

Certificate Program in Quantitative Analysis and GIS – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the certificate programme about?

This certificate intends to build the capacity of the social sector organisations in quantitative analysis and GIS for social action.

2. Who is this programme designed for?

Individuals with a minimum of two years' experience in social sector organisations, movements, unions or development journalism.

3. I have not worked with numbers since my school. Will I be able to cope?

We require you to have 10th standard knowledge of Math. But more importantly if you are curious and open to working with numbers, learning new tools and have a working knowledge on Excel, you should be fine.

4. I have 2 years of non-social sector work experience and am keen to transition to the social sector space. Can I join this programme?

The programme is not open to those working outside the social sector. A minimum of 2 years work experience in the social sector is mandatory.

5. I have volunteer experience with NGO's. Does this count towards the 2 years of work experience?

Volunteer experience or Internships of longer durations e.g., 6 months or more continuously with one organisation will count towards work experience. Short stints may not be considered.

6. I have already completed a course in Research Methods in one of my other programmes. How will this programme be different OR what additional value can I hope to gain by doing this Certificate?

While research methods courses are designed for academic work, this certificate is designed specifically for practitioners. Even if you have worked with numbers and spatial maps at a basic level earlier, we bring in practical experiences and examples from the development sector, which can be immediately transferable to your work situation.

7. What if I want to do more than one Certificate?

Participants can choose to opt for one or more Certificates that fall under the umbrella of Research for Social Action. Once a Certificate is completed, the next Certificate can be taken up at any time that it is offered. You can stay updated by checking our [Research for Social action webpage](#) regularly.

8. Can I start with this Certificate and later convert it into a Diploma?

Due to the way the programme is structured, conversion of individual Certificates to a Diploma will not be possible. To earn a Diploma, the participant needs to complete the 6-month Core course and any two Electives of 3 months each, in this specific order.

9. What qualification will I receive on successful completion of the programme?

On successful completion of the 3-month programme, a participant will be awarded a Certificate in Quantitative Analysis and GIS.

10. Are the 2-weeks on-campus classes mandatory?

Yes, the in-person classes are mandatory. All on-campus components will be held at our university campus in Bengaluru.

11. Will this be an intensive programme?

While the courses have been designed keeping working professionals and their needs in mind, the programme will require regular attendance, assignment submissions and class participation.

12. I understand English but am less familiar with communicating verbally and in written form. Can I still enrol?

The courses have been designed to be delivered in English to cater to participants from all geographical regions. While you may orally communicate in Hindi, you will be required to submit your assignments in English.

13. Will I require permission from my organization?

The programme is conducive to participants who are currently working as well as those who are on a break. The University does not require any permission from the organisation.

14. How many days will I need to be away from work?

Over the 3-month period, participants have to spend 2 weeks on campus. The remaining interactions will be online and designed to make use of weekends (approximately eight to ten full Saturdays for live, online classes).

15. If I am unable to attend the on-campus classes, can I continue with the online classes?

This is not possible as the programme is offered using a mix of on-campus and online classes to meet specific objectives.

16. Is the campus accessible for differently abled people?

Yes, the University campus and some of our student residences are wheelchair access friendly. We request you to let us know your specific needs well in advance so we can assist you accordingly.

17. I have a young child; is there any facility for childcare?

The University has a childcare facility on campus which is chargeable and subject to availability. Please get in touch with us well in advance so we can go over the procedures with you and inform you of the options available at the time.

18. Are there health care facilities available on campus?

We have a basic first aid room at B5, Ground Floor that operates on campus from 6am to 11pm

19. What is the batch size?

The programme is designed for approximately 35 participants per batch.

20. Will there be placement assistance?

There is no placement assistance envisaged after the programme.

21. Is financial assistance available?

Financial assistance will be considered upon request. The final decision will be at the discretion of the University.