

**School of Human Ecology**  
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi  
(Established by the Government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi)  
Lothian Road, Kashmere Gate, Delhi- 110 006

**Bulletin of Information**  
Ph.D. Program in Human Ecology  
Admissions 2023—2024

**School of Human Ecology (SHE)**

School of Human Ecology is one of the oldest schools of Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD), set up in 2009 as a first-of-its-kind interdisciplinary department focused upon issues of environment and society. Research and teaching at the School of Human Ecology brings together ideas, methodologies and toolkits from disciplines in the natural sciences and social sciences to understand interactions between the biophysical environment and human society.

The School's thematic focus areas include environmental change, biodiversity conservation, ecological restoration, rural and urban transformations, environmental impact assessment, social impact assessment, public health, climate change, decarbonization, and just transition. The School offers a full-time MA program in Environment and Development (MAED) and a full-time PhD program in Human Ecology.

Research at SHE deploys social science, ecological and geospatial methods, with the aim of understanding complexity and causality in the intertwined lives of humans and other species, to contribute to the 'big questions' of justice, well-being and sustainability in local, empirical contexts.

**PhD Program in Human Ecology**

The Human Ecology PhD program is designed to nurture early career scholars who will be able to conduct and lead high-quality and high-impact research in the disciplinary fields of Human Ecology. The program is guided by the idea that environmental concerns and challenges such as resource depletion, ecological degradation and conflicts result from complex interactions of social and environmental factors; meaningful interventions therefore should be informed by disciplinary as well as cross-disciplinary expertise. The uniqueness of the PhD program stems from the synergistic linkages between the natural sciences and social sciences evident in the doctoral theses produced by graduates of the program.

Graduates of the program are employed in national and international research institutions and non-government organizations. Doctoral scholars currently enrolled in the

program have developed valuable research profiles with active participation in prestigious conferences, academic bodies, and publications in peer-reviewed journals.

### **Program Details and Requirements**

- The PhD program adheres to and guided by the rules and regulations of the University Grants Commission, as they are enforced and revised from time to time. The current regulations (UGC Regulations, 2022) in force can be found here (<https://aud.ac.in/uploads/4/admission/admission-2023/phd/minimum-standards-and-procedure-for-award-of-phd-regulations-20222.pdf>).
- Minimum duration of the PhD program is for three (03) years and the maximum duration is six (06) years. Extensions and relaxations beyond this time is governed by the UGC regulations and university statutes in force.
- Doctoral candidates are required to complete a course work as per the norms of UGC Regulations, 2022. Course work is prescribed by the Research Studies Committee (RSC) of the School.
- A doctoral supervisor is appointed from the School for each scholar. Experts and scholars with academic credentials from outside the School or university can be appointed as co-supervisors in case the candidate requires additional or specialized guidance as per the norms of UGC Regulations, 2022.
- A Research Advisory Committee (RAC) is appointed for every candidate, with the supervisor as the convener of the committee. The RAC advises the candidate and monitors her/his/ their progress in the PhD program.
- Every candidate is expected to complete the following milestones of the PhD program
  - Course work
  - Presentation and defense of a research synopsis
  - Pre-submission presentation
  - Pre-submission requirements of conference presentations and publication (as may be required by UGC)
  - Production of an original thesis
  - Viva-voce examination of the PhD thesis

### ***Fees***

- Rs. 2000/- per credit for Course Work, and
- Rs. 7000/- per semester during Research/ Dissertation
- Rs. 500/- per semester for Student Welfare Fund
- Rs. 5000/- as refundable Security Deposit
- Partial/full fee waivers are available as per University norms.

### ***Stipends and Fellowships for Research Scholars***

- At present, all PhD candidates who are not drawing any other scholarship/ fellowship are eligible for a non-NET stipend of Rs. 16,000/- per month for a maximum duration of three (03) years, subject to satisfactory work progress in every semester. The stipend is extended for an additional year if the research scholar publishes article in a UGC-CARE listed journal. The amount and duration may be revised by the University from time to time.
- AUD Merit Research Fellowship Scheme: The candidate who is highest in the merit list prepared for admission will be awarded fellowship for five (05) years equivalent to UGC-JRF/SRF rates, provided that he/she is not employed and is not availing any other national scholarship. Other scholarships and research internships may be announced by the university from time to time.

### ***Hostel***

- AUD has about 45 and 30 seats for women candidates in its hostels at Kashmere Gate and Karampura campuses respectively.
- Details of admission to the hostel can be found here (<https://aud.ac.in/hostel>).

### **Admission to the Ph.D. Programme (2023—2024)**

Potential applicants to the PhD program are encouraged to familiarize themselves with research specializations at the School and get in touch with faculty members at the stage of applications. The research profiles of doctoral supervisors are available at <https://she.aud.ac.in/>

### ***Areas of Research***

The research specializations of doctoral supervisors are given below:

<b>S. No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Specialization</b>
1	Prof. Asmita Kabra	Professor	Agrarian change and rural development, displacement and resettlement, decarbonization and just transition, biodiversity conservation Agrarian studies, development studies, political economy, political ecology
2	Dr. Budhaditya Das	Assistant Professor	Environmental History of South Asia; Forest Policy and Governance; Gender and Environment; Political Ecology of Biodiversity Conservation; Development-Induced Displacement and Land Governance
3	Dr. Oinam Hemlata	Associate	Health studies, Ethnographic studies, Indigenous

	Devi	Professor	knowledge systems, Food studies, Environmental issues and waste-management.
4	Dr. Nishant Kumar	Assistant Professor	Urban ecology, human-animal interface and One Health; Animal behaviour in human altered / social-ecological ecosystems; Ecology of systemic connections amidst People, Animals and Waste; Human and animal Cultures that drive coexistence.
5	Dr. Pulak Das	Assistant Professor	Environmental impact assessment, SEA, CIA, BIA; Ecology and industry; Oil & Gas upstream industry, Hydroelectric power plants, Linear projects (Road/Metro rail); Lichens as ecological indicators; Remote sensing in EIA, Urban heat island, and green space studies; NDVI for forest health studies.
6	Prof. Suresh Babu	Professor	Conservation Biology, Ecological Restoration, Invasive Species Management, Ecological Networks, Social-Ecological Systems and Ecological Economics

### ***Seats***

- Indian National Seats- 15 | Foreign Seats (Supernumerary)- 02
- Reservations are as per rules of the university and orders of the Government of NCT of Delhi, as applicable from time to time.
- Candidates' proposed research should align with the specializations of the SHE faculty. The School reserves the right to decline admission to candidates in cases where the topic does not align with faculty specializations or the School does not possess the necessary infrastructural requirements/ laboratories.

### ***Eligibility***

As per UGC Regulations, 2022

### ***Procedure for Admission***

- The admission to the PhD program is based on a two-stage process consisting of an Entrance Test and a Personal interview.
- Applicants are required to submit a **Statement of Purpose** and an original **Research Proposal** at the time of online application. The Statement of Purpose will be a brief note (maximum 500 words) outlining the applicants' research and career goals, and interest in the SHE PhD programme.
- The Research Proposal will be an original write-up of up to five pages (Times New Roman; Font Size 12; 1.5 line spacing). It should give a background of the proposed research, its questions/ objectives, a description of the chosen conceptual frameworks, and the historical-geographical context of the research. The research proposal will be checked for plagiarism and only original proposals will be considered for evaluation.

- Applicants are strongly advised to regularly check the university admissions website regularly for details, updates and modifications.
- The Entrance Test shall be qualifying with qualifying marks as 50%. A relaxation of 5% marks will be allowed in the entrance test for the candidates belonging to SC/ST/OBC/ differently-abled category, Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) categories, and other categories of candidates as per the decision of UGC time to time.
- The syllabus of the Entrance Test shall consist of 50% of research methodology and 50% shall be subject specific.
- The Entrance Test will comprise subjective and objective-type questions addressing contemporary issues at the interface of environment and society. Select readings for the Entrance Test will be circulated to applicants before the Test.
- An interview will be organized for the qualified applicants. The applicants are required to discuss their research interest/ area through a presentation of their research proposal before the Ph.D. Programme Faculty (RSC). The interview shall consider the following aspects, viz. whether
  - The applicant possesses the competence for the proposed research;
  - The research work can be suitably undertaken in the School;
  - The proposed area of research can contribute to new/ additional knowledge.
- The Entrance Test shall be of 70% weightage and performance in the interview shall carry a weight of 30% for the selection of candidates to the PhD programme.
- Applicants who qualify for scholarships/ fellowships in UGC-JRF/CSIR-JRF/DBT-JRF or equivalent as specified for the UGC, may directly appear for the interview.
- The interview, the Entrance Test and exemptions from the Entrance Test are guided by the UGC Regulations, 2022.

### ***Important Dates***

- The timelines related to the admissions process, date of Entrance Test and Personal Interview, and venue of the Test and Interview, and declaration of merit list will be announced on the University admissions website.

### ***Fees for Applications***

- For SC, ST, PwD, and EWS candidates: Rs. 400/-
- For UR and OBC candidates: Rs. 800/-

---

## **IMPORTANT**

Please consult the university admissions website ([https://aud.ac.in/admissions/phd\\_admissions/2023](https://aud.ac.in/admissions/phd_admissions/2023)) regularly for details and updates.

For any queries, write to the **Ph.D. Programme Coordinator, School of Human Ecology**  
at [pcphdhe@aud.ac.in](mailto:pcphdhe@aud.ac.in)