DEPT. OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY

INFORMATION BROCHURE

MASTER OF ARTS BY RESEARCH (MA.Res.)

2022-23

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MASTER OF ARTS BY RESEARCH (MA.RES.)

1. INTRODUCTION

There is a real need in Indian higher education for programmes that focus on what are broadly called 'research' skills that are important not only in academia, but also in the workplace. These include learning to integrate diverse sources of information, learning to read, think and write critically, and learning to apply conceptual, analytical and methodological frameworks.

The H&SS department at IIT Bombay is introducing the **Master of Arts by Research (MA.Res)** with precisely this emphasis. The faculty members in the department represent diverse areas of expertise and have considerable experience in teaching with an emphasis on research skills while accommodating disciplinary crossovers with ease. This is especially important since many of the concerns of the Humanities and Social Sciences require a multi-disciplinary approach. Our students have been successful both in working at the interfaces of different areas and in transcending traditional disciplinary boundaries in their work.

The programme combines coursework to build student competence in specific areas, research training, and research modules for independent work. Students are expected to carry out a successful programme of research within the duration of the programme. The internal structure of the programme is designed to be quite different from course-intensive post-graduate programmes and allows for relative flexibility in terms of student backgrounds and prior training

As with many academic programmes in the Institute, the **Master of Arts by Research** can help prepare those students who wish to pursue a PhD for the challenges of a doctoral programme. However, research skills are not restricted to academia. Most employment opportunities require skills for integrating large amounts of varied information, and for analysing and presenting it effectively. Such skills together with a broader cultural exposure and literacy in various fields can also better prepare the student for the workplace. For example, fields like journalism or content production require such training and experience and Performance Studies could lead to jobs in cultural institutions, festivals, archives, galleries, etc. There has been an exponential growth in the demand for Master's level students with research skills in India and elsewhere. For example, think-tanks, research institutions, private sector research firms, R&D arms of various companies, international research agencies, media houses and NGOs all require a skilled workforce that can bring more 'academic' skills to the workplace.

2. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE: SALIENT FEATURES

a) The entering students will take four common courses in the first semester.
b) Prior to the start of the second semester, students will select one of the three specialisations.
c) The research project option shall be the *default option* for the programme. Eligible students may elect to complete the degree with a thesis.
d) All courses are open across all tracks to allow for a more student-driven approach to course selection, and to support disciplinary crossovers.
e) The research component begins in the very 1st semester with four methods courses, followed by a seminar style 4-credit course in the 2nd semester for proposal writing, ethics clearances as needed, peer and faculty reviews. The actual independent research work (Project/s or Thesis) will span the 3rd and 4th semesters.

3. ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

3.1 Title and specialisation tracks

The programme titled Master of Arts by Research (MA.Res) will be in one of *three* tracks:
- i)   Human Sciences (HS)[1]
- ii) Linguistics, Literature and Performance (LLP)
- iii) Sociology (Soc)

Within the three specialisation tracks above, a further choice is available to students:
- i)   To complete a thesis (see Section 5)
- ii) To do research projects

The final degree certificates will indicate the student's selection and completion of one of these three tracks:
- i)   MA.Res. (in Human Sciences)
- ii) MA.Res. (in Linguistics, Literature and Performance)
- iii) MA.Res. (in Sociology)

3.2 Eligibility Criteria

a) Candidates must have <u>one</u> of the following*:*

   (i)   A Bachelor's Degree of three years (such as a BA, BSc, BCom or other degrees - 10+2+3)

   (ii) A 4-year Bachelor's degree (such as BA, BS, BTech - 10+2+4)

   (iii) An earlier post-graduate degree (such as an MA, MSc: 10+2+3+2).

b) Candidates must meet the minimum percentage criterion in their qualifying degree as per the institute norms (GN/EWS/OBC-NC 60% and SC/ST/PwD 55%; or a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA)/Cumulative Performance Index (CPI) of 6.0 on the scale of 0-10; or an equivalent to 6.0 or other corresponding proportional requirements when the scales are other than 0-10.)

c) Candidates must have a valid GATE score/qualification in the GATE-XH paper; qualification in other GATE papers may be considered *only if* the candidate otherwise has the necessary educational background for the programme.

3.3 Selection Process

a) Candidates who meet the minimum eligibility criteria and who meet the requisite GATE-XH cut-off (to be declared at a later date) shall appear for the MA by Research Admissions Test (MAAT-2022). Information about the admission test will be made available later.

b) Candidates who qualify in MAAT-2022 will be invited to appear for an interview.

c) The final selection will be based on the composite of MAAT-2022 score, the interview performance and the GATE score. For selection, MoE norms will be applicable to the GATE score obtained by the candidates.

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[1] Defining HS:
   1. A branch of study which deals with people or their actions, including the social sciences and the humanities, as contrasted with the natural sciences or physical sciences (Oxford).
   2. The study of the reality of being human - the social, cultural, biological and behavioural aspects of human existence. (S. Turner)
   3. It is the study and interpretation of the experiences, activities, constructs, and artefacts associated with humans. (Wiki)
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3.4 No. of seats and fellowships

a) The MA.Res will begin with 20 seats distributed as per GOI norms. Seats are reserved for Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)/Other Backward Class Non-Creamy Layer (OBC-NCL)/Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST) and Person with Benchmark Disability (PwD).

b) The 20 seats and TA-ships will be made available as applicable to GATE qualified entrants in the following pattern:
    i) Students with a 3-year Bachelor's degree at entry may receive a TA-ship only in the *second* year of the programme
    ii) Students with either a 4-year Bachelor's degree at entry or a prior Master's degree may receive a TA-ship in *both* years.

3.5 Duration

This is a two-year programme and the student must normally complete the programme in two years from the date of joining. The maximum period for which the registration of the student shall be alive is four years from the date of joining.

4. OVERALL CREDIT DISTRIBUTION

RESEARCH PROJECTS	SEM I	SEM II	SEM III	SEM IV
CREDITS →	32 credits	28 credits	24 credits	24 credits
COURSES →	4 Theory courses (6 x4) 4 Methods courses (2x4) (*see note i*)	4 Courses (6x4) Seminar (1x4)	2 Courses (6x2) Research Project-1 (12 credits)	2 Courses (6x2) Research Project 2 (12 credits)

THESIS	SEM I	SEM II	SEM III	SEM IV
CREDITS →	32 credits	28 credits	0 credits	0 credits
COURSES →	4 Theory courses (6x4) 4 Methods courses (2x4) (*see note i*)	4 Courses (6x4) 1 Seminar (1x4)	Thesis (Stage 1) (**note iii*)	Thesis (Stage 2) (**note iii*)

Notes:
i. The four methods courses are associated with the theory courses and serve as introductions to practical research skills.
ii. In all three tracks, students are **required** to take two courses in each of the 3rd and 4th semesters, for a programme total of **108 credits** to be earned across 4 semesters. These courses may be Department/Institute/Track electives or a Supervised Learning course or other applicable courses (see appended course lists) with the approval of the Supervisor/Faculty Advisor. In addition, students will undertake and complete the Research Projects 1 and 2 for a total of 24 credits.
iii. In all three tracks, students with a master's degree in specific subjects (see table below) may **elect** to complete the programme by thesis. The course credit requirement will remain at **60 credits** and the second year will be available for researching and writing the thesis.

Human Sciences	LLP	Soc
Master's degrees (such as an MA, MS etc.) in the subjects/areas specified below		
Archaeology; History AND those as applicable for LLP and Soc tracks	Applied Linguistics; Arts and Aesthetics; Cognitive Science; Comparative Literature; English Literature; Film Studies; Performing Arts; Performance Studies; Theoretical Linguistics; Translation Studies.	Anthropology; Sociology

6. SEMESTER WISE COURSE DISTRIBUTION

FIRST YEAR, 1st semester common courses

Semester I (32 credits)	Fundamentals of Language	3-0-0-6
	Literary Studies	3-0-0-6
	Social Theory - I	3-0-0-6
	Understanding the Past	3-0-0-6
	Research Methods: Critical Reading	0-0-2-2
	Research Methods: Expository Writing and Analysis	0-0-2-2
	Research Methods: Qualitative Methods	0-0-2-2
	Research Methods: Sources and Methods and the Past	0-0-2-2

FIRST YEAR, 2nd semester courses

HUMAN SCIENCES

Semester II (28 credits) 24 credits + Seminar 4 credits	Students may choose any **four courses** among these and those available in the LLP or Soc tracks or others including: • HS4108 Gender, Caste and Class in Colonial Indian History • HS4110 Experimental Archaeology: An Introduction	
	Seminar (Project/Thesis Proposal)	4 credits

LINGUISTICS, LITERATURE AND PERFORMANCE

Semester II (28 credits) 24 credits + Seminar 4 credits	Linguistic Theory and Analysis Literary Periodisation Performance Historiography & Documentation Genre & Literature Literary Theory (Any four from the above as well as the HS/SOC tracks depending on areas of research interest.)	
	Seminar (Project/Thesis Proposal)	4 credits

SOCIOLOGY

Semester II (28 credits) 24 credits + Seminar 4 credits	Compulsory: Social Theory – II (Core) Indian Society (Core) And any two of: Tribal Studies: Concepts and Perspectives Sociology of Development Sociology of Gender Quantitative Methods in Soc. Sciences Development in South Asia: Issues and Debates	
	Seminar (Project/Thesis Proposal)	4 credits

SECOND YEAR

Semesters III &1V 24 credits each	2 Electives in each Semester	As per course[2]
	Research Project 1 and 2	12 x2

OR

Semesters III &1V	Thesis	None

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[2] Most courses will fall under the usual 6 credit pattern and, therefore, 2 courses will meet the credit requirements. If the student chooses to do courses with fewer credits, they must take other courses to complete the credit requirement of 12 credits/semester in each semester.

7. INDICATIVE COURSE LISTS FOR SEMESTERS III AND IV

Students are required to complete 12 credits for Research Projects and 12 credits of coursework (selected from among Departmental /Institute /Track Electives or others in consultation with the Supervisor/Faculty Advisor) per semester in the second year.

HUMAN SCIENCES/LINGUISTICS, LITERATURE AND PERFORMANCE

COURSE OPTIONS IN SEMESTER III	COURSE OPTIONS IN SEMESTER IV
Author, Authorship and Authority	Shakespeare's Plays and their Afterlives
CS626-CS449 Speech and Natural Language Processing	CS626/CS460 Natural Language Processing
HS 401 Introduction to Paninean Grammar	HS 410 South-Asian Fiction in English
HS 423 Trends in Twentieth Century Drama	HS 436 Indian Culture and Tradition
HS 451 Cognition and Emotion	HS458 Indian writing in English
HS453 Music Appreciation	HS 476 Culture and Media
HS 463 Introduction to Art and Aesthetics	HS 498 Life Span Development - Infancy to Old Age
HS 816 Fieldwork Techniques	HS 620 Linguistics and Natural Language Processing
HS 835 Performance Theory and Praxis	HS 642 Notation and Musical Analysis
HS 837 Aesthetics and Criticism	HS810 Survey of Modern and Post-modern Literature
DE 231 Design, Society, Culture and Environment	HS 832 Theories of the Novel
DE 627 Indian thought and tradition	HS 860 Archive and the Arts
DE 703 Arts design and society 2*	DE 208 Design, Storytelling and Narratives
DE 731 On Ways of Seeing	DE 310 Interaction Design
BB 647 Introduction to Evolutionary Biology	DE 702 Arts design and society 1
ET 612 Statistical Methods for Educational Research	DE 670 Field Study and Design
	DE 706 Story and Narrative
	DE 686 Handmade Character Design
	ET 620 Educational Neuroscience

HUMAN SCIENCES/SOCIOLOGY

COURSE OPTIONS IN SEMESTER III	COURSE OPTIONS IN SEMESTER IV
HS 489 State, Polity and Society	Sociology of Development
HS 603 Sociology of Development	Quantitative Methods in Social Sciences
HS 643 Sociology of Infrastructure	Sociology of Gender
PS 605 Social Science Perspective in Public Policy	Tribal Studies
PS 619 Health Policy an Introduction	HS449 - Capitalism theories, histories, varieties.
PS 630 Technology and the Future of Workers	HS 491 Contemporary Urban India; Sociological Perspective
	HS 626 Framing Caste
	HS 629 Ecology and Society
	HS 637 Anthropology and Disaster
	HS 640 Civil Society: Its Foundations and Future

8. DEFINING RESEARCH PROJECTS

Research training in all three subject tracks is understood to include research skills imparted right from the start as well as independent work of *substantial* scope with a Faculty Supervisor. The projects may include (and are not restricted to) the following:
- Traditional research papers - theoretical or experimental
- Fieldwork, community-based, theoretical or interventionist
- Creative projects (fiction, performance, translations, digitisation)
- Language or other documentation or development of archival materials
- Curatorial projects, performances
- Tool development (evaluatory, app-based, pedagogical etc.)
- Internships/work-based products (if applicable)

9. RULES AND REGULATIONS

Please check the related document online.