

SOMAIYA VIDYAVIHAR UNIVERSITY
Mumbai

Ph.D. (INTERNATIONAL STUDIES)
ADMISSION MANUAL

JULY 2025

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Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai

About Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai

On 26th August 2019, Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai became a reality! We made this milestone after six decades of creating holistic teaching learning experience educational institutes of great repute. Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai has become a self-finance – the first private University in Mumbai vide the Maharashtra Self-Financed Universities (Establishment and Regulation) Act 2013. We have a dream to build and support a world-class institution, one that is proudly Indian, and excels in education, research and service. Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai will be a place where knowledge is preserved, disseminated, and new knowledge is created. It will be global in the reach of its ideas and universal in its service. Somaiya Vidyavihar University, Mumbai is a place where students and faculty can explore “Freedom of Possibilities”, pursue your passion and above all, find yourself.

Our History and Vision

An all-round education must integrate Indian culture, values & morality into the curriculum.

The Somaiya Vidyavihar was founded in 1959 by late Shri K.J. Somaiya (1902-1999). Endowed with a sharp business acumen, a balanced perspective and a social bent of mind, Karamshibhai set up the Somaiya Trust in 1953 for furthering his dream of shaping young minds through quality education. For this purpose, he bought a large area of land at Ghatkopar, then considered to be distant, meagrely populated. Our Founder, Padmabhushan Shri K. J. Somaiya founded Somaiya Vidyavihar on 9th September 1959. He later founded the Girivanvasi Pragati Mandal, The K J Somaiya Medical Trust, Girivanvasi Education Trust and sister institutions to provide access and opportunity to build a more inclusive society. In the words of Swami Vivekananda, “We want that education by which character is formed, strength of mind is increased, and the intellect expanded, and by which one can stand on one’s own feet.”

In six decades it has grown into a large educational complex with 34 institutions catering to diverse fields of education such as Humanities & Social Sciences, Engineering, Education, Medicine, Management, Dharma Studies, Pure Sciences and Commerce & Business Studies, with more than 39000+ Candidates and 3000+ Faculties and staff on a throbbing 50 acre campus.

With PhD programmes in various faculties, we provide an innovative platform for research aspirants to make a niche of their own to impact society and life.

About the Department of International Studies

The Department of International Studies has carved a niche as one of the rapidly emerging research centres by making pioneering contributions and strides to the study of international relations. The Department envisions pioneering nuanced understandings of international affairs backed by the intersections of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary perspectives.

The Department of International Studies periodically hosts national and international conferences on national and global issues and inter-country interactions. With the faculty engaged in promulgating knowledge through research and papers published in journals of international repute, the Department of International Studies encourages and guides the research scholars to tread a similar trajectory by presenting their research papers in conferences and publishing their papers in nationally and internationally acclaimed journals.

With profound shifts taking place in the current geopolitical scenario, the Department of International Studies aims to equip researchers to investigate themes such as global institutions and governance, trade, diplomacy, foreign policy, human rights, cross-border culture and soft power, security, and global conflict etc. Further, with the evolving role of India as a major global player, actively participating in climate negotiations, global trade alliances, multilateral forums such as the G-20, BRICS, and QUAD, pushing the Indo-Pacific strategy and fostering South- South Cooperation, the Department intends to equip the researchers to bring out newer perspectives on the role of India and its policies in the domain of international relations.

The PhD programme will offer courses such as perspectives emanating from the Global South with particular emphasis on India through South-South Cooperation. The Research Methodology course would equip the research scholars with knowledge and skills to decipher and employ different research tools while doing research. The thrust areas of the Department include but are not limited to

- India and the Global South
- Development Cooperation
- South-South Cooperation
- India's Development Partnership
- Culture and Soft Power
- Citizenship and Migration Studies
- Feminist and Gender Studies

Somaiya Vidyavihar University

Ph.D. Admission Eligibility for Somaiya Vidyavihar University (SVU): Minimum Qualifications for Admission

Subject to the conditions stipulated in the Regulations, the following candidate are eligible to seek admission to the Ph.D. Programme

i.	Master's degree or a professional degree declared equivalent to the Master's degree by the corresponding statutory regulatory body, with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent as per UGC regulations
ii	A person whose Master's dissertation has been evaluated and the viva-voce is pending may be admitted to the Ph.D. Programme but subject to completion of Master's degree before provisional admission to SVU Ph.D. Programmes.
iii	Candidates possessing a Degree considered equivalent to Master's Degree of an Indian Institution, from a Foreign Educational Institution accredited by an Assessment and Accreditation Agency which is approved, recognized or authorized by an authority, established or incorporated under a law in its home country or any other statutory authority in that country for the purpose of assessing, accrediting or assuring quality and standards of educational institutions, shall be eligible for admission to Ph.D. Programme.
iv.	Candidate not having Master's degree but having research / work / professional experience or possessing post graduate diploma may appear for Ph.D. Entrance Examination of SVU subject to such candidates need to apply separately to SVU for obtaining equivalence for Master's degree. The SVU will have final rights reserved to give such equivalence as per the regulations. Such candidates must possess undergraduate degree with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent as per UGC regulations. The relaxation will be as per UGC norms from time to time.
v.	MUST have qualified score of Ph.D. Entrance Examination of SVU – mandatory eligibility criteria for all candidates.
vi.	Candidates exempted from appearing for Ph.D. Entrance Examination of SVU MUST fill the application form as per the schedule displayed on website. The exempted candidates need not pay the application processing fee.
vii.	A No Objection Certificate (NOC) in prescribed format from the employer in case of those who are applying to Ph.D. Programme as a sponsored candidate.

Somaiya Vidyavihar University

Exemption Criteria for SVU Ph.D. Entrance Examination

Candidates who have qualified NET - JRF

However, the candidates who fulfill the above criteria MUST fill the application form as per the schedule displayed on the website.

Pattern and syllabus of SVU Ph.D. Entrance Examination

Paper-1 Qualitative Test – 40 marks

- a) Essay Writing – 20 marks
- b) Comprehension – 20 marks (50% choice in selecting questions in paper I)

Paper – 2 Subject Specific Test – 60 marks

- a) Multiple Choice Questions – 20 marks (Attempt 20 out of 30 questions)
- b) Subjective Questions – 40 marks (with 50% Choice)

Categories of Ph.D. Students

- Candidates with externally funded scholarships/Fellowships; (a full tuition fee waiver will be provided to candidates who join as JRF/SRF under government of INDIA research funded scheme)
- Candidates who work in funded projects within the University or in approved research centres which are collaborating with the University;
- Jointly guided PhD or Co-supervised PhD with International Universities;
- Teaching/work integrated research candidates who are the faculty/employees in pursuit of advancing their academic qualification, recommended by the Head of the Institution and the Academic Advisory Committee. This provision is for those candidates who shall take an undertaking that their routine responsibilities would be duly attended and under no circumstances compromised. The university shall reserve the rights to consider the registration of candidates who do not adhere to these guidelines;
- Research and Teaching Associates of the Somaiya Vidyavihar University.
- “Somaiya Vidyavihar University Research fellow under Chancellor’s Scholarships Programme”.

• “Any candidates having 5 year of teaching/research experience and have publish research paper in SCOPUS; Web of science journal/published patents/grant received from government agencies will be excepted from appearing for the SVU PhD entrance exam but will be required to appear for an interview at the respective departments”

• Candidate is permitted to pursue studies on a part-time basis provided all the conditions stipulated in UGC 2022 regulations are fulfilled

Documents Required

1. UG Degree or equivalent Mark List
2. UG Degree certificate
3. PG Degree or equivalent Mark List
4. PG Degree or equivalent certificate
5. AADHAR card
6. Degree equivalence / eligibility certificate – wherever is applicable
 1. Transfer Certificate and /or Leaving Certificate
 2. Migration certificate
 3. Two colour passport size Photograph
 - 1.If appearing the PG degree examination – bonafide certificate
 1. If employed, then No Objection from the employer – at the time of provisional admission

About the Course Work

The course work will be for one academic year (two semesters) out of which the first semester will be full-time. It is expected that during the first semester, the student will report the college/department/section/laboratory for attending the sessions as per the timetable. The student will have to complete a total 14 credits (semester I) + 4 credits (semester II) = total 18 credits with CGPI as per the Ph.D. regulations to become eligible for registration to the Ph.D. programme.