

**DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
DELHI SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS**



HANDBOOK OF INFORMATION

M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Economics

2020



**UNIVERSITY OF DELHI
DELHI-110007**

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. Registration for admission to all M.Phil. and Ph.D. programmes of the University of Delhi (including those offered by the Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics) is carried out on-line by the University according to rules and procedures described in the University's Bulletin of Information, which should be read carefully before filling the on-line application form. Details are available on the M.Phil.-Ph.D. Admission Portal on the website of the University of Delhi, www.du.ac.in. Applicants are responsible for regularly checking the portal for any updates. This Handbook provides additional information for candidates intending to apply for the M.Phil. and Ph.D. programmes in Economics.
2. For information about the application process and date, time and venues of the Entrance Test, please consult admission portal. Any questions should be directed to the helpline number /email address given there. **The Department of Economics has no role to play in this process.** In particular, the list of shortlisted candidates and the dates for the interview will be announced only after receiving the results of the first-stage entrance test from the University.

**Department of Economics
Delhi School of Economics**

Office Hours 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
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Note: Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the department office is maintained at minimal levels of physical staffing. Email is the preferred method of communication at present.

1. INTRODUCTION

Our Past and Present

Reckoning from the appointment of V.K.R.V. Rao as Professor in 1942, the Department of Economics of the Delhi School of Economics is one of the oldest departments of the University of Delhi. The Delhi School of Economics was set up in 1949 as an institution for advanced studies and research in economics, on the initiative of the Founder-Director Professor Rao, with Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru as its President. Since then, the Department has been at the forefront of post-graduate teaching and research in economics. At present, it is one of the three constituent departments of the Delhi School of Economics, the other two being Geography and Sociology.

The Department of Economics (henceforth, the Department) supports Masters, M.Phil. and Doctoral programmes in Economics, which draw a huge number of applicants from all over the country and many from abroad. These programmes have a strong theoretical and quantitative focus with an emphasis on empirical applications. Their hallmark is the dynamic curriculum offered, which is continuously reviewed and updated in line with the latest developments in the subject.

The Department is proud of its many past faculty members who have made significant contributions to the economics discipline. Foremost among these are the first three Heads of the Department, V.K.R.V. Rao, B.N. Ganguli and K.N. Raj, who went on to become Vice Chancellors of Delhi University. The foundations they laid down were built upon by their successors, K.A. Naqvi, Sukhamoy Chakravarty, A.L. Nagar, Mrinal Datta Chaudhuri, Dharma Kumar, K.L. Krishna, S.B. Gupta, Suresh D. Tendulkar, Om Prakash, Badal Mukhopadhyay, V. N. Pandit, K. Sundaram, Pulin B. Nayak, Partha Sen, Santosh C. Panda, B. L. Pandit and Pami Dua. Other distinguished scholars who have served on the faculty include Pranab Bardhan, Kaushik Basu, Jagdish Bhagwati, Bhaskar Dutta, Raj Krishna, Prasanta Pattanaik, Tapan Raychaudhuri, Sanjay Subrahmanyam, and Nobel laureate Amartya Sen. Many of them were nominated as Fellows of the Econometric Society, a much coveted honour in the field of Economics, making them members of a very prestigious international body of scholars.

The Department is also proud of its numerous alumni who have gone on to distinguished academic careers, including many Fellows of the Econometric Society such as Dilip Abreu, Bhaskar Dutta, Gita Gopinath, Vijay Krishna, Tapan Mitra, Dilip Mookherjee and Arunava Sen (who was also awarded the prestigious Infosys Prize). Department alumni can be found in most major Economics, Business and Public Policy departments worldwide, very often as members of the faculty, and even more commonly, as doctoral students.

Apart from purely academic distinctions, members of the Department have contributed to the task of institution-building in various capacities. The founder, Professor Rao, went on to become the Vice Chancellor of Delhi University, served as the Education minister in the central government, and also founded other important academic institutions. Another former member of the Department, Professor Manmohan Singh, served as Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Finance Minister and later Prime Minister of India. Numerous other members of the Department, including K.N. Raj, Raj Krishna, P.N. Dhar, Sukhamoy Chakravarty, Suresh Tendulkar, Ashok Lahiri, Kaushik Basu and T.C.A. Anant served the nation as high-level economic officials or advisers to the government and international bodies, as members of the Planning Commission, and as regulators or members of important government Commissions and committees. Others have served as public intellectuals and as public-spirited activists.

While the Department's alumni have traditionally found jobs and attained considerable eminence in academia, the civil services, NGOs, international organizations and the media, the number of alumni in finance, consultancy and other areas of the private sector has grown manifold in the past two decades. Further details about recent placements are given below.

In 1965, the Department was the first economics department in the country to be recognized by the University Grants Commission as a Centre for Advanced Studies, a distinction that it continues to hold to the present day. The present Department is building on this evolving tradition and continues to perform the functions of academic research, teaching and public service. Current faculty have published their research in leading Indian and international professional journals, and have won prestigious international and Indian awards and fellowships. Their specializations span a wide range of areas in economics (see www.econdse.org/faculty/). For many years, the Department has been ranked the highest amongst university economics departments in India by RePEc (Research Papers in Economics), a global electronic archive of working papers and publications in Economics and Finance (<http://ideas.repec.org/top/top.india.html>). Apart from pursuing their individual research programmes, several members of the faculty also serve on committees of various government departments and public sector organizations, and on the governing bodies or academic councils of important academic institutions.

Looking Outward

The Department maintains a lively interaction with the Indian and international economics profession. Over the years, it has hosted a long list of distinguished scholars as visitors and speakers, including Nobel laureates such as William Nordhaus, Thomas Sargent, Angus Deaton, Eric Maskin, John Nash, Joseph Stiglitz, Amartya Sen, Jan Tinbergen, John Hicks, Kenneth Arrow, Milton Friedman, James Tobin, and Lawrence Klein. Other distinguished visitors and speakers over the years have included Michael Kalecki, Maurice Dobb, Nicholas

Kaldor, Joan Robinson, Jagdish Bhagwati, T.N. Srinivasan, Ian Little, Harry Johnson, Robert Baldwin, I.G. Patel, William Baumol, Nicholas Stern, Bela Balassa, Lance Taylor, Ronald Jones, Anne Krueger, Edmond Malinvaud, Jacques Dreze, Zvi Griliches, Hugo Sonnenschein, Oliver Hart, Debraj Ray, and in more recent years, Pranab Bardhan, Partha Dasgupta and Hal Varian. Key policy makers such as Montek Ahluwalia, Kaushik Basu, C. Rangarajan, Y.V. Reddy, Arvind Subramanian and Viral Acharya have also spoken at the DSE in recent years.

Conferences, workshops and seminars are important fora for the Department's research engagement with the economics profession at large. Members of the Department actively engage in such interactions, and also organize events, including an active weekly seminar series that attracts speakers from around the world. Another regular event is the annual Winter School, which brings in distinguished scholars from India and abroad to give a set of expository lectures on frontier areas of research, and to interact with young research scholars in a workshop-style setting. The list of distinguished invited speakers for the Winter School in recent years includes (apart from some of those named above): Ken Binmore, John Moore, Herve Moulin, Nobuhiro Kiyotaki, Andrew Chesher, Esther Duflo, Abhijit Banerjee, Maitreesh Ghatak, William Thomson, Charles Manski, John Roemer, Dilip Abreu, Janet Currie, Andrew Foster, Bina Agarwal, Scott Taylor, Mukesh Eswaran, Imran Rasul, Stephen Morris, Ariel Rubinstein, Glenn Loury, Gita Gopinath, Avinash Dixit, Sanjeev Goyal, Jorgen Weibull, Timothy van Zandt, Manuel Arellano, John Leahy, George Mailath, Christopher Udry, Ran Spiegler, Edward Glaeser, V.V. Chari and Jean-Marc Robin.

The Department organized the Asian Meetings of the (International) Econometric Society in 2012. It also organized a conference on '*Indian Economy: Issues and Perspectives*' in 2013, as part of the golden jubilee celebrations of The Indian Econometric Society (TIES), the pre-eminent economics society in India. A special conference was organized in 2017 to felicitate Kaushik Basu on his 65th birthday. Distinguished speakers included Avinash Dixit, Joseph Stiglitz, and Manmohan Singh. In 2018, the Department hosted the prestigious Asia-Pacific Innovation Conference, which was held in India for the first time.

Our Journal and Working Papers

The Department houses a highly-regarded biannual journal, the *Indian Economic Review*, now published by Springer, which publishes peer-reviewed scholarly articles in diverse areas of economics. It is accessible at <https://www.springer.com/journal/41775>, and uses the Twitter Handle @dschool_ier. Over the years, it has featured the work of leading economists including several Nobel laureates. Past contributors to IER include George Akerlof, Pranab Bardhan, Kaushik Basu, William Baumol, Jagdish Bhagwati, Sukhamoy Chakravarty, Mrinal Datta Chaudhuri, Harry Johnson, James Mirrlees, Lawrence Klein, Kala Krishna, Anne

Krueger, A.L. Nagar, William Nordhaus, Prasanta Pattanaik, K.N. Raj, Joan Robinson, Amartya Sen, T.N. Srinivasan, Nicholas Stern, Suresh Tendulkar, Jan Tinbergen, James Tobin, Stephen Turnovsky, Thomas Weisskopf, to name a few. Past issues of the journal are available at JSTOR (jstor.org). The Department also runs a Working Paper series that publishes the research of its faculty members and visitors.

Infrastructure, Library, and Computing Facilities

Teaching and research in the Department are supported by excellent infrastructure, computing facilities and a well-stocked library. The main lecture theatre as well as all classrooms are air-conditioned and equipped with audio-visual facilities. In 2017, the lecture theatre was interconnected to two other classrooms with an enhanced two-way interactive audio-visual system. The Ratan Tata Library houses one of the best collections in economics and related social disciplines. It has a collection of about 333,000 books and bound journals, and subscribes to more than 230 academic journals. Many more journals are accessible on-line from the Delhi University Library System (DULS) from terminals in the library as well as in the Department's computer labs. (See Section 3 below for more information on the RTL.)

The Department has separate computer labs for Master's and research students. The labs have about 36 latest quad-core i7 based desktops. Here students receive training in data analysis and economic modeling using specialized econometric packages such as STATA, Mathematica, Scientific Workplace, E-views, Shazam, Microfit, Gauss, RATS (Real Analysis of Time Series), NLOGIT, Rstudio, etc. Students have access to high-speed internet through these desktops to aid their research. The computer lab also provides printing facilities to research students through a network printer. Computer labs provide access to various offline and online databases such as NSSO (National Sample Survey Organization), NFHS (National Family Health Survey), Census data, ASI (Annual Survey of Industries), NAS (National Accounts Statistics), CMIE Prowess database on companies, EPW Research Foundation Indian Time Series, indiastat.com etc. Online access to journal archives such as jstor.org, sciencedirect.com, etc. is also available to students through Delhi University's internet. Laptops are made available to students for presentations. The entire building is Wi-Fi enabled so that students can use their own laptops to access the internet.

The Department website (econdse.org) provides information about faculty specializations and research; admissions procedures; recommended readings for courses; notices for upcoming seminars, Conferences, Working Papers and Public Lectures; and links to useful academic websites. The Department's website is an important source of interaction between the Department and the students. The website is based on Wordpress CMS (Content Management System) and is actively updated on a daily basis. Faculty can post and update the information on the website themselves. Here students have online access to the course material, lecture slides, and weekly seminar announcements. Course-wise folders, containing course material, are also accessible from each desktop through a network drive hosted on a powerful in-house

server. A separate study room for research students has been recently refurbished, with air conditioning, connectivity to the central LAN and Wi-Fi access, and a dedicated printer.

Recent Ph.D. scholars have obtained prestigious positions at research and academic institutions both in India and abroad. These include Post-Doctoral Positions at Columbia University, Duke University, Cornell University and the University of Goettingen. Within India, recent Ph.D.'s have obtained Assistant Professorships at Ashoka University, IIT (Bombay), IIFT, and positions in 3ie (International Initiative for Impact Evaluation), UNCTAD, ADB and RIS. Recent M.Phil. graduates have obtained fellowships at Ph.D. programmes at the University of Michigan, Pennsylvania State University, Boston College, and the Stockholm School of Economics.

2. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

There is a common Web Portal for the centralized registration of candidates seeking admission to the M.Phil./ Ph.D. Programmes in the University of Delhi. Online registration details are available on this following M.Phil./ Ph.D. Programme portal, which is easily located on the website of the University of Delhi, www.du.ac.in. This portal also provides essential information about eligibility conditions, applications procedure and schedule, registration fees, and test centres and dates for the written entrance test, Ordinances governing admission and conduct of the M.Phil and Ph.D. programmes, and facilities provided by the University. *Please monitor the above website for any changes. The Department of Economics cannot provide any information in this regard.*

Applications to the Ph.D. and M.Phil. programmes in the department follow a 2-step procedure.

Step 1: Register on the portal mentioned above, and sit for the Entrance Exam. Some categories, as listed in Ordinance VIB are exempted from taking this entrance exam. *However, candidates in these exempted categories must also register on the portal, in order to be called for Step 2. Applicants to the Ph.D. programme must include a 1500 word synopsis of a proposed research topic on the portal as part of their application.*

Step 2: Based on performance in the entrance exam, and exempted categories, a shortlist is announced by the department. The shortlisted candidates appear for a second stage assessment that includes an interview. Details about these steps are given below.

Step 1: Entrance Examination

For the entrance exam, applicants will be expected to be familiar with microeconomics, macroeconomics, statistics/econometrics and mathematical methods at the level of the first year of the Master's Programme in Economics in the Department of Economics, Delhi School of Economics. The following is a list of textbooks that is indicative of content; questions on the entrance exam try to probe economic understanding at the Master's level, and will not necessarily be based on these books alone.

- (i) *Advanced Microeconomic Theory* - Geoffrey A. Jehle and Philip J. Reny
- (ii) *Advanced Macroeconomics* - David Romer
- (iii) *Basic Econometrics* - D. Gujarati
- (iv) *Probability and Statistics* – DeGroot and Schervish
- (iv) *Mathematics for Economists* – C. Simon and L. Blume
- (v) *An Introduction to Game Theory* – Martin Osborne

The entrance exam consists of only multiple-choice questions, and is held in centres in various cities as described in the bulletin of information at the University's admissions portal. Note that there will be negative marking for wrong or multiple answers to a question. The multiple-choice

questions are designed to test rigorously the ability to apply concepts and techniques, rather than have a mere ‘theoretical’ familiarity with them. Calculators will not be required.

Step 2:

A shortlist is determined based on entrance exam performance and applicants for whom the entrance exam is waived. Shortlisted candidates appear for a second stage assessment. This assessment consists of both written and oral components, that attempt to test for research aptitude, knowledge of economics; the synopsis of a research topic that the candidate submitted (in case of application for a Ph.D.) is also considered in this step. Up until this year, this second stage has been conducted only in Delhi (with outstation candidates being given adequate notice so they can appear). However, under the special circumstances created by the pandemic, there may be a possible change. We will let candidates know well ahead of time what the modalities of conducting the second stage will be. But candidates must be prepared to undertake this assessment online, if necessary.

The department is not in a position to provide any assistance in preparation for either Step 1 or Step 2 above. No queries about entrance exam papers etc. will be entertained. The medium of examination and assessment at both stages will be English.

Candidates from the exempted categories who plan to appear directly for the second-stage assessment should also inform the Department via email at dept-mphil-phd@econsdse.org, enclosing a copy of the proposal and acknowledgement of the application as early as possible, and no later than the date of the first-stage entrance exam. The dates and times of the second stage assessment will be notified in the Department website after the results of the first-stage examination are processed. Note that applicants for the M.Phil must appear for the first stage entrance test, and also for the second stage if they are shortlisted.

A list of candidates selected for provisional admission will be uploaded on the department website as well as the University’s admission portal. Provisional admission for Ph.D. students is subject to confirmation by the Board of Research Studies of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Delhi.

3. COURSEWORK AND OTHER INFORMATION

(Note that some of these requirements may change if the University amends Ordinances VI and VI-B)

Students from both programmes have the same course work requirement, to enable a seamless transition from M.Phil. to Ph.D. for those M.Phil. students who may choose the transition route following the completion of their course work with distinction.

1. Students must take, and clear, 4 lecture-based courses with at least 55% marks in each.
 - One course is on quantitative research methodology. Students of this course will acquire competence in econometric methods at the level of textbooks such as that by Greene; and competence in software (choice of which will be coordinated with the requirements of students).
 - A second course will be on Economic Theory (Game Theory or Macroeconomics depending on a student's planned specialization). The students will acquire competence in the foundational models of game theory or macroeconomics, at the level of standard post-graduate expositions.
 - Two courses in fields that a student wishes to specialize in.
 - The course load will be two lecture-based courses per semester. 2/3rds attendance is a compulsory requirement.
 - In addition, students must attend a research workshop in both semesters.
 - The lecture-based courses will be evaluated through presentations, term papers and exams. The Research Workshop is a forum in which research students at all stages of their stay in the programme present and discuss their research. Students during their course work stage must attend at least 2/3rds of the seminars, and participate as active members of the audience. They will be evaluated on a Pass or Fail criterion, based on the attendance requirement.

2. If a student is not able to pass a course with 55 percent marks, he or she shall be given one opportunity to take a re-test within 12 months. In addition, during the period of course work, the research advisory committee may advise remedial, non-credit work for a student, if it assesses him or her to be underprepared relative to the requirements of the Ph.D. or M.Phil. programmes. For the summer semester this will typically be offered in the second week of the winter semester, and similarly for the winter semester, over the summer. The medium of instruction and evaluation is English.

3. An M.Phil. student who has completed coursework with aggregate marks of at least 75% may enter the Ph.D. programme at the beginning of the following academic year. At this point no additional coursework is required and the student would be treated on par with other Ph.D. students who have completed a year in the programme. M.Phil. students are required to remain in residence for the first year of their programme. M.Phil students who do not transition to the Ph.D.

programme must submit their dissertation within 24 months of their joining. Extensions and relaxations are only possible as per university guidelines.

4. M.Phil. students are expected to contact faculty members in the second semester of their coursework and get written consent from at least one faculty member to be their supervisor. They are expected to submit a 1000-word proposal by June 30, 2021.

5. Each student entering the Ph.D. programme is required to select a supervisor within one month of joining the programme. Upon receiving the written consent of the faculty members involved, the DRC will constitute an advisory committee and forward the information to the Board of Research Studies (BRS) of the Faculty of Social Sciences. These steps are required before the process of provisional registration is complete. The student may change his/her supervisor in the second year, depending on the area in which he/she proposes to write the thesis.

6. For confirmation of Ph.D. registration, which generally occurs in the second year of the programme, the candidate needs to successfully complete all coursework, identify a thesis supervisor (who may or may not be the same as the initial supervisor), and successfully present and defend their Ph.D. thesis proposal in a department seminar no later than August 31, 2020. The proposal must be approved by the supervisor, the advisory committee of the student, the DRC, and the BRS. Registration is confirmed **only** after this process is completed.

7. Ph.D. students are required to remain in residence for at least two years following provisional registration and are required to submit their thesis within six years of the date of provisional registration. Extensions and relaxations are possible only as per university guidelines. Students are strongly advised to give *full-time* commitment to the Ph.D. programme in order to ensure timely completion of coursework, proposals and dissertation within University stipulated time frame, and minimize drop-outs. Exceptions will be made only on academic grounds (see for example (7) below).

7) While all students have to have a supervisor from the department, they may have a joint-supervisor from any recognized institution, and can spend up to 12 months in the institution of the joint-supervisor.

8) M.Phil. and Ph.D. students are required to present their work regularly in the student research workshop which meets weekly during the academic year. They must also be in regular contact with their supervisors and submit a report on their progress to the DRC via their supervisors by the end of each academic year.

Thesis Submission

M.Phil.

a) The dissertation will be submitted only when the supervisor(s) concerned is (are) satisfied that it is worthy of consideration in part fulfillment of the M.Phil. degree. The application for submission of the dissertation shall also be countersigned by the Head of the Department.

b) **Evaluation and Classification of Results:** Students admitted to the M.Phil. programme shall be evaluated in Part I (Course Work) and Part II (Dissertation) of the M.Phil examination under the numerical system and successful candidates of the M.Phil. examination will be classified into the following three categories.

1. Pass at least 55% in each course and 50% in the Dissertation including viva-voce
2. First Division: 60% marks or more in the aggregate
3. First Division with Distinction: 75% marks or more in the aggregate

Ph.D.

The thesis can be submitted once the supervisor certifies it as acceptable. Before submission, research findings must be presented in a departmental seminar. Six weeks in advance of submission, 7 copies of the Abstract and Table of Contents should be forwarded to the Head of the Department for consideration by the DRC. The DRC will then meet and approve the decision to submit, and decide on a panel of potential external examiners which will then be forwarded to the BRS. Three examiners from this panel will be appointed by the University for the evaluation of the thesis.

Fees and Financial Assistance

Fees to be paid are as prescribed by the University. In addition, a Computer Services fee of Rs 4,000/- per annum is charged from both M.Phil. and Ph.D. students. However, to alleviate the financial hardship of the needy students, this fee may be fully or partially waived, as per the assessment of a departmental committee. Needy students should submit an application at the time of depositing of admission fees for full/partial waiver for the computer fee. This application must be accompanied by a statement of circumstances, and a certificate of proof of the annual family income.

M.Phil.

Students enrolled in the M.Phil. programme may be entitled to get UGC fellowships @ Rs. 5000/- per month, with a contingency support of Rs. 8000/- per year. The duration of the fellowship will be as per rules and regulations under the Ordinance for the M.Phil. programme of the department. The selection of students for the above-mentioned fellowships will be as per the merit list and University norms for reserved categories. No fellowship will be given for any extended period. No fellowship will be given to students who join the M.Phil. programme on a part-time basis.

Ph.D.

Applicants may independently apply for the UGC-JRF Research Scholarships. Candidates admitted to the Ph.D. programme may be awarded UGC (Non-NET) Fellowships of Rs. 8000/- per month with contingency support of Rs. 8000/- per year as per UGC/University rules. Candidates who are NET qualified but do not receive the JRF may also be awarded the UGC (Non-NET) fellowship. Limited financial support may also be available from the Centre for Development Economics. Applicants admitted through the Entrance Examination will be given priority for such support in the first year of the Ph.D. programme. Some Ph.D. students may also be chosen as Research Assistants by individual faculty members to work on their projects.

4. RATAN TATA LIBRARY

The Ratan Tata Library of the Delhi School of Economics is one of the best-equipped libraries in Economics and allied fields.

The total collection comprises almost two lakh books and 1.32 lakh bound periodicals. Collection of Theses and Dissertations has grown to more than 1600 records. 156 current titles of journals are being subscribed in the library. The library has been designated as a repository of United Nations publications. It also has a fairly large and well-organized collection of State and Central Government publications.

Bibliographical records of the complete book collection are accessible through OPAC, including Web-OPAC via the Delhi University Library system portal.

A folder containing list of new books added to the collection every month has been placed in the main Reading Hall on ground floor for the information of esteemed users.

An e-Library has been providing facilities for accessing internet, e-resources & OPAC, including WEB-OPAC using 64 terminals and 2 high end servers.

For the differently-abled, two Computer terminals with proper software packages (Screen reader and NVDA) have been kept in the ground floor Main Reading Hall for accessing Internet, OPAC (online catalogue) and Electronic Resources.

The library has inter-library loan arrangement with libraries all over the country through DELNET to meet the research requirement of its research scholars and teachers. It has photocopying facilities available to its students, research scholars and faculty members.

The whole complex of the RTL is air-conditioned and under surveillance by means of CCTV.

The Users can access DULS/RTL website by clicking on Libraries on the webpage of DU accessing <http://www.du.ac.in>. The subscribed electronic resources can be accessed through URLs provided on the RTL website using DU Campus Network.

The Membership of the library is open to:

- a. Teachers, research scholars, students and non-teaching staff of the Delhi School of Economics;
- b. Teachers and post-graduate students of Economics, Commerce, Sociology, Geography of the University and its colleges.

There is a provision for consultation membership of the library for others wanting to use it for specific purposes.