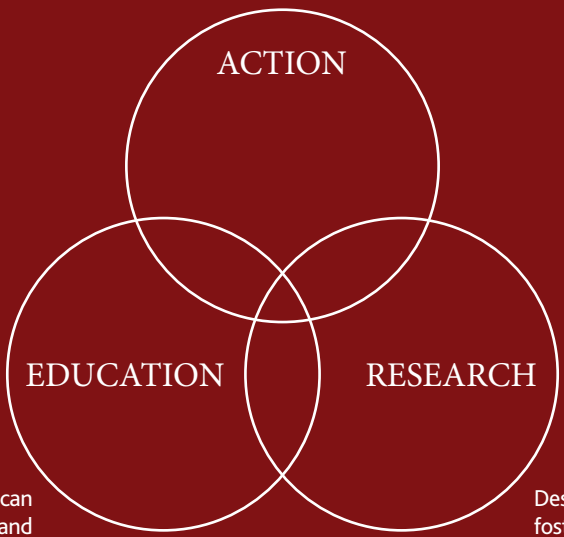
Sahyog Centre for Promoting Health, launched as a synergistic partnership with SEWA (Self Employed Women's Association), aims to improve health, wellness and equity locally, nationally and globally. Through evidence-based messages and viable, sustainable and scalable interventions, Sahyog aims to inform and empower people, communities (especially poor and disadvantaged communities), and organisations to make healthy and sustainable choices.

Our faculty have been invited to several professional conferences and have presented their perspectives and research on various topics including, modifiable risk factors for non-communicable disease, nutrition, global health, environmental sustainability, ideas for collaborations with medical schools and health policy.

Improving health equity through the following

- Promoting no-cost/low-cost measures/practices to improve and maintain physical and mental health and well-being
- Translating research findings into simple messages to promote healthy and sustainable behaviour through social media
- Disseminating messages through workshops and various avenues to raise awareness about pressing health and environmental issues to foster behavioural change.

Develop interdisciplinary collaborations and sustainable programmes to improve human and planetary health



Train leaders who can tackle ongoing and unimagined complex public health and environmental challenges

Design, conduct and foster high quality impactful research

Faculty and Research

Faculty at the School of Public Health pursue research driven by a passion to improve human and planetary health. They focus on understanding modifiable risk factors for morbidity and mortality, uncovering novel preventive/risk factors for cardiometabolic and other non-communicable disease. The faculty conducts impactful research with publications in reputed journals that impact lifestyle changes, clinical practice, and public health. They contribute to policies as advisors to government and professional entities, translating research into interventions. Ongoing research also includes evaluating biomarkers from different biospecimens, including blood and saliva, as potential screening and diagnostic tools, risk/preventive factors, or to understand biological pathways and assessing environmental risk factors for chronic disease.

In addition to the primary faculty, the school engages faculty from some reputed institutions nationally and globally.

Eligibility

As per UGC guidelines, the applicant should have a Master's degree with at least 55% marks in aggregate from a recognised educational institution. Suitable candidates for this programme include health professionals with an MD in Community Medicine or Preventive and Social Medicine or equivalent qualification or with a Master's degree or equivalent that covers Epidemiology, Biostatistics/Statistics, or Environmental Health. Master's degree or equivalent qualification must be from universities recognised by the MOE/UGC or incorporated by an Act of Central or State legislature in India. Foreign educational qualifications should be recognised as equivalent to the qualifications mentioned above.

Admissions Process

Admission to the doctoral programme in Epidemiology would be based on academic qualifications and records, research aptitude, experience, statement of purpose and research, and test and interview performance. Reference letters may be requested if needed.

Steps to apply:

- Fill out the application form online at the portal
- Attach all the required supporting documents
- Confirm your application details.
- Make a payment of INR 500/- as application fee via Debit card/Credit card/Net Banking
- Qualifying applicants who are shortlisted based on eligibility and merit will be further evaluated by interview and test results
- The dates for interviews will be notified in advance

Financial Support

The University awards full tuition fee waivers and financial support to full-time doctoral students. The University also encourages Indian and international students to apply for funding from external sources. The financial support could be either University Assistantship, University Fellowship, or external sources. We offer University Assistantships at INR 40,000 per month plus tuition fee waiver and University Fellowships at INR 50,000 per month plus tuition fee waiver.

The World Health Organization (WHO) considers public health as all organised measures (public or private) to prevent disease, promote health, prolong life among the population, and provide healthy conditions to people making Public Health inherently complex and multidisciplinary. Aligning with the vision of WHO, the School of Public Health, established in 2023, aims to improve public and planetary health locally, nationally, and globally through research, education, and training. The school seeks to develop, disseminate, and implement sustainable evidence-based interventions, programmes, and policies.

The PhD programme offered by the School of Public Health builds on the University's unique strengths and focus on interdisciplinary education. It seeks to create leaders who can develop innovative, contemporary, and holistic solutions to address the challenges of the 21st century, integrating modern technology and indigenous approaches.

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