

## Admission Announcement

### PhD Programme in International Relations and Governance Studies

The Department of International Relations and Governance Studies at Shiv Nadar University invites applications to its PhD programme. Due to current situation, the programme slated to begin in August 2020 has been postponed to **January 2021**.

This announcement contains the necessary information related to the programme and the application process. Applicants are expected to read this document carefully before making their applications.

#### Philosophy

The Doctoral Programme at the Department of International Relations and Governance Studies provides research scholars an excellent opportunity to acquire and consolidate a diverse set of skills. Scholars will get a ringside view of the discipline of International Relations – covering disciplinary history, theory and empirics – as well as of global currents in the study of political thought, governance and development. They will participate in debates on the philosophy of science/social science while developing a 'nuts and bolts' pragmatism when it comes to operationalizing their doctoral projects.

The threads that runs through the PhD programme are, first, an understanding of the significance of context – historical, cultural, economic, among others – when it comes to thinking about the world and, second, a keen awareness of the need to address asymmetries and deeper imbalances of knowledge production, circulation and consumption between the global North and the global South. The objective at the Department is to develop a contextual approach to studying international relations and global governance.

#### Duration and structure

The programme spans eight semesters (four years), commencing in January 2021. Doctoral candidates will spend the first two semesters on course work, while the remaining time shall be spent on research work and writing of the thesis. Progression from the course work to the thesis writing stage is contingent on performance in the first year. Doctoral candidates are expected to reside on campus for at least two years and actively participate in the Department's activities.

#### Fees and Assistantship

All full-time PhD research scholars admitted into the program shall receive a doctoral research and teaching assistantship consisting of 100% tuition waiver and 70% hostel-fee waiver. The student shall also receive a monthly stipend of Rs.50,000 for the first two years, and Rs.55,000 for the next two years subject to bench-marked performance. The assistantship is subject to satisfactory performance in the program evaluated continuously and in compliance with all University regulations. Shiv Nadar University and the Center for South Asian Studies (CSAS), University of Michigan (UM) are working on an understanding by which PhD students from SNU will be able to seek co-advisors from the latter institution.

### Areas of research

The Department offers wide-ranging expertise within International Relations (IR), Governance, Development Economics, Political Theory/Philosophy, and Area Studies. A summary of faculty expertise is available here: <https://irgs.snu.edu.in/research/research-department>

Specific details related to research interests of individual faculty members can be accessed here: <https://irgs.snu.edu.in/people/faculty>.

### Application Details

#### Minimum eligibility criteria

A master's degree in any discipline with a minimum of 55 percent or its equivalent in grade point from a UGC recognized university. We strongly encourage applications from candidates who have a background in the disciplines/fields of International Relations (IR), Politics, Area Studies, Development Studies and Governance.

#### Application fee

All applicants are required to pay a **non-refundable** application fee of ₹ 1,200.00 (Rupees One Thousand Two Hundred Only). The application fee may be paid online or through a Demand Draft (drawn in favour of "Shiv Nadar University" payable at NOIDA) sent to the address mentioned at the end of this document.

#### Application process

The applicant must start by clicking the "Apply Now" button to access our online application portal:

<https://applications.snu.edu.in/OnlineAppPG/public/application/register/index>.

On entering the portal, the applicant will need to:

1. Register themselves on the portal
2. Fill all the mandatory fields
3. Upload the following documents:
  - i. Passport-size color photograph
  - ii. Latest CV
  - iii. Photocopy of marksheets of all previous degrees and certificates from class 10 onwards. Marks/grades as well as name of awarding institution must be clearly visible on each document.
  - iv. Standardized Examination certificate such as UGC-NET (if applicable)
  - v. A Statement of Purpose (SoP) that clearly spells out the applicant's reasons for interest in the PhD programme (in 400 words)
  - vi. A Doctoral Proposal spelling out the research idea they want to work on (in 800 words).
  - vii. A writing sample (of minimum 3,500 words)

Additionally, two academic letters of recommendation will need to be emailed directly by the referees to the Department of International Relations and Governance Studies at shweta.bali@snu.edu.in. Mention 'LoR – IRGS PhD – Name of the Applicant' in the email subject field.

**Note:** For an application to be considered complete, online registration, filling up of mandatory fields, uploading of required documents and emailing of recommendation letters must be ensured. An application will be considered incomplete if these requirements are not met. Incomplete applications are rejected at the screening stage by the Graduate Admissions Committee.

### **Written Examination and Interview**

Candidates whose applications are complete in all respects will be invited to take a written exam and appear for an interview both in the online mode.

In the **written exam**, candidates will be asked to write an essay of 20 marks and 5 short notes of 10 marks each. The exam will be of 150 minutes duration.

#### **Areas covered for the written exam**

- International Relations
- Indian foreign policy
- Global political economy
- Regional security environment in the Indo-Pacific
- Contemporary debates in governance
- Political theory
- Indian government and politics
- Development
- Research methodology

The **interview** will involve conversations about the candidate's academic trajectory, domain knowledge, and research idea as articulated in the Statement of Purpose.

### **Selection Process**

The Department follows a three-stage selection process overseen by its Graduate Admissions Committee.

**Stage one** involves screening of received applications for completeness, accuracy and authenticity. Screening is done ensure that the applicant has met the minimum eligibility criteria for applying and that an application is complete in all respects. Applications that are found to be incomplete are rejected at this stage.

**Stage two** consists of a written exam and an interview. Those applicants whose applications pass the first stage are invited to take a written exam and appear before the Departmental Committee for an interview. These are marked components with 70 percent for the written exam and 30 percent for the interview.

**Stage three** involves evaluation of written exam and interview performance, creation of a merit list, and declaration of result.

**Key dates**

**Due to the continuing situation concerning the outbreak of Covid-19, the department has decided to further extend the deadline for submission of applications and change in commencement of the program. The changes are as follows:**

- Publication of advertisement: 9 March 2020
- Last date for applying online: 15 Sept 2020
- Intimation to shortlisted candidates: 30 Sept 2020
- Written exam and interview: In October 2020 (exact date T.B.A. a fortnight in advance)
- Intimation to selected candidates: T.B.A.
- Selected candidates to communicate acceptance of offer by: T.B.A.
- Coursework commencement: January 2021

**Contact for queries**

Ms. Shweta Bali, Executive Assistant to the Department  
shweta.bali@snu.edu.in