

To the Graduate Admissions officer:

Dear Madam/sir,

I am writing to you from Ashoka University, a premier liberal arts university located in the National Capital Region of New Delhi, India. Ashoka University brings to India the best contemporary values and practices in higher education, in the tradition of the world's leading universities. With a strong emphasis on multidisciplinary learning and the development of skills in communication, teamwork and leadership, Ashoka is preparing students to be critical thinkers and ethical citizens in an increasingly diverse world.

In compliance with the guidelines of the University Grants Commission (UGC), the highest accreditation / degree granting body of the Government of India, Ashoka University offers a 3-year Bachelor's Honours Degree programme. In addition, it also offers its students, upon completion of their Bachelor's degrees, an opportunity to complete an additional year-long Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Studies and Research (DipASR). This fourth year allows Ashoka undergraduates to complete 16 years of formal education. As a consequence, the combined 3+1 undergraduate Honours degree and diploma sequence is the equivalent **to a four-year U.S. Bachelor's degree**.

All undergraduate students of Ashoka University who have completed the minimum requirements for their bachelor's degree are eligible for admission into the diploma programme. Students must formally apply for admission by the end of the Fall semester of their third year.

The diploma programme offers students a defining liberal arts experience that blends academic rigor with a wide range of elective options across a variety of subjects. These options include:

- Completing an **Advanced Major**: three more courses and a capstone thesis in one's Major field
- Completing a **Minor** (a minor consists of 6 courses in a subject)
- Completing a **Concentration** (a concentration consists of 4 courses in a subject)
- Converting a Minor or previously taken elective courses into a **Second Major Equivalent**

Students in their fourth year take a total of 32 credits to graduate with the Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Studies and Research (DipASR), though students may complete up to 40 credits as well. The minimum credit requirement per semester is 16 credits; students must take no less than 4 and no more than 5 courses per semester including 1 Capstone Thesis Project.

All fourth year students, in the Postgraduate Diploma in Advanced Studies and Research, are eligible to apply for postgraduate programmes in North America and other parts of the world that require 12 years of study at the secondary school level and 4 years of study at the university level.

Please email me with any questions or for further information about any of our programmes.

Regards,



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Dean of Global Education & Strategic Programmes

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