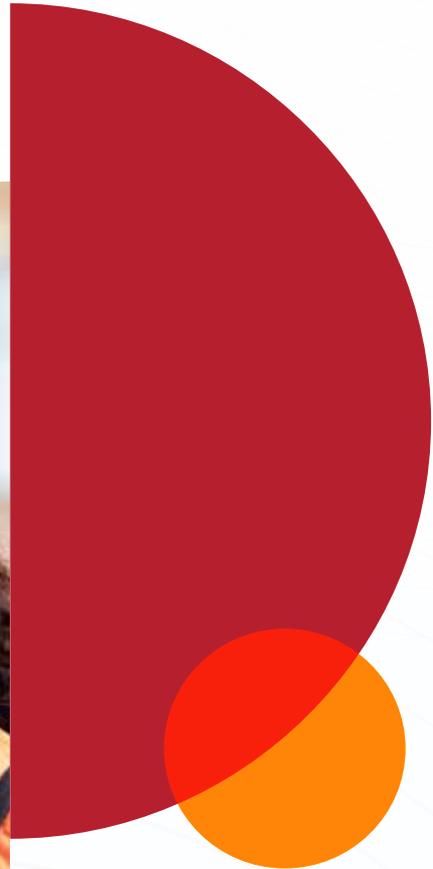




**SOMAIYA**  
VIDYAVIHAR UNIVERSITY



# Somaiya Vidyavihar University



**1<sup>st</sup>** For Placements  
in Maharashtra  
Pvt Uni - Times Ranking 2023

**8** Decades of Legacy  
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**45<sup>th</sup>** in India  
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**SOMAIYA VIDYAVIHAR UNIVERSITY**  
**Mumbai**

**PH.D. (HISTORY)**  
**ADMISSION MANUAL**

**March 2025**

Visit for Further Details: <https://www.somaiya.edu/en/phd/>

## About the Research Centre

The **Somaiya School of Civilisation Studies** is uniquely positioned to offer a comprehensive and nuanced understanding of civilisation through its distinguished centres: the Centre for Asian & Area Studies, the Centre for Himalayan & Mountain Studies, the Centre for Transoceanic Studies, and the Centre for Kachchh & Desert Studies.

The concept of civilisation is essential to understanding our collective past, present, and future. In today's rapidly changing world, there is an urgent need to reconceptualise civilisation. This involves not only revisiting the classical definitions but also adapting them to contemporary global dynamics. Our School fosters a critical understanding of how civilisations develop, interact, and influence one another, providing invaluable insights into the cultural and social fabrics that shape human experiences. The School of Civilisation is dedicated to fostering a deeper understanding of the complexities of human societies.

### **Interdisciplinary Approach:**

Our doctoral programme encourages interdisciplinary approach, aiming to integrate perspectives and methodologies from history, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, international relations, literature, law, and technology. This holistic approach will ensure a well-rounded education that equips learners with the analytical tools needed to understand complex cultural phenomena and their implications for the world we live in.

A doctoral research project in history hinges on the candidate's ability to consult archival repositories, decode primary source, and deploy appropriate qualitative and quantitative methods. The center encourages candidates to utilize a multi-pronged approach, combining textual analysis, oral history methodologies, ethnographic techniques, and digital humanities tools. Historical research is enriched through a resounding engagement with primary sources such as government records, trade logs, personal correspondences, travelogues, writings, speeches, and visual materials. Digital archives, GIS mapping, and computational history are increasingly becoming indispensable tools in contemporary historiographical research. The integration of statistical methods in historical analysis, particularly through economic and social history, offers innovative pathways for reinterpreting past phenomena. History is inherently interdisciplinary, decussate with fields such as anthropology, political science, economics, sociology, literature, and environmental studies to name a few. The School advocates for a transregional, transcontinental, and transoceanic approach to historical research to recognizes the fluidity of cultural, economic, and intellectual exchanges across geographical boundaries.

### **Registered Ph.D. Guides for History:**

Dr. Gaurav Gadgil, Associate Professor (History)

Centre for Asian & Area Studies, Somaiya School of Civilisation Studies

Research Areas: Anti-colonial struggles, history of ideas, literary history, urban studies

Dr. Gadgil has taught at various reputed educational institutions for over 15 years, and has an interest in History, International Relations, and Sociology. He has been a President of India Gold Medal winner, delivers talks at prestigious platforms, and has worked on a Research Fellowship awarded by the K.R. Cama Oriental Institute.

### **Eligibility for Applying to Ph.D. Programme in History**

- 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.
- Candidates possessing a Degree considered equivalent to Master's Degree of an Indian Institution, from an accredited Foreign Educational Institution, 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.
- 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.
- The candidates should have passed SET/ NET/JRF examinations from UGC recognized University.
- A candidate MUST have a qualified score of Ph.D. Entrance Examination of SVU – mandatory eligibility criteria for all candidates applying for Junior Research Fellowship.
- Candidates will have to present their proposed research theme to a Selection Committee constituted by the School after fulfilling their basic eligibility conditions. Admissions to the programme will be based on the qualifying exam, presentation to the selection committee, and availability of guide(s).

<b>Eligibility Criteria</b>	
<b>Graduation Degree</b>	Double Major or Single Major in History and Anthropology/ Sociology/ Political Science/ Psychology/ Philosophy/ Archaeology/ Economics/ Culture Studies/ Mass Media/ International Studies <b>OR</b> Liberal Arts/ Liberal Studies <b>OR</b> Any Graduate Degree recognised by the UGC
<b>Post-Graduation Degree</b> with at least 55% marks in aggregate or its equivalent as per UGC regulations.	MA/ MSc. in History <b>OR</b> Double Major or Single Major in History and Anthropology/ Sociology/ Political Science/ Psychology/ Philosophy/ Archaeology/ Economics/ Culture Studies/ Mass Media/ International Studies <b>OR</b> Liberal Arts (Major in History)

### **Exemption Criteria for SVU Ph.D. Entrance Examination**

Candidate who has qualified NET with JRF

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

#### **Documents required at the Time of application-**

- Mark sheets of Graduate and Post-Graduate Degrees (Statements of Marks)
- Degree Convocation Certificate for UG and PG studies.
- NET-JRF/ NET /SET/ Ph.D. Entrance Test Certificate

**Syllabus for Somaiya Vidyavihar University Entrance Test (JRF) – History****Ancient Indian History**

Prehistoric cultures in India

Indus Civilisation – Origins – the different phases – society, economy, and culture – Contacts with other cultures- factors lead to the decline.

Vedic society-Vedic texts- change from Rigvedic to later Vedic phases.

Upanishad thought political and social organization, the evolution of the Varna system.

Formation of the State and urbanization, from the Mahajanapadas to the Nandas.

Causes for the rise of Buddhism and Jainism – Factors for the spread of Buddhism.

The Mauryan Empire- Chandragupta and Megasthenes.

Asoka and his inscriptions, his dhamma, culture, administration, and art

Society of Post-Mauryan India, BCE 200- CE 300 – Evolution of Jatis.

The Satavahanas and formation of the state in the Peninsula.

Sangam texts and society.

Indo-Greeks, Sakas, Parthians, Kushans, Kanishka-Contacts with the outer world.

The Guptas and their descendants – Literature, Science, Arts, Economy, and Society – Modification in the political organization of empire

**Medieval Indian History**

Early Medieval India. Major dynasties; Political and Agrarian organization. Status of women, Extent of social mobility. The Arabs in Sind and the Ghaznavids.

9th to 12th Century CE: Rajput States, Ghori, and the emergence of Delhi Sultanate

Delhi Sultanate: Five Dynasties, Development of urbanization and commerce, Spiritual movements in Hinduism and Islam, Literature, Architecture, Technological changes.

The 15th and early 16th Century: Key Provincial dynasties; Vijayanagara Empire.

First stage of the Mughal Empire (1526-1540 CE), The Sur Empire and administration (1540-1556 CE)

Monotheistic movements: Kabir; Guru Nanak and Sikhism; Bhakti.

The spread of regional literature, art, architecture, culture, and Sufism.

The Mughal Empire, Akbar: administrative measures, Policy of Sulh-I-Kul. Jagir and Mansab systems; Jahangir, Shahjahan, and Aurangzeb: extension of Mughal empire in the Deccan; religious policies.

Emergence of Indo-Persian art, architecture, and literature.

Maharashtra dharma, Shivaji and Rise of the Maratha power in 17<sup>th</sup> century Deccan.

18<sup>th</sup> Century India – Decline of Mughal Empire, Rise of Maratha Confederacy under the Peshwas, and regional states.

Composite culture: Music, Performing Arts, regional languages, and the rise of Urdu language

**Modern Indian History**

British imperial expansionism: The Carnatic Wars, Battles of Plassey and Buxar, Anglo-Mysore Wars, Anglo-Maratha Wars, Anglo-Nepalese Wars, Anglo-Sindh War, and Anglo-Sikh Wars.

Economic Impact of the British Raj: land revenue settlements like Zamindari, Ryotwari, Mahalwari; Deindustrialization; Railways and commercialization of agriculture; increase of landless labour.

Cultural encounter and social changes: the inception of western education and modern thoughts. Indian Renaissance, religious and social reform movements; Social reforms events before 1857. Development of Indian middle class; the vernacular press and its effects: the rise of modern literature in Indian languages.

Confrontation to British rule: Early uprisings; The 1857 Revolt-reasons, character, course and result. Indian Freedom struggle the first stage: Growth of national consciousness; creation of Associations; Establishment of the Indian National Congress and its Moderate stage; Swadeshi Movement; Economic Nationalism; The development of Extremism and the split in Congress; The policy of Divide and Rule; Congress-League Pact of 1916.

Gandhian thoughts and techniques of mass mobilization- Civil Disobedience, the Khilafat movement, Non-Cooperation Movement, and Quit India Movement; another strand in the National Movement- Revolutionaries, Subhash Chandra Bose, and the Indian National Army.

Separatist movements in Indian politics- the Hindu Mahasabha and the Muslim League; Partition and Independence; The post-1945 developments.

Constitutional History of India: Regulating Act (1773), Pitt's India Act (1784), Charter Acts (1793 – 1853), Indian Councils Act (1861 – 1909), Government of India Acts (1919 & 1935), Indian Independence Act (1947).

India since independence: Constituent Assembly Debates, Jawaharlal Nehru's vision, Non-alignment, Planning and state-controlled industrialization.

### **History of the World**

18<sup>th</sup> Century CE – Industrial Revolution, American War of Independence, French Revolution (1789), and Napoleon Bonaparte

19<sup>th</sup> Century CE – Marxist thought, trade union movements, nationalism, and imperialism

20<sup>th</sup> Century CE – World War I and II, Decolonization, Political Philosophies like Communism, Capitalism, Neo-Marxism, Post-Modernism, etc.— their forms and effect on the society.