

**SHIV NADAR UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**

Doctoral Programme

The department of sociology at Shiv Nadar University (SNU) runs a vibrant doctoral programme that is alive to the plurality of South Asian cultures and societies and welcomes comparative or focused analyses in field sites around the world. While individual faculty members have varied interests in unfolding contemporary processes, the department as a whole emphasizes a critical empiricism that is central to the fieldwork and ethnographic tradition of sociology and social anthropology. Simultaneously, we emphasize sustained theoretical research and encourage interdisciplinary work.

Some of the faculty areas of interest and expertise include:

- Law and society
- The social and somatic body
- Sonic cultures
- Military cultures
- Ethnographic research
- Sociologies and anthropologies of the political and economic
- Visual cultures
- Atmospheres and ecologies
- Biopolitics and the social
- Privilege and dispossession
- Nomads, borders, and the state
- The city and urban research
- Contemporary religiosities
- Material cultures

The Doctoral Programme is 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, students will engage in research and 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

Ph.D. scholars will have to complete 6 courses for a total of 24 credits in their first year in residence.

In the first semester, Ph.D. scholars 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 research and practice in the social. The course will be structured around readings that show the relationships between concepts and their empirical purchase. The emphasis will be on understanding what theory and theorizing implies in engaging with sociological and anthropological research; how epistemology is a critical aspect of theory and concept. Leading theoretical formulations, especially their impact on sociological and social anthropological work are read critically through the course

The second course – *Field, Archive, Ethnography* – will emphasise the significance of field-based research along with comparative traditions of enquiry. The course will help in interrogating and affirming disciplinary orientations, keeping in mind the importance of disciplinary commitments, and simultaneously open to multidisciplinary approaches. The notion of the field is not limited to geographical localities and is open to interpretive possibilities, where ethnographies, for example, of the archive - historical or otherwise, of material and immaterial objects, data and the virtual, and so on are considered.

In addition, in both the first and second semesters, each scholar will be required to take a course called *Independent Studies in Sociology*. This course will be designed to address critical areas of scholarship or other requirements for individual projects and will be pursued under the supervision of a faculty member.

Pilot and 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.

Research and Fieldwork

Generally, research and fieldwork will be carried out during semesters 3 and 4. 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 (ie. 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.

Departmental Life

Ph.D. scholars 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. In addition to gaining teaching experience, scholars 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 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.

Doctoral Programme in Sociology | Overview

Requirement	Semester/s	Credits
Objects, Codes, Techniques <i>Seminar Course</i>	1 st Semester	4 credits
Field, Archive, Ethnography <i>Seminar Course</i>	1 st Semester	4 credits
Extended Research Proposal	2 nd Semester	4 credits
Fieldwork: Pilot Study	2 nd Semester	4 credits
Independent Studies in Sociology	1 st and 2 nd Semesters	4 + 4 credits
Fieldwork	3 rd & 4 th Semesters + 1 additional semester, if required	
Writing Up	Upto 8 th Semester (18-24 months)	

Faculty Profiles

For information on the Department and faculty profiles, please visit:

<https://sociology.snu.edu.in/people/faculty>

Additional Resources

Fees and Financial Assistance: Detailed information about the fee structure and the nature of assistantships are available on the website.

All full-time Ph.D. students admitted into the program shall receive a **doctoral research and teaching assistantship consisting of 100% tuition-fee waiver and 70% hostel-fee waiver**. The student shall also receive a **monthly stipend of ₹50,000 for the first two years, and ₹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 compliance with all University regulations.

Guidelines for Application

The Department of Sociology at SNU invites applications for its PhD programme, commencing in August 2021.

Eligibility

Interested students must have a Master's degree in any discipline, with a minimum of 55% or the equivalent grade-point, and/or a minimum of 55% or the equivalent grade point in M. Phil.

Selection Process

All candidates who qualify the minimum eligibility criteria (as above) and successfully submit the completed application package will be called for an entrance examination. This will comprise of an online written test that will be held in early May'21. The examination will be graded on the basis of the ability to coherently express arguments and demonstrate a sociological imagination. Candidates who qualify with 75% marks in the written examination will be called for an interview in the first week of July'21.

The merit list of successful candidates will be based on a minimum score of 75% in the interview. The list is expected to be announced by mid July'21. Evaluation of candidates at the interview will be based on reasonable familiarity with relevant literature in the proposed field, ability to engage with questions and comments, and viability of the project including faculty expertise.

For this academic year, the department of sociology has a maximum of 5 positions for PhD scholars. The department reserves the right to admit a lesser number or no candidates.

Application Fees

You will be required to pay a non-refundable application fees of Rs. 1,200 (One Thousand Two Hundred Only) online.

Application Instructions

All interested candidates are advised to go through the faculty research themes before they apply.

All interested applicants shall apply online from the link given below or on the website. Please follow the instructions carefully.

- Fill all the mandatory fields
- Please upload the following documents online.
 - Passport size color photograph
 - Current CV
 - All Mark sheets/Degree Certificates (10th Standard onwards)
 - Standardized Examination certificate- CSIR, UGC, GATE etc. (If applicable)
 - Names and contact information of 3 Referees
 - A Statement of Purpose

The statement of purpose should be between 500 and 1000 words and consist of the candidate's background and motivation to pursue a PhD in sociology.
 - Research Proposal

The research proposal should be a minimum of 3500 and maximum of 5000 words and consist of the main research questions, engagement with literature, and methodological intentions. Detection of plagiarism will disqualify an applicant.
 - A Writing Sample (minimum 3000 to maximum 8000 words)

Please note that the application is not deemed complete until all the necessary prescribed documents and application fees have been submitted online.

Ms. Mamta Nagar

EA to the Department of Sociology

School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Shiv Nadar University

NH-91, Tehsil Dadri

District Gautam Buddha Nagar, UP 201314

India.

Questions? If you have questions of an academic nature write to Dr. Devika Bordia on devika.bordia@snu.edu.in for clarification.

Deadline: April 15, 2021

Given the continuing Covid-19 pandemic, the date of the entrance exam, interview and announcement of merit list may be subject to change. Please check the university website for all updated information, including relevant dates.