

**Department of English
University of Delhi
MPhil Programme in English: A Beginner's Guide**

Structure

The MPhil Programme is spread over four semesters.

Semester 1: Research methodology plus one optional course

Semester 2: Two optional courses

Semester 3: One optional course plus Individually Supervised Essay

Semester 4: Dissertation.

Course allocation

Optional courses are allocated on the basis of the preferences submitted by students, the position of students on the merit list, and the availability of seats in each course.

Usually, the maximum number of students admitted in an MPhil optional course group is around ten.

Transfer between courses

If students wish to transfer to a course other than the one allotted to them, they need to submit an application within a specified time period during the semester. The application should be endorsed by the supervisor of the course currently allotted as well as by the supervisor of the course to which the student wishes to transfer. Permission for such transfers will be subject to availability of seats in the courses concerned.

Attendance

Attendance is compulsory in all courses. Students may not miss any seminar or Individually Supervised Essay/Dissertation supervision without informing the supervisor of the course and obtaining prior permission. If a student is absent for more than two meetings of a course, his/her registration for that course will automatically stand cancelled.

Research Methodology Course

Please refer to handout on the Research Methodology Course.

Plagiarism

The Department takes a very serious view of plagiarism in class presentations and written submissions. Students are reminded that unacknowledged borrowing from any source, print or electronic, will be treated as plagiarism and will be censured as such. Long papers, Individually Supervised Essays, and the Dissertation will have to be submitted through Turnitin. Plagiarism may result in penalties including grade reduction, a fail grade (C), and expulsion from a course.

Optional Courses

As part of optional courses, students are required to make class presentations, submit written summaries of readings, short papers, and a long paper. The requirements of each optional course are decided by the supervisor. The 4000-word long paper submitted at the end of the course carries half the weightage in determining the grade awarded to each student.

Individually Supervised Essay (ISE)

In the middle of the second semester, students are required to submit one proposal of at least 500 words, not including the bibliography. The proposal should have (1) a clear title (2) five keywords (3) a list of three supervisors in order of preference. In cases where none of the preferred supervisors is available to a particular student, the MPhil committee will examine the proposal closely, consulting colleagues, if necessary, to find the best possible match in the area of interest identified by the student. Students are encouraged to formulate these proposals in consultation with potential supervisors.

At the end of the second semester, a supervisor is allocated to each candidate. Work on the ISEs is carried out during the third semester, and weekly meetings are held between the student and the supervisor. The weekly meetings are compulsory and attendance rules for optional courses apply to the weekly meetings. The 4000-word ISE submitted at the end of the semester carries one credit.

Dissertation

In their fourth semester, students work on a 20,000-word dissertation under regular supervision. Usually the topics and supervisors of the ISEs are retained for the dissertation. However, students who wish to change their topics or supervisors may apply to the MPhil committee for permission to do so. The dissertation, the most important submission by an MPhil student, carries three credits.

Transfer to the PhD Programme

In the middle of their third semester, interested students may apply for a transfer from the MPhil to the PhD programme. In order to be eligible to apply for a transfer, students need to have an average grade of A Minus in their first two semesters. Applications for transfer should be accompanied by a detailed proposal of the PhD project, and a report by the ISE supervisor on the progress of the student's work. Decisions on transfer will be taken by the Departmental Research Committee after interviewing eligible candidates.

Two hard copies of all papers (three for dissertations) must be submitted to Ms. Asha Rani in the Department office by 4:00 pm of the deadlines given in the MPhil Calendar. Deadlines are not negotiable. In addition you must submit a copy through Turnitin by the deadline.

Further details on the MPhil Programme may be found at:

<http://www.englishdu.ac.in/index.php?page=m-phil>

Please feel free to contact members of the MPhil committee if you require any assistance:

Professor Christel Devadawson: christelrashmi@gmail.com (convenor)

Dr Subarno Chattarji: chattarji_s@yahoo.com (co-convenor)

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