



INFORMATION BROCHURE



**UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institute of South Asia
Regional Cooperation (UMISARC)**

Pondicherry University, India

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Pondicherry, now Puducherry about 160 km down south of Chennai on the Coromandel Coast of Bay of Bengal is a Union Territory with one of the highest levels of quality of life in the country with excellent physical infrastructure and almost a hundred per cent literacy level. The climate is tropical (between 18 and 38 degree Celsius) with two monsoons, having fairly heavy rainfall in November and very moderate rainfall in July. It is well connected with the rest of India by road, rail and air up to Chennai. There are frequent flights from Chennai to many national capitals and other important destinations across the world. Pondicherry University was established in October 1985 by the Government of India through an Act of Parliament is located in the serene surroundings of 780 acres of lush green tropical vegetation. It is the fastest growing central university in India. About 450 dedicated faculty, 5000 students, and scholars make this University highly vibrant in academic pursuits. The University offers more than 153 post-graduate programmes leading to M.Sc. M. A., M.B.A., M. Phil., and Ph.D degrees. Besides having on campus teaching and research at Post Graduate level, it is also an affiliating University with 88 colleges. The University is a member of the Association of Commonwealth Universities and has signed Memorandum of Understanding with over 25 foreign Universities / Institutes. The University is the pioneering one to adopt a unique Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS) with modular/ unitised courses, which provides a menu of courses for students to choose depending upon a student's ambition, ability and career plan; moreover it also permits accumulating credits faster and obtaining PG degree in less than two years.

UNESCO Madanjeet Singh Institute of South Asia Regional Cooperation (UMISARC)

The Centre for South Asian Studies, Pondicherry University introduced Post Graduate Programme (M.A) in South Asian Studies during the Academic year 2008-2009 under the XI plan. Since 2008, the South Asia Foundation



(SAF) has been supporting the Centre with 16 Madanjeet Singh Group (MSG) Scholarships to students (two - one male, one female - from each SAARC country) to pursue this course.

The teaching and research in South Asian Studies in centre received major fillip with the signing of an MoU between Pondicherry University and the SAF on 20 June, 2009 for the establishment of the Madanjeet Singh Institute of South Asia Regional Cooperation (MISARC). In the year 2010, the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) agreed to associate with all the institutions of excellence established by SAF including MISARC of Pondicherry University. Hence, MISARC was renamed as UMISARC (U stands for UNESCO). The Institute has thus become truly global.

The then Prime Minister of India, Dr. Manmohan Singh, inaugurated and dedicated the Institute on 29 June 2012 for promotion of peace and co-operation among the SAARC countries. The syllabus of Post Graduate Programme in South Asian Studies has been uniquely designed to provide cutting edge knowledge of South Asian history, society, culture, economy, governance and politics, etc., from an interdisciplinary perspective. Students are expected not only to develop broad knowledge base to critically understand contentious issues concerning South Asia, but also offer a holistic perspective to address them and contribute towards promoting peace and cooperation in the region. Along with the publication of an *International Journal of South Asian Studies*, the Institute through Centre for South Asian Studies offers a broad research platform for academic discourse with regular lectures by eminent scholars, diplomats and policy makers etc., besides various academic activities. The Centre has been offering Ph.D. programme since the academic year 2010-11.

PROGRAMMES OF STUDY

M. A. South Asian Studies

Ph.D. South Asian Studies

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

For M.A in South Asian Studies, the question paper will have objective type questions with multiple choices in the areas of contemporary South Asian society, culture, politics, economy and foreign policy. For Ph.D. programme, the question paper will consist of objective type questions in the areas of contemporary international and South Asian affairs, political systems, economy, history and foreign policy of South Asian countries and research methodology.

THRUST AREAS OF TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Political Ideas, International Relations Theory, Contemporary International Relations, Government and Politics in South Asia, Foreign Policy of South Asian Countries, South Asian Regional Cooperation, Peace, Stability and Security in South Asia, South Asia in World Affairs as well as Economic Development, Society, Culture and History of South Asia.

OBJECTIVES

- Offering 16 fully paid MSG scholarships, including travel, boarding, lodging and tuition fee, to South Asian students including Indian students based on gender equity.
- Merit - cum - Means scholarships for eligible students.
- Subject to availability of funds, offering a number of visiting research fellowships of Ph.D.
- Collaboration and exchange programmes with prestigious foreign and Indian Universities.
- Interactions with distinguished Indian and foreign scholars through seminars, conferences, workshops, and lecture series.
- A leading library specializing in South Asian Studies as well as cultural subjects of arts and literature.
- Creating a hub for research on regional cooperation in South Asia through networking with other Centre of South Asian Studies in the country and overseas.
- Promoting international cultural convergence of talented writers, musicians, dancers and other art practitioners.
- Policy inputs to the policy makers of South Asian countries in general and India in particular for promoting peace, regional cooperation and development.

INFRASTRUCTURE FACILITIES

The Institute has good infra-structure facilities including computer lab (28 Systems) with internet connections, LCD projectors etc., to support teachers and students in their pursuit of academic excellence. The Institute is housed in a centrally air-conditioned UMISARC building with fully furnished and well equipped class rooms, auditorium and seminar hall with state - of - the art audio-visual facilities. The Institute has developed a separate library for teachers, researchers and students, who can access facilities available at this library along with the Central Library.

SELECTION OF STUDENTS FOR MSG FELLOWSHIP

- The Centre reserves the right of the termination of the fellowship at any time.
- The continuation of fellowship shall be decided based on the performance of the fellow in terms of discipline, attendance, academic activities and over all conduct.

FACULTY

Centre Head & Associate Professor

A. Subramanyam Raju, Ph.D. (University of Hyderabad)

Specialization: South Asian Politics and Security Issues, Comprehensive Security, Maritime and Energy Security Issues, India-US and India-Sri Lanka Relations.

Assistant Professors

Santhosh Mathew, Ph.D. (Mahathma Gandhi University, Kottayam)

Specialization: International Organizations, Political Economy, Comparative Politics.

S. I. Humayun, Ph.D. (University of Madras)

Specialization: Non-Traditional Security Issues in South Asia, Maritime Security Affairs.

D. Purushothaman, Ph.D. (Pondicherry University)

Specialization: Indo-US Relations, Security Issues in South Asia

Course Structure

SEMESTER I

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|--|--------|
| 1. Introduction to Political Ideas | (4-HC) |
| 2. Theories of International Relations | (4-HC) |
| 3. Colonialism and Nationalism in South Asia | (4-HC) |
| 4. Understanding India | (3-SC) |
| 5. Peace and Conflict Resolution in South Asia | (3-SC) |
| 6. Developmental Challenges in South Asia | (3-SC) |

SEMESTER II

1. Contemporary International Relations (4-HC)
2. Introduction to Society, Culture and Economy of South Asia (4-HC)
3. Research Methodology (4-HC)
4. Understanding Pakistan and Afghanistan (3-SC)
5. Energy Security in South Asia (3-SC)
6. Environmental Issues in South Asia (3-SC)

SEMESTER III

1. Government and Politics in South Asia (4-HC)
2. Contemporary Issues in South Asia (4-HC)
3. South Asia in World Affairs (4-HC)
4. Understanding Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh (3-SC)
5. Maritime Security in South Asia (3-SC)
6. Civil Society and Human Rights in South Asia (3-SC)

SEMESTER IV

1. Regional Cooperation in South Asia (4-HC)
2. Foreign Policy of South Asian Countries (4-HC)
3. Dissertation (4-HC)
4. Understanding Sri Lanka and Maldives (3-SC)
5. Major Domestic Challenges in South Asia (3-SC)
6. South Asia and International Institutions (3-SC)

Compulsory Papers (HC) = 48

Soft Core (SC) = 12

Soft Core = 12 (from other departments)

South Asia Foundation (SAF) - Madanjeet Singh Group Scholarship

SAF–Madanjeet Singh Group Scholarship (MSG) is a unique feature of South Asian Studies programme at Pondicherry University. Sixteen scholarships are awarded to Master's students from South Asian countries (eight boys and eight girls). The scholarship for the awardees includes stipend of Rs.10,000/- per month and covers the entire tuition fees, travel (round trip economy airfare only for international students) boarding and lodging at Pondicherry University for two years. The scholarship will not cover expenses on dependent, if any, of a scholarship holder. They will have to fully support their dependents. The South Asia Foundation Chapter from each SAARC county (i.e) Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka will select two candidates and inform its selection to the University. *While selecting candidates, the SAF chapters may give preference to candidates having graduate degree in Political Science, International Relations, Economic, Defence Studies, History and Sociology, etc. The MSG Scholarship holders will be subject to same rules and regulations regarding attendance and discipline, etc, as applicable to other students of the University.* Candidates interested in this scholarship will have to directly apply to the SAF Chapter in their respective countries. Visit www.southasiafoundation.org for more details. For further information please Contact Mr. P.K. Prabhakaran, Chief Executive Officer, South Asia Foundation, New Delhi (prabhakaran@safmail.org).

SAF Chapters

<p>SAF- Afghanistan Chairperson Prof. Omara Khan Masoudi , Former Director of Afghan Museum, Kabul afghanistan@safmail.org; hamidullah_arefi@yahoo.com</p>	<p>SAF-Bangladesh Chairperson Dr. Kamal Hossain Former Minister of Foreign Affairs Senior Advocate of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. bangladesh@safmail.org; oazakir1990@gmail.com</p>
<p>SAF- Bhutan Chairperson Mr. Lyonpo Sangay Ngedup Former Prime Minister for Agriculture of the Royal Government of Bhutan bhutan@safmail.org; nim@safmail.org</p>	<p>SAF- India Chairperson Mr. Mani Shankar Aiyar Former Cabinet Minister prabhakaran@safmail.org</p>
<p>SAF-Maldives Chapter Chairperson Mr. Ibrahim Hussain Zaki, Formerly Special Envoy of the President, maldives@safmail.org; hamdan.kendo@gmail.com</p>	<p>SAF-Nepal Chairperson Dr. Nishchal Nath Pandey, Director, Centre for South Asian Studies Kathmandu, Nepal nepal@safmail.org; nina@ntc.net.np</p>
<p>SAF- Pakistan Chairperson Prof. Salima Hashmi, Director, UMISAA, Beaconhouse National University, Lahore. pakistan@safmail.org; salimahashmi@gmail.com</p>	<p>SAF-Sri Lanka Chairperson Hon'ble Chandrika Kumaratunga Former President of Sri Lanka srilanka@safmail.org; swinitha@safmail.org</p>

Last Date for the Chapter Nomination : 15 May 2016

Selection of candidates : 20 May 2016

Dispatch of Admission Letters : 25 May 2016

Last Date for Admissions : 17 June 2016



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