

PG DIPLOMA IN RESEARCH FOR SOCIAL ACTION – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

1. What is the PG Diploma in Research for Social Action about?

This Diploma programme aims to enhance the capacity of the social sector in doing research and analysis with the purpose of advancing its use in planning, communication, mobilization and advocacy.

2. Who is this programme designed for?

The programme is designed for early to mid-career professionals with 2-10 years work experience from social sector organisations, social movements, thematic action networks, activist groups, and development media.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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 Diploma?

While research methods courses are designed for academic work, courses in this programme are designed specifically for practitioners. We bring in practical experiences and examples from the development sector, however, there might be some overlap.

6. What is the requirement to complete a Diploma or Certificate?

a) To earn a Diploma qualification, the participant needs to complete the 6-month Core course and any two Electives of 3 months each, in this specific order.

b) Certificates can be completed in any order. Participants can choose to opt for one or more Certificates. Once a Certificate is completed, the next Certificate can be taken up at any time that it is offered.

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

Due to the way the programme is structured, conversion of individual Certificates to Diploma will not be possible. The participant has to decide and choose any ONE mode of completion i.e. either Diploma or Certificate.

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

On successful completion of 12 months (one Core Certificate and 2 Electives), the participant will be awarded a Postgraduate Diploma in Research for Social Action from Azim Premji University.

If a participant has opted for a Certificate and successfully completed it, then a completion Certificate will be awarded.

9. Are the on-campus classes mandatory for the Certificate programmes?

Yes, the in-person classes are mandatory for both Certificate and Diploma programmes. All on-campus components will be held at Bengaluru.

10. 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.

11. Can I select which certificate within the programme to join?

Yes, out of 3 Certificates any 2 can be chosen for the Diploma programme. The core Certificate is mandatory, if one wishes to do the Diploma programme.

12. Will there be mandatory fieldwork components?

Several courses might have field components inbuilt into the programme. For participants not associated with an organization, support will be given in gaining access to specific sites.

13. I understand English but am less familiar with communicating in it 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.

14. 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.

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

Over the 12-month period, participants have to spend approximately 4 weeks for the core or foundational Certificate and 2 weeks for each of the elective Certificates (i.e. total 8 weeks) on campus. The remaining interactions will be online and designed to make use of weekends (approximately eight full Saturdays for live, online classes).

16. If I am unable to attend any one of 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.

17. What if I am unable to complete the PG Diploma in the one year timeframe?

In unavoidable circumstances, the PG Diploma can be completed within two years instead of one, subject to prior permission from the University.

18. Is the campus accessible for differently abled people?

Yes, the University campus and some of our student residences are wheelchair access friendly.

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

The University has a creche facility on the campus. However, we would suggest that specific requirements are discussed with us on a case-to-case basis.

20. What is the batch size?

The programme is designed for approximately 35 participants per batch.

21. Will there be placement assistance?

There is no placement assistance envisaged after the programme.

22. Is financial assistance available?

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