



POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN RESEARCH FOR SOCIAL ACTION 2023 - 24

Harnessing the power of research for social change

Introduction

Azim Premji University's Postgraduate Diploma in Research for Social Action 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. While the social sector makes significant contributions to processes of social change, it is equally necessary to build adequate capacities in the sector to leverage the power of research in forwarding and deepening the possibilities of social action.

The Research for Social Action programme therefore aims to adapt research to the everyday needs of the social sector rather than for academic outcomes, making it useful to social organizations in planning and meeting their mandates.

Who should join?

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. The program is not open to those working outside the social sector.

Participants must have a Bachelor's degree in any discipline, and have working knowledge of English.

Key features of the programme

- One year part time programme offered in a blended mode, combining on-campus and online components
- Competency building in conceptualising, executing, and analysis of field research alongside skills of leveraging it for social action
- Designed for early career social sector professionals engaged in programme implementation or campaigns, activism, or journalism
- Participants can choose to obtain a Diploma by completing the first 6-month Certificate and any two 3-month Certificates. Alternatively, participants can choose to complete individual Certificates without aiming for a Diploma.

What does the programme offer?

The programme will help participants to:

1. Undertake practical hands-on work to appreciate the importance of research for social action
2. Deepen skills of research design, data collection, and analysis relevant to organisations and communities
3. Develop abilities to leverage such knowledge generated for appropriate social actions



Structure

The PG Diploma will be offered as a year-long program, in a blended mode with online and face to face classes.

- The programme consists of three certificate programmes: One mandatory of 6-month duration, and two Elective Certificates of 3-months duration each.
- For the Elective Certificates, participants may choose to complete any two of the three Elective Certificates on offer.

- This programme can be continued alongside work, if the participant wishes to do so. However, all components are mandatory, including the on-campus portions.

Each Certificate programme will also be offered as an independent module, allowing participants to take up one or more Certificate programmes as they wish. The Certificate programmes will be offered in a cyclical manner, such that participants can take them in any order. Obtaining a Diploma requires admission into the Diploma program and completing the Certificates in a certain order.

| | Title of certificate | Duration and Credits | Mode |
|---|--|----------------------|---|
| 1 | Basic Research Skills for Development Practitioners | 12 weeks/ 6 credits | On campus: 2 weeks at the beginning and 2 weeks at the end. Online: 8 Saturdays, plus 8 weeks project work (which can be completed concurrently with employment) |
| 2 | ELECTIVE CERTIFICATE: Research Communication for Social Action | 6 Credits / 3 months | On campus: 2 weeks Online: 8 Saturdays. |
| 3 | ELECTIVE CERTIFICATE: Advanced Quantitative Techniques for Social Action | 6 Credits / 3 months | On campus: 2 weeks Online: 8 Saturdays. |
| 4 | ELECTIVE CERTIFICATE: Advanced Qualitative Research for Development Practitioners | 6 Credits / 3 months | On campus: 2 weeks Online: 8 Saturdays. |

Calendar (Tentative)*

| | Title of certificate | On campus (Bangalore) | Online |
|---|--|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 | Basic Research Skills for Development Practitioners (3 July - 16 December 2023) | July 3 - July 15 2023 | Saturdays during July 22 - September 16, 2023 |
| | | September 25 - October 15, 2023 | Weekends during October 23 - December 16, 2023 (project) |
| 2 | ELECTIVE CERTIFICATE: Research Communication for Social Action (6 January- 22 March 2024) | March 11 - March 22, 2024 | Saturdays during January 6 - March 2, 2024 |
| 3 | ELECTIVE CERTIFICATE: Advanced Quantitative Techniques for Social Action (8 January – 6 April 2024) | January 8 - January 19, 2024 | Saturdays during February 3 - April 6, 2024 |
| 4 | ELECTIVE CERTIFICATE: Advanced Qualitative Research for Development Practitioners (15 April – 6 July 2024) | April 15 - April 26, 2024 | Saturdays during May 4 - July 6, 2024 |

*Above dates are indicative and may change slightly. Dates will be re-confirmed one month in advance of each Certificate.



Photo Credits - MSSRF



Content

Certificate 1: Basic Research Skills for Development Practitioners (12 credits)

- Research for Social Change: ethical, social and political aspects (3 credits)
- Research Design & Implementation-I: Quantitative (3 credits)
- Research Design & Implementation-II: Qualitative (3 credits)
- Individual Research Project (3 credits)

Certificate 2 (ELECTIVE): Research Communication for Social Action (6 credits)

- Principles of Communication (2 credits)
- Skills for Written Communication (2 credits)
- Skills for Visual Communication (2 credits)

Certificate 3 (ELECTIVE): Advanced Quantitative Techniques for Social Action (6 credits)

- Use of large data sets in development projects (3 credits)
- GIS and Remote Sensing for Social Change (3 credits)

Certificate 4 (ELECTIVE): Advanced Qualitative Research for Development Practitioners (6 credits)

- Participatory Learning & Action for Social Change (3 credits)
- Analytical Case Study Writing (3 credits)

Pedagogy

The delivery of courses will include a combination of academic readings, field-based case stories, audio-visual communication materials and lectures by invited speakers drawn from various domains of practice, to be able to provide a hands-on, experiential learning environment.

Eligibility

- Graduate in any discipline
- 2- 10 years of experience in social sector work in project implementation, activism, journalism, communication, law preferably at the field level
- Working knowledge of English
- Age up to 35 years

Admission Process

- Step 1: Application form (Online)
- Step 2: Written Test (Separate for Diploma and Certificate programmes)
- Step 3: Panel Interview

About the University

Azim Premji University was established in Karnataka by the Azim Premji University Act 2010 as a not-for-profit University and it is recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC). We are an endowment based private university committed to the social purpose of contributing to a just, equitable, humane and sustainable society. All our educational programmes consciously nurture and reflect this vision of the University.



Contact Us

Address: Azim Premji University, Survey No. 66, Burugunte Village, Bikkanahalli Main Road, Sarjapura, Bengaluru - 562125.

Website: <https://azimpremjiuniversity.edu.in/pgd-rsa>

E-mail: admission.pgd@apu.edu.in | Mobile: 8971889988