

**UNIVERSITY OF KERALA**  
**School of Distance Education**  
**Master of Arts (Economics)**  
**PROGRAMME PROJECT REPORT**

### **1. University of Kerala**

The University of Kerala is a State university located in Thiruvananthapuram, the capital city Kerala. University of Kerala is the first University in the State, originally established as the University of Travancore in 1937 and is the 16<sup>th</sup> oldest University of the country. The present territorial jurisdiction of the University extends to the revenue districts of Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Alapuzha and Pathanamthitta. The University of Kerala is offering courses in regular as well as distance mode. In regular mode the University offers wide range of programmes at the undergraduate, post graduate, MPhil, doctoral, post graduate diploma, diploma and certificate levels. In distance mode the University offers 13 UG and 13 PG programmes. The University of Kerala has undergone immense transformation on various fronts during the last 80 years. The University has been recognized by the UGC as per UGC Act, 1956 under Section 2 (f) and 12 (b) and has been reaccredited by NAAC with A grade in 2015. University also bagged the First Chancellor's Award for the Best University in Kerala in 2015. There are at present 223 affiliated colleges and 82 research centres under the University and have 42 teaching and research departments (under 11 schools), 10 teacher education centres, 7 UIMs and 17 UITs. There are at present 149 faculty members of which 30 are Professors, 35 Associate Professors and 84 Assistant Professors under its 42 teaching and research departments. In addition, there are 54 guest faculty members and 10 visiting faculty members working in the departments. Among the teaching faculty members 160 are PhD degree holders. 1492 administrative staff and 30 technical staff are also working in the University.

### **2. The School of Distance Education**

The School of Distance Education (SDE), started in 1976 as a teaching and research department of the University of Kerala, is one of the pioneering centres of distance learning in the State. The aims and objectives of the school include:

- Democratizing higher education to large segments of the population, in particular the disadvantaged groups like those living in remote and rural areas, working people, and women.
- Providing an innovative system of university- level education which is both flexible and open in terms of methods, pace of learning, eligibility for enrollment and age of entry.
- Providing an opportunity for up-gradation of skills and qualifications.
- Developing education as a lifelong activity to enable persons to update their knowledge or acquire knowledge in new areas.

University of Kerala is one of the Universities in India having appointed permanent full time teaching faculty members for running the distance education programmes. The SDE has

19 permanent faculty members and 8 full time contract faculty members with diverse academic backgrounds and rich experience in the rank of Professors, Associate Professors and Assistant Professors. The school had recognition of the erstwhile Distance Education Council (DEC) for 45 programmes till 2014-15. In line with the efforts of the UGC to streamline the distance learning mode, the SDE also redefined its programmes and got the UGC recognition to offer 13 UG and 13 PG programmes from the academic year 2017-18 onwards. The SDE has no private off campus/learner support centres.

### **3. Details of the Proposed M.A. Programme**

#### **(a) Programme's mission & objectives:**

##### **Mission**

In keeping with the overall mission of the School of Distance Education, University of Kerala, to ensure accessibility of quality higher education to all, the programme MA Economics aims at imparting knowledge, skills and competence in Economics to produce human resources capable of dealing with socio- economic realities and emerging global challenges.

##### **Objectives**

1. To provide learners a strong academic foundation in economic theory
2. To enable learners to apply their knowledge to analyse economic issues and policies critically and objectively
3. To expose students to the complexities, dynamics and challenges of global economic scenario.
4. To impart skills essential for employability and vertical professional mobility.

#### **(b) Relevance of the program with HEI's Mission and Goals**

Offered in the distance mode, MA Economics will be closely aligned with the vision and mission of the University of Kerala, in vowing to ensure knowledge based, student focussed, quality and cost conscious but socially responsible education. MA Economics in the distance mode follows the same syllabus and curriculum of the programme offered in the regular mode through the affiliated colleges of the University of Kerala. As a higher education programme it orients the students towards teaching, research and service to the public.

#### **(c) Nature of prospective target group of learners**

MA programme in Economics has wide demand, and only a small percentage of the students are being accommodated in the regular mode through colleges. Therefore MA Economics programme offered through distance mode will help to democratise higher education to large segments of the population, providing an innovative system of university level education that is flexible and open in terms of methods, pace of learning, eligibility for enrolment and age of entry. We strive to maintain a culture of inclusion so as to provide high quality educational experience to learners irrespective of caste, creed, region or gender in a cost effective way. Our target group includes learners from socially and economically disadvantaged groups (eg. Scheduled castes, scheduled Tribes, Fishermen, Other Backward Communities, Women,

people below poverty line etc). Understanding the needs of the learners we have structured our learning material and induction programmes to lead the learners through the threshold of higher education, and lead them through the course of the programme and the final evaluation.

**(d) Appropriateness of programme to be conducted in Open and Distance Learning mode to acquire specific skills and competence:**

The MA Economics programme will see to ensure the following skills and competence in the learners:

- Comprehensive knowledge in economic theory at an advanced level.
- Comprehension and critical appraisal of the way in which the economy is influenced by policy.
- Exposure to various quantitative techniques which are essential to analyse economic issues
- Analyse existing economic models and evaluate their relevance for practical problem solving.
- Identifying economic problems to be analysed and understanding how theory and empirical conditions are to be connected.
- Planning and carrying out applied work and research projects in economics.
- Ability for hypothesising and problem solving.

**(e) Instructional Design:**

**Course Structure and Distribution of Marks**

Semester	Paper Code	Title of the Paper	Maximum Marks		
			CE	ESE	Total
I	EC 211	Micro Economics I	25	75	100
	EC 212	Economics of Growth and Development	25	75	100
	EC 213	Indian Economic Policy I	25	75	100
	EC 214	Quantitative Methods	25	75	100
II	EC 221	Micro Economics II	25	75	100
	EC 222	Economics of Social Sector and Environment	25	75	100
	EC 223	Indian Economic Policy (Kerala's Economy) II	25	75	100
	EC 224	Research Methodology and Econometrics	25	75	100
III	EC 231	Macro Economics I	25	75	100
	EC 232	International Economics I	25	75	100
	EC 233	Public Economics	25	75	100
	EC 201	Optional Paper (Agricultural Economics)	25	75	100
	EC 241	Macro Economics II	25	75	100

IV	EC 242	International Economics II	25	75	100
	EC 243	Finance and Capital Market	25	75	100
	EC 202	Optional Paper (Industrial Economics)	25	75	100
	EC 244	Dissertation and Viva Voce/Essay	-	80+20/100*	100
		Comprehensive Viva-Voce		100	100
		<b>Total</b>			<b>1800</b>

\*For Dissertation and Viva-Voce 80 and 20 marks respectively, and for Essay 100 marks

CE: Continuous Evaluation. ESE: End Semester Evaluation

#### **f. Duration of the programme**

4 Semesters, two years.

#### **g. Faculty and support staff requirement**

MA Economics is coordinated by a full time regular faculty member. In addition to the coordinator, there is one more full time faculty member on contract basis. There is sufficient number of staff in the School of Distance Education office for the administrative work involved in the smooth conduct of the programme. Moreover the School of Distance Education has a panel of experts and qualified external teachers approved by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Kerala University. Their services are used in the preparation of Self Learning Material, for engaging contact classes and for evaluation of answer scripts.

#### **h. Instructional delivery mechanisms**

In addition to providing Self Learning Material, students are offered 90 contact hours each semester, conducted over 15 days. Classes are taken by using audio visual aids, and students are encouraged to use web resources. A collection of audio/video lectures are being prepared, which will be made available to the learners on an experimental basis from this academic year onwards.

#### **i. Procedure for admissions, curriculum transaction and evaluation:**

Applications for admission are received online. Detailed information regarding admission is available in the website of SDE and admission notifications are issued in leading national and regional dailies.

Eligibility for admission to MA Economics, as per university norms is graduation in Economics, Mathematics or Statistics (with not less than 4.5 CCPA(S) for graduates who have passed qualifying examination in CBCS pattern - 2013 admissions / with not less than 1.8 CGPA(S) for graduates who have passed qualifying examination in CBCS pattern prior to 2013 admissions / with not less than 45% marks in part III optional subjects for graduates who have passed qualifying examination in Annual scheme / other pattern)

#### **j. Academic Calendar**

ADMISSION	
Admission Notification	First week of June
Closing date of Admission	Last week of September

Schedule of distribution of study materials		
Course	Date	By Post
III, IV Semester	Last week of June	Last week of July
I & II Semester	Last week of October	Last week of November
Schedule of contact classes		
Course	Schedule	
III & IV Semester	First week of July	
I & II Semester	First week of November	
Schedule of examinations		
Course	Schedule	
III and IV Semester	First week of April	
I and II Semester	Second and Third week of April	

**k. Fee structure:** The fee for the course is Rs.10,305/-(Rupees Ten thousand three hundred and five only) .Tuition fee is waived for students belonging to eligible categories.

**l. Financial Assistance:** Concession for tuition fee will be given to SC/ST and OEC students. The students belonging to SC/ST and OEC category will be admitted to the programme without remitting the tuition fee. The fee for the students thus admitted will be later claimed form SC/ST department as per the rules lay down by the government of Kerala and will be remitted to Kerala University Fund (KUF).

**m. Curriculum transaction:** Curriculum is transacted in the Distance Mode with the help of Self Learning Material (SLM) and Personal Contact Programme (PCP). In addition to providing SLM, students are offered 90 contact hours each semester, conducted over 15days.Contact classes are engaged either by faculty members in the School of Distance Education or by teachers from the Panel of external teachers approved by the Vice Chancellor of the University of Kerala. Classes are taken by using audio visual aids, and students are encouraged to use authentic web resources. The use of web-based tools is not in place yet, but steps are being initiated.

Detailed time schedule of contact classes and dates of spot distribution of SLM will be announced in the Press release by the University (available in the Website / published in all leading regional Newspapers). Besides this, SMS alerts are also given to the students regarding important dates like dates of contact classes, last date of payment of tuition fee, last date for submission of application for examination etc.

#### **n. Evaluation**

Evaluation is continuous and end semester. Continuous Evaluation requires the submission of one assignment for 15 marks and one Test Paper/practicum/ Case analysis for 10 marks for each course carrying a total of 25 marks. End Semester Examinations are conducted by the Controller of Examinations, University of Kerala. The written examinations carry 75 marks per paper.

**Scheme of Evaluation**  
**Continuous Evaluation (C E) Total marks: 25**  
**Allocation of Marks for Each Component**

Components	Marks
Assignment	15
Test Course/Practicum/ Case Analysis	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>

**o. End Semester Evaluation (ESE): 75 marks**

This will be through a three hour written examination consisting of 10 very short answer questions (with no choices and each carrying 1 mark), 7 short answer questions to be chosen out of 10 questions (each carrying 5 marks) and 3 descriptive questions to be chosen out of five questions (each carrying 10 marks).

**p. Requirement of the laboratory support and Library Resources:**

Laboratory hours are not mandatory for MA Economics as per the existing syllabus, but students can avail the computers in the Central Computer Lab of the School of Distance Education which has continuous internet connectivity.

The SDE has a separate Library with more than 23,000 books. Library automation is done using LibSoft software which facilitates all in- house operations of the library. The library currently subscribes to more than 15 journals of various subject fields. An amount of Rs. 500/- has to be remitted by the students to obtain membership in the Library, of which Rs. 400/- will be refunded on completion of the course. The non members can make use of the library resources and the reference services by producing their student's ID proof. They can use the library for reference purpose and they can avail photocopy facilities.

**q. Cost estimate of the programme and the provisions (Base 2019-20):**

Sl.No	Expenditure	Total for the SDE during 19-20 (25987 students) (Rs. in lakh)	Cost estimate for MA Economics programme (300 students)
01	Pay and Allowance	435.00	1002200
02	Contact classes and evaluation	80.00	92100
03	Course materials	100.00	115200
04	Advertisement charges	25.00	28800
05	Postage and telephone	7.4	8400
06	Books and Periodicals	3.5	3900
07	Miscellaneous	9.95	11400
	Total	660.85	1262000
	Provisions (6%)		75720
	Total		1337720 Cost per student/ year=Rs.4459

**r. Quality assurance mechanism and expected programme outcomes**

**Quality assurance mechanism:** The Board of Studies for MA Economics constituted by the

University of Kerala approves and reviews the syllabus and course content. The SDE, University of Kerala has devised the following mechanism for monitoring the effectiveness of the M.A. programme to enhance its standards of curriculum, instructional design etc.

(a) Established a Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA) at the University level to develop and put in place a comprehensive and dynamic internal quality assurance system to enhance the quality of the programmes offered through distance mode as per the norms and guidelines of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017.

(b) The CIQA is periodically conducting institutional quality audits, to promote quality assurance and enhance as well as spread best- in-class practices of quality assurance. The CIQA conducts the quality audit by addressing the following seven broad areas, namely:

- Governance, leadership and management
- Articulation of higher educational institutions objectives
- Programme development and approval processes
- Infrastructure resources
- Learning environment and learner support
- Assessment & evaluation of learning outcomes
- Teaching quality and staff development

(c) The SDE has an approved panel of experts for preparing SML. The SLM prepared is being edited by the course coordinator. The CIQA also oversees the development and preparation of SLMs. Then submit the SLMs to the Board of Studies concerned for the approval. The SLMs are developed with the approach of self explanatory, self-contained, self-directed, self- motivating and self-evaluating.

The SDE of the University has one Associate professor exclusively for coordinating the programme and also has a panel of qualified guest teachers for counselling students and engaging in personal contact programmes.

#### **s. Expected Programme Outcomes:**

Towards the end of the programme, students will be able to:

- Use the spoken and written word, graphs, and mathematics to present economic phenomena and arguments.
- Able to use theoretical and empirical methods to analyse socio-economic issues.
- Develop critical thinking capacity.
- Develop capability in using computer software for the purpose of research.
- Apply their knowledge and learning to engage in informed debate and to analyze and solve problems.

**Note:** The programme structure is based on the present syllabus existing in the regular mode in the University of Kerala. The UG and PG syllabi in the regular mode in the University is currently being revised and is about to be finalized. SDE will adopt the revised syllabus as such when they are finalized for the 2020-21 admission. The SLMs will also be updated accordingly.

  
**DIRECTOR**  
School of Distance Education  
University of Kerala, Karlavattom  
Thiruvananthapuram - 695 581



**REGISTRAR  
IN-CHARGE**

