



SGT
UNIVERSITY

Shree Guru Gobind Singh Tricentenary University



POSTGRADUATE PROSPECTUS

MA IN SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

The Idea of South Asia

DURATION

12 Months (2 Semesters)

INAUGURAL INTAKE

August 2026

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

FHEQ Level 7 / UGC NCrF Compliant

COLLABORATION

India's Only Practitioner Integrated Course

Intellectual Framework

"South Asia is more than a geographic region. It is an intellectual idea. This programme is your immersion into it."

The MA in South Asian Studies — The Idea of South Asia is a one-year, research-led postgraduate programme designed to produce rigorous, analytically sophisticated graduates capable of engaging with South Asia across its historical, cultural, political, and economic dimensions. Jointly offered by the School of Humanities, Social Sciences & Liberal Arts, SGT University, and the Advanced Study Institute of Asia (ASIA), the programme is structured across two intensive semesters.

Semester 1 establishes a shared conceptual and methodological foundation through core courses spanning four thematic pillars. Semester 2 moves toward specialisation through elective courses and culminates in an independent research thesis.

ASSESSMENT PHILOSOPHY & RIGOUR

Students are assessed entirely through written work — essays, field reports, and a research thesis — aligned with FHEQ Level 7 / 60 ECTS / UGC NCrF 80 credits. There are no timed examinations. This reflects a deliberate pedagogical commitment: the forms of knowledge produced in South Asian Studies — interpretive, historically situated, analytically complex — are best demonstrated through sustained written argument.

Programme at a Glance

CORE METRIC	SPECIFICATIONS
Duration	12 Months (2 Semesters)
Total Credits	40 Programme Credits (120 UK / 60 ECTS)
Programme Fee	Rs 3,50,000
Scholarships	Up to 25–40% on merit and need
Cohort Size	10–20 students

CORE METRIC	SPECIFICATIONS
Programme Start	August 2026
Eligibility	4-yr Bachelor's in any discipline, min 60% (Programme not open for Professionals with a 2-Year UG Degree, they may opt for the 2-Year format)
Medium of Instruction	English
UK Equivalent	FHEQ Level 7 (Master's)
Credit Compliance	UGC NCrF & ABC-compliant

What Makes This Programme Different — The ASIA Effect

Students in this programme are embedded in the Advanced Study Institute of Asia (ASIA) — one of India's foremost multidisciplinary policy and research organisations. This is not an affiliation. It is active integration. Most programmes teach South Asia. This one lets students learn while working within a functioning policy and research institution — attending high-level discussions, engaging visiting scholars, contributing to publications, and observing real institutional decision-making.

LEARN SOUTH ASIA WHILE WORKING ON SOUTH ASIA

Students spend four days per week at SGT University and one day each week at ASIA, contributing from Day 1 to live projects:

- **Sensemakers** — Insightful Dialogues Beyond Boundaries
- **Decypher** — ASIA's weekly research newsletter
- **Woh Dilli** — Urban and cultural documentation
- **Living Constitution** — Constitutional scholarship initiative
- **Progress & Policy Colloquia** — Conversations Shaping Public Policy
- High-level policy dialogues and public events
- Research projects and academic publications

WHY 1 YEAR?

The accelerated one-year format is designed for graduates who already hold a 4-year degree, working professionals, researchers, journalists, and policy practitioners who want a globally benchmarked, intensive academic credential without a two-year commitment.

1-Year MA = KNOWLEDGE + EXPOSURE + DISSERTATION

Four Pillars of South Asian Studies

The programme is organised around four interconnected thematic pillars that together constitute the intellectual terrain of South Asian Studies.

01

History, Memory & The Making of South Asia

Historiography, archives, empire, partition, nationalism, public memory, and the contested production of historical knowledge.

02

Culture, Heritage & Knowledge Systems

Language, oral traditions, crafts, manuscripts, heritage institutions, cinema, religion, and the production of knowledge across generations.

03

Politics, Power & The State

Constitutions, citizenship, democracy, governance, social movements, law, rights, and how power operates across formal and everyday political life.

04

Economy, Development & Social Inequality

Economic history, development policy, labour, caste and class inequalities, climate, urbanisation, and regional disparities across South Asia.

Programme Structure

SEMESTER 1 — FOUNDATION (20 CREDITS)

All students complete a shared set of compulsory and core courses establishing a common conceptual and methodological foundation.

Foundations of South Asian Studies

2 CREDITS

Intensive 2-week gateway course. Establishes three habits of mind: precision about concepts, attention to context, and scepticism about received narratives.

Research as Practice (incl. Field Visit)

2 CREDITS

Semester-long methodological training with an organised field visit to a heritage site, archive, or development institution. Assessed by 2,000-word field report.

The Social World and Cultural Heritage

4 CREDITS

Four modules covering culture theory, craft traditions, orality and memory, and heritage representation in South Asia.

Making of the Past: History and Historical Practice

4 CREDITS

Four modules spanning historiography, early South Asia, medieval political cultures, and colonialism and resistance.

Understanding the South Asian Political Landscape

4 CREDITS

Four modules on political thought, constitution-making, nationalism, and democratic practice across South Asia.

Economic Change and the State in South Asia

4 CREDITS

Four modules on post-independence economies, planning, the reform era, and welfare state evolution.

Programme Structure

SEMESTER 2 — SPECIALISATION & RESEARCH (20 CREDITS)

Students choose four elective courses from four thematic clusters. Choosing three or more from one cluster is recorded as a Minor. The semester culminates in the Research Thesis.

COMPONENT	CREDITS	DETAILS
Elective Courses (4 Courses)	12	Choose from: Heritage & Memory Studying the Past Differently The Public Life of Politics Economic Life in South Asia
Experimental / Practice Course	2	2-week faculty-supervised project: film, podcast, oral history, archival research, public writing, or digital humanities. Assessed by output + reflective note + viva.
Research Thesis / Dissertation	6	6,000–8,000 words. Original research question, theoretical framework, and sustained analysis. Examined by internal and external panel with viva voce.

ELECTIVE COURSE CLUSTERS

HERITAGE, MEMORY & CULTURAL WORLDS	STUDYING THE PAST DIFFERENTLY	THE PUBLIC LIFE OF POLITICS	ECONOMIC LIFE IN SOUTH ASIA
- Heritage & Tourism - Textiles & Identity - Monuments - Film & Cultural Memory	- Regional Histories - Gender & History - Science & Knowledge - Dietary Practices - Manuscripts	- Law, Rights & State - Political Ecology - Religion & Secularism - How Is Air Governed? - Changing Global Dynamics	- Technology & Development - Urbanisation & Cities - Food, Climate & Heat - Economic Transitions - India in the Global South

Assessment Blueprint

COMPONENT	ASSESSMENT MODE	FORM
Foundations of South Asian Studies	Pass / Fail	Seminar participation + short reflection
Research as Practice	100% Coursework	2,000-word field report
Core Courses 1–4 (each)	Essay 80% + Quiz 20%	3,000-word essay + weekly quizzes
Elective Courses (each)	Essay 80% + Quiz 20%	3,000-word essay + weekly quizzes
Experimental / Practice Course	Output 40% + Note 20% + Viva 20% + Proposal 20%	Practice project + methodological note
Research Thesis	Thesis 50% + Viva 30% + Internal 20%	6,000–8,000 words + viva voce examination

Academic & Career Outcomes

Academia & PhD	Doctoral research at national and international programmes.
Civil Services	UPSC and equivalent; exceptional analytical and writing preparation.
Policy & Think Tanks	Policy analysis roles in government, think tanks, and multilateral bodies.
Journalism & Media	Research-based reporting across print, digital, and broadcast.
Museums & Archives	Cultural institutions, heritage conservation, archival practice.
Development Organisations	Research and programme roles in NGOs and international agencies.

Programme Faculty & Administration

Programme Director	Prof Hilal Ahmed
Co-Director	Dr Tushar (Dean Social Sciences, SGT University)
Course Incharge	Dr. Tripti Chowdhury
Course Academic Reviewer	Prof. Nazima Parveen
External Course Academic Reviewer	Prof. (Dr.) Amit K. Suman Associate Professor, Kirorimal College, Delhi University
Programme Academic Coordinator	Ms Khushi Kesari (ASIA)
Administrative Coordinator	Ms. Abhilasha Semwal (ASIA)
Hosting Institute	School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Liberal Arts, SGT University and Advanced Study Institute of Asia (ASIA)

Admissions

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Graduates from any recognised university, any discipline, with a minimum of 60% aggregate. A 4-year Bachelor's degree is required for the 1-year accelerated programme. Relevant professional experience in research, civil society, policy, or media is treated as a substantive asset.

SELECTION PROCESS

Admissions are based on a holistic evaluation:

- **Statement of Purpose:** 600–800 words (written or audio-visual)
- **Sample of work:** 500–1,500 words of written or analytical work
- **Interview:** 30-minute panel interview for shortlisted candidates

Applications reviewed on a rolling basis.

STUDY SOUTH ASIA. ENGAGE SOUTH ASIA. SHAPE SOUTH ASIA.

SGT University × Advanced Study Institute of Asia

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Contact: 8448080383



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