

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in **Development Studies**



Pokhara University
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

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The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) is one of the four faculties of Pokhara University (a public and non-profit institution established by the Government of Nepal, formulating Pokhara University Act 1997). The faculty has been offering academic programmes since the inception of the University. Currently, the faculty has several academic programmes at Bachelor, Master, Master of Philosophy, and Doctor of Philosophy levels.

Vision

The vision of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences is to lead contemporary academia in the fields of Humanities and Social Sciences.

Mission

The mission of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences is to advance, promote and propel humanities and social sciences in theory and practice through the highest quality teaching, research, innovation, publications, training, community and public services, and intellectual leadership.

Goal

The goal of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences is to produce a professional, academics, researchers, and entrepreneurs with scientific knowledge, intellectual insight, technical know-how, and practical skill (KITS) for independent thought, critical analysis, self-awareness, and professional and academic proficiency based on disciplinary clarity, multidisciplinary distinction and interdisciplinary comprehensiveness.

Objectives

- **The teaching objectives** of the Faculty are to provide learning opportunities in contemporary and frontier fields of humanities and social sciences, enhance the quality of education and teaching, and to develop new courses and educational opportunities in the area of humanities and social sciences.
- **The research, innovation and publication objectives** of the Faculty are to increase and strengthen research activities in all schools/colleges, programmes and units under the faculty; enhance research and publication capabilities of all faculty members, research scientists, and students.
- **The training and continuing education objectives** of the Faculty are to train academics, professionals and entrepreneurs to meet the working challenges in, and continuously lead in the fields of humanities and social sciences.
- **The outreach objectives** (also known as community and public service objectives) of the Faculty are to increase the visibility of the Faculty's activities with social responsibility, and focus more research projects on community betterment.
- **The consultancy objectives** of the Faculty are to provide expertise, technical, professional and policy advice services in the fields of humanities and social sciences.

Programmes Offered by FHSS

<p>Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Doctor of Philosophy in Humanities (Research Only track) ● Doctor of Philosophy in Development Studies (Coursework-Research Track) 	<p>MPhil Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Master of Philosophy in English (MPhil in English)
<p>Master Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Master of Arts in English (MA in English) ● Master in Population, Gender and Development (MPGD) ● Master of Development Studies (MDEVS) 	<p>Bachelor of Level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bachelor of Development Studies (BDEVS) ● Bachelor of English and Communication Studies (BECS) ● Bachelor of Entrepreneurship Development (BED)



Message from the Dean

Very warm greetings and welcome to the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Pokhara University!

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (FHSS) is one of the four faculties of Pokhara University. The faculty is dedicated to excellence in teaching, learning and research in the field of humanities and social sciences with a focus on sustainable development and social engineering. FHSS aims to produce world-class academicians, policy analysts, development professionals, and social engineers equipped with scientific knowledge, intellectual insight, technical expertise, practical skill as well as multidisciplinary distinction and interdisciplinary comprehensiveness required to meet the needs of the 21st century. It provides learning opportunities in the contemporary and frontier fields of social sciences fostering critical thinking, creative expression, innovation, and intellectual curiosity by developing new courses, increasing and strengthening research activities, organizing national/international conferences, seminars and symposiums, publishing refereed journals along with providing technical, professional and consultancy services to government and non-government organizations within the nation and around the globe.

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences is currently offering Bachelor of Development Studies (BDEVS), Bachelor of English and Communication Studies (BECS), Bachelor of Entrepreneurship Development (BED), Master in Population, Gender and Development (MPGD), Master of Development Studies (MDEVS), Master of Arts in English (MA in English), Master of Philosophy in English (MPhil in English), and Doctor of Philosophy in Humanities (Research only track), Doctor of Philosophy in Development Studies (Coursework-Research track).

We are proud to be part of our graduates' achievements in national and international arena. As the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, I am committed to developing the faculty as a 'center of academic excellence' with modern curriculums to meet the national and global needs, research endeavors, professional training, faculty development, and national and international collaborations and many more.

I would cordially invite you to collaborate with us and become a part of the faculty's glory.

Assoc. Prof. Ajay Thapa, PhD
Dean
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
Pokhara University



Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Development Studies

Programme Objective

The objective of the Pokhara University Doctor of Philosophy in Development Studies is to produce expert and specialized high-level human resources for teaching, research and professional expert services, who shall profess theoretical excellence and practical comprehension in the wider scope of development that concerns physical, environmental, social and economic aspects of living, working, socializing and governance of people, communities, societies, entities/ organism and spaces to improve the theories, models, tools and techniques, processes, policies and practices of development system.

Curricular Structure

The curriculum is designed to equip students with the philosophical base of social science and the society, the theoretical and practical base for conducting research, techniques and tools of conducting research, research writing and publication to be a bona fide researcher. The coursework gives doctoral students and scholars a comprehensive perspective on conducting academic research, its presentation and publication. The curriculum comprises the following five distinct components:

Philosophy: The philosophy courses provide students with the understanding of science and social sciences as the base of knowledge explaining science and/or society in their widest context.

Research Methodology, Research Writing, Research Techniques: The essence of the doctoral studies is research, which requires professing students in theoretical understanding of research, the practical underpinnings of research, the exhaustive process of research, the skills on conducting research, and the application of techniques and tools of in research.

Core courses: The substantive core courses in the area of development studies provide students with an opportunity for in-depth and focused knowledge which require the students to consolidate their comprehension in their field of studies.

Elective courses: Students are also offered elective courses to enable them in widening

their horizons of knowledge in the specific area of development studies.

Independent study: Students are required to proceed with the complete process of a mini-research that is focused on the theoretical and methodological context of advanced research along with giving a seminar which will demonstrate their capability for publication and dissemination of their doctoral research work and beyond.

Research: The major component of the doctoral studies is the independent dissertation research to be conducted by a doctoral scholar, based on primary data and should render a substantial contribution to the body of knowledge and show evidence of originality through the discovery of new facts or the exercise of independence and critical power in the interpretation of theories and facts.

Programme Features

The programme will use a range of pedagogical inputs that includes on-campus learning through classroom discussions, seminars, presentations, group works, case analysis, laboratory tests, and guest lecture series, and off-campus learning through field studies, project works, online instructions and internet conferencing.

The Semester System

The programme will run on semester system. The admission to the programme can be called at both fall and spring semester as per the requirement.

The programme follows the credit system. Each course is assigned a certain number of credit hours depending generally upon its lecture, tutorial and practical work hours in a week. In theory subjects, one lecture per week is assigned to one credit hour as a general rule. That is, a three-credit course has 48 class hours. Each course is assigned with a faculty member or a couple of faculty members to deliver, facilitate and evaluate it. If the course is taught by more than one faculty member, then one of the members is designated as the course coordinator of that particular course.

Eligibility and Admission Procedures

A Master's degree in any field from Pokhara University or any other university recognized by Pokhara University, or an academic degree that is certified, equivalent to Master's degree of Pokhara University with a CGPA of 3.00 in a scale of 4.00 grading system, or high Second Division on percentage system of evaluation is eligible for the *Coursework-Research Track* or PhD/MPhil track of the Doctoral programme along with the following specific qualifications:

- The applicant must have experience on research, teaching in higher education or has worked at least as a professional in related job.
 - a. 2 (two) years work experience for those who have passed Master Level with 3.00/4.00 CGPA or high Second Division (55%);
 - b. 1 (one) year work experience for those who have passed Master Level with 3.30/4.00 CGPA or First Division
 - c. There will be no requirement of work experience for those who have passed Master Level with 3.75/4.00 CGPA or Distinction Division.
- A student must secure a minimum CGPA of 3.3 in the course-work, and must have successfully defended PhD proposal for registration to PhD.

Documents Required: The applicant is required to submit the following documents with the application form made available by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences by paying a predetermined fee:

- **A statement of purpose:** A statement of the applicant's purpose (not more than one page) in applying for Doctoral studies must be submitted, incorporating the reason for Doctoral studies, plans for future occupation or profession, and the contribution of the Doctoral studies in the career of the applicant.
- **A preliminary research proposal:** The applicant shall submit a synopsis of research proposal within 2,000 to 3000 words for the doctoral degree. It should consist of an introduction, the justification for the study, issues and problems of the research, objectives, hypotheses, methodology, expected outcome of the research, the schedule of the research work, and references along with a selected bibliography of 10 to 20 pertinent publications.

- **A portfolio of works:** The applicant shall submit a portfolio of works incorporating the list of publications and/or research reports (if available) with a copy of at least one publication that gives an idea of research achievements of the applicant.
- **Letters of recommendation:** The applicant shall submit the letters of recommendation from two referees, one of which shall be an academic faculty from the student's previous institution in the prescribed official format.
- **Copies of Academic Certificates:** The applicant shall submit attested copies of all academic transcripts. If admission is granted, an original Migration Certificate must be submitted for admission.
- The candidates, who are given provisional admission under special condition, are required to submit all necessary documents within a month of the beginning of the semester. Otherwise, the admission will be canceled.
- Fees and payment for the Doctoral studies will be according to the Article 17 of the Pokhara University Regulation for Doctoral Programme, 2013.

Course Registration

Students are required to register for courses at the beginning of each semester. Since registration is a very important procedural part of the credit system, all students must present themselves at the Programme Office. Registration in absence may be allowed only in rare cases at the discretion of the Dean. A student's nominee cannot register for courses but will only be allowed to complete other formalities.

Admission Process

- A notice inviting applications for admission is publicly announced. Application forms and information brochures are provided, on request, after the payment of the prescribed fee.
- The Doctoral Programme Office scrutinizes the application. The eligible candidates are informed to take the entrance test. The date and time for the entrance test shall be informed to the applicants by the Doctoral Programme Office.
- Admission to the Doctoral programme shall be granted based on the combined score of the following three types of evaluations.
 - a. Written entrance test;
 - b. Evaluation of the application documents, i.e. statement of purpose, preliminary research proposal, publications, recommendations, and academic transcripts submitted by the applicant; and
 - c. Interview of the candidate.
- A merit list shall be derived from the combined results of the entrance test, evaluation of application documents, and interview of the candidate; and the applicants, who pass the admission tests, shall be offered admission in the Doctoral programme of Pokhara University based on merit list.
- The successful candidate for *Coursework-Research Track* may start his/her studies according to the calendar issued for the Doctoral Programme by the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Pokhara University.

Addition and Withdrawal from Courses

A student would have the option to add or drop from the course. This can, however, be done only during the first two weeks of the semester. A student wishing to withdraw from a course, should apply on the prescribed form within two weeks from the starting date of the semester. A full-time student has to take a minimum of nine credits in a semester.

Attendance Requirements

The students must attain every lecture, tutorial and practical class. However, to accommodate for late registration, sickness and other such contingencies, the attendance requirements will be a minimum of 80 per cent of the classes actually held.

Normal and Maximum Duration of Study

The doctoral programme has a normal duration of three to five years. The students are required to complete the different phases of PhD programme within the duration specified below:

- Candidates are required to complete course work of two semesters initially. They should complete course work requirements within two years from the date of admission. If a student is unable to complete the coursework within the given duration, the University registration for Doctoral programme of the student will be annulled.

However, the completed credits of course work can be transferred to MPhil degree.

- A student, who is enrolled under coursework-research or PhD/MPhil track and successfully completed the coursework, shall apply for doctoral candidacy and have to successfully defend the PhD proposal for registration to the doctoral candidacy within one year. If a student is unable to complete the doctoral proposal within the given duration his/her doctoral registration will be annulled. However, the completed credits of course work can be transferred to MPhil degree.
- Registration to PhD can be merit based as determined by the FDC on the basis of availability of supervisors. If a student is unable to successfully complete PhD proposal or is not registered for doctoral candidacy in merit basis or chooses to apply for Master of Philosophy (MPhil) degree instead of PhD, he/she can request for transfer of credit of course work to MPhil programme. Such candidates will be accepted for MPhil degree, which will be substantiated by 9 credit MPhil dissertation to complete the MPhil Degree.
- Supervisors will be allocated after the PhD registration and the students shall undertake

PhD research and prepare PhD dissertation under the guidance of supervisors. If a student is unable to complete the doctoral dissertation within three years from the date of candidacy, the student may apply for re-registration along with the recommendation by the Major Supervisor. The extended time duration shall not exceed two years. The total duration of PhD (from the date of enrolment to the date of successful defense of the dissertation) shall not exceed seven years. If the student cannot complete his/her studies within the extended period, the doctoral candidate's University registration will be annulled upon the recommendation by FDC and approval by CDS.

Evaluation System of Coursework

A student's academic performance in a course is evaluated in two phases:

- Internally by the concerned faculty member and
- Externally by the Office of the Dean through semester-end examinations.
- A sixty per cent weight is given to the internal evaluation and forty per cent weight is given to the external evaluation (Semester-end examination). The pass mark for both the internal evaluation and external evaluation (Semester-



end examination) is sixty per cent. A student must qualify in both evaluations separately to get a pass grade in a particular course. The final grade awarded to a student in a course is based on his/her consolidated performance in both internal and external evaluations.

- The internal evaluation may consist of various components like in-class problem solution; journal article reviews; book reviews; thematic/topical clipping of newspapers, their analysis and presentation; written examinations; presentation of reflection notes; surveys and reports; case studies; project works, quizzes, and the like. A student will get NOT QUALIFIED (NQ) status in the internal evaluation if his/her performance falls below the minimum requirement. Such students will not be allowed to appear in the semester-end examination of that particular course.

Grading System

Pokhara University follows a four-point letter grade system. The letter grades awarded to students will be as follows:

Letter Grade	Grade Point	Description
A	4.0	Excellent
A-	3.7	
B+	3.3	Good
B	3.0	Fair
B-	2.7	
C+	2.3	
C	2.0	Pass in individual course
I	-	Incomplete
F	0.0	Fail

- If a student cannot finish all the assigned works for the course, he/she will be given an incomplete grade 'I'. If all the required assignments are not completed within the following semester, the grade of 'I' will automatically be converted into 'F'.
- The performance of a student is evaluated in terms of two indices: (a) Semester Grade Point Average (SGPA) which is the grade point average of the particular semester, and (b) Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) which is the grade point average of all the semesters.

$$SPGA = \frac{\text{Total honor points earned in a semester}}{\text{Total number of credits registered in a semester}}$$

$$CPGA = \frac{\text{Total honor points earned}}{\text{Total number of credits completed}}$$

Where,

Honor point = Grade point earned in a subject x Number of credits assigned to that subject

Repeating a Course

- A course may be taken only once for grade. Since passing all courses individually is a degree requirement, the student must retake the failing course when offered and must successfully complete the course. A student will be allowed to retake a maximum of two courses to achieve a minimum CGPA of 3.3 for continuing the doctoral studies. The grade earned on the retake examination will substitute the earlier grade obtained by the student in that course. A student can retake a course only when it is offered by the Faculty.
- If a student cannot secure a minimum CGPA of 3.3 he/she may choose to continue his/her study with MPhil Degree. The student shall complete an MPhil dissertation (9 credits) for an MPhil Degree.

Requirements for the Doctoral Degree

The requirements for the award of the Doctoral degree are as follows:

- A student, who is enrolled on the *Coursework-Research Track or PhD/MPhil track*, shall complete a minimum of 24 credit advance courses;
- A student shall have successful candidacy for the advancement to the doctoral dissertation upon writing a successful proposal and defending it in an academic gathering;
- One conference paper with the first authorship of the student based on the student's doctoral dissertation research shall be presented at a national or international conference;
- At least two research articles with the first authorship of the student based on the student's doctoral dissertation research, must be accepted for publication in the peer-reviewed indexed journal or UGC recognized journals;
- A successful presentation of the doctoral dissertation in a doctoral seminar; and

- Approval of the doctoral dissertation by the final examiners of Doctoral Dissertation.

Unfair Means

Students are strictly forbidden from adopting unfair means in class assignments, tests, report-writing and final examination. The following would be considered as adoption of unfair means during examination:

- Communicating with fellow students for obtaining help.
- Copying from another student's script/report/paper.
- Copying from disk, mobile, palms of hands or other incriminating documents and equipment.
- Possession of any incriminating documents, whether used or not.
- Any approach in direct or indirect form to influence teacher concerning grade.
- Unruly behavior which disrupts academic programme.

If the instructor detects a student using unfair means, the student may be given an 'F' grade at the discretion of the Examination Board. Adoption of unfair means may result in the dismissal of the student from the programme and expulsion of the student from the Doctoral programme and as such from Pokhara University.

- **Dismissal from the Programme:** A student is normally expected to obtain a minimum CGPA of 3.3 in the coursework evaluation to register for doctoral candidacy. If a student's performance falls short of maintaining this CGPA but has obtained a minimum CGPA of 3.0, he/she may be advised to opt for an MPhil Degree. If a student can not obtain a minimum CGPA of 3.0, he/she will be dismissed from the programme.
- **Research Integrity and Ethics:** All the PhD scholars and supervisors should abide by the provisions of academic integrity and research ethics as stated in the Code of Conduct for Research Integrity and Ethics, Pokhara University Regulation for Doctoral Programme, 2013.
- **Detailed Curricular Structure:** The *Coursework-Research Track or PhD/MPhil track* students are required to complete the minimum of 24 credits. Students are required to complete two courses (6 credits) of core courses (theories, practices and philosophy); three courses (9 credits) of research methodology; two elective courses (6 credits) which is selected from a list of substantive courses; one independent study (3 credits), and a PhD dissertation (36 credits). The structure of curriculum for the Doctoral of Philosophy (PhD) in Development Studies is presented on area-wise and semester-wise distribution of courses as follows.



Curriculum Structure

AREA-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF COURSES		
Course Code	Course	Credits
Core Course		6
PHL 701	Philosophy of Social Science	3
DEV 711	Development Theories and Practices	3
Research Methodology		9
RES 721	Research Methodology	3
RES 722	Academic Writing and Seminar Skills	3
RES 723	Advanced Research Techniques in Development Studies	3
Elective Course		6
DEV 751	Society and Development	3

AREA-WISE DISTRIBUTION OF COURSES		
Course Code	Course	Credits
DEV 752	Development Policy Analysis and Evaluation	3
DEV 753	Political Economy of Development	3
DEV 754	Development Management	3
DEV 755	Conflict, Peace and Development	3
DEV 756	Natural Resources, Environment and Development	3
DEV 791	Independent Study	3
DEV 999	PhD Dissertation	36
Total Credit Hours		60
DEV 799	MPhil Dissertation*	9

*If a student's performance falls short of maintaining a minimum CGPA of 3.3 in the coursework evaluation, but has obtained a minimum CGPA of 3.0, he/she may opt for an MPhil Degree.

Semester-wise Curriculum Structure

SEMESTER I			SEMESTER II		
Course Code	Course	Credit Hours	Course Code	Course	Credit Hours
PHL 701	Philosophy of Social Science	3	RES 723	Advanced Research Techniques in Development Studies	3
DEV 711	Development Theories and Practice	3	DEV xxx	Elective - I	3
RES 721	Research Methodology	3	DEV xxx	Elective - II	3
RES 722	Academic Writing and Seminar Skills	3	DEV 791	Independent Study	3
Total Credit Hours		12	Total Credit Hours		12
SEMESTER III-VI					
DEV 999	PhD Dissertation				36
DEV 799	MPhil Dissertation*				9

*If a student's performance falls short of maintaining a minimum CGPA of 3.3 in the coursework evaluation, but has obtained a minimum CGPA of 3.0, he/she may opt for an MPhil Degree.

ELECTIVE COURSES		
Course Code	Course	Credit Hours
DEV 751	Society and Development	3
DEV 752	Development Policy Analysis and Evaluation	3
DEV 753	Political Economy of Development	3
DEV 754	Development Management	3
DEV 755	Conflict, Peace and Development	3
DEV 756	Natural Resources, Environment and Development	3

Pokhara University Central Library

Pokhara University Central Library (PUCL) was established in 1999. Being one of the pioneer libraries in the Western Region of Nepal, it is a nexus of collaboration among students, faculty, staff and researchers with a mission to support and enhance their instructional and research activities, thereby contributing to the common goal by collecting, organizing, preserving, communicating, and sharing the finest achievements of human knowledge.

The library now houses an extensive collection providing access to the latest journals, books, databases, and resources in traditional as well as digital formats to support the students of undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs in engineering, pharmacy, nursing, laboratory sciences, management, humanities, social sciences and interdisciplinary research at Pokhara University. Besides open individual study spaces, the library also offers a range of group study spaces including one laptop zone, one reading hall with ample study carrels and a seminar hall.



Academic Resources at PUCL

Physical Items

Books (Volumes)	35,925
Periodicals (Volumes)	220
Media (Audiobooks, CDs etc.)	270
Newspapers	7

Electronics items

eBooks	150
eJournals	200
Access to e-Resource	21

E-resources

- American Institute of Physics (www.journals.aip.org)
- Annual Reviews (www.annualreviews.org)
- Cambridge University Press (www.journals.cambridge.org)
- Wiley (www.interscience.wiley.com)
- Edinburgh University Press (EUP) Journals Online (www.eupjournals.com)
- Geological Society (www.lyellcollection.org)
- International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- JSTOR (www.jstor.org)
- Liebert Online (www.liebert.com)
- NPG journals (www.nature.com)
- Project Muse (<http://muse.jhu.edu>)
- University of Chicago Press www.press.uchicago.edu
- Oxford University Press - Oxford Journals (www.oxfordjournals.org)
- Bioone (www.bioone.org)
- HINARI (www.who.int/hinari)
- AGORA (<http://www.aginternetwork.org>)
- OARE (www.oaresciences.org)
- ARDI (<http://www.wipo.int/ard>)
- Nepal Library and Information Consortium (NeLIC) (<https://www.nelic.org>)
- Research4life (<https://www.research4life.org>)
- Tribhuvan University Center Library (<https://tucl.edu.np>)



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