

## MA Education: Frequently asked questions

### **Q1: What will I study in Azim Premji University's MA Education?**

In the MA Education programme, you will study and develop fundamental knowledge, and skills required to perform a wide variety of activities required in the Indian education system, like curriculum development, textbook writing, developing teaching learning material, teacher education programmes, school administration, policy analysis and implementation, and so on. Apart from this, the programme will also help students participate meaningfully and constructively in the public discourse on education.

### **Q2: Will the programme be mainly classroom based, or do we have field work also?**

This MA Programme has more field work, than a typical MA programme. In the first three semesters, students are expected to spend a total of 17 weeks engaging in field work. In the first semester, field work will introduce you to various aspects of the Indian education system. In the second semester students will get the opportunity to closely observe and learn from organizations that work in educational intervention (for e.g. teacher training, curriculum development). A major part of the third semester will be spent in a direct, first-hand experience of teaching, supporting and contributing to teachers' work and their professional development, and doing a research project in a subject area of your choice.

Apart from the above, MA Ed students will also have weekly practicum as part of which they will spend a day in school connecting their course learnings with the educational practice.

#### **Weekly practicum**

Organised activities in a school.

##### **Field Practice 1**

Exposure to the public education system, a government school, and the community in which the school functions.

 **2 weeks**  
(2 credits)

##### **Field Practice 2**

Closely observe an organised intervention in a school by a government organisation or an NGO or an educational firm.

 **3 weeks**  
(2 credits)

##### **Field Practice 3**

First-hand experience of working in a government school, or an early childhood education centre: teaching, teacher development activities, research work and school improvement activities.

 **12 weeks**  
(10 credits)

### **Q3: How will the extensive field work prepare me to work in the education sector?**

It is important to learn “about things” and learn to “do things”. In a classroom we learn theories, and concepts that are important to understand our education system. But to be an educational practitioner, we also need to learn to “do things” for which direct experience is essential. Field work will address two things related to direct experience:

a. Learning to apply concepts and theories that we learn in the classroom. (for e.g. doing a research project, planning a lesson and teaching a class to understand how the theories can be applied in a classroom, planning, developing and contributing to teacher education workshops, etc.).

b. Some abilities can only be developed by doing things in a real scenario. (For e.g. how to respond to questions that children ask, how to implement innovative ideas in a school, develop daily routines, how to engage in a dialogue with a teacher who disagrees with you, how does one develop and use a questionnaire for a research project, observe and understand how a community-school interaction happens etc.).

### **Q4: What is the difference between MA Education and M.Ed. programme?**

An M.Ed. Programme is primarily meant for teacher education. The M.Ed. curriculum helps you become a trained teacher educator, and teach B.Ed. students. (To enrol for an M.Ed. programme you should have an undergraduate degree in B.Ed.)

Whereas an MA. Education Programme prepares you both to think about education constructively, and to participate in a wide range of roles in education, including teacher education apart from B.Ed., curriculum development, Teaching-Learning Material (TLM) development etc. You can enrol for an M.A. Education irrespective of your undergraduate qualification. You can be a Science, Arts, Commerce, Management or someone with a professional degree who is looking for a career in the education sector and be deeply concerned about issues in school education.

### **Q5: Can I get a job as a teacher in a subject if I do MA Education?**

In India, to be a practising school teacher one needs a B.Ed. Degree. An MA Education degree is not a teacher preparatory programme. MA Education programme qualifies you for a wide variety of roles in the education sector, other than teaching in a school. Some of our students are associated with schools as Program Coordinators, Curriculum designers, developing appropriate Teaching learning materials, working as Language mentor etc.

### **Q6: I have a B.Ed. / B.El.Ed. degree- Can I do an MA Education?**

If you already have a B.Ed. Degree, you can do an MA Education to expand your knowledge of the education domain. You can strengthen your perspectives in Education, especially from the context of the Indian Education system. You can study a school subject area in depth (please see Q7 below) and also have an exposure to Education Research.

**Q7: What kind of subject knowledge would be useful to work in this area?**

There is a lot of additional knowledge related to a subject that is required for working in education, which is not covered in an undergraduate degree programme. In order to work in education (teaching, or curriculum development, teacher education, or textbook writing), you will have to learn how subject knowledge can be organized in school curriculum, how to develop curricular material in that subject, and understanding assessment theories related to that subject. Apart from this, you need to learn methods of teaching that are specific to particular subjects. The MA Education program dedicates 4 courses (25% of the total courses) to one **subject area** of your choice.

**Q8: Which subject areas are offered in the MA Education programme?**

Students can make a choice of one of the 5 subject areas offered: Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Language and Early Childhood Education. Students will go through four courses in the chosen subject-area (i) Nature of the subject, (ii) Organisation of curriculum, (iii) Material development, (iv) Teaching-Learning and Assessment.

**Q9: Can I decide which subject I want to study in the MA Education programme? (Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Language or Early Childhood Education)**

Yes, it is your choice to take the subject you want. You have to make this choice when you apply for the programme. The admission tests / interviews will include one test on these 5 subject areas. You can write admission tests in more than one subject. Depending on the results, you can decide which subject to take up.

**Q10: Do I have to be an expert in that subject?**

You do not have to be an expert on the subject, but you should be interested in the subject, and have good knowledge of the subject at least up to class 10. The admission assessment will evaluate the minimum knowledge required in the subject.

**Q11: Will I be able to develop curriculum, textbooks, guides, or do teacher training if I have a degree in do MA Education?**

Yes, you should be able to develop good curriculum, textbooks and other practices, if you study in the MA Education program. Many of our [Alumni](#) have taken up such roles after their completion of the M.A. Ed degree. Some of our graduates are have also taken the path of social entrepreneurship having established their own [social enterprises](#).

**Q12: Who is a good a candidate for the MA Education program?**

A person committed to values of justice and equality in the society, with a keen interest in education is a good candidate for this programme. You could be

- someone who has worked in the education sector before, in any capacity, but feels the need to gain more knowledge, skills and capabilities to contribute to it in an informed manner,
- someone who feels that our education system needs urgent reforms, or
- anyone with a graduation degree seeking a meaningful and satisfying career

**Q13: I am a working professional but not working in the Education space. Can I apply for the MA Education program?**

Professionals with work experience, decision making ability and program management skills are required to contribute in a meaningful way to the education sector. This programme will academically prepare you for the complex demands of working in the education sector. We encourage working professionals to apply to our programmes and facilitate 50% waiver on the tuition fee for candidates with more than 3 years of work experience. (Additional need-based scholarships are also offered based on other financial criteria)

**Q14: Where can I find employment after completing my MA Education degree?**

We have a [campus placement](#) program with over 75 organizations participating every year. They include NGOs, philanthropic foundations, CSR departments, research and advocacy organisations, social enterprises, schools and Governmental institutions. Most of our students (over 90%) get jobs in organizations working on education reform (NGOs, and other organisations) that work on teacher education, curricular material development, and other areas in education. They also work on administrative positions in schools, and even teaching if they have a B.Ed. degree. Some of them have started their own educational organizations or initiatives. An MA Education degree will provide all these kinds of opportunities.

**Reference:**

**M.A Education** <https://azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/programmes/ma-in-education>

