

# Centre for Development Studies

Thiruvananthapuram

## MA Applied Economics

Admission – 2020

### Prospectus

Centre for Development Studies (CDS) invites applications for its two year MA programme in Applied Economics starting in the academic year 2020-21. This is the re-advertisement for this programme so that those who could not apply in response to the earlier advertisement in February 2020 due to the COVID - 19 disruptions can also apply. Therefore, all those who applied on the basis of the earlier advertisement need not apply again and their applications are now under process. **This prospectus also explains the changed selection procedure to the programme.** Admission is open to Indian nationals as well as students from SAARC countries. Twenty-five seats are available for Indian nationals and five seats are for students from SAARC countries. This prospectus provides details about the admission to the programme.

## 1 About CDS

Centre for Development Studies (CDS) is an autonomous research centre sponsored by the Government of Kerala and the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR). CDS was set up at Thiruvananthapuram under the intellectual leadership of Prof. K.N. Raj in 1970 with the mission of promoting research, teaching, and training in disciplines relevant to development. The Centre is internationally known for its research in applied economics and topics germane to development economics. CDS has been running three regular teaching programmes, MA Applied Economics, M.Phil Applied Economics, and Doctoral Programme in Economics. **Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, awards the degree of all the three programmes.** CDS is also a recognised centre for the PhD of Kerala University.

## 2 About the Programme

MA Applied Economics at CDS is a unique programme aiming at providing rigorous training in theory, tools and methods for applied economic analysis, with a special focus on issues of economic development.

Selected MA students will join a vibrant research community at CDS, comprising faculty, research scholars and visitors, working on various facets of development with an inter-disciplinary perspective. The programme aims to equip the students for careers in academia, government, national and international development agencies, research institutions, the corporate sector and the media.

### 3 Course Structure

Students are required to complete sixteen courses in four semesters. Each course carries four credits. Of the 16 courses, nine courses are compulsory and the remaining seven can be chosen from a list of optional courses listed below. One of compulsory courses in the fourth semester is a project that allows the students to apply the theory, methods and tools learned in other courses on an empirical economic issue under faculty supervision. **It is important to note that all optional courses listed below may not be offered every year.**

Compulsory Courses	
AE101: Fundamentals of Microeconomic Theory	AE105: Econometric Methods
AE102: Fundamentals of Macroeconomic Theory	AE106: Economic Development
AE103: Mathematical Methods	AE107: International Economics
AE104: Statistics	AE108: Indian Economic Development
AE208: Project	
Optional Courses (at least 7 courses from the list below)	
AE201: Public Economics	AE210: Gender and Development
AE202: Industrial Organisation	AE211: Labour and Development
AE203: Topics in Trade and Development	AE212: Law, Economics and Development
AE204: Economics of Technology and Innovation	AE213: Issues in Indian Agriculture
AE205: Population and Development	AE214: Issues in Indian Industry
AE206: History of Economic Thought	AE215: Political Economy, Development and Governance
AE207: Economic History of Modern India	AE216: Economics of Project Evaluation
AE209: Environment and Sustainable Development	

Apart from regular courses, a number of certificate courses are also offered. Certificate courses recently offered include the following.

- Financial Econometrics
- Social Exclusion and Inclusive Policy
- Advanced Economic Theory
- Data Analysis and Programming in R Software
- Methods for Impact Evaluation
- Ethnography: Theory and Practice
- Behavioural Economics

## **4 Scholarship for students from SAARC Countries**

With funding from government of Kerala, CDS provides scholarships to students from SAARC countries who enroll in the MA programme. Five scholarships are available and will be given to one student from each of the five SAARC countries, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. If there is no candidate from a country, a candidate from another country will be selected on the basis of merit. Monthly Scholarship of ₹15,000 will be provided to each SAARC student. The scholarship amount is usually sufficient to meet programme fee and other fees, boarding and lodging at CDS hostel and medical insurance apart from study materials for the entire duration of the course (including holidays). The scholarship does not cover travel expenses to and from the Centre to the home countries

## **5 Eligibility**

### **5.1 For Indian students**

- A bachelor's degree in any discipline with at least 50 percent of marks.
- Candidates from SC, ST & Persons with Disability (PWD) (with  $\geq 40\%$  disability) are eligible irrespective of percentage of marks secured in the qualifying degree.
- Those who are appearing for their final examination may also apply. Such candidates, if selected, shall be allowed to join the programme only if they have secured the minimum prescribed percentage of marks in their qualifying examination at the time of registration to the programme. They should also submit the final mark sheets of the qualifying examination at the time of registration.

### **5.2 For Students from SAARC Countries**

- The candidate must have a Bachelor's/undergraduate degree (three year programme) with English as the medium of instruction and the three year undergraduate programme must be equivalent to an undergraduate programme of an Indian university.
- All certificates provided by the candidate must be Apostille certified before joining the programme.

## **6 Fee and Financial Assistance**

Per semester tuition fee for the MA Programme is ₹8000 (₹2000 for students belonging to SC/ST categories). There is also a one-time JNU Registration/Enrolment

fee of ₹6115 and miscellaneous charges amounting ₹500. Financial assistance is available for eligible students. Students having family income less than ₹2 lakhs and maintaining Semester Grade Point Average (SGPA) of 7 or above in each previous semester are eligible for getting waiver of semester tuition fee, basic cafeteria fee and hostel rent. This fee waiver facility is available from second semester onwards and to avail this eligible students have to apply in each semester.

## 7 Hostel Facilities

All students will be provided hostel accommodation on a shared basis. There are hostels for men and women on campus. All rooms have attached bath and are modestly furnished. Monthly hostel rent is ₹200 per person, which includes charges for electricity and water. All hostel residents are expected to have their meals at the cafeteria where simple and nutritious food is served. The students are required to pay their mess bill on a monthly basis.

## 8 Admission

Indian students and students from SAARC countries have separate admission procedures and hence different application forms. The details are given below.

### 8.1 Admission procedure for Indian students

Admission process for this year's MA programme consists of two stages.

1. In the first stage, candidates will be short listed for an online interview on the basis of their weighted-aggregate of marks (in percentage) in Plus Two and Bachelor's Degree. In the weighted aggregation, Plus Two and Bachelor Degree marks get 30% and 70% weights respectively. **Marks in the Bachelor Degree are the total marks obtained by the applicant in all the subjects including languages and subsidiary subjects, if any. Similarly, marks in Plus Two are the total marks scored by the candidate in all the subjects in Plus Two.** Therefore, while filling out the relevant column of the application form, the applicants have to ensure that they are providing this information.
2. In the second stage, short listed candidates will be called for an online interview and final selection will be done solely on the basis of the interview. Interviews will be conducted in the first or second week of November and a second round will be conducted later if there are still vacant seats.
3. Those candidates whose final degree results are yet to be declared, need to give total marks in percent, as explained in 1 above, for the available semesters as on October 02, 2020.

4. Those candidates, who applied in response to the February 2020 advertisement and did not send their Plus Two and degree marks in percent as explained in 1 and 3 above, are required to provide these details using the **MarkUpdateForm** available for download in [www.cds.edu](http://www.cds.edu). The completed form needs to be emailed to [admission20ma@cds.edu](mailto:admission20ma@cds.edu) before 05 p.m., October 15, 2020.

## **8.2 Admission procedure for students from SAARC countries**

For students from SAARC countries a separate application form is available for download from the CDS website [www.cds.edu](http://www.cds.edu). Scanned copy of the filled up and signed application form should be sent by email to [admission20ma@cds.edu](mailto:admission20ma@cds.edu) as an attachment with “MA-SAARC” on the subject line before October 15, 2020. There is no application fee for candidates from SAARC countries. Short listed applicants will be interviewed online. The candidates should also keep scanned copies of their mark list/grades sheets for detailed verification prior to the online interview. Applicants will be informed of the date and time of interview well in advance.

## **9 Reservation**

Statutory reservation for Indian candidates belonging to SC, ST, OBC (NCL), Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and & Persons with Disability (PWD) ( $\geq 40\%$  disability) as per Govt. of India rules is provided. Reservation is applicable to only 25 seats earmarked for Indian students.

## **10 How to apply**

### **10.1 Candidates from India**

1. Candidates need to fill in the application form available for download from the CDS website [www.cds.edu](http://www.cds.edu) in MS Word format and email the filled out application form to [admission20ma@cds.edu](mailto:admission20ma@cds.edu) before 5.00 pm October 15, 2020. It is the responsibility of the candidates to ensure that all the relevant details are correctly entered. The veracity of these details will be checked later, at that time candidates should be able to submit the relevant documents. Applications that are found to be incomplete or contain incorrect information will be rejected without any notice.
2. Candidates working in Government Departments and Public sector undertakings must forward their application through proper channel along with a no objection certificate from the competent authority. However, an advance copy may be submitted, if they expect procedural delays.
3. Application Fee is ₹500 and it is non-refundable. Candidates belonging to SC, ST and PWD (with  $\geq 40\%$  disability) are exempted from payment of the

application fee. The application fee needs to be paid online to the following account.

A/C Holder : Director, Centre for Development Studies

A/C No. : 57036243430

IFSC Code : SBIN0070029

4. For any additional information please contact Academic Programme Office at 0471- 2774253/4 during the office hours.

## **10.2 For Candidates from SAARC Countries.**

The details of submitting application by the candidates from SAARC countries are given in Section 8.2; please read this part.

## **11 Withdrawing of the submitted application**

Those who prefer to withdraw their application submitted on the basis of the advertisement in February 2020 due to the change in the selection criteria or for other reasons are allowed to do so and the application fee will be refunded. For withdrawing the application the candidates have to send a request to [admission20ma@cds.edu](mailto:admission20ma@cds.edu) from the email address given in the application before 5.00 p.m. October 15, 2020. The email request should also contain bank details to which money needs to be transferred.

## **12 Jurisdiction clause**

Any disputes arising in connection with the admission process shall be subjected to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Kerala High Court.