

Programme Project Report [Political Science]

Programme's Mission and Objectives: The postgraduate academic programme in Political Science intends, on the one hand, to inculcate in the students the analytical skills necessary to analyse issues that permeate both the national and international domains by familiarising them with contemporary political issues including politico-strategic, socio-political, politico-cultural, political economic and ecological dimensions along with the latest theoretical tools, and on the other hand, to equip them with relevant insights required for policy inputs, decision making and conflict resolution, and for training them for future research.

Relevance of the Programme with HEI's Mission and Goals: Developing knowledge-based society and promoting educational and cultural well-being of the community are among the priorities of Rabindra Bharati University. Besides that, the university also intends to encourage the learners to engage themselves in truly productive research, the outcome of which has the power to open up new vistas of knowledge. The postgraduate academic programme in Political Science dedicates itself to promoting the above-mentioned objectives of the university. Apart from helping the learners get well-acquainted with the political histories of the nations of the world and teaching them political theories, the postgraduate academic programme in Political Science also intends to instill leadership qualities and professional competencies in the learners of political science. Thus the objectives of the programme in Political Science echo both the mission and the vision of the university.

Nature of prospective target group of learners: The University targets those students who had to leave higher education midway due to professional and/or other commitments. Since the said programme is offered through distance mode, and since the learners are not to attend regular classes as in regular mode, those drop-out students find this programme attractive. Most of the study centres of the university are situated either in rural or in semi-urban areas. Naturally, the programme is undertaken by students from underprivileged areas of the state. The programme is attended by a large number of female students as well. Thus, the Department has to keep in mind the fact that it has to cater to a diversified group of learners. While designing its curriculum and to meet the demands of this diversified group, the Department has kept something for each of the above-mentioned communities of learners in its curriculum.

Appropriateness of programme to be conducted in Open and Distance Learning mode to acquire specific skills and competence: The proposed programme intends to enable its learners to acquire skills and competencies in not only their own subject but also in various other subjects related to their field of study. It also aims at helping the learners develop proper understanding of the critically nuanced areas within their subject, and explore professional and occupational opportunities in and outside the field. Thus the expected outcome of the proposed programme does not exclude the possibilities of developing generic transferrable skills and competencies of the learners, better understanding of the theoretical premises of the subject, and gaining expertise in handling inter-disciplinary issues in a mature way.

Instructional Design: The programme is offered in annual mode at present. Keeping the objectives of the programme in view, the syllabus has been structured to include eight papers in theory of 100 marks each, with 20% weightage on internal assessment (detailed syllabus attached herewith). The proposed programme is conducted over two years in two parts. Exam and evaluation is being done in annual mode at the end of term I and term II. Mode of delivery of instructions is through face-to-face interaction and continuous evaluation.

Procedure for admissions, curriculum transaction and evaluation: No deviation from the guidelines of the UGC in this regard shall be encouraged by the university. All relevant instructions regarding admission, curriculum transaction and evaluation issued by the UGC from time to time shall be strictly observed.

Requirement of the laboratory support and Library Resources: The University has one of the richest libraries in the state in the form of its Central Library wherefrom the learners can issue books and other study materials showing their university I-card. They can also avail books from the library at the distance campus of the university. Since the postgraduate programme in Political Science does not offer any practical component on its syllabus, laboratory assistance is not necessary for this programme.

Cost estimate of the programme and the provisions: This programme has been on offer in the regular mode since 1962 and in ODL mode since 2012. As such, the cost of development and maintenance of the programme has been incurred for long time hence. However, the syllabus of the programme is being revised and semesterised in ODL mode and to be implemented from the next academic session. An amount of rupees 10 lacs for the next academic session is assigned at present for delivery and maintenance activities.

Quality assurance mechanism and expected programme outcomes: In addition to the existing mechanism of improvement in quality of the programme, the CIQA is in the process of being constituted as per UGC regulations, 2017. However, the works relating to review of programme, continuous enhancement of the standard of curriculum and change in instructional design, if required, have carried out by the Subject Committee of the Department consisting of both internal and external experts.


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