



HSNC UNIVERSITY, MUMBAI

A Public State Cluster University

H.R COLLEGE | K.C. COLLEGE | B.T.T COLLEGE



SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

MA^{IN} LIBERAL STUDIES



Admissions Open
2024-2025

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A two-year Post-Graduate programme curated by experts who have worked at the intersections of natural science, social sciences and humanities.

It seeks to re-imagine learning in ways that foster intellectual curiosity, raise critical questions and most importantly develop a sense of social justice, equity and empathy while engaging with complex global realities

An MA Degree in Liberal Studies will provide career options to students in areas like Teaching, Research, Policy Making, Software and Technology, Content Writing, Civil Services, NGOs, Human Resources and more.

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✉ liberalstudies@hsncu.edu.in

HSNC University, Mumbai

Dr. R. G. Thadani Marg, Worli, Mumbai – 400 018

About HSNC University, Mumbai

The HSNC University has been approved by RUSA and the Govt. of Maharashtra and is a State Cluster University with the Hon. Governor of Maharashtra as Chancellor and eminent industrialist, Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani as its first Provost. The HSNC University comprises renowned South Mumbai colleges like H.R College of Commerce & Economics as its lead college and K.C College of Arts, Science & Commerce and Bombay Teachers' Training College as its constituent colleges.

HSNC University is set to build partnerships with the industry and have a new curriculum aligned with industry 4.0. The aim will be to not only learn from the requirements of the market and the larger society and have industry collaborators willing to orient students towards the same, but also to ensure internships and the best placements for its graduating students.

This multi-faculty University aims to set new paradigms of education. It wishes to harness the energy and enthusiasm of the young, dynamic population of India and guide it towards the path of learning, knowledge, research, innovation, service to society, and entrepreneurship. This newly launched State Cluster University is set to make its indelible mark in the higher education industry in Mumbai and the country by initiating several landmark, relevant and contemporary programs of study.



Key People



Shri Ramesh Bais

*Hon'ble Chancellor HSNC University, Mumbai
Governor Of Maharashtra*



Dr. Niranjana Hiranandani

*Provost
HSNC University, Mumbai*



Dr. Hemlata K. Bagla

*Vice Chancellor HSNC University, Mumbai
Director, Niranjana Hiranandani School
Of Management And Real Estate*



Why Liberal Studies?

The HSNC University's M.A. in Liberal Studies is a two-year post-graduate interdisciplinary programme curated by experts who have spent decades learning, teaching and producing interdisciplinary knowledge. Globally, liberal education is propounded as a directionary tool for critical and analytical growth. With its critical and interdisciplinary ethos, it has brought about changes in disciplines and universities across the globe.

An MA in Liberal Studies will enable students to engage, learn and grow with the help of our experienced faculties, institutional resources and overall structural support. Eventually, it will help them develop their critical and analytical abilities with key interdisciplinary skills to meet global requirements. Lastly, and most importantly, learners will become compassionate and empathetic citizens who will want to better our worlds.

HSNC University is one of the very few public universities offering a programme in liberal education. There is huge local and global demand for graduates with interdisciplinary skills. Academia and Higher education remain one of the top industries for graduates from such a programme. The demand for graduates is also seen in research organizations, non-governmental organizations, public policy think tanks, journalism, software and technology, design, and more. The faculty and staff at HSNC University will continue to provide career avenues for learners and graduates to thrive.

HSNC University at its core believes that more and more programmes should become interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary. These are the visions of this university. This programme will be a milestone in these endeavors.

Programme Vision

This programme envisages the idea of holistic and integrated learning aimed at breaking disciplinary silos between pure sciences, social sciences and humanities. The programme seeks to re-imagine learning in ways that foster intellectual curiosity, ability to raise critical questions and most important to develop a sense of social justice, equity and empathy while engaging with complex global realities. We envision graduates to participate meaningfully across industries and sectors given the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary ethos of the programme. Diversity and inclusion would be the key components of this programme with an emphasis on critical and reflexive approaches to learning.



Programme Objectives & Outcomes

- To transcend disciplinary boundaries and enable interdisciplinary discourses, perspectives, methods of knowing and forms of analysis.
- To interrogate binaries and dualisms that have long characterised knowledge production.
- To have a dialogic and participatory approach to knowledge production.
- To bring about a paradigm shift in pedagogical practices of teaching and learning so as to provide a meaningful learning environment.
- Students' worldview to be informed by multiple perspectives drawn from different disciplines so as to produce a richer understanding of complex social realities.
- To explore untapped potential and abilities in students through multidisciplinary perspectives
- Produce responsible and accountable citizens with a commitment to democratic values and constitutional principles.
- Build multiple skills thus enabling students to find placements in a broad spectrum of fields from governance and policy making, electronic, visual and print media, human resource and personnel management, economy, data analytics to civil society organizations.

For who?

This programme is for students who have graduated across disciplines and fields of study such as Arts, Science, Commerce, Engineering, Medical, Architecture, Law, Social Work, Humanities, Pharmacy, Design Studies, and any other. The students will benefit from the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approach and be industry ready. The programme is also for those who would like to contribute to some of the career options mentioned below.

Career Specific Programme Outcomes

- Teaching
- Research (Qualitative, Quantitative and more)
- Policy and Lobbying
- Design and Implementation
- Software and Technology
- Content Writing/Creation
- Civil Services
- Media and Communication (including Journalism, Digital and Social Media)
- Non-governmental organisations (including advocacy)
- Climate Change and Environmental Practices
- Human Resource and Management
- Data Science & Analytics
- Psychology and its allied fields including Mental Health and any other industry aligned with the interests of the graduate

From the Dean's Desk



Dr. Leena Pujari

Dean (Ag)

*Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies,
HSNC University, Mumbai*

Two years of intense deliberations and discussions have culminated in this enriching two year Post Graduate Programme in Liberal Studies. Since long, rigidly drawn academic boundaries have precluded attempts at building dialogues and solidarities across disciplines. This programme seeks to transgress those boundaries and is about integrated forms of teaching, learning and research. It seeks to re-imagine learning in ways that enable students to have a compassionate view of complex social realities and engage with novel ways to address them. We believe that complexity needs to be perceived through different prisms leading to a nuanced, well informed and holistic understanding. Criticality, reflexivity and imagination are the defining components of this programme.

The courses have been thoughtfully designed by experts drawn from diverse fields of inquiry. A wonderful mix of core courses and electives along with innovative, critical and transformative pedagogies will make learning an immersive, engaging and enriching experience for the participants of this programme. I thank Dr. Hemlata Bagla, Vice Chancellor, HSNCU for her unwavering support and encouragement and for taking a keen interest in this programme. I immensely thank our stellar team of advisors Dr. Gita Chadha, Dr. Chayanika Shah and Dr. Sridhar for their vision and imagination and for making this happen.



Advisory Board

The Advisory Board consists of people who are experts at the intersections of science, humanities and social sciences. Their vision and imagination has richly benefitted this programme and their attempts at conceptualizing an interdisciplinary programme that transcends rigid disciplinary boundaries and fosters conversations across disciplines have been phenomenal.



Dr. Gita Chadha (Special Advisor)

*Sociologist,
Visiting Faculty, School of Arts and Science,
Azim Premji University*

Dr. Gita Chadha is a feminist sociologist. She taught Sociology at the Department of Sociology, University of Mumbai and is currently the visiting professor at the Azim Premji University, Bengaluru. Her central work is in the domain of science criticism. She has contributed to building the field of feminist science studies in India. She has worked on reimagining sociology from feminist perspectives. Gita's interests also lie in visual cultures, cultural studies, pedagogy, social theory and questions of methods. Gita has designed innovative pedagogic initiatives for integrating science and social science teaching. She believes that genuine Interdisciplinarity is possible only with a firm grounding in disciplines. Gita believes that the classroom is a site for cultural transmission and transgression.

Dr. K Sridhar

*Theoretical Physicist,
Azim Premji University
(formerly with Tata Institute of Fundamental Research)*



Dr. K. Sridhar is a theoretical particle physicist and works at the Azim Premji University in Bengaluru. He has published several papers in physics and has also published a book, Particle Physics of Brane Worlds and Extra Dimensions. He has edited a volume on Integrated Science Education, Breaking the Silo: Integrated Science Education in India. Sridhar is also a writer of literary fiction, has published a work of fiction called Twice Written and has recently completed his second novel, provisionally entitled Ajita. He has also published several essays in the area of philosophy and he regularly writes reviews of art shows.

Advisory Board



Dr. Chayanika Shah

*Physicist &
Queer Feminist Activist*

Dr. Chayanika Shah is a feminist and queer rights activist, who has been involved with the women's movements in India for many years. She is an optimist activist at heart, a physicist by training and a teacher by choice. She has campaigned, researched, taught and written on politics of population control, communalism, feminist studies of science, and sexuality. She is the co-author of *No Outlaws in Gender Galaxy* (Zubaan Publications) and editor of *Space, Segregation, Discrimination* (Yoda Press).

Board of Studies

- Dr. Leena Pujari, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Sociology, K.C College.
- Dr Shalini R. Sinha, Associate Prof. Dept of English, KC College
- Dr. Sachin Labade, Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Mumbai
- Dr.Asha Achuthan Assistant Professor, Department of Women's Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai.
- Dr. Sujata Deshpande, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.
- Dr. Biraj Mehta, Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, Wilson College, Mumbai.
- Aprameya Rao, Output Editor, Business News, WION
- Shweta Shetty, Independent Researcher

Faculty



Dr. Leena Pujari

Dean (Ag)

*Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies,
HSNC University, Mumbai*

Dr Leena Pujari is a feminist sociologist and researcher. Her research interests include Development studies, Legal Studies and Gender Studies, in particular issues of feminist pedagogy, feminist resistance and feminist jurisprudence. She is on the Advisory Group of a transnational research project of the University of Westminster UK on 'Decolonising Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Higher Education: Innovations in Theory, Policy and Practice'. She is also a Senior Visiting Fellow (honorary) at the leading policy think tank IMPRI, New Delhi.



Dr. Tina Chakravarty

MA, MA, M Phil, Ph D.

*Assistant Professor, Full-time faculty,
Liberal Studies
HSNC University, Mumbai*

Dr. Tina Chakravarty completed her MA in Social Work from TISS, after graduating from Delhi University with a Psychology Major. She worked briefly in Delhi and in Shillong, before enrolling in an MA, this time, in Sociology from Delhi School of Economics. Followed by an M Phil and Ph D degree from The School of Social Sciences TISS. She worked on the medicalisation of mental disorder and interface in approaches to mental disorder in India as a part of her research work. She has taught in the Mass Media Department and briefly in the Sociology Department at Sophia College, Mumbai, before joining the Liberal Studies Dept at HSNC. Her interest areas of research include mental health, science studies and interdisciplinary studies, conflating Psychology and Sociology.



Visiting Faculty



Dr. Mitra Mukherjee Parikh

Retd. Head, Department of English, SNDT Women's University, Mumbai.



Dr. Biraj Mehta Rath

MA, M. Phil, Ph D
Independent Researcher,
Former faculty, Department of Philosophy, Wilson College



Ms. Chandni Chawla

LL.M, SOAS,
University of London
Advocate,
Bombay High Court



Shweta Wankhede,

MA, Sociology, JNU, LL. B
Advocate,
Independent Researcher



Ms. Ayesha Dutta

MA Sociology,
Mumbai University
Assistant Professor,
Sociology Dept., K.C. College



Mr. Kuntal Bhogilal

Film and Television
Institute of India,
Independent Motion
Pictures and Film
Professional and teacher



Course Outline

There are more than 30 courses offered in this programme along with research and dissertation. The credits of the programme are divided into: Foundation, Core, Rudimentary Tools, Electives and Research. Spread over four semesters, the programme has a total of 80 credits that covers contact teaching, tutorials, research and dissertation and other modes of learning. The programme offers core, tools, interdisciplinary and elective courses. Four tool courses spread across semester one and two will engage learners through skill development. In these four courses, learners will engage hands-on with writing, filmmaking, non-textual ways of knowing and learning and mathematics. All courses have been designed by academic and industry experts who are themselves working at the intersections of various disciplines.

Semester 1 (20 Credits)	Semester 2 (20 Credits)
Core Courses and Tool Courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophical Method • Literary Method • Social Science Method • Scientific Method • Discursive Writing • Mathematical Reasoning 	Core Courses and Tool Courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development Studies • Cultural Studies • Women and Gender Studies • Science, Technology and Society Studies • Audio Visual • Representation of Knowledge
Semester 3 (20 Credits)	Semester 4 (20 Credits)
Interdisciplinary Studies (4 credits each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Studies • Media Studies Elective (4 credits, choose one) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design Studies • Medical Studies • Legal Studies Research Proposal (4 credits)	Elective (4 credits each, any two) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local, Regional, Global • Ability, Mind and Cognition • Law, Citizenship and Rights • Real, Virtual, True and Fake • Indignity, Tribes and Adivasi Movements • Religion, Communalism and Secularism Dissertation (12 credits)



Course Designers

Sr. No.	Course Designer	Designation	Course
1	Srajana Kaikini	Assistant Professor, KREA University	Philosophical Method
2	Sridhar K.	Professor, Azim Premji University	
3	Chayanika Shah	Physicist and Queer Feminist Activist	Scientific Method
4	Sridhar K.	Professor, Azim Premji University	
5	Mitra Mukherjee-Parikh	Former Professor, SNDT University	Literary Method
6	Akansha Tyagi	Visiting Faculty, NMIMS	Social Science Method
7	Vijeta Kumar	Assistant Professor, St. Joseph's College (autonomous), Bengaluru"	Discursive Writing
8	Sridhar K.	Professor, Azim Premji University	Mathematical Reasoning
9	Raile Rocky Ziipao	Assistant Professor, Indian Institute of Technology — Bombay	Development Studies
10	Suraj Harsha	Independent researcher and Consultant	Women and Gender Studies; Cultural Studies
12	Gita Chadha	Visiting Professor, Azim Premji University	Science, Technology and Society Studies
13	Shiju Sam Varughese	Assistant Professor, Central University of Gujarat	
14	Samina Mishra	Head, The Magic Key Centre for the Arts and Childhood; writer and teacher	Audio/Visual
15	Suraj Harsha (mentored by Chayanika Shah)	Independent researcher and Consultant	Representation of Knowledge
16	Dr. Tina Aranha & Sudhakar Solomon Raj	BMM Dept., Wilson College	Media Studies
17	Dr. Anupama Ramakrishnan	Dept. of Sociology St Xavier's College	Environment Studies
18	Dr. Asha Achuthan	Centre for Women's Studies TISS	Medical Studies
19	Prof. Rukmini Sen	School of Liberal Studies Ambedkar University	Legal Studies
20	Dr. Tina Chakravarty	Assistant Professor, Liberal Studies, HSNC University	Mind Ability, Cognition
21	Indigenous People's Land, Life & Knowledge Collective		Indigeneity Tribes and Adivasi Movements.

Infrastructure and Resources



Notable Events

Department of Liberal Studies HSNC University in association with K.C. College organized a **National Seminar on 'Methods across Silos: New Reflections'** on 10-03-2022 at K.C. College, Mumbai.

The theme of this seminar was based on a recent volume on Scientific method: Disciplinary Narrations' (2022) where the editors Gita Chadha and Renny Thomas address the question of 'method' in knowledge making.



Notable Events

As a part of the 'Liberal Studies Lecture Series', the Department invited **Dr. Roopa Rathnam**, a Bangalore-based independent researcher, whose lecture was titled, '**Vision, Vantage and Voice: Principles of Feminist Research Methodology in Action**' at HSNC University, Mumbai on 9th Sept 2023.

The Dept. of Liberal Studies in collaboration with Dept. of Economics organised an interactive session on '**Liberal Arts Education and Media: Opening up New Vistas**'; the guest speaker was **Mr. Aprameya Rao**, Output Editor, Business News, WION at HSNC University, Mumbai on 25th Sept 2023.



Students attended a **Gender Sensitization Workshop** conducted by **Ms. Snehal V** (from Akshara Centre), organised by the Women's Development Cell of HSNC University, Mumbai at HSNC University, Mumbai on 6th Oct 2023.

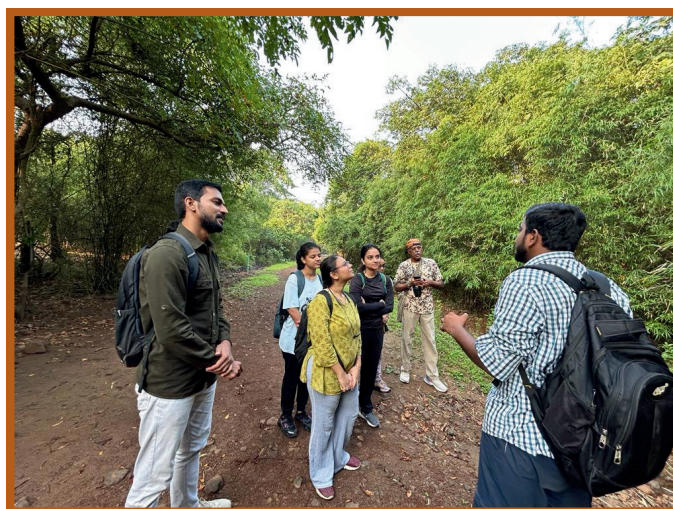


Notable Events

The Dept organised a field visit to the Sanjay Gandhi National park with **Dr. Sunetro Ghosal**.

Title: **Exploring Sanjay Gandhi National Park**, Mumbai on 8th October, 2023.

A short walk through one of the trails at Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Mumbai, which is one of only four protected areas within an urban landscape in the world along with Nairobi, Cape Town and Rio de Janeiro. The walk helped the students explore the dynamics of a 'natural' forest that is now an island in a metropolis and is home to a rich biodiversity. The walk was followed by a discussion mediated by **Dr. Sunetro Ghosal**.



Student Testimonials



Shikha Shristi

BA English

'A course that gave me more than what I had expected, in terms of both perspective and learning'.

Liza Soparkar

BA Philosophy



'It has been a very enlightening experience, it has helped me with healing my own childhood trauma and understand my relationships better. The theory part of it is like therapy to me'



Raghavendra Singh

BSc IT

'The course has been intellectually stimulating and challenging, with a diverse range of subjects that have broadened my perspectives on the world'.

Zalak Gandhi

BA Arts



It has been an amazing experience. The classes cover a wide range of subjects, helping me learn new things and see how different topics connect. The teachers are really knowledgeable and encourage us to think critically. I also enjoy discussing ideas with my classmates—it feels like we're all in this together.



Eligibility

1. Candidates should have successfully completed Bachelor's Degree of three or four years duration or Master's Degree of minimum one year duration or its equivalent. Candidates in their final year of Bachelors will be eligible for provisional admission until they submit their marksheets and degree certificates.
2. Candidates should clear all their backlogs in previous semesters. For instance, candidates graduating from a 3-year degree programme should have cleared Semester 1st to 6th and those graduating from a 4-year degree programme should have cleared Semester 1st to 8th.
3. Candidates should have 55% (General category) aggregate marks in their Bachelors and 50% (for all reserved categories).
4. If at any point there are any discrepancies or misinformation found or discovered by the University, the University reserves the right to cancel their admission/application.
5. **Maximum student intake: 60**

Admission Process

Counselling and Application Form

Personal Interview

Admissions

Admission Schedule

Counselling & Application: January, 2024

Semester Commences: July, 2024

Admissions Open
2024-2025





Fee Structure / Freeship / Scholarship

- The fees for the academic year 2024-2025 would be Rs. 1,11,000.
- *Concession in fees for reserved category students shall be applicable as per govt rules duly adopted in fee fixation committee and authorities of HSNCU as applicable as per HSNCU University, Mumbai notification.
- Student Aid - In order to further our efforts for inclusion and diversity, students at HSNCU University, Mumbai are offered a range of financial aid with respect to their financial needs. Please reach out to us at liberalstudies@hsncu.edu.in to seek financial aid.

Frequently Asked Questions

1) I am already a graduate/post-graduate. How does this programme add value to my skills?

This programme promises learning and skill development across disciplines. Our 30+ courses spread over four semesters highlight the same.

2) Does this programme offer a part-time option for working professionals?

No, this programme as per the UGC guidelines is a full-time programme which does not allow working professionals to pursue this course.

3) I am unable to afford the fees for the two year programme, are there any provisions for the same?

We believe it is pertinent that financial conditions do not limit students from applying for this programme. We have a range of financial aid and scholarships to offer.

4) I am not from Mumbai. Is this a residential programme?

No, it is not a residential programme, however, you need to be in Mumbai. Please contact the Coordinator if you need our assistance in finding accommodation.

