

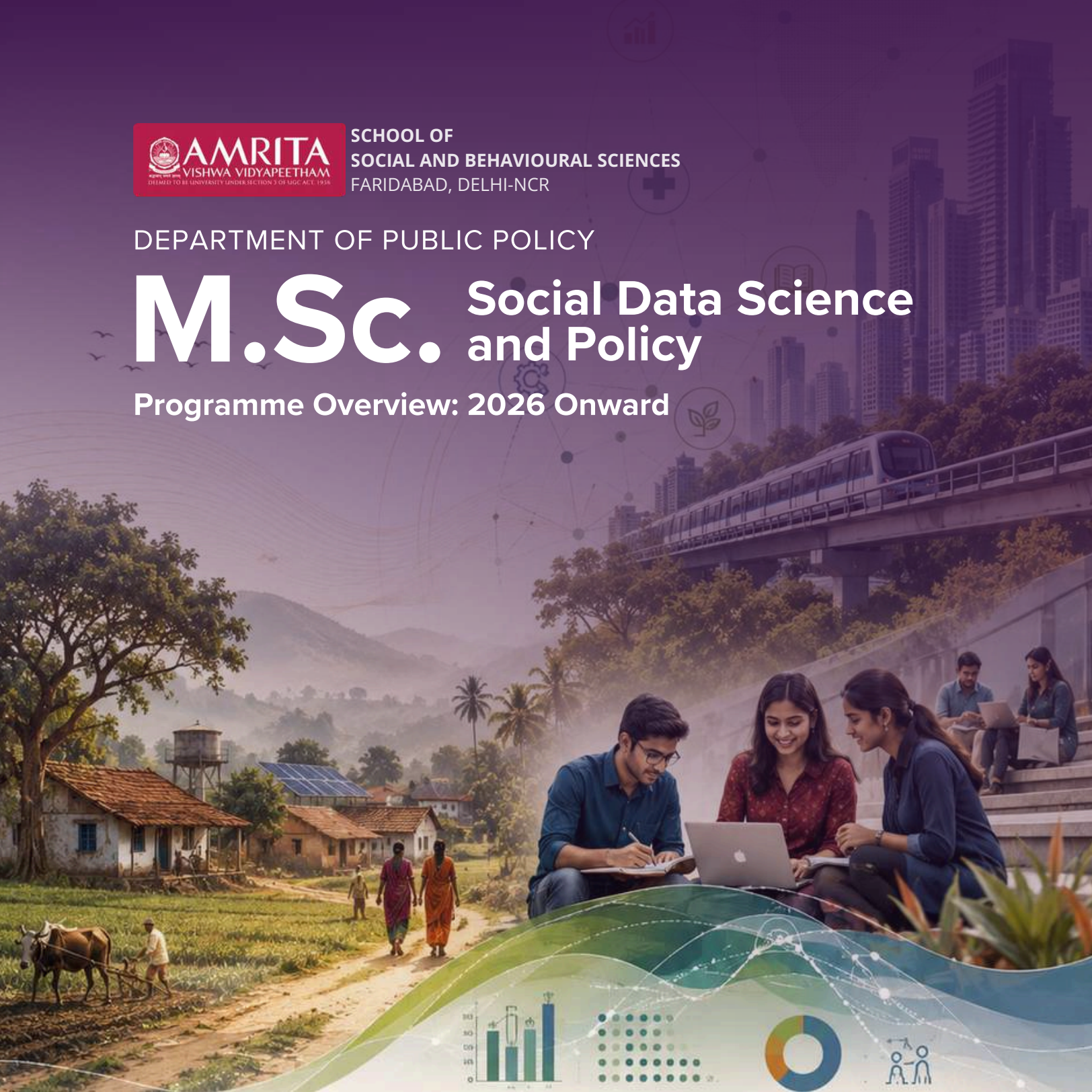


SCHOOL OF
SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES
FARIDABAD, DELHI-NCR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC POLICY

M.Sc. Social Data Science and Policy

Programme Overview: 2026 Onward



“

There are two kinds of education: education for living and education for life. Living may give us comfort, but life becomes meaningful only through **love, compassion, and awareness of others.**

True education should illuminate both **the outer world and the inner self.** It should nurture **curiosity, clarity of thought, and a sense of responsibility** toward our fellow human beings, nature, and the world around us.

Amma

Chancellor,
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham



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SOCIAL DATA SCIENCE & POLICY: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY SKILL IN HIGH DEMAND



2-Year Master's Programme

Preparing graduates to apply complex data and information technologies to inform policy and community decision-making related to global issues, especially sustainable development in Global South contexts.

3 Main Clusters of Disciplines

The programme combines the social sciences and computer science in which the analysis of big data is linked to policy development and impact analysis.

Diversity of Skills

Systems theories,
Population metrics,
Public policy analysis,
Machine learning,
GenAI, Economic
theory, and other
concurrent sociological
dimensions



Data Science

Technical skills in data collection, analysis, programming, and visualization.

- Tech-supported field research and data collection
- Machine learning and AI-enhanced research
- Micro/meso/macro-level analysis
- Improved visualisation of data for public awareness



Social Sciences

Fundamental principles of social sciences (sociology, anthropology, philosophy).

- Critical evaluation of policy and economic theory for sustainable development
- Identify gaps in existing research and data
- Application of systems-approach
- Field research component to ground studies



Policy

Global-South focused education in policy principles, values, and history.

- Identification of core values that shape national policies
- Impact of policy on populations and development
- Identify trends and areas for improvement in sustainable development and inclusive economic growth
- Identify gaps in policy implementation, assessment, and communication

VISION & OBJECTIVES

The M.Sc. in Social Data Science & Policy, the only one of its kind in India, is designed for students who are driven by a desire to create positive change in the world. This course offers a unique and multi-disciplinary fusion of theory and practice, preparing graduates to tackle real-world policy and social challenges head-on. Aligned with both national and international interests and career trends, this curriculum is at the forefront of public policy evolution, guided by advanced data analysis and predictive insights. This programme is ideal for students with an undergraduate degree in social sciences/humanities, data sciences, and other relevant technical fields. However, anyone is welcome to apply who has an interest in the theoretical and practical nuances of data and public policy.

OBJECTIVES

- Provide a steppingstone to a Ph.D. in Policy and Data Science fields
- Rigorous scientific research methods & communication
- Deep understanding of sustainable development and Global South issues through:
 - a. Applications of state-of-the-art data science methods
 - b. Critical evaluation of Public Policy
 - c. Systems-oriented social science techniques
- Formation of strong personal skills and values for life-long learning

CAREER PROSPECTS

Graduates of the M.Sc. in SocialData Science & Policy step into a job market that actively needs exactly their mix of skills. They are prepared for data-driven roles across sectors and in top institutions. With strong grounding in statistics, programming, and data visualization combined with deep understanding of social issues, our students are equipped to launch exciting careers wherever they wish. In short, this is a degree that does not end in a classroom—it leads directly into high-demand, impactful careers at the intersection of data, technology, and social change. Indicative entry-level package (India): ₹ 4–9 lakh per annum*

Data & Evidence for Social Impact:

Data Analysts, Social Data Scientists, and Monitoring & Evaluation Specialists

Research, Academia & Higher Studies:

Research Associates, Project Coordinators, or Lab Managers

Corporate Sustainability, ESG & Responsible Business

ESG Analyst, Sustainability Data Analyst, or CSR Impact Specialist

Development, Non-profit & Social Enterprise:

Impact Evaluation Officers, Assistant Program Managers, or Field Research Leads

Public Policy & Governance:

Public Policy Analysts, Program Officers, or Governance Fellows

Health, Education & Social Sector Analytics:

Public Health Data Analysts, Learning Outcomes Analysts, or Social Protection Data Officers

*Salary figures are indicative entry-level ranges based on recent Indian data and vary by city, organisation type, and prior experience

AMRITA'S UNIQUE ADVANTAGE

- ONE OF A KIND
- VALUES-BASED PRIORITIES
- REAL-WORLD EXPERIENCE
- GLOBAL COLLABORATIONS
- INSTITUTIONAL CONNECTS
- INTERNSHIP & PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

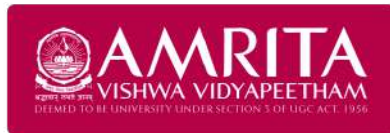


UNESCO Chair on
Gender Equality and
Women Empowerment

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham
Kerala, India



विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी विभाग
DEPARTMENT OF
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



THE UNIVERSITY
OF ARIZONA



ammachi labs™

Amrita Multi Modal Applications and Computer Human Interaction



Center for Women's
Empowerment &
Gender Equality

PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Scientific Knowledge and Training:

Gain and apply knowledge of basic and applied scientific and analytical fundamentals within a social lens, leading to a deeper understanding of Data Sciences and Policy.

Data Science & Policy for Social Impact:

Apply reasoning through the contextual knowledge to assess societal, health, safety, legal and cultural issues and the consequent responsibilities relevant to the professional scientific practice.

Sustainability and Society:

Understand the impact of data science and policy within societal and environmental contexts, and demonstrate the knowledge, and need for sustainable development.

Ethics and Values:

Apply ethical principles and commit to professional ethics and responsibilities and norms of scientific practice.

Computational Data Analysis:

Numerical analysis, interpretation of data, and organised representation of the information to provide valid conclusions for evidenced-based policy making.

SODASP Semester - Wise Course Plan: 81 Credits

Year 1

Semester 1	Credits
Introduction to Data & Society	4
Economics for Public Policy	4
Programming for Data Science	4
Research Methods for Policy Studies I	4
Mastery Over Mind	2
Academic Writing & Communication	3
Total	21

Semester 2	Credits
Policy & Design Thinking	4
Field Immersion for Inclusive Policy Making	3
Research Methods for Policy Studies II	4
Foundations of AI & Data Science	4
Specialisation I	3
Amrita Values Program	1
Glimpses of Indian Culture	P/F
Total	19

Year 2

Semester 3	Credits
Behavioral Economics and Public Policy	4
Machine Learning & AI for Social Data Science	4
Sustainable Community Development	3
Specialisation II	3
Internship	4
Open Elective	3
Total	21

Semester 4	Credits
Major Project/Dissertation	14
Specialisation III	3
Open Elective	3
Total	20

OPEN ELECTIVES	Credits
Social Welfare Policy & Administration	3
Science, Technology, & Society Interactions	3

SPECIALISATIONS

ECONOMIC POLICY

Credits

Foundations of Development Policy	3
Intervention Design & Impact Evaluation	3
Advanced Topics in Economic Modelling and Policy	3

HEALTH POLICY

Credits

Health Policy and Systems Research (HPSR)	3
Health Economics	3
Epidemiology and Biostatistics	3

GENDER POLICY

Credits

Gender and Development	3
Gender Policy and Legislations in India	3
Critical Masculinities and Gender Equality	3

SCIENCE, TECH, & INNOVATION (STI) POLICY

Credits

Science, Technology and Society Interactions	3
Innovation Systems and Technological Futures	3
Responsible Research and Innovation	3



SEMESTER 1:

FOUNDATIONS & SETTING THE SCOPE

Introduction to Data and Society

This course introduces students to the emerging field of sociology of data science, exploring how digital and computational methods transform social inquiry. It examines the sociotechnical construction of data and the role of datafication in shaping knowledge and wisdom, as well as the implications of data-driven practices for power, inequality, and social change.

Economics for Public Policy

This course teaches students to apply economic theory to current social and economic problems and formulate relevant recommendations for public policy. It emphasizes the understanding of analytical tools and models that can be applied in a wide variety of contexts. The course covers key topics in micro- and macroeconomics and explores how governments can address market failure, smooth out the business cycle and foster economic growth in the long-run.

Programming for Data Science

This is a gentle introduction to programming concepts that are paramount to data science in general, and to social data science in particular. Students learn how to read and understand existing code, as well as to write and debug their own code. Basic computing algorithms are introduced, implemented, and their computational cost is being assessed. Essential programming concepts like object-oriented programming, and primitive and compound data types are also introduced. Students learn the R and Python programming languages.

Research Methods for Policy Studies – I

This course introduces students to the research process in social sciences, including measurement, reliability and validity, internal research design, and generalizability. This course is focused on quantitative research methods and introduces the stages of research design in the policy context, followed by the exploratory data analysis, basics of probability theory, statistical inference, as well as a simple and multiple linear regression as part of a broader strategy of causal analysis.

Mastery Over Mind (MAOM)

MAOM is a unique Amrita initiative to enhance health and wellbeing of all faculty, staff, and students. Based on a meditation technique devised by AMMA, our chancellor, this program is designed for stress reduction and gives an introduction to immediate and long-term benefits of meditation, equipping every student with tools to manage stressful emotions and anxiety facilitating inner peace and harmony.

Academic Writing & Communication

This course develops students' skills in academic writing and communication. The Writing component covers reading sources, summarizing, citation and referencing, identifying rhetorical strategies and flaws in reasoning, developing arguments, using evidence, organizing ideas, preparing bibliographies, avoiding plagiarism, and revising. The Communication component focuses on effective presentations, including structure, delivery, transitions, terminology, and audience engagement.

SEMESTER 2:

REFINEMENT & VALUES

Policy & Design Thinking

This course introduces students to the principles of design thinking and their application in the field of public policy, incorporating foundational concepts of public policy making, stakeholder engagement, and problem-solving in governance. Emphasis is placed on co-production and user-centered approaches to public policy design. It equips students with analytical and creative tools to formulate evidence-informed, citizen-responsive, and context-sensitive policies in complex multi-stakeholder environments.

Field Immersion for Inclusive Policy Making

This is a field-based experiential learning course designed to help students understand the lived realities of marginalized communities and apply participatory approaches to inform public policy. Conducted in rural or tribal settings, the course enables students to engage directly with community members, local institutions, and governance structures. Using tools such as PRA, RRA, and social mapping, students identify community needs, co-design interventions, and gather context-specific data.

Research Methods for Policy Studies – II

This course introduces students to qualitative and mixed-methods research and the ways it can contribute to the development of credible insights for policymaking. The course will begin by examining the foundational principles of qualitative research, including epistemological considerations and ethical dimensions. Students will then explore a range of qualitative data collection techniques, such as interviews, focus groups, participant observation, and ethnography, learning how to select and apply these methods effectively in different research contexts

Foundations of AI & Data Science

This course is a continuation of Programming for Social Data Science I and introduces students to the core principles, tools, and reasoning approaches in data science, with a specific focus on social and policy-relevant applications. It emphasizes exploratory data analysis (EDA), statistical thinking, introductory modeling paradigms, and data modeling practices essential for understanding and working with real-world datasets.

Amrita Values Program: Vedanta in Day-to-Day Life

This is a new Amrita initiative to give exposure to students about richness and beauty of Indian way of life. India is a country where history, culture, art, aesthetics, cuisine and nature exhibit more diversity than nearly anywhere else in the world. Amrita Values Programmes emphasize on making students familiar with the rich tapestry of Indian life, culture, arts, science and heritage which has historically drawn people from all over the world.

Specialization 1

Students choose a dedicated specialization to guide the progression of their MSc. Each specialization has a trio of progressive courses totaling 9 credits that contribute to the students' mastery of the chosen subject and align with their eventual dissertation.

SEMESTER 3: **APPLICATIONS & INNOVATIONS**

Behavioral Economics & Public Policy

The course aims to familiarize students with recent advances in psychology and economics and teach them to apply behavioral insights to design better solutions to societal challenges. It focuses on a rigorous application of experimental methodology in various social contexts and shows how the resulting findings can be used to advance policy in such areas as health, education, energy, etc.

Machine Learning & AI for Social Data Science

This course introduces students to the foundational concepts, models, and systems of modern artificial intelligence with a particular focus on machine learning and data mining techniques relevant to social science and public policy. Students will explore a range of learning paradigms (supervised, unsupervised), understand how machines identify patterns in data, and gain exposure to contemporary advances in AI including large language models and responsible AI frameworks.

Sustainable Community Development

This course explores the principles, processes, and practices of Sustainable Community Development (SCD), with a critical lens on inclusivity, systems thinking, and human development. Anchored in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the course highlights how communities, governments, civil society, and international institutions co-create development strategies to address social inequities

Specialization II

Internship

Open Elective

SEMESTER 4: **MAJOR PROJECT & PUBLICATION**

Major Project/Dissertation

Specialization III

Open Elective

SPECIALISATIONS



ECONOMIC POLICY

The Economic Policy specialisation equips students to analyze poverty, inequality, growth, livelihoods, innovation, behavioural psychology and sustainable development through economic reasoning, empirical evidence, and data-driven policy tools. Courses teach students to design, evaluate, and communicate inclusive policy solutions for complex social and economic challenges.



HEALTH POLICY

The Health Policy specialisation equips students to understand, evaluate, and strengthen health systems through policy analysis, behavioural science, economic reasoning, epidemiological evidence, and biostatistical methods. Courses teach students to analyse health priorities, assess interventions and financing models, interpret population health data, and design evidence-based solutions for more equitable and effective health policy.



GENDER POLICY

The Gender Policy specialisation equips students to examine gender inequality, development, rights, & social change through feminist theory, policy analysis, legal frameworks, hegemony, and intersectional research. Courses teach students to analyse gendered power structures, evaluate policies and laws, critical masculinities, and design inclusive interventions that advance equity, safety, and social justice in India and beyond.



SCIENCE, TECH, & INNOVATION (STI) POLICY

The STI Policy specialisation equips students to examine how science, emerging technologies, innovation systems, and society shape one another in complex policy environments. Courses teach students how to analyse technological change, anticipate future policy challenges, and design ethical, inclusive, and socially responsible innovation strategies for India and the wider world.



OPEN ELECTIVES

Students may enroll in courses across the Amrita ecosystem in the School of Social & Behavioural Sciences, School of AI & Data Science, or any aligned programme at the approval of faculty and administration.



Future Ready Internship Opportunities



Student Internships and Career Development

Internships are a vital bridge between classroom learning and real-world policy practice, helping students apply their analytical, social science, and data-driven skills in meaningful, high-impact settings. Through Amrita's strong institutional linkages and a curriculum aligned with contemporary policy needs, students gain access to diverse internship pathways across government agencies, UN-affiliated and international organisations, think tanks, private sector research teams, and leading civil society organisations.

Amrita's national and global reputation in research, humanitarian engagement, and innovation-driven education strengthens these opportunities. Its collaborations with government bodies, international universities, and development partners create an ecosystem where reputed institutions value the skills, ethics, and preparedness of our students. Through live projects, field research, evidence generation, and policy implementation, students translate classroom knowledge into practical insights while building teamwork, professional confidence, and career readiness.

The first batch reflects this impact, with all students securing competitive internships at reputed organisations including PATH, CRISP, the ICMR-supported National Leprosy Elimination Programme, CSTIP–Indian National Science Academy, ICRW, and collaborative projects involving Columbia University, Tel Aviv University, and Amrita University. These experiences serve as strong stepping-stones to placements and impactful careers in social data science and public policy.

Details of Summer Internships

Batch: 2024-2026

Duration: June to September 2025



Archita Naryan Sahoo
PATH, Public Health Market
Shaping Intern – HepC3P
Project, New Delhi



Shakti Kumar Roy
Centre for Science,
Technology & Innovation
Policy (CSTIP), Indian National
Science Academy (INSA),
Research Intern, New Delhi



Shubham Sharma
Field Research Intern for the
“Delivering Next Generation e-
Public Services via Digital
Technology in UP” project
under Gov. India, Columbia
University, Tel Aviv University,
and Amrita.



Details of Summer Internships

Batch: 2024-2026

Duration: June to September 2025



Harshini Akana

Centre for Research in Schemes & Policies (CRISP), Inclusive Livelihoods Project, Hyderabad



Nandini Singh

ICMR funded National Leprosy Elimination Programme, Field Research Intern, New Delhi



Sruthi Saravanan

International Center for Research on Women (ICRW), Research Intern, Project Chingaari, New Delhi



Learning Beyond the Classroom

Field Immersion for Inclusive Policy



Field Immersion for Inclusive Policy Making

The M.Sc. in Social Data Science & Policy brings education and skills into the real world through hands-on fieldwork and immersive data collection. Students step beyond the classroom to engage directly with communities, institutions, and real-world policy challenges by learning how social realities are observed, measured, interpreted, and transformed into meaningful evidence. Over the course of 2-weeks, students live among and work with communities and support the ongoing charitable research initiatives of Amrita Viswaha Vidyapeetham.

By combining social science inquiry with digital tools, computational methods, and ethical research practices, students develop the ability to collect, analyse, and translate data into insights that can inform better decisions and drive social impact. Firmly grounded in a participatory approach, the community members are respected as experts and guides, providing the direction for student research and opening their eyes to the reality of the nation's sustainable development opportunities and challenges.

Past immersions have taken place in Kanti, Haryana and Dunda, Uttarakhand. Future immersions are planned for all of Amrita's 101 village adoption programme.

Faculty

School of Social and Behavioural Sciences



Dr. Bhavani Rao

Dean, School of Social and Behavioural Sciences; Director, AMMACHI Labs; Director, Center for Women's Empowerment and Gender Equality; UNESCO Chair on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Faculty Website:

<https://www.amrita.edu/faculty/bhavani/>



Dr. V. S. Kochukrishna Kurup

Vice Principal, School of Social and Behavioural Sciences; Assistant Professor (Sl. Gd.), Department of Social Sciences

Faculty Website:

<https://www.amrita.edu/faculty/kochukrishnan/>

Faculty

School of Social and
Behavioural Sciences

Faculty Website: <https://www.amrita.link/SODASP>

REGULAR FACULTY



Dr. Christopher Coley
Head of Department
Asst. Prof: Gender
Policy Specialisation



Dr. Victoria Ustenko
Assoc. Prof: Economic
Policy Specialisation



Dr. Nimita Pandey
Asst. Prof: STI Policy
Specialisation



Dr. Drishti Marwaha
Asst. Prof: Health Policy
Specialisation



Ms. Aswathi P.
Asst. Prof: Data Science
Specialisation



Mr. V. S. Varunanvelu
Asst. Prof: Field
Research Specialisation

VISITING FACULTY



Dr. Padma Rao Sahib
Associate Professor
University of
Groningen, Netherlands



Dr. Ram Fishman
Associate Professor
Tel Aviv University, Israel



**Ms. Sandhya Rani
Kanneganti**
Co-founder CRISP,
Retd. IPS



Dr. R. Vijayaraghavan
Project Lead, GIST:
CRISP |

About Amrita

Join the **Excellence at** Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham!

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham is a multi-disciplinary, research-intensive private university with a student strength of over 30,000, supported by more than 2,000 faculty members. Accredited with the highest 'A++' grade by NAAC, the university offers over 300 undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programmes spanning diverse fields, including Engineering, Management, Medical Sciences, Ayurveda, Life Sciences, Physical and Agricultural Sciences, Law, Arts & Humanities, and Social & Behavioural Sciences.

With a network of **ten campuses located in Amaravati, Amritapuri, Bengaluru, Chennai, Coimbatore, Faridabad, Haridwar, Kochi, Mysuru, and Nagercoil**, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham stands among India's leading private universities. Spanning over 1,200 acres with more than 10 million square feet of built-up area, the university is distinguished for its commitment to academic excellence and consistently ranks among the top private institutions in the country, reinforcing its reputation as a premier center for quality education.



AMARAVATI



AMRITAPURI



BENGALURU



CHENNAI



COIMBATORE



FARIDABAD



HARIDWAR



KOCHI



MYSURU



NAGERCOIL

About Amrita Hospital

Eminence in Healthcare: Where **Excellence and Care** Converge for **Optimal Health Outcomes.**



Embrace Good Health

Amrita Hospital, Faridabad shines as a beacon of superior healthcare, widely recognized across South Asia. Our unwavering commitment to delivering exceptional care has magnetized a group of eminent, highly skilled medical professionals. With a relentless pursuit of excellence as our guiding principle, we uphold the most stringent standards of medical treatments, always aiming to secure the best possible health outcomes for our patients.

2600+

Bed
Capacity

534

Smart ICUs and
Critical Care Beds

64

Fully Networked Modular
Operation Theatres





SCHOOL OF SOCIAL AND BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES FARIDABAD, DELHI-NCR

Amrita University, Amrita Hospital
Mata Amritanandamayi Marg,
Sector 88, Faridabad, Haryana, 121002,
India

APPLY NOW



Center for Women's
Empowerment &
Gender Equality



UNESCO Chair on
Gender Equality and
Women's Empowerment

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham
Kerala, India



unesco
Chair



amrita.link/SODASP



info_sbs@fbd.amrita.edu



8TH RANKED
UNIVERSITY IN INDIA
2025



NAAC A++
ACCREDITED



CATEGORY 1
GRADED AUTONOMY
UGC, GOVT. OF INDIA

No.1
IN INDIA



Times Higher Educat on
Impact Rankings 2025