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DEANS AND VCs OF TOP UNIVERSITIES SPEAK



Institute	University/College type	Programme name	Subject combination major/minor/electives	UG/PG	Duration	Complete fee (approx in lakh)	Eligibility with subjects and marks	Entrance examination
Haryana								
OP Jindal Global University, Sonipat	University	BA (Hons)	Sociology	UG	4 years	12.00	10+2	Online entrance test or JSAT/SAT/ACT/valid CUET Scores
Shree Guru Gobind Singh Tricentenary University, Gurgaon	University	BA	English/Psychology/Liberal Arts	UG	3 years	3.90	10+2 with English compulsory subject	NA
		BSc/MSc	Psychology/Clinical/Counselling/Forensic	PG	2 years	2.60	BSc or BA in Psychology with a minimum 55% marks in aggregate	NA
		MA	English	PG	2 years	2.00	Bachelor's degree in any stream with 55% marks	NA
The NorthCap University, Gurgaon	University	BA (Hons)	Economics/Psychology/English	UG	3 years	4.02	10+2	NA
		MA	English/Psychology	PG	2 years	3.10	Graduation with 50% aggregate score from recognised university	NA
World University Of Design, Sonipat	University	BA (Hons)	Built Environment & Habitat Studies	UG	3 years	5.04	10+2 with 50%	Aptitude test
Himachal Pradesh								
Ami University, Kangra	University	BA	English	UG	3 years	0.64	10+2	AU CET
		MA	English/Economics/Psychology/History/Philosophy/Sociology/Media Studies	PG	2 years	0.53	Bachelor's degree with English/Economics/Psychology with a minimum of 50% aggregate	AU CET
		BA/MA	Journalism and Mass Communication	UG/PG	3/2 years	1.00	10+2	AU CET
Eternal University, Rajgarh	University	BA/BSc	Liberal Arts/Psychology/Library Science	UG	3 years	1.73	10+2	NA
		MA	Psychology/English/Punjab/Education	PG	2 years	1.00	BA/BSc with English as one of the compulsory subjects with 50% marks	NA
ICFAI University, Solan	University	BA	Humanities/English	UG	3 years	0.75	10+2	NA
Shoolini University, Solan	University	BA (Hons)	English/History/Political Science/Economics	UG	3 years	3.75	10+2	CUET/SAT
		MA	English/Political Science	PG	2 years	2.10	Graduation in any discipline with English as one of the subjects and minimum 55% marks	NA
Karnataka								
Alliance University, Bengaluru	University	BA	English/Economics/Philosophy/Political Science/Sociology	UG	4 years	14.00	10+2 with 50%	NA
		MA	English/Economics	PG	2 years	4.00	Bachelor's degree with a minimum of 50% marks aggregate with English as a compulsory subject	NA
Azim Premji University, Bengaluru	University	BSc (Hons)	Psychology/Economics/Journalism/Public Policy/Public Administration/Politics and Governance	UG	4 years	14.28	10+2	NET
		BA (Hons)	Economics/History/English/Philosophy/Social Science	UG	4 years	12.00	10+2	NET
		BA (Hons)	Philosophy, Politics, Economics	UG	4 years	12.00	10+2	NET
Chanakya University, Bengaluru	University	BA (Hons)	International Relations/Media Studies/Political Science/Psychology/Literary and Cultural Studies/Economics	UG	4 years	3.85	55% and above in 10+2 conducted by a recognised authority	NA
		BA	Liberal Studies	UG	4 years	3.85	10+2 with 55% and above	NA
		MA	Applied Economics/Cultural Studies/Strategic Studies	PG	2 years	1.85	Bachelor's degree in any discipline with 55% marks.	NA

and public universities find very hard to implement – will enhance access to quality interdisciplinary education, teachers believe.

Liberal arts in India

In India, liberal arts education is mainly offered by private universities and at a very high fee. The liberal education system offers flexibility and options to students to choose from multiple disciplines according to their own interests.

Prithvi Datta Chandra Shobhi, dean, School of Interwoven Arts and Sciences (SIAS), Krea University, Sricity explained that liberal arts typically is an approach that is followed in American universities and that model has been indigenised and adapted to the Indian context by some elite private universities.

“By studying liberal arts, you get a very thorough training in a particular discipline, become good thinkers, understand what’s going on in the world and intervene in ways that make the world a better place. So this is a critical sensibility, a constructed sensibility that education offers in a liberal arts curriculum,” he said.

Divya Balan, assistant professor in international studies at FLAME University, Pune, said, “The concepts of interdisciplinarity, multidisciplinary, and transdisciplinarity have always existed in the Indian education system. However, these ideas are truly implemented in a liberal education setup, where students can transcend the boundaries of different disciplines.”

Liberal arts education is still considered the province of the elite in India, mainly because that structure of choice and flexibility is offered, for the most part, in private universities. Only the very well-heeled can afford the high fee of liberal arts education, even teachers from the institutions agreed. Plus, the admission process itself favours rich and English-speaking students

Faculties at the private universities believe that liberal arts education in India is slowly becoming more mainstream.

Ravi Chakraborty, director of communication for liberal arts at Alliance University, Bengaluru, stated, “Liberal arts was initially a place for the elite. Many middle-class parents still prefer conventional choices like engineering or business. However, mindsets are gradually changing.”

That said, teachers still have to explain how a liberal arts programme is different from a standard BA. “We have to convince them about the values and prospects of the courses. Now, parents and students ask us about placement opportunities after pursuing BA (Hons) liberal arts,” said Ashita Chadha, director, University Institute of Liberal Arts and Humanities (UILAH) at Chandigarh University.

“Liberal arts programmes can play in enriching the lives of the students,” added Priya Nair, dean, School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, RV University, Bengaluru. “It is about

building knowledge and skills that will be useful in all kinds of careers that the students choose to opt for in the future.”

High fees

In India, liberal arts education comes at a high cost. Typically, students can earn a BA (Honours) or BSc (Honours) degree after a four-year programme, with the option to exit at the end of the third year with a BA or BSc. The total cost in a year can range from Rs 3 lakh to over Rs 10 lakh.

University	Tuition per annum (Rs lakh)	Living expenses (Rs lakh)	Total expense in a year (Rs lakh)
Ashoka University, Sonipat	9.74	1.91	11.65
Krea University, Sricity	8.15	2	10.15
FLAMES University, Pune	7.95	1.80	9.75
OP Jindal Global University, Sonipat	6	3.10	9.10
BML Munjal University, Gurgaon	5.50	2.15	7.65
Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune	4.90	2.70	7.6
Ahmedabad University	4.60	1.15	5.75
SRM University, Andhra Pradesh	2.50	2.23	4.73
Alliance University, Bengaluru	3.25	1	4.25
RV University, Bengaluru	2.40	2	4.40
Chandigarh University, Punjab	1.11	1.98	3.09

Source: Official websites of the universities