



**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 (data, materials, biology, and behavior), nature (air, water, forests, and land), sectors of impact (health, transport, energy, and education) and society (individual, community, civilization and constitution).



PhD Programmes in **ARTS AND SCIENCES**

The School of Arts and Sciences forms the core of Ahmedabad University's educational experience. We offer graduate learning to the highest standards in a variety of academic disciplines, spanning the range from visual arts to life sciences, from physics to history.

The spectacular new School of Arts and Sciences building, designed by Rahul Mehrotra of RMA Architects, was opened in December 2019. It stands near the entrance to the University's 180-acre campus, and contains spaces that include psychology and biology labs, interactive classrooms, a two storey reading room and a unique double height black box theatre space. The environmentally sensitive building is a spectacular home to a dynamic educational initiative, and was conceived in the Indian modernist architectural tradition.

The School is a friendly and welcoming entity that engages with the wider society, and has since its formation hosted around one hundred eminent academic and specialist speakers from India and across the world to seminars or lectures. Students are encouraged to take part in this intellectual exchange. We are driven by a sense of social purpose and a passion for international cultural interaction. We hope that all those who join us as students will aspire to the pursuit of academic excellence, and

our faculty are committed to providing the teaching and research support required to achieve this ambition.

As the world is obliged to address challenging new questions around technology, existential risk, the role of artificial intelligence, rapid social change and the complex moral and political demands these make on our existing understanding, we seek at Ahmedabad University to act as a welcoming bridge not only between the liberal arts and sciences, but between academic and intellectual life.

Committed to offering students an excellent liberal education, the School practices collaborative, inter-disciplinary learning. We support a stimulating intellectual environment that enables our faculty and students to excel in their scholarship, develop new knowledge and build rewarding careers. The School of Arts and Sciences asserts the centrality of the arts and sciences in a broad, fulfilling education and a diverse public sphere.

The School comprises of five divisions: Humanities and Languages; Social Sciences; Biological and Life Sciences; Mathematical and

Physical Sciences and Visual and Performing Arts.



▼ RESEARCH AREAS

School of Arts and Sciences offers PhD in the following three research areas and specializations

- **Humanities and Social Sciences:** PhD programme in Humanities and Social Sciences

The interdisciplinary PhD programme in the Humanities and Social Sciences is unique in India. Unlike conventional doctoral programmes, the framework equips scholars to ask novel research questions that transcend disciplinary silos. It supports scholars who may wish to pursue puzzles and solutions that draw on but go beyond the disciplinary boundaries of History, Political Science, Philosophy, Urban Studies, Anthropology, Sociology and Psychology.

- **Life Sciences:** Biochemistry, Cancer and Stem Cells, Physiology and Neuroscience, Systems Biology, Host-pathogen interactions, Bioinformatics, Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation, Forensic Science, Nano-biotechnology and drug delivery, and Parasitology
- **Physics:** Atmospheric Sciences, Complex Systems and Biological Physics, Gravity and Cosmology.

▼ HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

- More than 20 PhD students are working currently and 6 students have graduated so far
- About 20 plus ongoing/completed externally funded research projects. Funding agencies include Science and Engineering Research Board , Department of Biotechnology , Indian Council of Medical Research , Board of Research in Nuclear Sciences , Department of Atomic Energy, Indo-German Bilateral Grant, Gujarat State Biotechnology Mission, International Union for Conservation of Nature , Spencer Foundation, United States of America, US National Academy of Education, and DST Indo-Russian Grant
- Many of the faculty members have received prestigious national and international level fellowships like Ramalingaswamy Fellowship, Ramanujan Fellowship, Welcome DBT India Alliance Fellowship, European Molecular Biology Organization EMBO, Yamagiwa-Yoshida (YY) Memorial International Cancer Study Grant-Japan, Social Science Research Council (USA), Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)-IMPRESS Grant, and Endeavor Research Fellowship-Australia
- More than 25 publications in peer-reviewed international journals in 2019-2020
- Nine laboratories and advanced research facilities that maintain state-of-the-art equipment and instrumentation supporting a full range of biological and life sciences research activities
- Talks and presentations from experts around the globe are a key part of the vibrant research environment at the school

For further information about research, please visit www.ahduni.edu.in/academics/schools-centres/school-of-arts-and-sciences/research/

▼ FINANCIAL SUPPORT

All full-time doctoral students of the School of Arts and Sciences are eligible to receive financial support on a merit basis. Some of the full-time doctoral students are awarded University Assistantship that comprises a monthly stipend and tuition waiver. Other avenues of financial support include teaching assistantships of the School or fellowship from sponsored research projects with the faculties.

▼ FACULTY AND RESEARCH

We have more than 45 faculty members at School of Arts and Sciences who pursue research at the prominent edge of their fields. Our students cultivate close working relationships with faculty devoted to the production of new knowledge. As they train the next generation of researchers and teachers, our faculty takes the role of mentor seriously. Overall goals of the faculty are to help students acquire the research skills necessary to develop original research studies that have direct applications.

For further information about School and faculty profile, please visit

www.ahduni.edu.in/sas/faculty



▼ ELIGIBILITY

- **Humanities and Social Sciences:** All potential candidates must apply through the Graduate Application Portal. The admission requirement for the PhD programme includes a Master's degree (minimum 55%) or equivalent training in any of the social sciences, humanities or related disciplines, a brief statement of research interest, and a writing sample. Based on the information submitted through the application portal, candidates will be shortlisted for a written exam. Those successful in the written exam will be selected for an interview. Applicants with a score of 60% or more in the UGC-NET exam are exempted from the written exam but must go through an interview process if shortlisted. In exceptional cases, a candidate with a Bachelor's degree in any discipline who displays remarkable interest and potential for research in the humanities and social sciences may be admitted to the programme, albeit with the requirement of completing additional credits as per the overall PhD policy of Ahmedabad University.

▼ ADMISSION PROCESS

- Students are admitted twice every year. The online application process for the monsoon semester starts in February and the list of selected candidates is declared in early June. The online application process for the winter semester starts in September and the list of selected candidates is declared in December
- Submit the completed application form online along with the required fees and all supporting documents through the portal www.auris.ahduni.edu.in/adm-ahduni-doctoral.php
- Eligible and qualifying candidates will be short-listed based on merit, the submitted documents, statement of purpose, and any essay (if required). They will be required to appear for a written test and/or panel interview
- The dates for written test/interview will be notified in advance

- **Life Sciences:** Candidates, who have passed the master's degree with a minimum of fifty five per cent marks or an equivalent grade in a point scale where the grading system is followed, in any of the below listed areas are eligible to apply for the PhD programme in Life Sciences

Areas: Biochemistry, Microbiology, Biotechnology, Botany, Zoology, Chemistry, Life Sciences, Nanotechnology, Toxicology, Bioinformatics, Environmental Science, Environmental Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, Bioengineering, Forensic Sciences (Biology/Chemistry) or equivalent degree in subjects related to biological sciences

- **Physics:** Candidates with a score of minimum 55% in M. Sc. (Physics) are eligible to apply. The School of Arts and Sciences will conduct a written test and interview; however, applicants with high enough rank/scores on CSIR-UGC NET /DBT /ICMR /DST /JEST /GATE / GRE Subject Test or any other well recognised test, as decided by each discipline, will be exempted from the written test



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