



POSTGRADUATE PROSPECTUS

MA IN SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

The Idea of South Asia

A premium, two-year research-led Master's programme bridging deep historical memory with contemporary geopolitical reality. Jointly offered by the School of Humanities, Social Sciences & Liberal Arts, SGT University and the Advanced Study Institute of Asia (ASIA).

Research-Driven Curriculum

SGT UNIVERSITY ADVANCED STUDY INSTITUTE OF ASIA

"South Asia is more than a geographic region. It is an intellectual idea."

To understand South Asia is to understand a dynamic tapestry of shared legal systems, overlapping linguistic traditions, deep-seated civilizational memories, and closely linked environmental futures. This programme deconstructs traditional borders to examine the real flows of culture, capital, and communities.

Conceptual Coverage

- **History, Memory & Civilisational Formation**
Explores how South Asia was shaped through ancient, medieval, colonial, and postcolonial processes. Students examine historiography, public memory, archives, empire, partition, nationalism, and the ways societies construct and contest the past.
- **Culture, Heritage & Knowledge Systems**
Investigates South Asia's cultural worlds through language, oral traditions, crafts, monuments, manuscripts, heritage institutions, cinema, religion, and everyday practices. Focuses on how knowledge is produced, preserved, represented, and transformed across generations.
- **Politics, Democracy & State Formation**
Studies constitutions, citizenship, governance, democracy, political thought, nationalism, social movements, law, rights, and public institutions. Examines how power operates across both formal political structures and everyday social life.
- **Economy, Development & Social Change**
Analyses Bhutan's unique development philosophy — Gross National Happiness — and its implications for governance, environmental policy, and national identity. Examines Bhutan's relationship with India, its transition from absolute monarchy to constitutional monarchy, and the management of cultural sovereignty in a small state.
- **Research, Practice & Contemporary South Asia**
Bridges theory with real-world engagement through fieldwork, institutional placements, policy analysis, cultural documentation, dissertation research, and comparative country studies (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives). Encourages students to understand South Asia as a connected regional system rather than isolated nation-states.
- **Constitutionalism, Citizenship & the Idea of the State**
Examines how South Asian societies have imagined, negotiated, and institutionalised political order through constitutions. Students explore the intellectual foundations of constitutionalism, constituent assemblies, federalism, rights, citizenship, secularism, religion-state relations, and democratic governance. The theme situates constitutional development within the region's civilisational inheritances, colonial legacies, and contemporary political challenges, enabling a comparative understanding of how South Asian states define legitimacy, authority, and collective belonging.

Why Choose This Programme?

Built explicitly for the next generation of global scholars, policymakers, and cultural custodians. We combine rigorous archive-driven academic learning with functional real-world practice.

I

Research-Led Learning

Every course module is anchored in active research projects led by pioneering international faculty and published policy experts.

II

Interdisciplinary Frame

Seamlessly synthesize political economy, historical anthropology, critical heritage studies, and quantitative data policy analysis.

III

Global Credit Equivalence

Curriculum architecture aligned with leading European and North American postgraduate credit requirements for effortless global mobility.

IV

Small Cohort Mentorship

Strictly capped annual student enrollment ensures highly focused individual thesis guidance and dedicated seminar interaction.

V

Dissertation & Placement

A rigorous full-semester mandatory research thesis supported by structured institutional career pathways and corporate linkages.

VI

Scholar-Practitioner Hub

Direct engagement options with leading global think tanks, research councils, diplomatic corridors, and non-governmental actors.

Four Pillars of South Asian Studies

01

History, Memory & The Making of South Asia

Deconstruct historical methodologies, state formations, epigraphical archives, and memory preservation from ancient archaeological ruins to post-colonial partitions.

- Epigraphical and Manuscript Archives
- Colonial and State Record Analysis
- Archaeology and Ruins Preservation

02

Culture, Heritage & Knowledge Systems

Investigate living craft traditions, indigenous knowledge frameworks, oral histories, linguistic transformations, and the philosophy of South Asian pluralism.

- Material Crafts and Textiles Networks
- Sociolinguistics and Orality Maps
- Philology and Shared Epics

03

Politics, Power & The State

Analyse constitutional designs, democratic institutions, public movements, border dynamics, electoral behaviors, and the regional architecture of diplomacy.

- Comparative Constitutional Law
- Geopolitical Border Security Vectors
- Grassroots Public Mobilizations

04

Economy, Development & Inequality

Address complex agrarian economies, swift mega-urbanization patterns, critical infrastructure projects, labor dynamics, and structural socio-economic divides.

- Agrarian Economics & Water Security
- Mega-Urbanization & Labor Flows
- Logistics and Special Economic Zones

Programme Structure

YEAR 1: FOUNDATION & CORE METHODOLOGY

SEMESTER 1 (CORE FOUNDATIONS)

- Foundations of South Asian Studies
- Social World & Cultural Heritage Matrix
- History & Historical Practice Frameworks
- The Contemporary Political Landscape
- Economic Change & State Formations
- Research as Practice: Epistemology & Design

SEMESTER 2 (SPECIALISED TOOLS)

- Advanced Thematic Elective Course I
- Advanced Thematic Elective Course II
- Experimental Field Practice Course
- Qualitative & Quantitative Research Methods
- Ethics in Archival & Fieldwork Studies
- Dissertation Proposal & Literature Defense

YEAR 2: SPECIALISATION & DEEP RESEARCH

SEMESTER 3 (ADVANCED TRACKS)

- Pathway Specific Specialisation Paper I
- Pathway Specific Specialisation Paper II
- Global South Policy Lab Simulations
- Fieldwork/Archival Residency Placement
- Interim Dissertation Colloquium Presentation

SEMESTER 4 (CAP-STONE EXECUTION)

- Independent Master's Dissertation Research
- Regular Master-Class Thesis Defense Series
- Policy Brief / Academic Journal Drafting
- Final External Board Viva Voce Execution

Specialisation Pathways

Students align their academic credits around one of four highly competitive, distinct thematic concentrations to guarantee market differentiation and specialized expertise.

<p>Political Economy</p> <p>Investigate economic statecraft, international trade corridors, regional finance mechanisms, supply chains, and market architectures.</p> <p>Focus Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross-border logistics • Asset privatization • Energy grids 	<p>Public Policy</p> <p>Analyse statutory regulatory design, policy implementation frameworks, big data systems, and the mechanics of delivery.</p> <p>Focus Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E-governance design • Legislative analysis • Metrics evaluation 	<p>Cultural Policy</p> <p>Focus on the modern lifecycle of tangible and intangible heritage preservation, museum curation, and arts funding.</p> <p>Focus Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital archival arts • Intellectual property • Museum curation 	<p>Development Studies</p> <p>Address the critical frontline mechanics of ecological degradation, community adaptation, and local governance systems.</p> <p>Focus Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate resilience • Agrarian distress • Decentralization
---	---	--	---

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Field Research & Archival Integration

Our students do not just read the regional histories—they map them directly. Through comprehensive, fully institutionalized fieldwork, we convert theoretical understanding into structured empirical knowledge.

Field Visits & Documentation

Structured excursions to crucial heritage corridors, industrial economic special zones, and historical state archives across regions.

Experimental Projects

Hands-on creation of high-impact research outputs: professional digital documentaries, podcast production series, and comprehensive policy briefings.

Institutional Placements

Guaranteed strategic access internships with renowned multinational policy think tanks, cultural ministries, and international non-profits.

Research Dissertation

An intense, standalone research project producing publication-ready monographs evaluated by external global experts.

Strategic Global Graduate Destinations

<p>Academia & PhDs Global Fellowships, Higher Research</p>	<p>Policy Think Tanks Strategic Analyst, Research Director</p>	<p>Civil Services Diplomatic Services, Public Affairs</p>
<p>Journalism & Media Foreign Correspondent, Editor</p>	<p>Heritage Hubs Museum Curator, Archive Archivist</p>	<p>International Bodies UN Organisms, Regional NGO Lead</p>

STUDY SOUTH ASIA. UNDERSTAND THE REGION. SHAPE THE FUTURE.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Secure your place in a competitive global cohort.

2 Years
DURATION

Bachelor's
ELIGIBILITY

Up to 40%
SCHOLARSHIPS