

2.4 M.A./M.SC. PROGRAM IN HABITAT POLICY AND PRACTICE

The M.A./M.Sc. in Habitat Policy and Practice program is envisaged to be focused on policy, planning and practice. Here, the term 'policy' is meant to cover different official-legal and administrative-instruments, for example, laws, rules, regulations, policy recommendations, project guidelines, government resolutions, procedures, and norms. These instruments, together, provide an official (policy) framework for the stakeholders to operate in the Habitat sector. Further, the term practice is used here to identify activities that more directly engage with formulating, implementing, analysing, evaluating, and advocating policies on behalf of different stakeholders. The program will involve training in policies from different sectors which are directly connected with the Habitat sector. To begin with, these sectors would include, for example, housing, livelihoods (poverty), transport and infrastructure, water and governance.

The programme is aimed at responding to the capability gap (mentioned before) in terms of acute lack of professionals-having multidimensional understanding and multifarious capabilities-who would be able to comprehend and deal with the complex challenges thrown up by the recent developments on the urban scene.

Key Features

- ◆ The focus of the programme — as discussed before — is on policy and related practice.
- ◆ Further, as far as the substance is concerned, the programme, to begin with, will be focused on urban and peri-urban issues and processes.
- ◆ The programme will start with multi-disciplinarity and strive to achieve inter-disciplinarity, the transition being driven by the needs and demands of the ground-reality.
- ◆ It would strive to bring together disciplines not only within social sciences or within physical or engineering/technical sciences, but disciplines from all these three groupings.
- ◆ Efforts to impart multidimensional understanding and multifarious capabilities will be founded on efforts-through a group of courses-to develop a perspective among students that is broad, socially inclusive, democratic, technically informed, and culturally as well as environmentally sensitive.
- ◆ Another distinguishing feature of the program will be its strong linkages with the ground-reality and commitment to respond to the needs and aspirations of different stake-holders, especially the disadvantaged and vulnerable sections of society. This understanding will permeate through and shape all the different components of the program.

Semester-wise and Component-wise Distribution of Credits

Component (Total Credits)	Sem. I	Sem. II	Sem. III	Sem. IV
Foundation Courses (8 Credits)	4	4	-	-
Perspective Course (10 Credits)	2	2	6	-
Concepts and Theory Courses (10 Credits)	5	5	-	-
Sectoral and Policy Courses (16 Credits)	4	6	4	2
Elective Courses (2 Credits)	-	-	-	2
Methods and Skills Courses (NC + 16 Credits)	NC + 4	4	7	1
Field and Practical Work (NC + 4 Credits)	NC	1	NC + 1	2
Practice Concentration (12 Credits)	-	-	4	8
Total Credits (Total Credits 78)	19	22	22	15

Semester and Listing of Courses

Semester	Course Title	Credits	
I	FC 1	Understanding Society	2
	FC 2	Introduction to Basic Economics	2
	HP 1	Sociological Perspectives on Urban and Regional Development	2
	HP 2	Public Policy and Governance: Theory, Analysis and Advocacy	2
	HP 3	Ecology and Urban Environment	2
	HP 4	Basic Technical Capabilities of Habitat Professionals	1
	HP 5	Urban Livelihood and Housing – I	2
	HP 6	Urban Transport and Infrastructure: Policies and Practices	2
	HP 7	Communication	NC
	HP 8	Quantitative Research Methods	2
	HP 9	Qualitative Research Methods	2
		Practical Field Work — Exposure Visit	NC
II	FC 3	Development Experience, Social Conflict and Change	2
	FC 4	Human Development, Identity, Culture and Media	2
	HP 10	Political Economy of Urbanization in South	2
	HP 11	Urban Economics and Urban Finance	2
	HP 12	Habitat Planning: Theory and Practice	2
	HP 13	Public Finance	1
	HP 14	Urban Livelihood and Housing – II	2
	HP 15	Urban Water and Sanitation and Solid Waste – I	2
	HP 16	Urban Governance in India: Policies and Practices	2
	HP 17	Planning Studio – 1	2
	HP 18	Comprehensive Assessments of Projects	2
		Group Field Work	1
III	HP19/ DS 15	Sustainable Development and Climate Change	4
	HP 20	Gender, Design and Urban Experience	2
	HP 21	Social Sector Issues in Cities	2
	HP 22	Urban Water and Sanitation and Solid Waste – II	2
	HP 23	Community Group Work	2
	HP 24	Introduction to GIS	2
	HP 25	Advanced Econo-Financial Analysis	1
	HP 26	Analysis of Legal Instruments	1
	HP 27	Analysis of Macro Data	1
		Policy Practicum	1
		Purposive Field Visits	NC
	HP 28	Concentration Work – I	2
HP 29	Concentration Work – II	2	
IV	HP 30	Seminar: Contemporary Issues and Topics in Habitat Sector	2
	HP 31	Elective	2
	HP 32	Project Management	1
		Policy Assignment	2
		Project/Dissertation	8