

St. Xavier's College (Autonomous), Mumbai
M.A. Psychology: Lifespan Counselling

Admissions Notice

Introduction

In India, the ratio of mental health practitioners to citizens has always been poor, but it is in times of a crisis like the recent pandemic, that the importance of filling this gap comes into focus. To contribute to bridging this gap, the Department of Psychology, St. Xavier's College (Autonomous) started a new Master's degree course - M.A. Psychology: Lifespan Counselling in June 2019. This year, we are accepting applications for our fourth batch of students. Applications are invited for admission to the two year, full-time course for the academic year 2022-2024.

Course Objectives

This course has been designed with the primary objective of creating mental health practitioners with

- effective **therapeutic skills** that are developed over three semesters of fieldwork
- a strong **theoretical foundation** from which to practice those therapeutic skills
- an understanding of important issues of concern in **all age groups** across the lifespan
- an exposure to **diverse populations** within every age group
- training in the use of **assessments** to improve therapeutic outcomes
- a **research orientation**, according to the scientist-practitioner model, allowing them to both keep up with and contribute to new insights in their field

Highlights of the course

- Each semester focuses on a different stage of the lifespan and diverse populations within that stage
- Supervised fieldwork is relevant to the lifespan stage being covered in the semester
- Mandatory group and individual therapy in Semester I focusing on the personal development of the student
- A syllabus that is weighted heavily on courses related to counseling and therapeutic skills. These courses are highly applied, being taught by practicing therapists who are experts in their field
- Guided exposure to the research process culminating in the submission of a dissertation at the end of the year
- As the college is affiliated to the University of Mumbai, the degree received at the end of the two years is recognized by the University of Mumbai

- As such, receiving a recognized M.A. Psychology degree allows any student to work in the field as well as study further, for example, to apply for an MPhil Clinical Psychology programme

Course structure

- The M.A. Psychology: Lifespan Counselling programme is a full-time degree programme consisting of four semesters over two years.
- The course will teach the following papers across the four semesters. Field work in each semester will be linked to the population that is the focus of that semester.

<p>Semester I Behavioural Neuroscience Cultural Context of Counselling Counselling Process and Skills Theoretical Approaches to Psychotherapy Research Methodology and Statistics in Psychology Group Process and Individual Therapy</p>	<p>Semester II Normal and Abnormal Development in Childhood and Adolescence Psychological Assessment in Childhood and Adolescence Counselling Special Groups in Childhood and Adolescence Psychotherapeutic Techniques I</p>
<p>Semester III Normal and Abnormal Development in Young and Middle Adulthood Psychological Assessment in Young and Middle Adulthood Counselling Special Groups in Young and Middle Adulthood Psychotherapeutic Techniques II</p>	<p>Semester IV Normal and Abnormal Development in Late Adulthood Psychological Assessment in Late Adulthood Counselling Special Groups in Late Adulthood Psychotherapeutic Techniques III</p>

- The course consists of 96 credits. Each credit equals 15 hours. The credit distribution across the course is as follows:
 - Semester-wise:** 21 credits (Sem I) + 25 credits (Sem II) + 25 credits (Sem III) + 25 credits (Sem IV)
 - Theory to Fieldwork ratio:** 64 credits (Theory) + 28 credits (Fieldwork) + 4 credits (Research)

- **Given the current situation, we are still in the process of redesigning the format of lectures. It is likely that there will be a combination of online lectures and classroom lectures. Be assured that the quality of the education provided by the course is our utmost priority and**

the decisions made will not take away from our main objective of developing competent mental health professionals.

Fees

The fees have been revised for the upcoming academic year, and are as follows:

For MA Part 1 (Semesters I and II) - Rs. 105000/-

For MA Part 2 (Semesters III and IV) - Rs. 106250/-

Number of seats

The intake is a maximum of 30 students per year.

Allocation of seats

St. Xavier's College is a Catholic Minority College, administered under the Provisions of the Indian Constitution, to promote the welfare of the minority community and to extend its services to all other communities in India, so as to contribute to the harmony and integration of Indian society. 50% of seats are reserved for Catholic minority students.

As per the Judgement dated 12th October 2017 of the Honourable Bombay High Court vide Writ Petition No.1726 of 2001, Minority Colleges do not need to set aside seats for Backward Classes. This was reiterated by the University of Mumbai Circular (No.Aff. / Recog.I / Admission (2018-19) / 10 / of 2018) dated 30th May, 2018.

Accordingly, the allocation of seats is as follows:

Category	Percentage of seats reserved	Number of seats out of 30
Management Quota	15%	5
		Number of seats out of 25
Christian Minority	50%	12
General	42%	11
Persons with disability	5%	1
Special**	3%	1

** The Special category is for the wards of transferred State / Central Government and Private Sector employees, Defence Personnel, Ex-Servicemen, Freedom Fighters; for students who have met with an accident and also for award winners at the District / State / National Level in Sports or Cultural activities.

Seats for international students are supernumerary. Applications for those seats must be done through the University of Mumbai website. **Please email us and inform us if you are applying in the international student category.** Students that fall under this category include - Foreign students (FR/FS), Persons of Indian origin (PIO), Overseas Citizens of India (OCI), SAARC students, Non-Resident Indians (NRI). The definitions of these categories are available on the Mumbai University website. Students who have done their undergraduate degrees abroad also fall into this category. If you are unsure, please contact us.

Eligibility

Students with a Bachelor's degree in any faculty or discipline having studied a minimum of **three papers in Psychology** at the undergraduate level (across first, second and third year) are eligible to fill out the application form and sit for the entrance examination.

Please note that:

- The eligibility criterion has been updated for our fourth intake. This is due to our experience over the last three years, which has shown us that familiarity with undergraduate Psychology is essential to cope with our challenging programme.
- Diplomas/certificate courses/online courses in Psychology do NOT fulfill the eligibility criterion.

Selection Process

Stage One: Online Registration

The link for online applications opens on the official college website www.xaviers.edu in May every year. **The forms will be open from the 19th of May 2022 from 9:00 p.m. till the 12th of June 2022 up to 6 p.m.** Students must log on to the official registration portal when notified and fill out the online application form by following the instructions given in the form.

- **On the first page you will be asked for your email id and mobile no. before proceeding. Kindly make sure you enter the correct details. If incorrect details are entered the SMS (sent on registration and for OTP) and the email (sent on successful payment) will not be delivered.**
- **The college takes no responsibility for corrections or any other processing in case of details entered incorrectly. You will have to apply afresh with the correct details. No queries in this regard will be entertained**

The details you will be required to fill include:

- Demographic information
- Information about your Bachelor's degree and university
- The quota in which you are applying for a seat. In case of minority/special quota, you will need to upload a **clear and legible** scanned copy of your proof e.g. Baptism certificate for Catholic minority or document for special category as required
- Information about your Semester V **marks** (not grades. Please note you have to enter marks). You will need to upload a **clear and legible** scanned copy of your Semester V marksheet as proof.
- If you have your Sem 6 marks and marksheet then enter the marks for that too and upload the marksheet as well or else just select the check box below the marks entry section indicating that you do not have Sem 6 marks as yet.

Please note that provisional admission will be given based on Sem V marks subject to the student passing Sem VI and handing in proof when released by the University.

You will be directed to the payment gateway once your basic information is entered and on successful payment you can proceed to fill the rest of your form with the details of marks as directed above.

Once you have completed the form, kindly take a print of the same as proof and you will be required to carry the print of the form on the day of the Entrance test. NO SEPARATE HALL TICKET WILL BE ISSUED.

If you want to resume form filling/edit details in your form post payment at a later date or on completion of the form edit certain details, click on the link given on the website and you can access your form either by your form no./mobile no. in either case you will receive an OTP and on entering the same you can proceed.

- **Mumbai University graduates applying for this course are mandatorily required to enter the marks of Sem V (and Sem VI if available). No GPA will be entertained. If**

a Mumbai University applicant enters their GPA it will not be considered for the merit and no mail will be sent requesting for marks.

- If you have attempted your Semester VI exam in 2022 then on the page for marks entry click the check box indicating that your sem VI marks are pending.
- **PLEASE NOTE WE ACCEPT ONLY MARKS ENTRY FOR EVERY SUBJECT FROM MUMBAI UNIVERSITY GRADUATE APPLICANTS.**

Stage Two: Entrance Examination

An **entrance test (XET 2022)** for all the students who have applied (irrespective of category) will be held **ON THE 17TH OF JUNE 2022** (online application form and Entrance test 2022 for MA Psychology fees: Rs.3,000/-) The **VENUE** for the **XAVIERS ENTRANCE TEST 2022** will be: **St. Xavier's College, Mumbai.**

Further details (time slots) for XET 2022 will be mailed to you once the applications close.

The language of examination will be English. The duration of the examination is two hours. The examination will include a multiple choice test (Section I) and an essay question (Section II). The multiple choice test is designed to elicit the student's knowledge of content in the field of psychology, and will include 100 questions from the following thematic areas - Introductory Psychology, Social Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Counselling Psychology, Abnormal Psychology, Industrial Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Experimental Psychology and Psychological Testing and Statistics. There is no negative marking for the multiple choice section. The essay question is designed to elicit information about the student's thought process, their reasoning and analytical ability, and depth of comprehension regarding topics within and beyond the field of psychology.

Please note that:

- There is a passing grade for Section I (MCQs).
- Those candidates who score above the passing grade in Section I move to Section II where their essays are corrected. The essays of candidates who have not passed Section I will not be corrected.
- A merit score is then calculated as follows: Entrance test score (70% weightage) + Semester V marks (30% weightage). Merit scores are then ranked and used to create the merit list.
- Individual candidates' entrance exam scores are not released. Only the first and second merit lists are uploaded to the college website.

Stage Three: Payment of fees

The First Merit Lists (Category-wise) will be released approximately ten days after the entrance examination (Kindly check the website for the same). Students who are offered admission in the First merit list are required to pay their fees by the time and date that will be mentioned on the merit list notice. On failing to do so, the offer lapses and students in the Second merit list will subsequently be offered admission.

Stage Four: Personal interview

The 30 students accepted to the course as the new batch for the academic year 2022-2024 will each have a personal interview with the faculty of the course in the week after the First Merit list is released. This is not part of the screening process, rather its purpose is to serve as an orientation to the course, counselling the student about the nature of the course, its requirements, etc to help them make the decision of whether they wish to commit to the programme and pay the fees.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Forms open: **19th May 2022** (6:00 p.m. onwards)
- Forms close: **12th June 2022** (6 p.m.)
- Entrance Exam: **17th June 2022**

For any queries or clarifications, please send an email to xav.mapsych@gmail.com.