



POSTGRADUATE PROSPECTUS • FLAGSHIP TWO-YEAR PROGRAMME

# MA IN SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES

*The Idea of South Asia*

An internationally competitive, research-led Master's curriculum examining civilizational matrices, cross-border political economies, public policy frameworks, and regional futures.

August 2026 Intake

# About the Programme

*"South Asia is more than a geographical entity—it is an intricate architecture of shared ideas, historic networks, and overlapping futures."*

This flagship programme deconstructs legacy borders to investigate the organic historical flows of cultural assets, capital resources, linguistic traditions, and socio-political systems that categorize the modern region.

## Mapping Regional Interconnectivity

From the historical trade arteries of Kabul and Lahore to the fragile coastlines of Colombo and the Maldives, the course operates as an integrated study grid across interconnected centers:

### Regional Nodes Covered:

- Kabul Trade Ecosystems & Ancient Conduits
- Kathmandu and Thimphu Sacred Spaces & Statecraft
- Dhaka Urban Industrializations & Marine Blue Economies
- Colombo Maritime Geopolitics & Regional Corridors

# The ASIA Effect

Our integration with the Advanced Study Institute of Asia (ASIA) transforms the typical classroom setting into an interactive laboratory for real-world strategy, scholarly practice, and policy engineering.

## 1. Research-Led Learning

Modules are continuously updated based on active geopolitical research papers and field insights from active frontlines.

## 2. Interdisciplinary Frame

Synthesize insights spanning political economics, structural sociology, material arts, and big-data state metrics seamlessly.

## 3. Global Equivalency

Credit framework conforms directly with premier global universities, facilitating frictionless international progression.

## 4. Cohort Mentorship

Capped small-batch intimacy connects every student to specialized mentors for publication and thesis guidance.

## 5. Placement Track

Structured vocational connections inside premier intelligence hubs, think tanks, cultural centers, and embassies.

## 6. Practitioner Network

Direct interfaces with visiting ambassadors, active diplomats, policy draftsmen, and civil rights leaders.

# Four Pillars of South Asian Studies



## History, Memory & The Making of South Asia

Investigate archival documentation patterns, colonial text divisions, material architectural ruins, and post-colonial border partitions.

*Focus: Manuscript Archives, Historiography, Archaeological Sites*



## Culture, Heritage & Knowledge Systems

Analyse classical literature flows, vernacular film industries, living craft guilds, and cross-border folk epics.

*Focus: Intangible Heritage, Sociolinguistics, Philology*



## Politics, Power & The State

Evaluate legislative structures, multi-tiered electoral dynamics, public mobilizations, and borderland security matrices.

*Focus: Constitutional Paradigms, Statecraft, Civil Movements*



## Economy, Development & Inequality

Unpack structural agrarian stress, rapid mega-urban infrastructure models, international shipping lines, and wage divides.

*Focus: Agrarian Policy, Labor Economics, Infrastructure Grids*

# Programme Structure

## YEAR 1: FOUNDATIONS & ANALYTICAL METHODOLOGIES

### 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 TRACK TOOLS)

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

## YEAR 2: SPECIALIZED ADVANCED TRACKS & CAPSTONE

### SEMESTER 3 (ADVANCED PATHWAY TRACKS)

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

### SEMESTER 4 (THESIS COMPLETION)

- 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 major elective selections within one of four highly competitive, specialized concentration tracks to gain expert domain authority.

## Political Economy

Examines macro-fiscal strategies, trade corridor assets, cross-border supply metrics, and resource architectures.

**Focus Nodes:**

- Trade corridors
- Asset flows
- Resource networks

## Public Policy

Analyses public statutory drafting, evaluation metrics, digital data architectures, and administrative implementation.

**Focus Nodes:**

- Statutory laws
- Delivery evaluation
- Digital structures

## Cultural Policy

Evaluates modern archive curation, museum economics, copyright protection laws, and living heritage funding.

**Focus Nodes:**

- Museum spaces
- Preservation laws
- Art ecosystems

## Development Studies

Addresses community climate mitigation strategies, regional environmental stresses, and local municipal frameworks.

**Focus Nodes:**

- Climate risks
- Localized cells
- Agrarian state

# Assessment Philosophy & Immersive Field Practice

## Evaluation Framework

### Archival Monographs & Term Papers

Focus on rigorous baseline literature critiques and comprehensive primary source gathering.

### Policy Brief & Oral Defense Viva

Translates conceptual patterns into institutional recommendations defended before an expert external board.

## Learning Beyond The Classroom

Education is thoroughly linked to functional applications, fieldwork residences, and institutional integration metrics:

### • Field Residencies

Direct document extraction at national repositories and historical centers.

### • Multimedia Execution

Creation of analytical podcast portfolios and independent short documentary films.

# Programme Faculty & Administration

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

## GRADUATE DESTINATIONS MAP

<b>Academia &amp; PhD</b> Global Fellowships	<b>Policy Research</b> Think Tanks	<b>Civil Services</b> Diplomatic Track	<b>Museums &amp; Archives</b> Curation Experts
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STUDY SOUTH ASIA. UNDERSTAND THE REGION. SHAPE THE FUTURE.

**2 Years**  
DURATION

**3 Years Bachelor's**  
ELIGIBILITY

**Up to 40%**  
SCHOLARSHIPS

**Aug 2026**  
INTAKE