

ACADEMIC  
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# ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE AND PRACTICE

CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE AND PRACTICE

URBAN ECONOMIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

URBAN STUDIES AND PRACTICE

2026



The IIHS (Institution Deemed to be) University, approved by the UGC, launched in 2025 with transformative interdisciplinary Master's programmes and a Doctoral Programme, centred around urban research and practice.

At IIHS University, we reimagine urban education to drive India's development and global sustainability, by combining **interdisciplinary teaching and applied research** to generate new knowledge, and train the next generation of urban practitioners. Our unique, inclusive, and interdisciplinary approach is rooted in the plurality of cultures, languages, and scholarship of India and the Global South, while drawing from comparative lessons learnt across the world.

- Unique focus on urbanisation and sustainability
- Interdisciplinary approach to teaching, research, and practice
- Globally networked faculty and thought leaders
- Practice oriented curriculum and pedagogy
- Strong industry linkages with real-world impactful practice
- Diverse and inclusive community

# THE IIHS UNIVERSITY EDGE

- **SKILLS**

Master the technical, the human, and the essential – your real world toolkit starts here

- **PRACTICA**

The city is your lab, the neighbourhood is your brief

- **INTERNSHIP**

Discover opportunities to practice what you learn

- **EXPOSURE VISITS**

Explore diverse contexts and challenges on the ground

- **MASTER CLASSES**

Learn from leading experts shaping Indian and global urban futures

- **PUBLIC EVENTS**

Immerse yourself in conferences, forums, book readings, cinema, and more

- **LIBRARY**

Access South Asia's leading urban knowledge hub




# MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

We offer five interdisciplinary, **two-year full-time, residential Master's programmes, open to graduates from any discipline.**


The programme content integrates knowledge from traditional disciplines such as the humanities and arts, with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), following the pedagogical approach recommended by the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE & PRACTICE




This programme enables learners to explore interdisciplinary development pathways that balance sustainability and conservation with equity, social justice, and inclusive economic development.

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CLIMATE CHANGE SCIENCE & PRACTICE



This programme grounds the study of climate change in broader climate science, and explores climate action as a transition towards more inclusive societies and settlements.

## MASTER OF SCIENCE IN URBAN ECONOMIC & INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT



This programme grounds economic and infrastructure development in wider urban and peri-urban systems, enabling learners to reframe them as critical transitions, towards building cities that are more inclusive, sustainable, and just.



## MASTER OF ARTS IN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT POLICY & PRACTICE

This programme is focussed on core questions of social, human, and economic development within India's urbanisation, with a strong focus on social transformation and the reduction of urban inequalities.

## MASTER OF ARTS IN URBAN STUDIES & PRACTICE

This programme takes a systems approach to urban studies and practice. It equips learners to become 'system integrators' – able to study, design, and implement policy and programmatic interventions across India's complex and diverse urban systems.



# PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

2 Years | 6 Terms

A vertical timeline on the left side of the page, consisting of a series of small dots. Six of these dots are larger and colored: teal, olive green, yellow, orange, light yellow, and light grey, each corresponding to a program component.

## FOUNDATION Terms 1 – 5

Holistic and integrated personal development: Grow, Cook, Eat; Build; Play & Yoga; Perform

## CORE Terms 1 – 2

Interdisciplinary foundation within the broader context of economy, society, infrastructure, governance, and environment

## METHODS Terms 1 – 5

Enhancement of discipline-based skills as well as inter-sectoral skills, methods, and practices

## PRACTICA Terms 2 – 4

Application of theoretical concepts to the field through learning-by-doing

## ELECTIVES Terms 3 – 5

Specialisation in different sectors within the field

## INTERNSHIP/ PROJECT/ DISSERTATION Term 6

Transitioning from classroom learning to the world of work and practice



# CAREER TRAJECTORIES

Graduates of the University’s Master’s programmes will have a wide range of career options.



**Development Sector**, including domestic, UN, multilateral, bilateral and international organisations, think tanks, development consulting firms, not-for-profit organisations, and philanthropies

.....



**Private Sector**, including firms in a range of sectors, consulting, and professional service firms

.....



**Government and Public Sector**, at the Centre, State and local levels, public sector organisations, parastatal agencies, and government SPVs

.....



**Academia**, in pursuit of a doctoral degree or as educators, researchers, and trainers

.....



**Entrepreneurship**, as commercial entrepreneurs, including start-ups, as social entrepreneurs, or as public entrepreneurs

.....

# TEACHING AND LEARNING SPACES

The teaching and learning spaces at the University are designed to foster academic excellence through modern, adaptable environments. The facilities provide comprehensive resources and flexible spaces for curricular, co-curricular, and extra curricular activities.







# DIVERSITY ACROSS GEOGRAPHY & DISCIPLINES

## OUR MASTER'S AND PhD STUDENTS COME FROM 14 STATES & UTs

- ARCHITECTURE & URBAN DESIGN
- URBAN PLANNING & URBAN STUDIES
- ECONOMICS, POLITICAL SCIENCE & PUBLIC POLICY
- HUMANITIES
- SOCIAL SCIENCES
- JOURNALISM, MASS COMMUNICATION, MEDIA, ART & DESIGN
- MANAGEMENT & COMMERCE
- LIFE SCIENCES & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
- SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS (STEM)
- OTHERS (INCLUDING LAW, EDUCATION, HEALTH, MEDICINE, & OTHERS)

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

- Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree in any subject or discipline
- Applicant's age should not exceed 35 years as on 1 August 2026
- All applicants must have basic proficiency in reading English. Support is available for those with limited English-speaking skills

## ADMISSION PROCESS

- **Written application**
- **Entrance Exam**
- **Essay Evaluation and Online Interviews**
- **Final Admission**

**Diversity Points:** Recognising the value of an inclusive and diverse classroom across various socio-economic categories, the University follows a weighted Diversity Points system in the admission process.

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:** The University is committed to supporting students from diverse socio-economic backgrounds by facilitating relevant financial assistance, such as fee concessions and scholarships to deserving students. Financial assistance can take various forms, to cover—in part or full—tuition costs, accommodation, food costs as applicable, exposure and practica visits, including additional stipends for living costs.

# PhD IN URBAN STUDIES & PRACTICE

The interdisciplinary PhD is a full-time, fully-funded, coursework-based research programme that confers a Doctoral degree in Urban Studies and Practice. The Programme is interested in fostering and generating scholarship on how the social, economic, spatial, ecological, political, and institutional combine and are implicated in different ways. It encourages research across the spectrum of human settlements, and linked social–ecological–technological systems from the semi-wild through the rural to the metropolitan, as well as across natural and built environments.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR THE PhD PROGRAMME

Applicants must have completed a Master's Degree from a recognised university with at least 55% aggregate marks, or an equivalent grade, by the time of admission.

## ADMISSION PROCESS

- **Written application**
- **Entrance Exam**
- **Interview**
- **Final Admission**





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**IIHS, Kengeri Campus, Bengaluru**

Kengeri, Bengaluru 560060, India



## IIHS IMPACT



**20M+ CITIZENS**



**1,500+ PUBLICATIONS**



**90,000+ CITATIONS**



**200+ PROJECTS**



**33 STATES & UTs**



**1,400+ CITIES**

- Instrumental in the framing and creation of Sustainable Development Goal 11
- Home to six IPCC authors across multiple AR cycles

IIHS is a knowledge institution of global stature that is committed to the equitable, sustainable, and efficient transformation of India's cities, towns, and villages. To know more, visit [iihs.co.in](http://iihs.co.in)