

SHIV NADAR UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
Doctoral Programme

The Department of Sociology at Shiv Nadar University (SNU) is establishing itself as a centre of research and envisions a vibrant masters and doctoral programme that is alive to the plurality of South Asian cultures and societies and welcomes comparative analyses from field sites around the world. While individual faculty members have varied interests in unfolding contemporary processes – including the study of markets, law, communalism, violence, dispossession, citizenship, media, poetics, visual and material culture, and ecology in diverse urban and rural contexts – the Department as a whole emphasises a critical empiricism that is central to the fieldwork and ethnographic tradition of sociology and social anthropology. Simultaneously, we foreground sustained theoretical training and encourage interdisciplinary work. We are especially committed to exploring the disciplinary processes of ethnographic writing.

The Masters Programme will commence in July 2015.

The Doctoral Programme, beginning in July 2014, will be for a duration of 4 years and in exceptional cases may be extendable up to a maximum of 1 year.

During their doctoral programme, Ph.D. scholars will undertake coursework, conduct a pilot study and write an extended proposal on their area of research. Subsequently, such students will engage in fieldwork, participate in a writing programme, and present their work to the faculty of Sociology and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS). Students will be expected to contribute as Teaching Assistants for the undergraduate programme in Sociology. All Ph.D. scholars will work with a faculty advisor and a thesis advisory committee. Completed theses will be examined by two external examiners.

Coursework

In the first semester, Ph.D. students are required to take 2 intensive reading and writing courses.

The first course – *Objects, Codes, Techniques* – will train students on the relation of theory to practice and the world of everyday objects. The course will be structured around readings that show the relationships between material artifacts, rules of their organisation, and the values that are embedded in such artifacts.

The second course – *Field, Archive, Ethnography* – will emphasise the significance of field-based research along with comparative traditions of enquiry and will help in interrogating and affirming disciplinary boundaries.

Research Proposal

In their second semester, students will develop a pilot project around their specific areas of enquiry and prepare an extended proposal for doctoral research. The proposal will serve as a qualifying examination for proceeding to candidacy in the programme. At the end of the semester, each student will prepare an oral presentation of her project and proposed fieldwork. Students will be required to demonstrate proficiency in the language/s spoken in their proposed field sites. The Department will work with individual students to support their language training requirements.

Fieldwork

Generally, fieldwork will be carried out during semesters 3 and 4, with the option of extending it through another semester (i.e. 12-18 months). During their fieldwork, scholars will be registered at SNU and will remain in touch with their faculty advisor. They will submit semester-wise fieldwork reports to their thesis advisory committee.

Writing Up

Scholars will typically spend 18-24 months (i.e. 3-4 semesters) writing up their theses. During this period, scholars will participate in a thesis writing group in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS), where they will present their field research and draft chapters, as well as critically engage with other scholars and with faculty members. Ph.D. scholars will also be required to contribute to the undergraduate teaching programme during their writing up period.

Doctoral Programme in Sociology | Overview

Requirement	Semester/s	Credits
Objects, Codes, Techniques <i>Seminar Course</i>	1 st Semester	3 credits
Field, Archive, Ethnography <i>Seminar Course</i>	1 st Semester	3 credits
Extended Research Proposal <i>Including a pilot project</i>	2 nd Semester	6 credits
Fieldwork	3 rd & 4 th Semesters + 1 additional semester, if required	
Writing Up	Upto 8 th Semester (18-24 months)	

Stipend and Grants

SNU strongly encourages research in the social sciences and has liberal stipends and grants for doctoral scholars.

The stipend for Ph.D. scholars is Rs. 35,000 per month and a single-occupancy hostel room *gratis*.

In addition, the Department has grants for pilot projects and extended fieldwork. Travel for national conferences will also be available.

Departmental Life

Ph.D. scholars will play an active role in all aspects of departmental life, contributing to a dynamic and growing community of students and scholars of sociology at SNU. They will help organise and participate in a whole range of intellectual activities, including academic seminars, conferences, exhibitions, library and archive projects, reading groups, and ongoing research initiatives and collaborations. The Department will host a major international ethnographic film festival every two years and we hope that our Ph.D. students will spearhead this event.

The Department is committed to fostering a collegial life at SNU, where research scholars will be strongly encouraged to participate in the intellectual and social activities of SHSS and the University.

Additional Resources

For additional important information, please refer to:

SNU Regulations for the Ph.D. Programme

http://snu.edu.in/pdf/SNU_PhD_Regulations_September_2013.pdf

Faculty Profiles, Department of Sociology

http://snu.edu.in/humanitiessocialsciences/humanities_social_sciences_sociology_faculty.aspx

Guidelines for Application

The Department of Sociology at SNU invites applications for its PhD programme beginning in August 2014.

Interested students must have a Master's degree in any discipline, with a minimum of 55 percent in the Humanities and Social Sciences and 60 percent in other fields.

An application form can be downloaded from the SNU website at:

<http://snu.edu.in/admission/admissions-open-phd.aspx>

Completed application forms, along with a CV, statement of purpose, writing sample and the names and contact information of 3 referees should be submitted by e-mail to:
Deepak Mehta: deepak.mehta@snu.edu.in or Kaushik Ghosh (kaushik.ghosh@snu.edu.in)
Please write Ph.D. application for Sociology, SHSS-SNU 2014-15 in the subject line.

The application deadline is **May 16th 2014**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview to be held at the SNU campus.

If you have questions, please write to:

Deepak Mehta (deepak.mehta@snu.edu.in) or Kaushik Ghosh (kaushik.ghosh@snu.edu.in)