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Dual-Degree M.A. - Ph.D. Programme

(Philosophy)

1. Background and Context

This programme will be the first dual-degree M.A. - Ph.D. programme in IIT Bombay and the first dual-degree M.A. - Ph.D. programme in the discipline of Philosophy in India.

In recent years, liberal arts programmes have started gaining much popularity in India. Philosophy, being the basis of the liberal arts, we combine the strengths of similar philosophy programmes in India and the West with our own specific vision as philosophy faculty here at IITB. The motivation behind the dual-degree M.A. - Ph.D. programme is to contribute to the strengthening of education in the discipline of philosophy in India.

If we look at the current M.A. programmes in Philosophy in the various State and Central Universities in the country we find that they are broad in offering advanced courses in both Indian and Western philosophy. However, these programmes are designed in a manner that is constrained by the demands of a Master’s degree, thereby not providing comprehensive preparation towards research. In the West, especially in the US, where the idea of the liberal arts has deep roots, there are several M.A. programmes that are integrated with a Ph.D. Our programme aims to cover both Indian and Western Philosophy on an equal footing under a common vision. In addition, it emphasises the development of research skills through stringent writing component in the courses and a close reading of primary texts.

Moreover, the numerous liberal arts programmes that are being successfully run by various institutions in India have also come to highlight the fact that there are indeed a good deal of young minds looking to explore avenues other than what the traditional Indian universities have to offer. However, after their Bachelor’s degree, they find themselves compelled to move abroad or join their Indian imitations in the newly emerged private liberal arts universities of the last decade, which do not have a dedicated programme in philosophy to speak even less of an integrated programme, or fall back on the standard Master’s programmes at the Universities. This is of course due to the fact that the Indian academic space has not yet fully geared itself to cater to these new demands.

2. Vision and Rationale

This proposed programme offers a 6-year dual-degree M.A.- Ph.D. (2-year M.A. programme with the option to enter a 4-year Ph.D. programme) in Philosophy that is intensive in terms of its curriculum and intent. Furthermore, though the proposed degree is clearly in alignment with the discipline of Philosophy, the nature of the programme allows for a variety of electives, which thus opens up the possibility of other disciplines of the Humanities and the Social Sciences to float courses at post-graduate level that would offer the students various disciplinary perspectives on a theme or a problem. Given the multi-disciplinary nature of the HSS department [consisting of 18 non-philosophy credits], we can surely foresee a vibrant curriculum that can stand tall in relation to similar
programmes in the Liberal Arts globally. The programme will be one of a kind in providing the prospective student with a deep and rigorous engagement with the primary texts of philosophy, both Indian and Western. The students passing out of this programme will be equipped to handle independent research and teaching in any established academic institute.

3. Eligibility

A Bachelor's Degree (BA, BCom, BS, BSc, BTech), 10+2+3/4, in any discipline. 60% general, 55% SC/ST/OBC/PWD.

Students coming from 3 or 4-year UG programmes will thus be treated on par.

4. Entry

The M.A.- Ph.D. dual degree programme (Philosophy) at IIT Bombay is designed to attract aspiring Ph.D. scholars at an early stage in their academic career. Students will enter the programme through a written examination (70% weightage) and an interview (30% weightage) conducted by the HSS Department at IIT Bombay.

Entrance Examination will be conducted in June every year.

5. Number of Seats

14 (7 GN+2 SC+1 ST+3 OBC +1 EWS)

6. Curriculum and End Semester Examination

6.1. Genesis of the Curriculum

➢ The curriculum structure is commensurate with the Senate approved guidelines on M.Sc.- Ph.D. dual-degree programmes with appropriate modifications.

Refer the following:

1. Prof. Mukhopadhay Committee Report for Restructuring of 2-yr. M.Sc. Course

   https://www.iitb.ac.in/newacadhome/rules/Common_structuremscphd.pdf

3. Minutes of the 224th Meeting of the Senate held on the 10th February 2016, Item A.5.1

4. Committee Report on the Formulation of the Rules for Exit Option for Dual Degree (M.Sc+Ph.D.) Programme
   https://www.iitb.ac.in/newacadhome/mscphd201509Julylatest.pdf
6.2. The Structure of Curriculum and Course Work

The curriculum and course work is modelled upon the history of philosophy – both Indian and Western. The following are the highlights of the program:

- First 2 semesters will feature 6 masters level core courses (5 of which will be of 6 credits and one 8-credit course in the second semester)
  - The core courses will focus on the intensive reading of original texts.
- There will be 10 electives of 6 credits each, of which a maximum of 3 may be taken from outside the discipline.
- There will be 48 credits for the final written project divided into 3 stages over the last three semesters with first two stages of 12 credits each and final stage of 24 credits.
- The total credits for the programme are 146 (30+32+30+30+24)
- The project will be written to the standards of a peer-reviewed journal. It will be reviewed at every stage through a presentation to a group-approved examination committee.
- Students exiting the programme with an M.A. will leave at the end of the 4th semester with an M.A. in Philosophy.
- Those intending to continue to the Ph.D. programme will be intimated on the basis of their overall performance in the first two semesters as well as the written assignment submitted at the end of the Core Course VI: Writing and Research in Philosophy.

6.3 End Semester Examination (257th senate meeting)

The semester-end examination is desirable. If the instructor requires any deviation from having semester-end examination for his/her course, he/she should obtain approval from the respective DPGC, giving the justification, before the beginning of the semester.

6.4 Disclosing the Evaluated Answer scripts after Semester-End Examination (259th senate meeting)

A course instructor will make arrangement for students to see all evaluated answer scripts, student submissions and other graded material before finalization of grades for theory as well as for lab courses as per dates published in Academic Calendar.

7. Qualifier to the Ph.D. programme

The programme has qualifying examinations for the Ph.D. programme. This must be completed successfully prior to confirmation of registration. For more details, please visit department website.

8. Confirmation of Registration

The confirmation to the Ph.D. programme will be the date of registration of the following semester, after completion of the requirement of M.A.

9. Project Activity in the Summer

Students continuing into the Ph.D. programme will extend their project work into the summer between Semesters IV and V.
10. Exit Policy

10.1. Exit with M.A. Degree

Although the admission is for the M.A.-Ph.D. programme students may desire to leave with an M.A. degree based on the course work done in the 4 semesters. Students who clear all the 4 semesters courses (122 Credits) will be awarded an M.A. in Philosophy.

Students who do not fulfil the requirements of the M.A. degree will have to leave without any degree.

10.2. Exit during Ph.D.

Unsatisfactory performance in the Annual Progress Seminar (APS) will be grounds for exit during Ph.D. On the recommendation of the RPC the student may be asked to repeat of an unsatisfactory APS. Students will be allowed to leave with M.A. and MA by Research degrees any time after the first successful Annual Progress Seminar if they have done substantial research work consequent to a recommendation by the RPC and the DPGC and the thesis being examined as an MA by Research thesis (as applicable to the students in the regular Ph.D. programme).

(cf. Committee Report on the Formulation of the Rules for Exit Option for Dual Degree (M.Sc.+Ph.D.) Programme, item no. 9 approved by the 218th Meeting of the Senate)

11. Ph.D. Degree

If all requirements for the Ph.D. degree are fulfilled, the student is given the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees.

12. Fee Structure

The fee structure shall be as per the M.Sc. admitted students (till M.Sc. registration) and Ph.D. fees when enter into Ph.D. registration.

13. Scholarship

As per the institute provision for Dual Degree MSc + Ph.D. programme.
14. Semester-wise distribution of Courses

**Semester I**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Number of Credits (L T P C)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HS 4xx/5xx</td>
<td>Core I: Vedanta Philosophy in the Vedic Tradition</td>
<td>3 0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 4xx/5xx</td>
<td>Core II: Philosophy in the Age of the Greeks</td>
<td>3 0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 4xx/5xx</td>
<td>Core III: Western Philosophy and the Advent of Modern Science</td>
<td>3 0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 303/305/307</td>
<td>HSS UG Core</td>
<td>3 0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 2xx-7xx</td>
<td>Philosophy Elective (A/B/C/D)</td>
<td>3 0 0 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits** 30

**Semester II**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Number of Credits (L T P C)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HS 4xx/5xx</td>
<td>Core IV: Madhyamika Philosophy in the Buddhist Tradition</td>
<td>3 0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 4xx/5xx</td>
<td>Core V: Western Philosophy in the Time of Crisis</td>
<td>3 0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 4xx/5xx</td>
<td>Core VI: Writing and Research in Philosophy</td>
<td>3 1 0 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 2xx-7xx</td>
<td>Philosophy Elective (A/B/C/D)</td>
<td>3 0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 4xx-7xx</td>
<td>Institute Elective</td>
<td>3 0 0 6</td>
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</table>

**Total Credits** 32

**Semester III**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Name of the Course</th>
<th>Number of Credits (L T P C)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HS 4xx -8xx</td>
<td>Philosophy Elective A</td>
<td>3 0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 4xx -8xx</td>
<td>Philosophy Elective B</td>
<td>3 0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 6xx-7xx</td>
<td>Institute Elective</td>
<td>3 0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 5xx</td>
<td>Project Stage I</td>
<td>- - - 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 899</td>
<td>Communication Skills</td>
<td>P/NP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits** 30
Semester IV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Name of the Course</th>
<th>Number of Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HS 4xx – 8xx</td>
<td>Elective C</td>
<td>3 0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 4xx – 8xx</td>
<td>Elective D</td>
<td>3 0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 5xx – 8xx</td>
<td>Philosophy Course</td>
<td>3 0 0 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HS 5xx</td>
<td>Project Stage II</td>
<td>- - - 12</td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
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<td><strong>30</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

EXIT WITH M.A. DEGREE

Semester V

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Name of the Course</th>
<th>Number of Credits L T P C</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HS 5xx</td>
<td>Project Stage III</td>
<td>- - - 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Semester-wise distribution of Credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>No. of Courses + Projects</th>
<th>Total Number of Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>(6+6+6+6+6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>(6+6+8+6+6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>3 +HS 791&amp; HS792 + 1</td>
<td>(6+6+6+12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>3 +1</td>
<td>(6+6+6+12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>0+1</td>
<td>(24)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Credits</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>14</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15. Placement

The proposed programme will primarily prepare students for academic positions in philosophy. Those who depart with an M.A. will be eligible for doctoral programmes in philosophy and allied disciplines. In addition, all students, irrespective of their point of exit from the programme should well-equipped to enter other professional fields like law, journalism, medical humanities, bioethics, non-governmental organisations as well as the corporate sector in niche areas like CSR.

Date : 01-07-2024