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Department of Humanities & Social Sciences

BITS Pilani, Pilani Campus

About the Department

The Department of Humanities and Social Sciences is involved in research and teaching. It offers higher degree programs leading to the award of Doctoral and Master's degrees. The department has introduced the BS program in Communication, Media and Public Policy.

Ph.D. Admission, II Semester, 2026-27

Thrust Areas

Candidates holding JRF or other relevant external fellowships can apply to any discipline, whereas the Institute Fellowship is available ONLY in the following thrust areas:

1. Philosophy of Technology
2. Applied Ethics, including AI Ethics, Environmental Ethics, and Ethics of Emerging Technologies
3. Linguistics
4. Language
5. English Language Teaching
6. Development Studies
7. Environment Studies
8. Language, Gender, Culture, and Technology in Language Education and Pedagogy
9. International Relations
10. Chinese Studies
11. Sociology
12. Gender Studies

Important Dates

Online Application Deadline	: 6th November 2026
Shortlist for Test/Interview	: 11th November 2026
Test/Interview	: 27th & 28th November 2026
Results	: 7th December 2026
Reporting for registration	: 5th January 2027

The Institute reserves the right to change the above deadlines. Candidates will be informed well in advance should there be such a change.

Eligibility

- The candidate should have at least an MA or an equivalent degree.
- The candidate should have scored at least 60% in the postgraduate degree.
- Students holding a 4-year bachelor's degree must have scored a minimum of 75% marks in aggregate (or 7.5 CGPA)

Full-time Candidates

- Eligible to be considered for Institutional Fellowship of INR 37,000 per month as per intake qualification.
- Candidates from above mentioned thrust areas only to be considered for the Institute Fellowship.
- Candidates with UGC/JRF Fellowships in all areas of expertise in the Department are encouraged to apply.

Detailed Advertisement: <https://admissions.bits-pilani.ac.in/PhD/phd.html>

Department Website: <https://www.bits-pilani.ac.in/pilani/pilaniDepartmentofHumanitiesandSocialSciences/DepartmentofHumanitiesandSocialSciences>

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Selection Process

- Written exam followed by interview
- M.Phil. and/or JRF fellowship holders exempted from written exam

Birla Institute of Technology & Science,
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Sangeeta Sharma

Professor & Head

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Research Areas: Advertising, Business Communication, Gender Studies, ELT



Pushp Lata

Professor

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Official Page : <https://www.bits-pilani.ac.in/pilani/plat/profile>

Research Areas: English Language Teaching and Applied Linguistics, Language, Gender, Culture, and Technology in Language Education and Pedagogy, Translanguaging and Migration Language, Culture and Communication



Devika

Professor

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Research Areas: Feminism, Literature, Creative writing, Cinematic Adaptation



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Professor

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Research Areas: Film and Media Studies, Ecofeminism, Business Communication, Soft Skills



Virendra Singh Nirban

Professor

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Research Areas: Social Informatics, Technology Acceptance Behaviour, Computer Mediated Communication,



Sanjiv Kumar Chaudhary

Associate Professor

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Research Areas: Linguistics, Phonetics, ELT, Soft Skills



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Professor

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Research Areas: Applied Linguistics, Media Studies, Business and Advertising Communication, Soft Skills



Hari Nair

Associate Professor

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Research Areas: Intellectual History, Political Thought



Tanu Shukla

Professor

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Research Areas: Applied Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Education, Informatics and Behavioral Analytics



Rajneesh Choubisa

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Research Areas: Psychology, Organizational Psychology, Positive Psychology, Online Behavioral Sciences



Anupam Yadav

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Research Areas: Continental Philosophy, Hermeneutics Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy and Epistemology, Aesthetics, Kashmir Shaivism



Sailaja Nandigama

Professor

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Research Areas: Development Studies, Environment Studies, Public Policy, Gender and Development, Mixed Methods, Ethnography



Madhurima Das

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Research Areas: Sociology, Gender Studies, Development Studies Migration and Labour



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Research Areas: Linguistics, Language, Applied Linguistics, English for Academic Purposes



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Research Areas: International Relations, Chinese Studies



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Research Areas: Film and Cultural Studies



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Research Areas: Theatre, Film Studies

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Research Areas: Public Policy, Sustainable Transitions, Environmental Governance



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Research Areas: Hindustani Classical Vocal Music



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Research Areas: Environmental Humanities



Shriya Raina

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Research Areas: Visual Culture, Comics Studies



Rasleen Kour

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Research Areas: Philosophy of Technology, Applied Ethics, Ethics of AI, Human-Technology Relations, Philosophy of AI, Postphenomenology