

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY



**MASTER OF ARTS BY RESEARCH
(MA. RES.)**

2026-2027

MASTER OF ARTS BY RESEARCH (MA. RES.)

1. INTRODUCTION

The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences (H&SS), IIT Bombay offers a two-year **MA by Research (MA.Res.) program** with specializations in Human Sciences (HS), Linguistics, Literature, and Performance (LLP), and Sociology (Soc.) designed for students who seek to develop essential research skills applicable both in academia and in a wide range of professional careers. Launched in 2022-2023, the program emphasizes critical thinking, interdisciplinary exploration, and applying conceptual, analytical, and methodological frameworks effectively. The course will provide a strong foundation for pursuing higher research in the field of Humanities and Social Sciences.

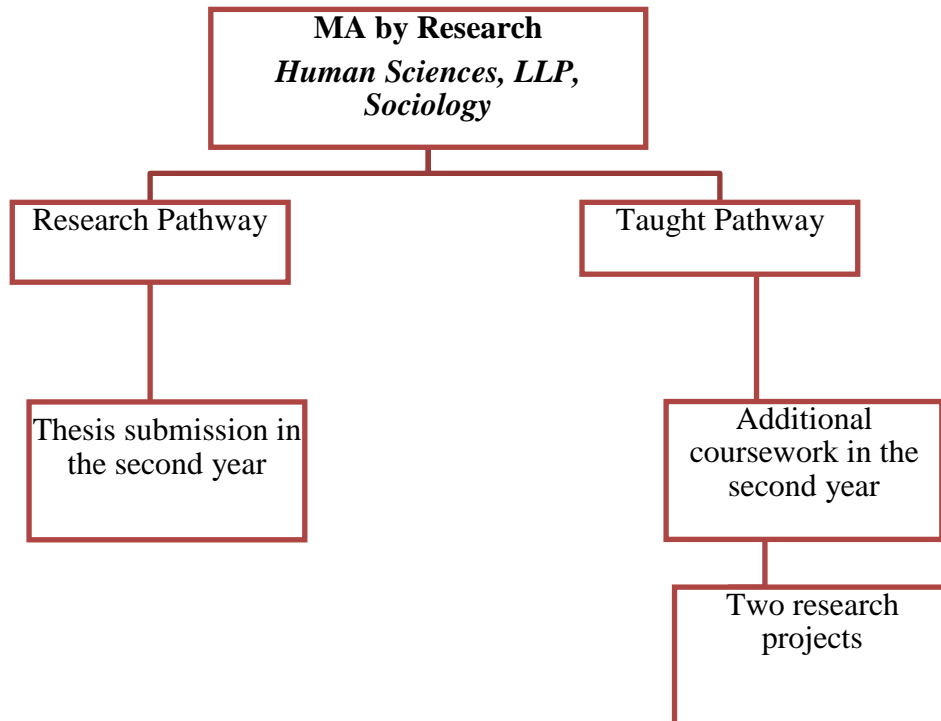


Fig. 1 MA Research Program Structure

Our diverse faculty brings expertise from various fields, fostering a rich, multidisciplinary environment. Students are guided in synthesizing information, applying advanced analytical

frameworks, and exploring the intersections of different disciplines—skills that are indispensable for addressing complex global and local issues. Our students have been successful both in deepening their disciplinary interests and transcending traditional disciplinary boundaries.

With a blend of specialized coursework and independent research, the program offers flexibility and depth, allowing students from various academic backgrounds to thrive. Whether you are considering a career in research or seeking to broaden your intellectual horizons, the MA.Res program provides a unique opportunity to engage in meaningful research and build a strong foundation for the future.

Join us in pushing the boundaries of knowledge and making impactful contributions to the Humanities and Social Sciences.

2. PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

The Master of Arts by Research (MA.Res) program prepares students for the challenges of pursuing a PhD in esteemed national and international institutions. Further, the program will broaden cultural literacy and exposure to various fields, making students prepared for a wide range of careers. These include careers in the fields of journalism, media, content production, and curatorial roles in cultural institutions, festivals, archives, museums and galleries, community development, rural and urban development and education to name some. Our post-graduates are well-positioned to assume roles in think-tanks, research institutions, private sector research firms, R&D arms of various companies, international research agencies, and NGOs.

3. ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

- *Title and specialisation tracks*

The programme titled Master of Arts by Research (MA.Res.) will be in one of three specialisation tracks:

- i. Human Sciences (HS)
- ii. Linguistics, Literature and Performance (LLP)
- iii. Sociology (Soc.)

Students entering the programme with a Master's degree will have the option to write a Thesis as part of the research component of the programme. Those joining with a Bachelor's will be write two research papers.

The final degree certificate will indicate the student's selection and completion of one of these three tracks:

- i. M.A.Res. (in Human Sciences)
- ii. M.A.Res. (in Linguistics, Literature and Performance)
- iii. M.A.Res. (in Sociology)

● ***Eligibility Criteria***

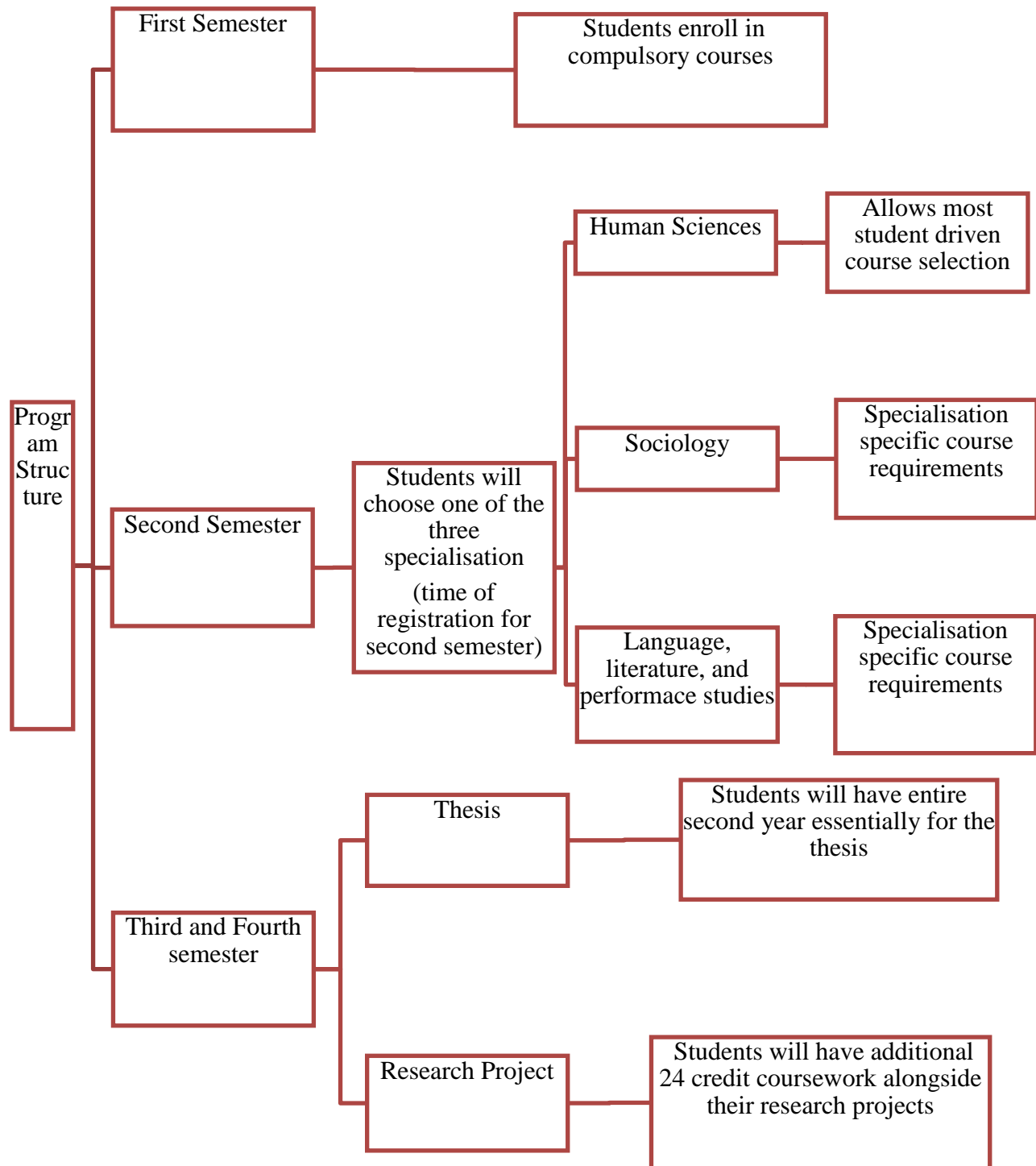
- a) Candidates are required to have one of the following:
 - i. A 3-year Bachelor's Degree (such as a BA, BSc, BCom)
 - ii. A 4-year Bachelor's degree (such as BA, BS, BTech)
 - iii. An earlier post-graduate degree (such as an MA, MSc).
- b) Candidates must meet the minimum percentage criterion in their qualifying degree as per the institute norms (GN/EWS/OBC-NC 60% and SC/ST/PwD 55%; or a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA)/Cumulative Performance Index (CPI) of 6.0 on the scale of 0-10; or an equivalent to 6.0 or other corresponding proportional requirements when the scales are other than 0-10).
- c) Candidates must have a valid GATE score/qualification in the GATE-XH paper. MoE norms will be applicable to the GATE score obtained by the candidates.

● ***Selection Process***

- a) Candidates will be shortlisted on the basis of GATE-XH disciplinary scores.
- b) The cut offs will be declared at a later date.
- c) Selected candidates will be invited for an online personal interview.
- d) The final selection will be based on the composite score obtained in GATE-XH and the interview as per MoE norms. A ratio of 1:10 may be applied during application shortlisting.

- e) Information about the GATE cut-off score for qualification for an interview and other selection criteria will be updated on the department website and candidates are advised to check the website periodically.

4. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE



- ***Interdisciplinary opportunity***

- Courses are open across all tracks to allow for wider course selection, and to support disciplinary crossovers.

- LLP and Soc. specializations have specific course requirements in the second semester, while HS specialisation allows for the most student-driven course selection.

5. ADMISSIONS AND FELLOWSHIP DETAILS

Information about the structure of the admission test and the previous year's paper, the GATE cut off score, and other selection details will be updated on the department website.

- ***No. of seats and fellowships***

- a) The MA. Res. programme has 20 seats distributed as per GoI norms. Seats are reserved for Other Backward Class Non-Creamy Layer (OBC NCL), Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Person with Benchmark Disability (PwD) and Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).
- b) The TA-ships will be made available as applicable to GATE qualified entrants in the following pattern:
 - i. Students with a 3-year Bachelor's degree at entry may receive a TA-ship only in the *second* year of the programme
 - ii. Students with either a 4-year Bachelor's degree at entry, or a prior Master's degree may receive a TA-ship in *both* years.

- ***Duration of the Programme***

This is a two-year programme and the student must normally complete the programme in two years from the date of joining. The maximum period for which the registration of the student shall be alive is four years from the date of joining. The programme cannot be completed in less than two years.

6. OVERALL CREDIT DISTRIBUTION

Semester	Courses	Credits
Without thesis		
Semester I	3 Theory Courses, 2 Methods Courses	30
Semester II	4 Courses, Seminar, Academic Writing and Analysis	30
Semester III	2 Courses, Research Project- I (12 credits)	24
Semester IV	2 Courses, Research Project- II (12 credits)	24
With thesis		
Semester I	3 Theory Courses, 2 Methods Courses	30
Semester II	4 Courses, Seminar, Academic Writing and Analysis	30
Semester III	Thesis- Stage I	24
Semester IV	Thesis- Stage I	24

Notes:

- i. The two methods courses serve as introductions to practical research skills.
- ii. In all three tracks, students are **required** to take two courses in each of the 3rd and 4th semesters, for a programme total of **108 credits** to be earned across 4 semesters. These courses may be Department/Institute/Track electives or a Supervised Learning course or others as applicable (see appended course lists; the lists are suggestive, not exhaustive) with the approval of the Supervisor/Faculty Advisor. In addition, students will undertake and complete the research work for a total of 48 credits.

iii. In all three tracks, students with a master's degree in specific subjects (see table below) may **elect** to complete the programme by thesis.

Human Sciences	LLP	Sociology
Master's degrees (such as an MA, MS etc.) in the subjects/areas specified below		
Archaeology; History <u>AND</u> those as applicable for LLP and Soc tracks	Applied Linguistics; Arts and Aesthetics; Cognitive Science; Comparative Literature; English Literature; Film Studies; Performing Arts; Performance Studies; Linguistics; Translation Studies.	Anthropology; Sociology

7. SEMESTER WISE COURSE DISTRIBUTION

FIRST YEAR, 1st semester common courses

Semester I (30 credits)	Understanding the past	6 Credits each	
	Social Theory – I		
	LLP		
Students choose only two methods courses			
	Research Methods: Qualitative Methods	6 Credits each	
	Research methods, sources and methods and the past		
	LLP - Research Method		

FIRST YEAR, 2nd semester courses

HUMAN SCIENCES

Semester II (30 credits) 24 credits + Seminar 4 credits + Writing Course 2 credits	Students may choose any four courses among those available in the LLP or Soc. tracks or others including: History as Discipline: Elementary Concepts Humans and Landscapes Across Deep Time	
	Seminar (Project/Thesis Proposal)	4 credits

LINGUISTICS, LITERATURE AND PERFORMANCE

Semester II (30 credits) 24 credits + Seminar 4 credits + Writing Course 2 credits	Linguistic Theory and Analysis Literary Periodisation Performance Historiography & Documentation Genre & Literature Literary Theory (Any four from the above as well as the HS/SOC tracks given areas of research interest)	
	Seminar (Project/Thesis Proposal)	4 credits

SOCIOLOGY

Semester II (30 credits) 24 credits + Seminar 4 credits + Writing Course 2 credits	<u>Compulsory:</u> Social Theory – II (Core) Indian Society (Core) <u>And any two electives from those offered that may include:</u> Tribal Studies: Concepts and Perspectives Sociology of Development Sociology of Gender Quantitative Methods in Soc. Sciences Development in South Asia: Issues and Debates	
	Seminar (Project/Thesis Proposal)	4 credits

SECOND YEAR (all specialisations)

Semesters III & IV	2 Electives in each Semester	As per course ¹
	Research Project 1 and 2	12 x2

OR

Semesters III & IV	Thesis	None
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8. INDICATIVE COURSE LISTS FOR SEMESTERS III AND IV

Students NOT in the thesis track are required to complete 12 credits of coursework and 12 credits for Research Projects per semester in the second year. These courses may be selected from among Supervised Learning or Departmental/Institute/Track Electives or other courses. An *indicative list* is provided below. Students may choose from **other courses** as relevant with the guidance of the Supervisor/Faculty Advisor.

HUMAN SCIENCES/LINGUISTICS, LITERATURE AND PERFORMANCE

COURSE OPTIONS IN SEMESTER III	COURSE OPTIONS IN SEMESTER IV
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Author, Authorship and Authority➤ Cognition and Emotion➤ Music Appreciation➤ Introduction to Linguistics➤ Introduction to Art and Aesthetics➤ Performance Theory and Praxis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Shakespeare's Plays and their Afterlives➤ South-Asian Fiction in English➤ Indian writing in English➤ Life Span Development - Infancy to Old Age➤ Linguistics and Natural Language Processing➤ Notation and Musical Analysis➤ Survey of Modern and Post-modern Literature➤ Theories of the Novel

¹ Most courses will fall under the usual 6 credit pattern 3-0-0-6 and, therefore, 2 courses will meet the credit requirements. If the student chooses to do courses with fewer credits, they must take up other courses to complete the credit requirement of 12 credits/semester in each semester.

HUMAN SCIENCES/SOCIOLOGY

COURSE OPTIONS IN SEMESTER III	COURSE OPTIONS IN SEMESTER IV
<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ State, Polity and Society➤ Sociology of Development➤ Sociology of Infrastructure➤ Social Science Perspective in Public Policy➤ Health Policy: An Introduction➤ Technology and the Future of Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Sociology of Development➤ Quantitative Methods in Social Sciences➤ Sociology of Gender➤ Tribal Studies➤ Capitalism: theories, histories, varieties➤ Contemporary Urban India; Sociological Perspective➤ Framing Caste➤ Ecology and Society➤ Anthropology and Disaster➤ Civil Society: Its Foundations and Future

9. DEFINING RESEARCH PROJECTS

Research training in all three subject tracks is understood to include research skills imparted right from the start as well as independent work of *substantial* scope with a Faculty Supervisor. The projects may include (and are not restricted to) the following: · Research papers - theoretical or experimental and can include

- Fieldwork, theoretical or interventionist
- Creative projects (performance, translations, digitisation)
- Language or other documentation or development of archival materials
- Curatorial projects, performances
- Tool development (evaluatory, app-based, pedagogical etc.)
- Internships/work-based products (if applicable)

10. RULES AND REGULATIONS

All other rules and regulations will apply as per the normal requirements of IIT Bombay Academics for this programme. Please check the related document online.