

Prospectus for M.A in Philosophy



It gives me immense pleasure to introduce the School of Philosophy at Aryabhata Knowledge University, Patna. Philosophy has always been regarded as the mother of all disciplines, nurturing the spirit of inquiry, critical thinking, and ethical reflection. In today's fast-changing world, where science and technology are advancing at an unprecedented pace, the role of philosophy in guiding humanity with wisdom, values, and ethical responsibility has become even more significant.

The School of Philosophy at AKU has been established with the vision to revive and strengthen philosophical traditions while engaging with contemporary issues of society. Our mission is to develop a community of scholars who can blend the depth of classical wisdom with the challenges of modern thought, fostering dialogue across disciplines and cultures.

Through its academic programs, research initiatives, seminars, and collaborations, the School is committed to cultivating not only knowledge but also a sense of responsibility and human values. I am confident that it will become a hub of intellectual exchange and philosophical exploration, inspiring both students and scholars.

I warmly welcome all learners, researchers, and faculty members to contribute to this vibrant academic journey. Together, let us build a future where knowledge is guided by wisdom and progress is anchored in values.

Prof. (Dr.) Sharad Kumar Yadav

Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor

Aryabhata Knowledge University, Patna

Message from the Head of the Department

It is a matter of great pride and honor to present the School of Philosophy at Aryabhata Knowledge University, Patna. Philosophy, as the foundation of all sciences and disciplines, provides us with the tools to think critically, act ethically, and engage meaningfully with the world around us. In the present era of rapid transformation, the study of philosophy enables us to balance scientific progress with human values and social responsibility. The School of Philosophy has been envisioned as a center of excellence where students and researchers are encouraged to explore diverse philosophical traditions—both Indian and Western—while connecting them with contemporary global issues. Our academic programs are designed to provide a rigorous foundation in classical philosophy while also fostering dialogue with modern thought, ethics, logic, and applied philosophy.

Through seminars, workshops, collaborative research, and interactive learning, we aim to nurture a vibrant intellectual environment that encourages questioning, reflection, and innovation. We aspire not only to train competent scholars but also to cultivate responsible citizens who can contribute to society with wisdom, compassion, and ethical integrity. I extend my warm welcome to all students, researchers, and faculty members who wish to join this journey of knowledge and self-discovery at the School of Philosophy, AKU. Together, we shall strive to uphold the values of truth, wisdom, and academic excellence.

Sachin Pandey

Consultant

School of Philosophy

Aryabhata Knowledge University,

1. About the School

Aryabhatta Knowledge University (AKU), established by the Government of Bihar in 2008 through the Aryabhatta Knowledge University Act, was envisioned to promote professional education and research across diverse fields including science, technology, medicine, and humanities. Over the years, AKU has emerged as a multidisciplinary institution committed to academic excellence and social relevance. In alignment with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the university has taken a visionary step to establish a School of Philosophy under its academic umbrella. The decision to initiate this School stems from the increasing national and global recognition of the value of philosophical thinking in addressing contemporary human, ethical, cultural, environmental, and scientific challenges.

Bihar, being the ancient seat of spiritual wisdom, logic, and philosophical traditions—home to Nalanda and Vikramshila universities—provides a fertile intellectual and cultural ground for such an initiative. The establishment of the School of Philosophy also revives and revitalizes the state's rich philosophical heritage, while engaging modern philosophical discourse in dialogue with Indian traditions. The School of Philosophy at AKU will focus on postgraduate education (M.A. in Philosophy), interdisciplinary research, and the integration of Indian knowledge systems with contemporary global thought. It seeks to cultivate critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and cross-cultural understanding among students and scholars.

With a robust academic design, stakeholder engagement, and alignment with NEP 2020's emphasis on holistic and multidisciplinary education, the School of Philosophy aims to become a vibrant center for learning, debate, reflection, and intellectual growth.

2. Proposal for School of Philosophy:

1. In alignment with the vision of Aryabhatta Knowledge University (AKU) to promote interdisciplinary, value-based, and holistic education as outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, this proposal aims to establish an Academic Centre for the School of Philosophy. This Centre will act as a hub for academic excellence, research, dialogue, and dissemination of philosophical knowledge—both Indian and Western—with special focus on Indian philosophical traditions and contemporary relevance.

2. Rationale for Establishment

- a) Philosophy forms the foundation of critical thinking, ethics, reasoning, and interdisciplinary inquiry. In the age of technological advancement and globalization,
- b) philosophical education ensures the development of thoughtful, responsible, and conscious individuals. The Academic Centre will:
- c) Serve as the nucleus for curriculum development, pedagogy, and research in philosophy.
- d) Bridge classical philosophical traditions with contemporary global issues.
- e) Promote value-based education and ethical reasoning across disciplines.

3. Objectives of the Academic Centre

- a) To coordinate and enhance academic and research activities in philosophy.

- b) To support and guide postgraduate and research programmes (MA, MPhil, PhD).
- c) To serve as a think tank for philosophical inquiry on education, ethics, public policy, and social issues.
- d) To collaborate with national and international philosophy departments and research institutes.
- e) To promote dialogue among various schools of philosophical thought.

4. Functions of the Academic Centre

- a) Develop syllabi and academic calendar for the MA in Philosophy and future programs.
- b) Organize regular seminars, conferences, workshops, and public lectures.
- c) Support faculty development and training in philosophical pedagogy.
- d) Facilitate publication of academic journals, research papers, and translation projects.
- e) Establish a digital and physical library focused on philosophical texts and research.

5. Infrastructure and Facilities

The Academic Centre will include:

- a) Classrooms equipped with smart teaching aids.
- b) Seminar and conference halls.
- c) Faculty rooms and research cubicles.
- d) A central library with rare texts, translations, and e-resources.
- e) Meditation and ethical reflection space (optional but unique offering).

6. Faculty and Research Guidance

- a) Eminent philosophers and academicians will be invited as visiting or adjunct faculty.
- b) The Centre will have core permanent faculty specialized in major Indian and Western philosophical traditions.
- c) Doctoral and postdoctoral researchers will be encouraged under faculty supervision.

7. Collaborative Engagement

The Centre will actively collaborate with:

- a) Indian Council of Philosophical Research (ICPR)
- b) Central and state universities
- c) International institutions for academic exchange programs
- d) NGOs and organizations working on ethics, education, and social thought

8. Alignment with NEP 2020

The Centre aligns with NEP 2020's vision to:

- a) Promote Indian knowledge systems.
- b) Encourage multidisciplinary learning.
- c) Instill critical and ethical reasoning in students.

9. Expected Outcomes

- a) A robust postgraduate program in Philosophy.

- b) High-quality research contributions in philosophy.
- c) Strengthening of Indian philosophical identity in global discourse.
- d) Trained graduates equipped for academia, policy, civil services, journalism, and public life.

3. Mission of the proposed school

The mission of the proposed School of Philosophy is to cultivate a transformative educational environment that fosters critical thinking, ethical reflection, interdisciplinary dialogue and cultural-rootedness. Anchored in the principles of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the School aims to:

- (i) Promote Philosophical Inquiry: Encourage students to engage with fundamental questions about existence, knowledge, ethics, and human purpose through the study of Indian and Western philosophical traditions.
- (ii) Preserve and Revitalize Indian Intellectual Heritage: Reintroduce classical Indian philosophical systems—such as Nyaya, Vedanta, Mimamsa, Buddhism, and Jainism—into contemporary discourse and global academic platforms.
- (iii) Foster Moral and Ethical Development: Prepare students to become responsible, morally grounded individuals who can contribute meaningfully to society, education, governance, and leadership.
- (iv) Enable Interdisciplinary Integration: Collaborate with sciences, technology, social sciences, arts, and management studies to address contemporary challenges from a philosophical standpoint.
- (v) Encourage Research and Innovation in Philosophy: Build a strong research culture that addresses both classical philosophical issues and contemporary problems such as climate ethics, AI ethics, political justice, and mental health.
- (vi) Promote Inclusive and Accessible Education: Ensure that philosophical education is inclusive, multilingual, and accessible to diverse socio-economic groups.
- (vii) Empower Global Citizenship through Indian Wisdom: Equip students with a global outlook shaped by India's timeless philosophical insights, helping them serve as cultural ambassadors and thought leaders.

The School of Philosophy will thus be a center of excellence where tradition meets innovation, producing graduates who are not only academically sound but also socially responsible and spiritually aware..

3. Programmes Offered

- M.A. in Philosophy — Two-year full-time postgraduate programme (4 semesters).

Each programme combines core papers, electives, research project/seminar, and skill courses (communication, critical reasoning). The M.A. curriculum follows a semesterized structure with a mix of compulsory and optional papers, modelled on established university programmes.

4. Program Overview

- i. Degree Name: M.A. in Philosophy.
- ii. Mode: Full-time
- iii. Duration: 2 Years (Four Semester)
- iv. Total Credits: 100 credits
- v. Exit Option: Exit after 1 year with Postgraduate Diploma (as per NEP's multiple entry-exit policy)
- vi. Ordinance and course curriculum may be revised as per the Apex body and UGC suggestions

5. Seats available for admission:

- 30 seats for admission in M.A. in Philosophy seems to be a reasonable number to start with.

Admission Process:

- (i) The centre or the University should organize an admission test.
- (ii) The Syllabus for admission test should be specified. .
- (iii) The syllabus standard should be at B.A. Level

Eligibility Criteria for M.A. in Philosophy:

(i) Educational Qualifications:

- A candidate must have completed a Bachelor's Degree (10+2+3/4 system) in any discipline from a recognized university.
- Preference will be given to those with a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy.
- Minimum aggregate marks: As per University Norms

(ii) Entrance Examination:

Admission may be through a university-level entrance test (if applicable).

The entrance exam may include:

- Basic understanding of philosophical themes
- Logical reasoning and critical thinking
- General awareness and reading comprehension

(iii) Language Proficiency:

- Proficiency in English is desirable, as the medium of instruction will Hindi.
- Option to study core texts in Sanskrit, Hindi and English or other Indian languages may be provided depending on specialization.

(iv) Age Limit:

No upper age limit for admission, in line with UGC and NEP 2020 guidelines promoting lifelong learning.

(v) Reservation Policy:

- As per rules of Bihar Government.

(vi) Special Considerations:

- Candidates with a background in Yoga, Ethics, Comparative Religion, or Interdisciplinary Studies may be considered under interdisciplinary or special quota (if applicable).
 - Working professionals, teachers, and researchers may be encouraged to apply under flexible/part-time options (if offered).
- Fee Structure

AKU's School will publish detailed semester-wise syllabi mapping credits, learning outcomes, and reading lists; the above follows common practice used by regionally established programmes.

7. Teaching & Assessment

- Teaching methods: Lectures, tutorial groups, seminars, workshops, supervised reading circles, invited lectures.
- Assessment: Combination of term tests, assignments, seminar presentation, end-semester examinations, and a dissertation/project for the M.A. final semester. Continuous assessment and attendance policies are applied as per AKU regulations.

8. Faculty & Research

The School will recruit faculty with specializations across Indian philosophy, Western traditions, logic, ethics, and applied philosophy. Visiting scholars and research fellows will be invited for short-term modules and workshops. Faculty profiles and research interests will be published on the School's website.

(Note: for model and benchmark of faculty expectations and research emphasis we referred to established departmental practices in the region.)

9. Facilities & Student Support

- Library: A dedicated philosophy collection with primary texts (Sanskrit/English/other translations), journals, and digital resources.
- Seminar Room & Reading Room* for small-group tutorials.
- Philosophy Forum / Lecture Series — regular departmental seminars and inter-university colloquia.
- Career & Placement Cell — guidance for higher studies, civil services, NGOs, teaching & publishing.

10. Fees, Scholarships & Financial Aid

Fees will follow the AKU-approved fee structure. Scholarships and fee concessions for reserved categories, merit-cum-means scholarships, and government scholarships will be available as per university and state/national schemes. (Indicative fee information for comparable programmes is available publicly for reference.)

11. Career Prospects

Graduates can pursue:

- Higher studies (MPhil / PhD), academic teaching, research.
- Civil services, public policy, law, journalism, publishing.
- Roles in think-tanks, NGOs, corporate ethics/compliance units, and education technology.

12. Rules & Regulations

The School of Philosophy will follow AKU ordinances on conduct, attendance, evaluation, malpractice, anti-discrimination and academic integrity. Detailed rules will be in the AKU academic calendar and the School's student handbook.

13. Important Dates (Sample / To be announced)

- Application start: To be announced by AKU
- Last date to apply: To be announced by AKU
- Commencement of classes: As per AKU academic calendar

14. Academic Activities



A Expert Committee constituted by university for Preparation of Syllabus & Ordinance of School of Philosophy as per National Education Policy-2020

15. Contact (Draft)

- School of Philosophy, Aryabhatta Knowledge University
- Office no: +918934038241
- Email: akuphilosophy@gmail.com

16. Appendix — Sample M.A. (Philosophy) Semester Map (illustrative)

Aryabhatta Knowledge University, Patna (Bihar) School of Philosophy			
Course Curriculum for two years of M.A. Philosophy (Semester System) based on NEP- 2020			
Semester-I			
Course Code	Title	Credit	Remarks
Core Courses (Compulsory Papers)			
PHILCC-501	Origin and Development of Indian Knowledge System	04	
PHILCC-502	Classical Indian Philosophy-I	04	
PHILCC-503	Philosophy of Religion	04	
PHILCC-504	Classical Western Philosophy	04	

PHILCC-505	Meta Ethics	04	
Elective Core (Any One of the following)			
PHILEC-506	The Philosophy of Geeta (Chapters 1,2,3,5,6, 17 & 18)	04	VAC
PHILEC-507	Dhammapada (Vagga:1,2,3,9 &11)	04	VAC
PHILEC-508	Yoga Sutra (Samadhi Pada and Sadhna Pada)	04	VAC
PHILEC-509	Introduction to Logic	04	
	Total Credit	24	
Semester –II			
Course Code	Title	Credit	Remarks
Core Courses (Compulsory Papers)			
PHILCC-551	Classical Indian Philosophy-II	04	
PHILCC-552	Modern Western Philosophy	04	
PHILCC-553	Indian Ethics & Philosophical Foundations of Indian Culture	04	

Elective Core (Any Two of the following)			
PHILEC-554	Critical Thinking and decision making	04	SEC
PHILEC-555	Philosophy of Buddhism	04	SEC
PHILEC-556	Yoga & Health Management	04	
PHILEC-557	Contemporary Religious Problems	04	
PHILEC-558	Philosophy of Advaita Vedanta	04	
PHILEC-559	Symbolic Logic	04	
PHILEC-560	Administrative Ethics	04	VAC
PHILEC-561	Philosophy of Language (Indian)	04	
PHILEC-562	Internship/field work/ Vocational Course Training Programme (Report Based)	04	
Elective Open (Any One of the following)			
PHILEO-563	Introduction to	04	SEC

	Logic		
PHILEO-564	Workshop /Seminar/ Conference (One paper presentation)/ Book review	04	SEC
	Total Credits	24	

Semester –III			
Course Code	Title	Credit	Remarks
Core Courses (Compulsory Papers)			
PHILCC-601	Indian Epistemology	04	
PHILCC-602	Western Epistemology	04	
PHILCC-603	Applied Ethics	04	VAC
PHILCC -604	Continental Philosophy	04	
PHILCC -605	Philosophical Methods & Research Methodology	04	Research
Elective Core (Any One of the following)			
PHILEC-606	Philosophical Counselling	04	
PHILEC-607	Philosophy of Science	04	
PHILEC-608	Religious language	04	
PHILEC-609	Schools of Vedanta	04	
PHILEC-610	Environmental Ethics	04	
Elective Open (Any One of the following)			
PHILEO-611	Environmental Sustainability, Swachha Bharat Abhiyan activities	04	SEC
Semester –IV			
Course Code	Title	Credit	Remarks
Core Courses (Compulsory Papers)			
PHILCC-651	Modern Indian Philosophical Theories	04	
PHILCC-652	Analytic Philosophy	04	
PHILCC-653	Socio-Political Philosophy	04	
Elective Core (Any One of the following)			
PHILEC-654	Dissertation	12	Research
PHILEC-655	Project Work	12	Research
	Total Credit	24	
	Total Course Credit	100	

Note- MENCC (Mandatory Elective Non-Credit Course)

- 1. IInd Semester- Visit to heritage sites/ Academic Institution**
- 2. IVth Semester- Visit to village/ Any Indian festival**

***VAC** - Value Added Courses

***SEC** - Skill Enhancement Course

