Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

INFORMATION BROCHURE

Dual-Degree

M.A. + Ph.D. Programme in Philosophy

2025-26

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A. GENERAL

A.1 The Institute

The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay is one of the twenty-three Indian Institutes of Technology in the country set up with the objectives of making available the facilities for higher education, research and training in various fields, such as Science, Technology, Humanities, Social Sciences, Management, Design among others. It was established in 1958 with the cooperation and participation of the erstwhile Govt. of the USSR under UNESCO's Technical Assistance Programme.

The Institute is located at Powai on a campus spread over about 480 acres amidst picturesque surroundings, with Vihar and Powai lakes on either side. It currently has twenty-seven Academic Departments, Schools and Centres, including the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) and forty-six interdisciplinary groups/centres/ schools/ interdisciplinary programmes offering various undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral academic programmes.

A.2. Research Facilities

All the departments, schools, centres, and interdisciplinary groups of the Institute have well-equipped research laboratories and workshop facilities. In addition, there are several central facilities, including Computer Centre, Central Library and Central Workshop. The Central Library has a very large collection of books, back volumes of periodicals, standard specifications and other literature. The Library now has over 3 lakh books and volumes and subscribes to more than 1500 current journals in Science, Engineering, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

A.3. Student Amenities

The Institute is mostly residential and has 18 hostels for students. However, students may be permitted to have their own arrangements for accommodation outside the campus. Each hostel is independent, with its mess and laundry facilities, stationery shops and recreation areas. In addition to this, the Institute has a central Student Activity Centre that houses various sports facilities, a Music Room, a Dance Room, a Yoga Centre and other recreational facilities.

There are various clubs within the Institute to encourage students' individual talents in hobbies such as debate, painting, modelling, music, photography, aeromodelling, stargazing, and fabrication of electronic devices, among others. The swimming pool is an additional facility.

A.4. The Department

The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences was founded in 1958. The Department has seven disciplines: Philosophy, English Literature, History, Linguistics, Psychology, Sanskrit and Sociology. The **MA+PhD (Dual Degree) Programme in Philosophy** is among other programmes run by the Department, besides the PhD programme in the above-mentioned seven disciplines. The MA+PhD (Dual Degree) Programme in Philosophy is a well- received Programme in Graduate studies in the discipline of Philosophy. Currently, the Programme has over 45 students, with more than 1/3 of them working towards their PhD in Philosophy.

The Programme is housed within the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences. It provides the students with exposure to other disciplines and disciplinary approaches, making them sensitive to multi and inter-disciplinary approaches to themes.

Visit the Departmental Webpage for further details.
https://www.hss.iitb.ac.in/

A.5. The Faculty

For the fulfillment of teaching and research goals, the Department has competent faculty members with a high degree of excellence and who are in pace with the current developments in their fields of specialization. For details, visit the Departmental Webpage.
https://www.hss.iitb.ac.in/people/faculty

B. DUAL-DEGREE M.A.+ PH.D. IN PHILOSOPHY

B.1. Rationale and Context

This is the first dual-degree M.A. + Ph.D. programme in IIT Bombay and the first such programme in the discipline of Philosophy in India.

In recent years, liberal arts programmes have started gaining much popularity in India. Philosophy, being the basis of the liberal arts, we aspire to combine the strengths of similar philosophy programmes in India and the West with our own specific vision here at IIT Bombay. The motivation behind the dual-degree M.A. + PhD programme is to contribute to strengthening education in the discipline of philosophy in India.

This programme offers a 6-year dual-degree M.A. + Ph.D. (2-year M.A. programme with the possibility to enter a 4-year Ph.D. programme) in Philosophy that is intensive in terms of its curriculum and intent. The vibrant curriculum makes it stand tall in relation to similar programmes. Though the proposed degree is clearly in alignment with the discipline of Philosophy, the nature of the programme allows for various electives, thus opening up the possibility of broader exposure to various disciplinary perspectives of the Humanities and the Social Sciences.

The programme will be one of a kind in providing the prospective students with a rigorous engagement with the primary texts of philosophy – Indian and Western. The students passing out of this programme will be equipped to handle independent research and teaching in any established academic institute.

B.2. Eligibility Criteria

A Bachelor's Degree (BA/BCom/BS/BSc/BE/BTech., etc.), 10+2+3/4, in any discipline with 60% marks (or first class as specified by the university) for GN/EWS/OBC(NC) and 55% for SC/ST/PwD categories.

B.3. Admission Procedure

The M.A.+ Ph.D. Dual Degree in Philosophy Programme at IIT Bombay is designed to attract aspiring Ph.D. scholars at an early stage in their academic careers. Students will enter the programme through **DEEP (Dual-degree Entrance Examination in Philosophy)**.

DEEP will be conducted by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at IIT Bombay. It consists of **three** sequential stages:

Stage I. Objective type written examination (100 marks) from the domain of logical reasoning and philosophy.

Stage II. DEEP Syllabus based Interview for those who qualify in the first stage.

Stage III. A comprehensive and elaborate evaluation of those who qualify stage II.

Candidates with valid (qualified) GATE Philosophy (XH C4) score will be exempted from appearing for Stage I of the DEEP. They qualify directly to Stage II.

For important dates related to DEEP, visit the Departmental/Institute Webpage

B.4. Syllabus for DEEP

See Annexure-I provided below

B.5. Number of Seats (for the year 2025-26)

Total: 10 Seats (Mandated Reservation Policy is followed)

B.6. The Structure of Curriculum and Course Work

The curriculum is modelled upon the history of philosophy – Indian and Western. Coursework includes core courses, elective courses, and written projects spread over five semesters. The following are the highlights of the program:

- The first 2 semesters will feature 6 master's level core courses (5 of which will be of 6 credits and one 8-credit course in the second semester).
  - The core courses will focus on the intensive reading of original texts.
- There will be 10 electives of 6 credits each, of which a maximum of 3 may be taken from outside the discipline of philosophy.
- There will be 48 credits for the final written project divided into 3 stages over the last three semesters, with the first two stages of 12 credits each and the final stage of 24 credits (the final stage, that is, the fifth semester, is only for those students who enter the PhD programme).
- The total credits for the programme are 146 (30+32+30+30+24)
- The project will be written to the standards of a peer-reviewed journal. It will be reviewed at every stage through a presentation to a group-approved examination committee.
- Students exiting the programme with an M.A. will leave at the end of the 4th Semester with an M.A. in Philosophy.
- Those intending to continue to the Ph.D. programme will be intimated on the basis of their overall performance in the first two semesters and a comprehensive interview/examination at the end of their 4th Semester.

B.6.1. Semester-wise distribution of Courses

Semester I

Course	Credits
Core I: Vedanta Philosophy in the Vedic Tradition	6
Core II: Philosophy in the Age of the Greeks	6
Core III: Western Philosophy and the Advent of Modern Science	6
HSS UG Core/Non-Philosophy 4xx	6
Philosophy Elective	6
Teaching Assistant Skill Enhancement & Training	P/NP
Total Credits	**30**

Semester II

Course	Credits
Core IV: Madhyamika Philosophy in the Buddhist Tradition	6
Core V: Western Philosophy in the Time of Crisis	6
Core VI: Writing and Research in Philosophy	8
Philosophy Elective	6
Institute Elective	6
Total Credits	**32**

Semester III

Philosophy Elective A	**6**
Philosophy Elective B	6
Institute Elective	6
Project Stage I	4
Advanced Research and Writing in Philosophy-I	8
Communication Skills	P/NP
Total Credits	**30**

Semester IV

Elective C	6
Elective D	6
Philosophy Course	6
Gender in the Workplace	P/NP
Project Stage II	4
Advanced Research and Writing in Philosophy-II	8
Total Credits	**30**

POSSIBILITY OF EXIT WITH M.A. DEGREE

Semester V

Project Stage III	12
Advanced Readings in Philosophy	6
From the basket of existing approved Philosophy courses (5XX-8XX courses)	6
Total Credits	**24**

Distribution of Courses and Credits

Semester	No. of Courses + Projects	Total Number of Credits
I	5	30 (6+6+6+6+6)
II	5	32 (6+6+8+6+6)
III	4 + 1	30 (6+6+6+8+4)
IV	4 +1	30 (6+6+6+8+4)
V	2+1	24 (12+6+6)
Total Credits		**146**

B.6.2. List of Electives (a few courses appear in more than one category)

Moral and Social Philosophy	Indian Philosophy	Twentieth Century Western Philosophy	Philosophy of Language and Mind
Introduction to Feminist Philosophy	Sankhya Philosophy	Introduction to Feminist Philosophy	Wittgenstein I: Wittgenstein's *Tractatus:* The Formalistic Approach
Twentieth Century Political Philosophy	Classical Indian Thought in Modern Times	Critical Theory	Introduction to Philosophical Hermeneutics
Critical Theory	Contemporary Indian Philosophy	Wittgenstein I: Wittgenstein's *Tractatus:* The Formalistic Approach	Language, Mind and the World
Language, Mind and the World	Indian Philosophy	Introduction to Philosophical Hermeneutics	Philosophy of Action
Social Epistemology	Making of the Man: A Study of the Mahatma	French Thought after Phenomenology	Analytic Epistemology
Ethics: Theory and Practice	Vedanta Philosophy	Analytic Epistemology	Wittgenstein II: Later Wittgenstein
Society: Its Foundations and Future	Sankhya Metaphysics in Classical Indian Philosophy	Classical Phenomenology	Philosophy of Mind
Professional Ethics	Buddhist Mahayana Philosophy	Wittgenstein II: Later Wittgenstein	Philosophy of Language
Moral and Political Philosophy	Indian Ethics and Contemporary Society	Phenomenology and Existentialism	Contemporary Issues in Philosophy of Mind
Problems in Social Ethics	Rationality in Indian Thought	Advanced Topics in Feminist Philosophy	Theory of Knowledge
Critical Social Philosophy	Shaiva Epistemology and Metaphysics	Postmodernism and Philosophy	Contemporary Trends in Philosophical Analysis
Justice, Ethics and Community	Making of a Man: A Study of Mahatma Gandhi	Contemporary Trends in Philosophical Analysis	
Indian Ethics and Contemporary Society	Recent Debates in Indian Philosophy	Philosophy and History of Science	
	Philosophy of Indian Aesthetics		
	Advanced Readings in Indian Philosophy		

B.7. Exit with an M.A. Degree

Although the admission is for the M.A.+ Ph.D. Programme, students may leave the programme with an M.A. degree based on the course work done in the 4 semesters. Students who clear all the 4-semester courses (122 Credits) will be awarded an M.A. in Philosophy. Students who do not fulfil the requirements of the M.A. degree will have to leave without any degree.

B.8. Qualifier to the Ph.D. Programme

M.A.+ Ph.D. students wishing to continue with the Ph.D. programme will have to fulfil the following 3 requirements:
  i.   CPI equal to or greater than 7.5 at the end of Semester IV;
  ii. Grade of Project equal to or greater than 'BB' combining Stages I and II;
  iii. Passing a Viva-Voce/ Written Examination conducted by the Examination Committee for the Qualifier.

Exceptions to the above may also be made, subject to the student fulfilling the following conditions:
  i.   CPI less than 7.5 (but above 6.5) after Semester IV;
  ii. Grade of Project equal to or greater than a 'AB' combining Stages I and II;
  iii. Passing a Viva-Voce Examination conducted by the Examination Committee for the Qualifier.

B.9. Confirmation of Registration to Ph.D.

The confirmation to the Ph.D. programme will be the date of registration of the following semester, after completion of the requirement of M.A.

B.10. Project Activity during Summer Break

Students continuing into the Ph.D. programme will extend their project work into the summer break between Semesters IV and V.

B.11. Ph.D. Degree

Subject to fulfilling the course credit requirements and other conditions, as may be laid down from time to time, the candidate may submit the Ph.D. thesis after two years from the date of registration. The thesis is examined by two/three referees from outside the Institute. The Senate examines the referees' reports and on acceptance of the thesis. It then appoints a Board of Examiners to conduct a *viva voce* examination at which a candidate is required to defend the thesis. On the basis of the report of the Board of Examiners, the Senate decides the student's eligibility for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

If all requirements for the Ph.D. degree are fulfilled, the student is awarded both M.A. and Ph.D. degrees.

B.12. Exit During Ph.D.

Unsatisfactory performance in the Annual Progress Seminar (APS) will be grounds for exit during Ph.D. On the recommendation of the Research Progress Committee (RPC), the student may be asked to repeat an unsatisfactory APS.

B.13. Fee Structure

For details of the Fee Structure for the M.A+PhD Dual Degree visit the Institute webpage.
https://www.iitb.ac.in/newacadhome/FeesStructure.jsp

B 14. Financial Assistance

Teaching Assistantship (TAship) will be provided to a selected number of students from the second year onwards for a maximum of 5 years, subject to fulfilment of academic criteria and satisfactory research progress.

M.A. TAship: After completing two semesters, students will be provided a Master's TAship for the third and fourth semesters. At present, this amount stands at ₹ 6000/- per month *(Please note, this is open to revision)*

This is, however, subject to fulfilment of the following criteria:
   (a) no backlogs at the end of 1st Year, and
   (b) earned a CPI of 7.5 at the end of 1st Year.

Ph.D. TAship: Four years of PhD TA-ship will be provided to all the students successfully entering the PhD leg of the Programme after their PhD registration. At present, this amount stands at ₹ 37000/- per month. *(Please note that this is open to revision)*

B15. Placement

The proposed programme will primarily prepare students for academic positions in philosophy. Those who depart with an M.A. will be eligible for doctoral programmes in philosophy and allied disciplines. In addition, all students, irrespective of their point of exit from the programme, should be well-equipped to enter other professional fields like law, journalism, medical humanities, bioethics, non-governmental organisations, as well as the corporate sector in niche areas like CSR.

Syllabus for DEEP

Western Philosophy

Sections	Topics	Primary Text	Additional Resources
Plato	Allegory of the Cave, Education, Knowledge, Theory of Forms, Nature of Justice	Plato, *Republic,* Books 2 and 7.	• Julia Annas, *An Introduction to Plato's Republic*, Oxford University Press, 1981. • W.T. Stace, *A Critical History of Greek Philosophy*, Ozymandius Press, 2016.
Aristotle	Soul and Virtue	Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book 1.	• Jonathan Lear, Aristotle: The Desire to Understand, Cambridge University Press, 1988. • W.T. Stace, *A Critical History of Greek Philosophy*, Ozymandius Press, 2016.
Deductive Logic	Nature of Categorical Propositions, Distribution, Square of Opposition, Aristotelian Syllogism, Moods and Fallacies	Irving M. Copi a and Carl Cohen, *Introduction to Logic*.	

Sections	Topics	Primary Text	Additional Resources
Inductive Logic	Cause and Effect, The meaning of Cause; Induction by Simple Enumeration; Mill's Method of Experimental Inquiry; Mill's Method of Agreement, Method of Difference, Joint Method of Agreement and Difference, Method of Residues, Method of Concomitant Variations; Criticism of Mills Methods, Vindication of Mill's Methods.	Irving M. Copi a and Carl Cohen, *Introduction to Logic.*	
Descartes	Method of Doubt; I think, therefore, I am; Nature of the Ego Cogito; Innate ideas; Proof for the Existence of God	Descartes, *Meditations,* 1, 2, and 3.	• Margaret Dauler Wilson, *Descartes*, Routledge, 1978. • F. Thilly, *History of Western Philosophy*, Henry Holt & Co., 1941.
Locke	Refutation of Innate Ideas, Ideas and their Classification, Substance, Primary and Secondary qualities, Operations of the Mind, Degrees and of Human Knowledge	Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, Book 1, Chapter 2; Book 2 Chapters 1, 2,11, 12, 23, 24. Book 4: Chapter 2 & 3	• Michael Ayers, *Locke: Epistemology and Ontology*, Routledge, 1991. • F. Thilly, *History of Western Philosophy*, Henry Holt & Co., 1941.

Sections	Topics	Primary Text	Additional Resources
Leibniz	Monads, Coordination of Monads, Perception and Appetition, Rational Order, God, the principle of sufficient reason.	Leibniz, G.W. *The Monadology* (1714). Section 1-40	• Anthony Kenny, *A New History of Western Philosophy Volume III: The Rise of Modern Philosophy*, 2006.
Hume	Ideas and Impressions, Causation	Hume, An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, Sections 2, 3, 4, and 5.	• Barry Stroud, *Hume*, Routledge, 1977. • F. Thilly, *History of Western Philosophy*, Henry Holt & Co., 1941.
Kant	Distinction between Analytic and Synthetic Judgments, Possibility of Synthetic a priori judgments, Will and Inclination, Distinction between Hypothetical and Categorical Imperative, Formulations of the Categorical Imperative, Concept of Duty	• Kant, *Prolegomena to Any Future Metaphysics,* Preface; Chapters 1, 2, 3. • Kant, *Groundwork of the Metaphysic of Morals,* Introduction; Books 1 and 2.	• Allen W. Wood, *Kant,* Blackwell Publishing, 2005. • S Korner, Kant, Penguin Books, 1955. • Roger J. Sullivan, *An Introduction to Kant's Ethics*, Cambridge University Press, 1994. • John Deigh, *An Introduction to Ethics*, Cambridge University Press, 2010.
Mill	Principle of Utility, Types of Pleasure, Response to Objections	Mill, *Utilitarianism*, Chapters 1 and 2.	• John Deigh, *An Introduction to Ethics*, Cambridge University Press, 2010.

Indian Philosophy

Sections	Topics	Primary Text	Additional Resources
The Bhagavad Gītā and the Upaniṣads	Knowledge, Action, Ātman, Dharma, Avatāra Relation between God/Lord (Īśa) and the World (jagat), Self (Ātman), Knowledge and Ignorance.	• Bhagavad Gītā, Chapter IV (The Way of Renunciation of Action in Knowledge – Jñāna-karma-samnyāsa-yoga chapter with 42 verses) • Īśa Upaniṣad (18 verses) with Śaṅkara's commentary	*Śrīmad Bhagavad-Gītā*, Swami Swarupananda (tr) (Calcutta: Advaita Ashrama, 1996). *Īśa Upaniṣad, in Eight Upaniṣads with the Commentary of Śaṅkarācārya, Vol. 1,* Swami Gambhirananda (tr) (Calcutta: Advaita Ashrama, 1998), pp. 1-32)
Sutta Nipāta (in Khuddaka Nikāya) **Anguttara Nikāya**	Food and Purity, externally bad smelling food, and internal corruptions. Free inquiry, experiential knowledge.	• Āmagandha Sutta (Sutta Nipāta 2:2 titled 'Raw Stench') • Kālāma Sutta (or Kesamutti Sutta) – Anguttara Nikāya 3: 65)	*The Sutta Nipāta (Buddha's Teachings: Being the Sutta-Nipāta or Discourse-Collection)* Lord Chalmers (tr) (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 1999), pp. 58-62 *Anguttara Nikāya (The Book of Gradual Sayings) Vol. 1*, F. L. Woodward (tr), (Delhi: Motilal Banarsidass, 2006), pp. 170-175
Indian Materialism (The Cārvāka system)	Ethics, Epistemology, Metaphysics		*Outlines of Indian Philosophy* by Jadunath Sinha, (Kolkata: New Central Book Agency, 2013) *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy* by Christopher Bartley, 2011, New York:
Jainism	Pramāṇa and Naya, Anekāntavāda and Syādvāda, Categories (Jīva and Ajīva)		

Sections	Topics	Primary Text	
			Continuum. *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy: Perspectives on Reality, Knowledge, and Freedom* by Gupta, Bina, 2012, New York: Routledge.
Early Schools of Buddhism	Vaibhāṣika and Sautrāntika schools		
Later Schools of Buddhism	Mahāyāna Philosophy (Mādhyamika philosophy and Yogācāra-Vijñānavāda philosophy)		*Outlines of Indian Philosophy* by Jadunath Sinha, (Kolkata: New Central Book Agency, 2013) *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy* by Christopher Bartley, 2011, New York: Continuum. *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy: Perspectives on Reality, Knowledge, and Freedom* by Gupta, Bina, 2012, New York: Routledge.
Sānkhya	Theory of Causation, Puruṣa and Prakṛti, Sāṁkhya Epistemology		*Outlines of Indian Philosophy* by Jadunath Sinha, (Kolkata: New Central Book Agency, 2013) *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy: Perspectives on Reality, Knowledge, and Freedom* by Gupta, Bina, 2012, New York: Routledge. Chapter 8 in *Indian Philosophy: An Introduction to Hindu and Buddhist Thought*, by Richard King. (1999) Edinburg University Press, Edinburg.

Sections	Topics	Primary Text	Additional Resources
Patañjali's Yogasūtra	Aṣṭānga Yoga (Yogasūtra 2.29)		*Outlines of Indian Philosophy* by Jadunath Sinha, (Kolkata: New Central Book Agency, 2013) Chapter 8 in *Indian Philosophy: An Introduction to Hindu and Buddhist Thought*, by Richard King. (1999) Edinburg University Press, Edinburg.
Vaiśeṣika	Padārthas and Theory of Atomism	*Tarkasaṁgraha* of Aṇṇambhaṭṭa translated by Swami Virupakshananda, Sri Ramakrishna Math, Madras, 2001.	*Outlines of Indian Philosophy* by Jadunath Sinha, (Kolkata: New Central Book Agency, 2013) *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy* by Christopher Bartley, 2011, New York: Continuum. *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy: Perspectives on Reality, Knowledge, and Freedom* by Gupta, Bina, 2012, New York: Routledge.
Nyāya	Pramāṇas; Perception, Inference and Hetvābhāsa	*Tarkasaṁgraha* of Aṇṇambhaṭṭa translated by Swami Virupakshananda, Sri Ramakrishna Math, Madras, 2001.	*An Introduction to Indian Philosophy* by Christopher Bartley, 2011, New York: Continuum. *Outlines of Indian Philosophy* by Jadunath Sinha, (Kolkata: New Central Book Agency, 2013)

Sections	Topics	Primary Text	Additional Resources
			An Introduction to Indian Philosophy: Perspectives on Reality, Knowledge, and Freedom by Gupta, Bina, 2012, New York: Routledge.
Mīmāmsā	Injunction, Kinds and Function of Injunction Intrinsic Validity (Svataḥprāmāṇya) of Knowledge.	*Mīmāṁsā-paribhāṣā* of Kṛṣṇa Yajvan translated by Swami Madhavananda, Advaita Ashrama, Calcutta, 2000.	*An Introduction to Indian Philosophy* by Christopher Bartley, 2011, New York: Continuum. *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy: Perspectives on Reality, Knowledge, and Freedom* by Gupta, Bina, 2012, New York: Routledge. *Outlines of Indian Philosophy* by Jadunath Sinha, (Kolkata: New Central Book Agency, 2013)
Vedānta	Superimposition, Jīva and Superimposition and De-superimposition Metaphysical View of Śankara: (Brahma, Ātman, Jīva, Māyā, Mokṣa) Rāmānuja: Cit, Acit and Īśvara	*Vedānta-sāra* of Sadānanda translated by Swami Nikhilananda, Advaita Ashrama, Calcutta, 1990.	*An Introduction to Indian Philosophy* by Christopher Bartley, 2011, New York: Continuum. *An Introduction to Indian Philosophy: Perspectives on Reality, Knowledge, and Freedom* by Gupta, Bina, 2012, New York: Routledge. *Outlines of Indian Philosophy* by Jadunath Sinha, (Kolkata: New Central Book Agency, 2013)