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 Doctoral Programme 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

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 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.
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, such as language training, 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 candidancy 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.

**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. In addition to gaining teaching experience, scholars 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.
## Doctoral Programme in Sociology | Overview

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

## Assistantship and Grants

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

All candidates admitted to the Ph.D. program are eligible for teaching/research assistantships of Rs. 35,000 per month along with tuition fee waiver, and hostel fee waiver. The assistantship is subject to satisfactory performance in the program evaluated continuously, and compliance with all University regulations.

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

## Faculty Profiles

For information on the Department and faculty profiles, please visit: [http://snu.edu.in/humanitiessocialsciences/humanities_social_sciences_sociology_faculty.aspx](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, commencing in August 2015.

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:


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

Applicants must also send a non-refundable demand draft of Rs.1,000/- (in favor of “Shiv Nadar University” payable at Delhi) by Speed Post to:

Professor Deepak Mehta
Shiv Nadar University
Post Office Shiv Nadar University
Greater Noida
Gautam Buddha Nagar
U.P. 201314

Please ensure that the demand draft is accompanied with a covering letter clearly stating the name of the applicant and the programme that you have applied for.

The application deadline is **15 May, 2015**

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview to be held in early July 2015. A final decision will be taken based on an assessment of the application materials and the interview, especially the quality and originality of the research proposal. Admissions formalities for the incoming batch will be completed by 31 July, 2015.

If you have questions, please write to: Deepak Mehta (deepak.mehta@snu.edu.in)