

**UNIVERSITY OF KERALA**  
**School of Distance Education**

**Bachelor 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 stream line 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 B.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 BA Economics intends to deliver a meaningful educational experience that will prepare students to participate effectively and also to contribute productively in the affairs of our society using knowledge learned during their study of economics.

##### **Objectives**

- 1) To enable learners to develop a sound understanding of economic principles.
- 2) To provide a general understanding of the functioning of economic systems and the role of institutions, groups and regions within that system.
- 3) To impart skills in relevant quantitative techniques and methods of economic analysis.
- 4) To make the students capable of undertaking critical evaluation of contemporary economic issues.
- 5) To prepare the students for a range of careers in both public as well as private sectors, including higher academic pursuits by imparting subject specific and generic skills.

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

The programme BA Economics, offered through distance mode 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.

BA Economics in the distance mode will be a feeder programme for the MA Economics programmes offered by the university, and it follows the same syllabus and curriculum of the programme offered in the regular mode through the affiliated colleges of the University of Kerala.

#### **(c) Nature of Prospective Target Group of Learners**

A BA programme in Economics is one of the most sought after programmes for higher education, and only a small percentage of the students are being accommodated in the regular

mode through colleges. Therefore a BA 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.

Understanding the needs of the learners we have structured our learning material and induction programmes to lead the fresh 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 BA Economics programme aims to develop three important skills in the students:

*Subject specific skills:*

- To have knowledge on the fundamentals of economics.
- To have an understanding of quantitative methods and computing techniques relevant to the study of economics.
- To have a strong foundation and understanding of economic theories and concepts so as to pursue higher academic qualifications.
- To have knowledge of relevance of economics to the study of society.

*Cognitive skills*

- To identify and explore important economic issues.
- To interpret data and produce analytical practical reports.
- To deploy high level of analysis and critical judgment in relation to theory and methods. Practical skills
- The ability to prepare comprehensive reports and present ideas clearly and concisely in written and oral form.
- The ability to use computer applications.

**(e) Instructional Design**

**Course Structure and Mark Distribution**

Sem No.	Course Code	COURSE TITLE	Number of credits	CE Marks	ESE Marks	Total
	EN 1111.1	Languages Course I (English -I)	4	20	80	100
	ML/HN 1111.1	Languages Course II (Addl. Languages)	3	20	80	100
	EN 1121	Foundation Course I	2	20	80	100
	ECD 1141	Core I Methodology and Perspectives of Social Sciences	4	20	80	100

I	PS 1131	Complementary I- Political Science (Principles of political Science)	2	20	80	100
	HY 1131.1	Complementary II- Indian History [History of Modern India (1857- 1900)]	2	20	80	100
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Sem no.</b>	<b>Course Code</b>	<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<b>Number of credits</b>	<b>CE Marks</b>	<b>ESE Marks</b>	<b>Total</b>
II	EN 1211.1	Languages Course III (English -II)	4	20	80	100
	EN 1212.1.	Languages Course IV (English -III)	3	20	80	100
	ML/HN 1211.1	Languages Course V(Addl.Languages II )	3	20	80	100
	ECD 1241	Core II Micro Economics I	4	20	80	100
	PS 1231	Complementary III- Political Science (Introduction to Political Theory)	3	20	80	100
	HY 1231.3	Complementary IV- Indian History [History of Modern India (1901- 1920)]	3	20	80	100
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>600</b>
<b>Sem no.</b>	<b>Course Code</b>	<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<b>Number of credits</b>	<b>CE Marks</b>	<b>ESE Marks</b>	<b>Total</b>
	EN 1311.1	Languages Course VI (English -IV)	4	20	80	100
III	ML/HN 1311.1	Languages Course VII (Addl. Languages III )	4	20	80	100
	ECD 1321	Foundation Course II- Informatics	3	20	80	100
	ECD 1341	Core III Micro Economics II	4	20	80	100
	PS 1331	Complementary V Political Science (Public Administration)	3	20	80	100
	HY 1331.5	Complementary VI Indian History [History of Modern India (1921- 1947)]	3	20	80	100
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>480</b>
<b>Se m No.</b>	<b>Course Code</b>	<b>COURSE TITLE</b>	<b>Number of Credits</b>	<b>CE Marks</b>	<b>ESE Marks</b>	<b>Total</b>
	EN1411.1	Languages Course VIII (English -V)	4	20	80	100
	ML/HN 1411.1	Languages Course IX (Addl. Languages - IV)	4	20	80	100

IV	ECD 1441	Core IV Basic Tools for Economics I	4	20	80	100
	ECD 1442	Core V Macro Economics I	3	20	80	100
	PS 1431	Complementary VII Political Science (International Politics)	3	20	80	100
	HY 1431.1	Complementary VIII- Indian History [History of Contemporary India (After 1948)]	3	20	80	100
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>600</b>
Sem No.	Course Code	COURSE TITLE	Number of Credits	CE Marks	ESE Marks	Total
V	ECD 1541	Core VI Money and Modern Banking	4	20	80	100
	ECD 1542	Core VII Macro Economics II	4	20	80	100
	ECD 1543	Core VIII Economics of Growth and Development	2	20	80	100
	ECD 1544	Core IX Indian Economy	4	20	80	100
	ECD 1545	Core X Public Economics	4	20	80	100
	ECD 1551	Open Course - Human Resources Management	2	20	80	100
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>600</b>
Sem No.	Course Number	COURSE TITLE	Number of Credits	CE Marks	ESE Marks	Total
VI	ECD 1641	Core XI Kerala Economy	4	20	80	100
	ECD 1642	Core XII- Financial Economics	4	20	80	100
	ECD 1643	Core XIII Basic Tools for Economics II	4	20	80	100
	ECD 1644	Core XIV- International Economics	3	20	80	100
	ECD 1661.1	Elective – Agricultural Economics	2	20	80	100
	ECD 1645	General Essays on Indian Economy	4	-	100	100
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>600</b>
		<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>2900</b>	<b>3600</b>

**Duration of the Programme:** 6 Semesters (three years).

**Faculty and Support Staff Requirement:** There are two full time faculty members available and one of them coordinates the BA Programme in Economics. There is sufficient staff support from the SDE office for processing administrative work. The service of qualified

guest teachers and experts from panels approved by the Vice Chancellor are used in the preparation of SLM, for taking contact classes and conducting internal evaluation.

**Instructional Delivery Mechanisms:** In addition to providing Self Learning Material, students are offered 60 contact hours each semester, conducted over 10 days. Classes are taken using audio visual aids, and students are encouraged to use web resources. A repertoire of audio/video lectures are being prepared, which will be made available to the learners on an experimental basis from this academic year onwards.

**(f) Procedure for Admissions, Curriculum Transaction and Evaluation:**

Applications for admission are received online. Eligibility for admission to BA Economics is a pass in Higher Secondary Examination of the State or an Examination accepted by the University as equivalent thereto.

**Academic Calendar**

<b>ADMISSION</b>		
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, V and VI 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, V and VI Semester	First week of July	
I & II Semester	First week of November	
Schedule of examinations		
Course	Schedule	
V and VI Semester	First week of April	
III and IV Semester	Second and Third week of April	
I and II Semester	Fourth week of April	

**Fee Structure:** The fee for the course is Rs.14655/-.Tuition fee is waived for students belonging to eligible categories.

**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 laid down by the government of Kerala and will be remitted to Kerala University Fund (KUF).

**Curriculum Transaction:** Curriculum is transacted in the Distance Mode with the help of Self Learning Material and Personal Contact Classes. The use of web-based tools is not in

place yet, but steps are being initiated.

**Evaluation:** The evaluation of each course shall consist of two parts,

- 1) Continuous Evaluation (CE)
- 2) End Semester Evaluation (ESE)

The CE and ESE ratio shall be 1:4 for the courses i.e. a maximum of 20 marks for CE and a maximum of 80 marks for ESE. There is no separate minimum for CE and ESE. However the minimum pass requirement of a course is 40%. Minimum marks required for passing a programme is also 40%. Continuous Evaluation requires each student to submit one assignment (10 marks) and do one Test paper/Practicum/Case Analysis (10 marks) for each course without which his/her results will be withheld. In the case of Informatics course given in the third semester, CE (20 marks) is based on practicals. End Semester Evaluation of all the courses in all the semesters shall be conducted by the Controller of Examinations, University of Kerala.

**(g) Requirement of the Laboratory Support and Library Resources**

Computer lab is mandatory in the third semester of BA Economics programme while learning Informatics course. The students can avail the computers in the Computer Lab of the School of Distance Education which has continuous internet connectivity.

The SDE has a separate Library with more than 28,000 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. 525/- has to be remitted by the students to obtain membership in the Library, of which Rs. 420/- 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.

**(h) 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 B.A Economics programme (250 students)
01	Pay and Allowance	435.00	960000
02	Contact classes and evaluation	80.00	25000
03	Course materials	100.00	76962
04	Advertisement charges	25.00	19240
05	Postage and telephone	7.4	5695
06	Books and Periodicals	3.5	2694
07	Miscellaneous	9.95	7657
	Total	660.85	1097248
	Provisions (6%)		65834
	Total		1163083 Cost per student/year= Rs.4652

### **(i) Quality Assurance Mechanism and Expected Programme Outcomes**

**Quality Assurance Mechanism:** The Board of Studies for B.A. 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 B.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:

- i. Governance, leadership and management
- ii. Articulation of higher educational institutions objectives
- iii. Programme development and approval processes
- iv. Infrastructure resources
- v. Learning environment and learner support
- vi. Assessment & evaluation of learning outcomes
- vii. Teaching quality and staff development

(c) The SDE has an approved panel of experts for preparing SLM. 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.

(d) The SDE of the University has two full time faculty members exclusively for coordinating the programme and also has a panel of qualified guest teachers for counselling students and engaging in personal contact programmes.

### **Expected Programme Outcomes:**

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

- Discuss critically and innovatively.
- Explain important economic actors, organizations, and institutions in an economy and explain their role and impact.
- Apply their knowledge and learning to engage in informed debate and to analyze and solve problems.
- Demonstrate ability to use the economic tools of analysis as well requisite computer applications.



- Enter post-graduate life prepared to respond to a wide variety of economic situations efficiently in order to achieve positive outcomes.

**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.

  
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**REGISTRAR  
IN-CHARGE**

