

Summary of Proposal

M.A. African Studies

The Department of African Studies, University of Delhi is the first African studies department in India which was established in 1955 at the instance of the Government of India following a rapid increase in interest among Indians in Africa. The department started MA in African Studies in the 1950s to provide information and knowledge about Africa to the interested students and research scholars. However the MA program was discontinued though other programmes like Mphil/PhD, certificate and diploma courses continued. In view of the renewed academic interest and orientation, the Department of African Studies, University of Delhi is proposing to re-start its MA programme with a revised course structure on “International Relations and African Studies” from academic session 2021-22.

Programme Objectives

- To create experts in the field of International Relations and African Affairs
- To obtain a holistic perspective of the subject/area through multidisciplinary social science training
- To encourage a globally inclusive mode of scholarships in International Relations
- To promote studies of African ideas and experiences of International Relations
- To generate expertise in globally evolving understanding of African issues and success

Programme Structure

MA African Studies is a two year programme consisting of four semesters. Students have to complete sixteen papers (four papers per semester and each paper having five credits). Eight papers of first two semesters are core papers and eight papers of rest two semesters are optional papers.

Fee: As per the University Rule

Number of Seats: 40



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Programme Outcome

- To generate scholars and teachers on International Relations and African Studies
- To encourage enlightened interest in building academic linkages between India and Africa
- To create experts on International Relations and Africa for research projects/think tanks, NGOs, government agencies, international organizations, media houses, etc.

Core Papers

Semester I

1. Theories and Approaches of International Relations
2. Thinkers in International Relations
3. Foreign Policy, Diplomacy and Development
4. Comparative Government and Politics


Semester II

1. Introduction to African Geography
2. Overview of African History
3. State and Society in Africa
4. Political Economy of Africa

Optional Papers

Semester III (Four Papers Only)

1. Diaspora and International Relations
2. Africa in Global Affairs


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3. Peace and Conflict Resolution in Africa
4. Environmental Issues in Africa
5. Social and Political Thoughts in Africa
6. Swahili Language
7. Research Methods in Social Sciences and Area Studies (Compulsory)

Semester IV (Four Papers Only)

1. Study of African Heritage
2. Study of African Development
3. India-Africa Relations
4. African Resource Diplomacy
5. Women and Gender in Africa
6. Project/ Field Research (Compulsory)



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