



KATHMANDU UNIVERSITY



SOUTHASIA INSTITUTE FOR
HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

MA IN HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY (SOCIETY, TECHNOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT)



PROSPECTUS
2026

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INSTITUTE OVERVIEW

The **Southasia Institute for History and Philosophy (SiHP)** is an academic institution dedicated to advancing teaching, research and public engagement in history, philosophy and interdisciplinary social studies, with Southasia at its core. The institute follows a critical and context-sensitive approach, combining historical inquiry, philosophical reflection and contemporary analysis to address social, environmental and knowledge-related challenges, particularly within Himalayan and Southasian contexts.

SiHP offers a **60-credit MA in History and Philosophy**, providing rigorous theoretical grounding, methodological training and opportunities for independent research. The **16-credit Diploma in Archival Science** equips learners with skills in traditional and digital archiving, heritage management, and documentation. In addition, **short-term courses** provide flexible, focused learning to enhance research and practical skills.

As a **Company-not-Distributing-Profit**, SiHP prioritises academic integrity, interdisciplinary learning and collaboration with regional and international institutions to strengthen scholarship and public engagement in Southasia.

THE MA PROGRAMME

The **MA in History and Philosophy** is a 60-credit programme conducted in collaboration with **Kathmandu University**, providing curricula tailored to Himalayan and Southasian socio-ecological realities and aspirations, to prepare context-sensitive, professionally competent and socially committed graduates, and to help close an important ‘career gap’ in our societies. The three thematic streams, viz., History and Philosophy of **Society, Technology and Environment** will, among other things, help bring about qualitative improvement in future undergraduate and high school education in the humanities and sciences in Southasia defined as a demo-biogeographic region. Graduates will receive a Kathmandu University–certified degree.



VALUES OF THE MA PROGRAMME

SiHP's MA Programme actively encourages its students, through diverse and open-ended enquiries and continuing experimentation, to gain the following four central values:

1. Value of Transformative Experience

Education is meant to be more uplifting than acquiring knowledge, a set of skills and employment. The MAHP programme seeks to encourage its students in finding ways to enrich and transform themselves through their experience about the world.

2. Value of Inter-connectedness

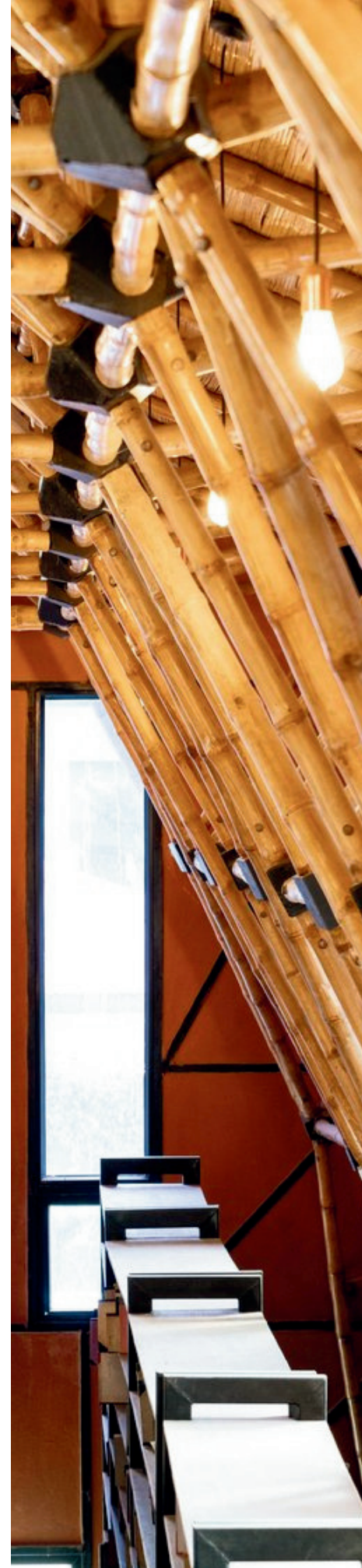
Since the world is a total set of relations, the Programme promotes enquiries that capture this inter-connectedness along with their dynamic complexity.

3. Value of Authenticity

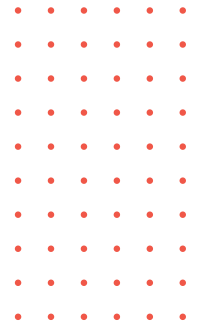
The Programme emphasises originality, intuitive understanding and self-awareness such that the students are able to articulate and act with authenticity to bring effective transformation in their world.

4. Value of Detachment

The MAHP programme aims to enhance the students' appreciation of the value of detachment from self, and the self as a space of possibilities for better individuals as well as collective action and realisation.



GOALS OF THE MA PROGRAMME



1. Deep Engagement with 'Texts'

The Programme helps its students tackle a set of activities centred on 'texts', as broadly defined, namely –

- extract problem, data, information, solution, argument and its structure;
- engage with the original and supplementary ideas constructively for complexity and contradiction;
- develop appropriate (linguistic, digital and comparative) skills to approach and interpret the texts as well as search emphatic ways to improve the clarity of the questions or robustness of solutions by would-speculations;
- comprehend the context of production, dissemination and use of the texts by posing What-If scenarios, finding new questions and research directions;
- outline the historical development of related ideas, approaches and methods, and master the range and scale of texts for shifting interpretations.

2. Conceptual Maturity

The Programme encourages its students to develop intuitive and original understandings through the following activities –

- acquire understanding of existing themes, theories, practices and interpretations;
- have conceptual means to distinguish what makes a question historical/philosophical;
- identify appropriate historical/philosophical responses to the questions asked;
- achieve historical/philosophical maturity in grasping a pluralist/diversity-sensitive approach to different schools and thinkers;
- further the fields of Southasian history and philosophy, and the three thematic areas of the course.



3. Quality Research

Through research assignments and the mandatory thesis, students in the Programme are supported to –

- demonstrate proficiency on topics related to Southasia and those relevant to the lives and livelihood of its inhabitants;
- perform research skills on a chosen question in history and philosophy of society, technology and environment;
- make contributions to the discipline by reformulation of a question, redesigning/repurposing of a method, or finding a novel solution;
- exhibit presentation, engagement and persuasion skills;
- practice a sensitive and responsive, discipline-specific and field-appropriate conduct of research.

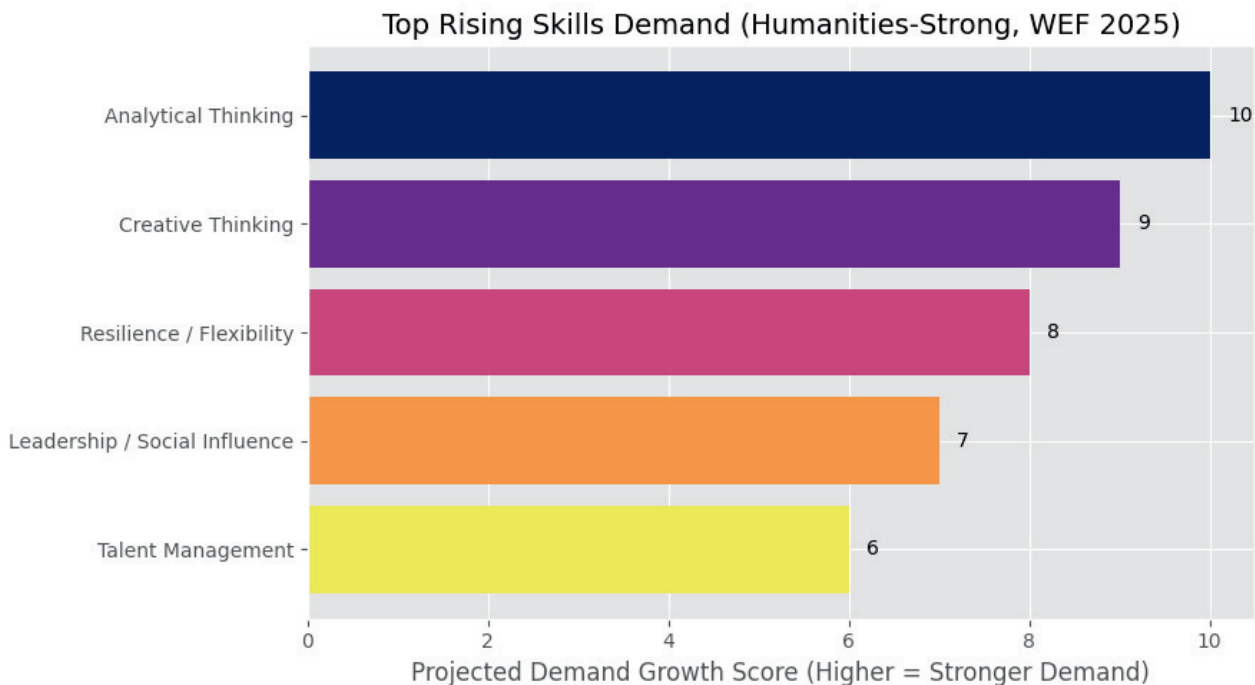
4. Professional Skilling

The students enrolled in the Programme will gain the following professional skills under expert guidance –

- writing skills (mss, proposals, reports), teaching skills (to a group and to another person), oral presentation skills, coordination, collaboration and mentoring skills;
- skills related to time management, teamwork and leadership;
- research management and administrative skills including constructive feedback, effective communication, data and resource management;
- linguistic and design skills for public engagement of research methodologies and findings.

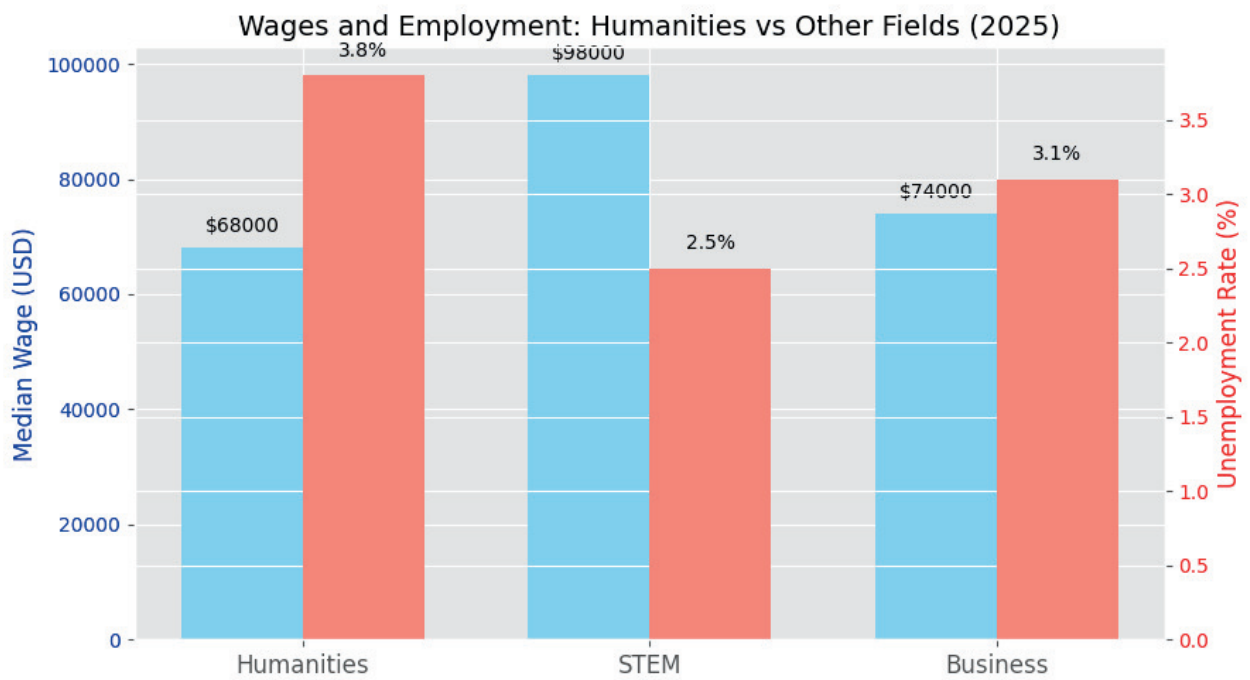
CAREER PROSPECTS

Humanities study human culture, thought, language, history, philosophy, ethics, literature, and arts, focusing on meaning, values, identity, and experience across societies, while fostering critical thinking, ethical judgment, cultural awareness, and social responsibility in the modern era of technology, globalisation and AI.



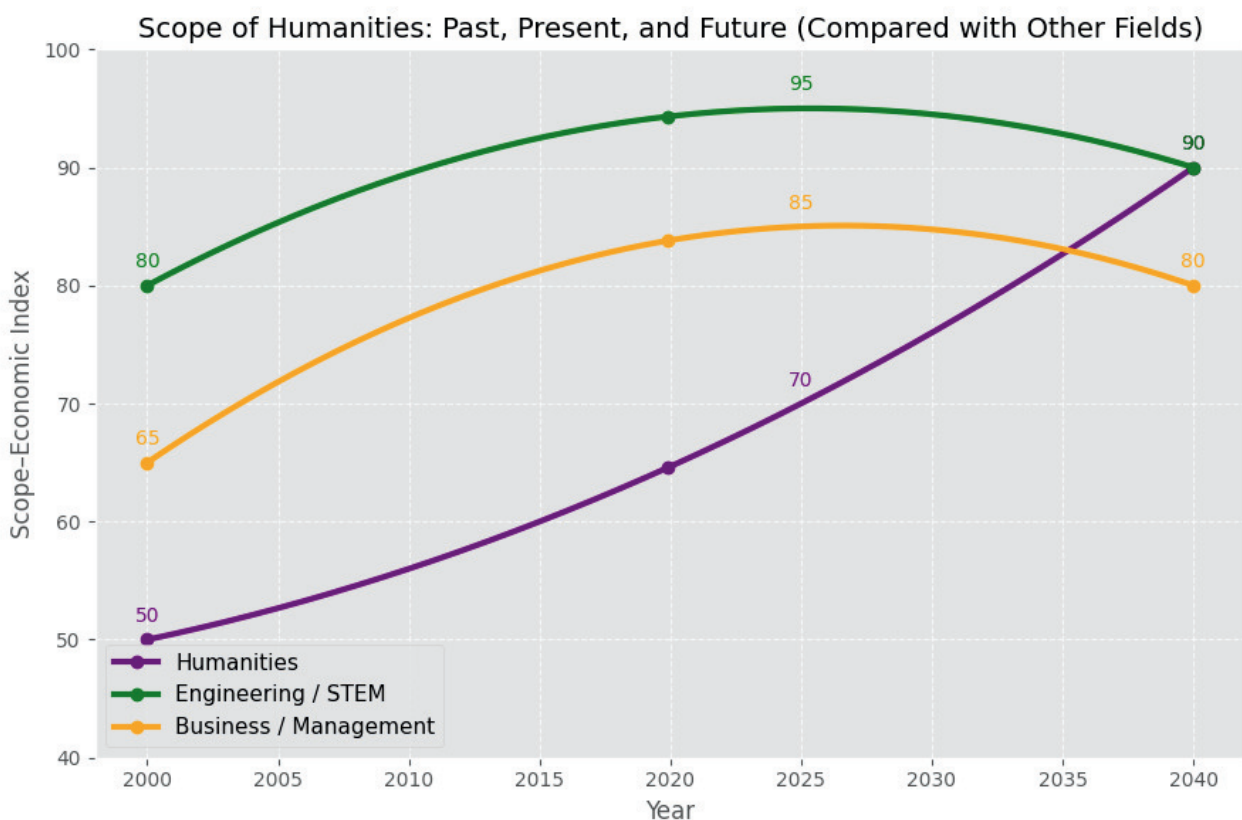
Top Rising Skills Demand (Humanities-Strong, WEF 2025):

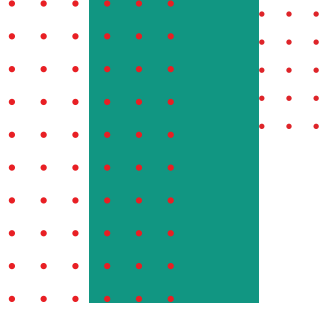
Humanities graduates are equipped with high-demand, transferable skills for the modern workforce, including Analytical Thinking, Creative Thinking, Resilience/Flexibility, Leadership/Social Influence, and Talent Management, with analytical and creative thinking being most critical, while resilience and leadership support success in dynamic, uncertain professional environments.



Wages and Employment – Humanities vs Other Fields (2025):

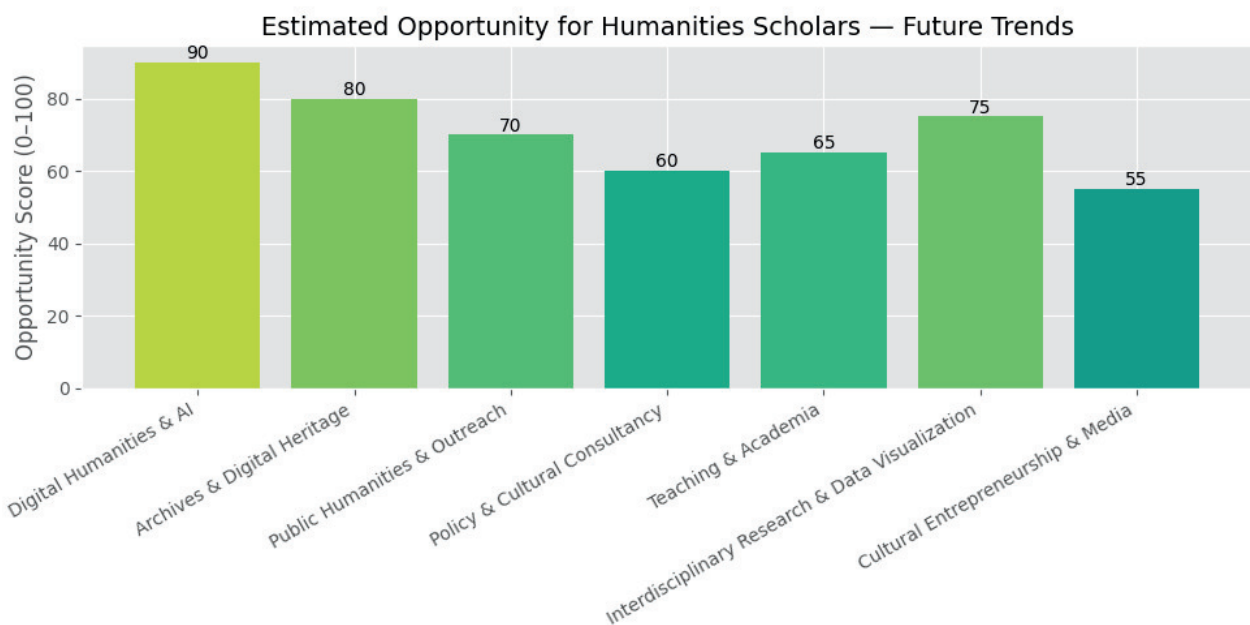
The dual-axis chart shows that STEM graduates have the highest wages and lowest unemployment, humanities graduates have moderate wages with low unemployment, and business graduates fall in between, highlighting that humanities education offers stable employment and valuable skills, along with non-monetary benefits like societal impact, creativity and leadership potential.





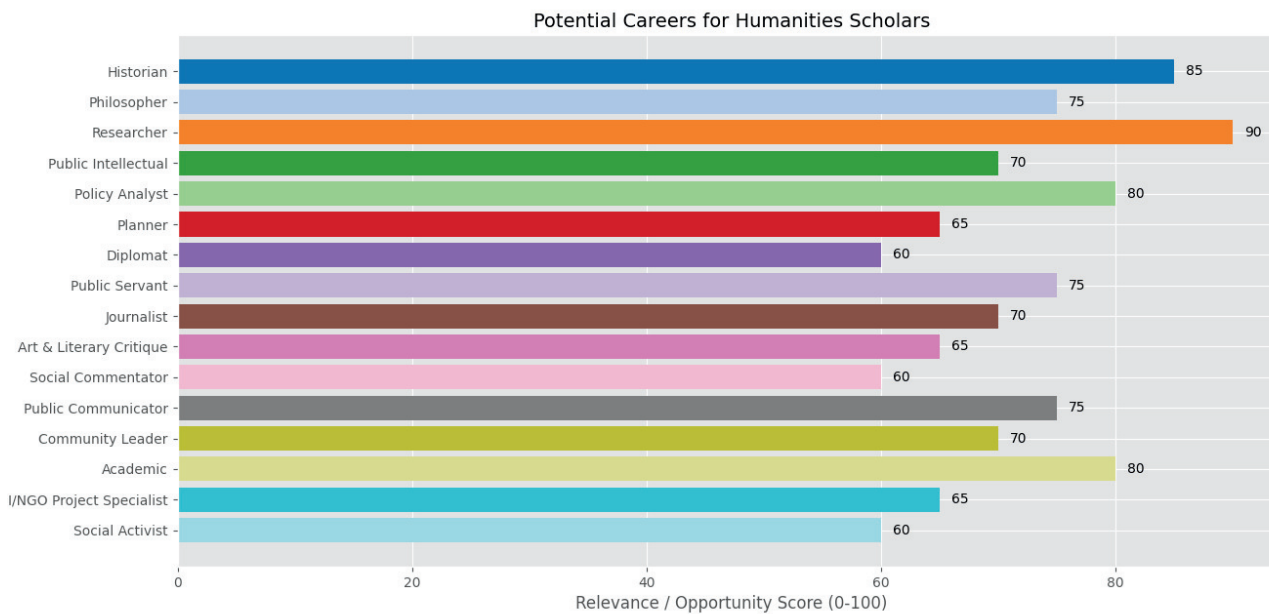
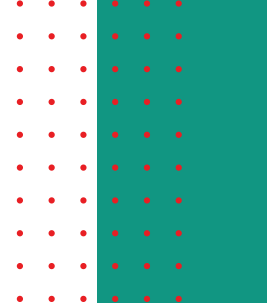
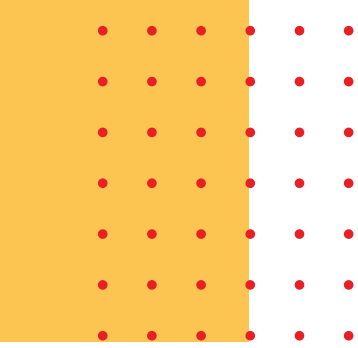
Scope of Humanities – Past, Present and Future:

The line chart shows that from 2000 to 2040, humanities exhibit a steady upward trend in relevance across interdisciplinary, technological, and policy domains, STEM leads initially but stabilises, and Business peaks then slightly declines, indicating expanding opportunities in research, digital humanities, and cultural consultancy for graduates.



Future Opportunities for Humanities Scholars:

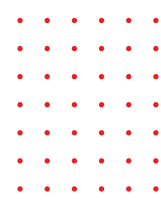
The figure highlights opportunity scores across seven domains for humanities graduates, with Digital Humanities & AI leading, while traditional roles like teaching, archives, and public outreach remain important, emphasising the value of combining technical, analytical, and traditional skills in an evolving career landscape.



Potential Careers for Humanities Scholars:

The horizontal bar chart shows 16 career paths for humanities graduates, with research and historian roles scoring highest, and policy, public service, and activism showing moderate opportunities, highlighting the field's diversity and its ability to prepare graduates for academia, governance, media, cultural management, and social development.

In summary, these figures collectively highlight that humanities education is not only relevant today but is poised for significant impact in the future.



You will be able to pursue career as

Career Path	Core Responsibilities	National Scope (Nepal)	International Scope
Historian	Research, documentation, interpretation of past to understand the present	Universities, museums, Archaeology department, heritage projects	Universities and research institutes, multi-national institutions and agencies, international museums etc.
Philosopher	Ethical analysis, critical reasoning, policy ethics	Universities, ethics committees, think tanks	Universities and research institutes, global ethics boards, AI ethics councils etc.
Policy Analyst	Policy research, governance analysis, recommendations	Government ministries, planning bodies	International agencies and think tanks
Researcher	Qualitative research, policy reports, academic publications	Research centers, NGOs, government agencies	International think tanks, global research organisations etc.
Public Intellectual	Public discourse, opinion writing, lectures	Media houses, cultural forums	Global media platforms, international conferences
Journalist	Investigative reporting, social and political analysis	Newspapers, TV, digital media	Independent journalism, international news agencies
Public Communicator	Strategic communication, advocacy	Government offices, NGOs	International advocacy and communication agencies, digital platforms



ELIGIBILITY

- A score of at least 50% in aggregate or CGPA 2.0 out of 4.0 grading system in any undergraduate discipline from a recognised institution; or
- Exceptional, demonstrable and proven capacity to contribute to transforming Southasian societies or for rare recommendation of being as equivalent as above.
- An acceptable ranking in SiHP's ALT-HuS (Advanced Level Test for Humanities in Southasia) admission exam.

You can secure your spot with a conditional offer while finishing up your ongoing undergraduate course. Talk to us about your plans.

GENERAL DETAILS

Total seats per class: 22

Duration: Two years (4 Semesters), OR

Part-time: Three years (6 Semesters)

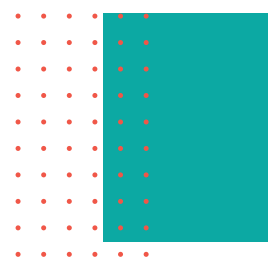
Class hours: 11 am–4 pm (Mon-Fri)

Rolling admissions: You can apply, be evaluated and get accepted anytime throughout the year.

SCHOLARSHIP SCHEMES

- a. Merit**
(upto 80% of the total fees)
- Awarded for outstanding performance in SiHP's ALT-HuS exam. Recognises top achievers and encourages continued excellence.
- b. Inclusion**
(upto 50% of the total fees)
- Supports students from under-represented or disadvantaged backgrounds. Promotes equal access and diversity in education and in the classrooms.
- c. Graded scholarships**
(partial to full tuition fees)
- Offers partial to full tuition waivers depending on performance in each semester.
- d. Chair Fellows**
- Prestigious grant that supports advanced research and specialisation for students.
- e. Director's List**
- Granted to students with exemplary academic records and conduct during their studies at SiHP. Recognises those on the Director's List.
- f. History & Philosophy Subject Scholarship**
- Granted to students with exemplary performance in History or Philosophy.
- g. Stipend**
- Provided in exchange for academic or administrative work such as research assistance, teaching support, departmental duties, or for specific assignments.
- h. Hardship Fund**
- Discretionary financial aid intended to support students facing unexpected financial hardship, such as medical emergencies, family crises, or other serious personal challenges, particularly in their thesis semester.
- i. Support for External Grants/Scholarships**
- SiHP provides active administrative support for prospective and current students to procure grants, scholarships and loans from external institutions in our network, also extending early conditional offers, recommendations and communications.

CURRICULUM



The MA curriculum includes foundational and advanced courses in History and Philosophy, and elective courses in Society, Technology and Environment. The MA Programme curricula is based on five principles –

1. strong and guided expertise in historical and philosophical explorations
2. creative comprehension and articulation skills
3. committed community engagement
4. academic freedom and periodic audits
5. continual assessment and task-based interactional pedagogy

The thematically structured curriculum enables faculty, students and experts, from Southasia or beyond, to grasp, share and articulate the course content. Classical and Other language learning as well as strong fieldwork and community engagement requirements equip students with skills to break ideological and epistemic barriers existing in the mainstream humanities and arts curricula in the region.

Language

Contemporary Language

In the first semester, students will take a course in one of the living languages other than their mother tongue. If a student's mother tongue is Tibeto-Burman, for instance, they will learn an Austro-Asiatic or Indo-European language; if coming from a dominant language group, they will take up a 'minority' tongue, preferably an endangered language. Achieving relative proficiency in a language not their own, students will glean first-hand insights into a broader and dynamic socio-linguistic, historical context within which historical and philosophical concepts are questioned and newer questions framed.

Classical Language

In the second semester, it will be mandatory for students to acquire proficiency in one of the following 'classical' languages in Southasia, for example: Pali/Prakrit, Sanskrit, Tibetan, Limbu, Maithili or Tamil. This will deepen their appreciation of the enduring and echoing knowledge systems within which both urgent and emergent worldviews are debated, contested and resolved.

Fieldwork & Labs

The History and Philosophy Labs will help the SiHP academic community to formulate, test, incubate and extend practical, historically grounded and meaningful life-changing approaches to action for improving social, technological and environmental landscapes of the region.

This experimentation module brings concrete situations of History and Philosophy to the fore, thereby helping students gain practical insights into doing history and philosophy. The nature and aims of the actual experiments are customised to reflect changing interests and priorities of the students and reflecting requirements of Southasian populations and communities.

Three weeks in the field (i.e. outside campus) will help course participants to learn, engage and formulate historical/philosophical questions for the people and communities, questions that are critical, right and just.

EVALUATION

Student evaluation is based on in-semester and end-semester examinations, classwork and homework assignments, lab, fieldwork and presentations, term papers, and, when applicable, publications. Faculty are continually assessed for their performance and effectiveness in course content delivery. Course details are periodically reviewed as well as audited, and the faculty are helped to construct the courses as required.

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

We invest time and resources in providing personalised student services including counselling, co-learning, mentoring, guiding and referencing on one-to-one basis. Each individual at the time of admissions will be assigned a faculty supervisor who will mentor him/her for academic growth at SiHP, provide for individual counselling and guidance, as well as ensure co-learning with a peer group within the class and beyond.

SiHP also has career and student support counselling. The former has been designed to help students for in-study jobs, internships, trainings and skill enhancement, while the latter is a sign-up professional assistance to the students to ensure that the students' time at SiHP is stress-free, enjoyable and meaningful.

COURSE STRUCTURE

SEMESTER

I (CORE COURSE)

- Foundations of History (3 credits)*
- History and Taxonomy (3 credits)*
- Foundations of Philosophy (3 credits)*
- Other Languages (3 credits)
- History and Philosophy Ideas Lab (3 credits)

II (CORE COURSE)

- Advanced History (3 credits)*
- Philosophy and Taxonomy (3 credits)*
- Advanced Philosophy (3 credits)*
- Classical Language (3 credits)
- History and Philosophy Innovation Lab (3 credits)

III (ELECTIVE COURSE) CHOOSE ONE STREAM

SOCIETY

- Private and Public Spheres (3 credits)*
- Economic Processes and Networks (3 credits)*
- Ideals and Norms (3 credits)*
- Power Pathways (3 credits)
- Fieldwork 1 (3 credits)

TECHNOLOGY

- Production (3 credits)*
- Infrastructures (3 credits)*
- Information Interfaces (3 credits)*
- Control and Access (3 credits)
- Fieldwork 2 (3 credits)

ENVIRONMENT

- Atmospheric Studies (3 credits)*
- Water Cycles (3 credits)*
- Life and Its Conditions (3 credits)*
- Earth Systems (3 credits)
- Fieldwork 3 (3 credits)

IV (CORE COURSE)

- Research Writing (3 credits)
- Research Practice (3 credits)
- Thesis (9 credits)

* Foundational Courses

FAQS

Are SiHP courses certified?

Yes, major programmes such as the MA and Diploma are certified by Kathmandu University, while short-term courses are certified by the SiHP.



Is SiHP a university or a study institute?

SiHP is a specialised study and research institute that collaborates with universities like Kathmandu University to offer certified academic programmes.



Will I have enough time to do part-time work while studying in the MA programme?

The MA programme requires focused academic commitment and can be completed in two years of full-time study. Those seeking greater flexibility can complete it in three years of part-time study. The six foundational courses (HPFH 501, HPHT 502, HPFP 503, HPAH 506, HPPT 507 and HPAP 508) are to be completed according to the regular schedule. Other courses can be taken flexibly following consultation with the instructors.



Why should I study these courses, how will they help me in my work?

SiHP courses provide practical skills, regional knowledge, and professional competencies that directly support careers in education, research, archiving, development, heritage, environment, and policy sectors.

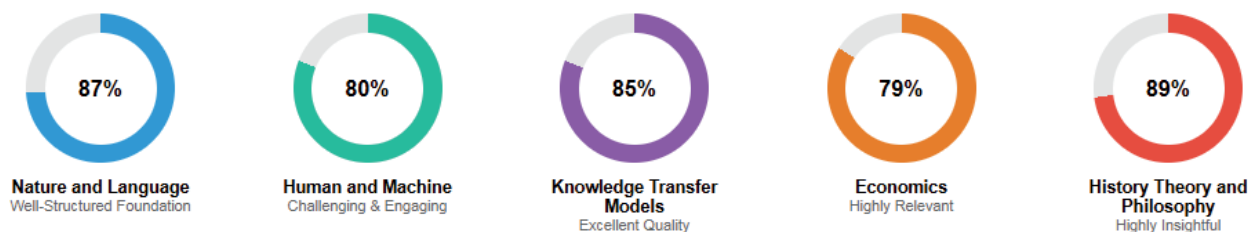


SiHP's SHORT-TERM COURSES

Course	About the Course	Modules / Methods Used
Historical Techniques	Foundational short course delivering professional tools in history and philosophy with focus on source-inspired historical research and disciplined thinking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey, conservation & listing • Description • Interpretation • Diplomatics • Quantitative methods – via lectures, exercises, and guided practice.
Women Philosophers of Southasia	Month-long seminar focused on the lives, thoughts and philosophical contributions of selected women thinkers from Southasia, with emphasis on collective reading and reflective discourse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structured reading sessions • Group discussions • Contextual philosophical analysis and reflection.
A Course on New Humanities	Introductory course to SiHP's New Humanities Programme, designed to help participants explore contemporary topics through historical and philosophical perspectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five thematic modules (Nature & Language; Human & Machine Reasoning; Economics & Alternatives; Knowledge Transfer Models; History, Theory & Philosophy) • Text-based discussions • Case sessions.
HistoryFirst	A reading workshop exploring long-term processes in constructing social and individual realities, engaging participants with historical sources and historiographical critique.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close reading of source specimens • Critical discussion sessions • Historiographical analysis.

STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

1) A Course on New Humanities (June-July 2025)



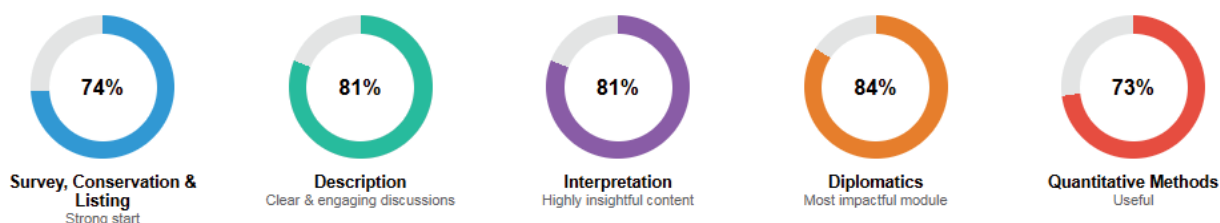
Ratings reflect positive reception with strengths in philosophical and language modules. Participants appreciated the interconnected contents but commonly noted pacing issues in denser areas like reasoning and economics. Overall, the course is viewed as insightful and a strong starting point for further learning.

2) Philosophy Quartet: Women Philosophers of Southasia (July-August 2025)



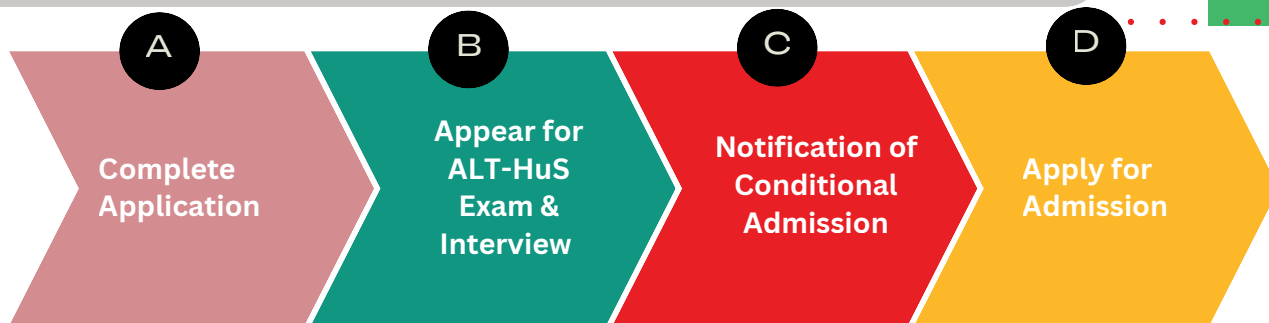
This seminar received exceptionally high marks, particularly for overall experience and materials, indicating excellent delivery and relevance. Participants valued the direct engagement with Southasian women philosophers, with 100% expectations met. Minor suggestions for more contextual framing did not detract from the strong positive feedback.

3) Historical Techniques (August-September 2025)



The course earned strong ratings, especially in interpretive and diplomatic modules, praised for practical tools and relevant discussions. The quantitative section scored lowest due to high expectations for applications. Participants found the structure effective for content absorption and suggested enhancements like peer projects for deeper engagement.

APPLICATION PROCESS



APPLICATION GUIDELINES

1 Pay the Application Fee

Before starting your application, deposit a non-refundable application fee of NPR 3,000 and obtain the payment voucher.

Bank Details

- Account Name: Southasia Institute For History And Philosophy
- Account Number: 55507296319
- Bank: Siddhartha Bank Limited
- Branch: Patan
- SWIFT Code: SIDDNPKA

2 Complete the Application Form

- Download and print the application form
- Fill in all mandatory fields carefully

3 Submit Required Documents

Required Documents:

- 1200-word Application letter (motivation letter) or Statement of Purpose (SOP)
- A CV/resume
- Copy of Citizenship Certificate or National ID or Passport
- 3 copies PP-sized Photos
- Transcripts (School level, 10+2/A-level or equivalent, and Bachelor's or above)
- Certificates of all previous degrees.
- Migration Certificate (original hardcopy to be submitted to the Admissions Office during admission)

If you are waiting for your final year's results, you may submit certificates and mark sheets until the previous exams.

Send the following documents:

- Completed application form
- Payment voucher
- Application letter (motivation essay)
- All required supporting documents

✉ Email: admin@sihp.edu.np

OR

📍 In Person: SiHP Office, Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur

4 Register for ALT-HuS

- Register for the ALT-HuS entrance exam via the SiHP website
- Receive a sample set of questions after application submission
- Exam date and venue will be confirmed via email

5 Appear for Exam & Interview

- Appear for the ALT-HuS test
- Eligible candidates will be invited for an interview

6 Admission Confirmation

Apply for Admission

Once selected:

- Fill out the admission form
- Attach all required documents
- Pay the admission fee
- Submit in person or via email



Sources

- Remains of the Indus Valley Civilisation (c 3300 BCE-1300 BCE) as found in modern-day Harappa; pic: Kanak Mani Dixit (SiHP's logo is derived from one of the Indus Valley seals). (cover page)
- Cyāsal Gajalakṣmi (2nd Century BCE)Source: नेवा : म्हसीका - Newa Mhasika <https://www.facebook.com/photo/fbid=893408676221556&set=pcb.893408776221546> (page 1)
- Definitive Agreement Signing with Kathmandu University to launch MA in History and Philosophy programme (7 October 2024) Picture: Kathmandu University (page 2)
- Picture: Ashesh Rajbanshi (page 3)
- World Economic Forum's (WEF) Future of Jobs Report 2025. (page 6)
- Compiled by authors based on participant feedback. (page 7)
- World Economic Forum's (WEF) Future of Jobs Report 2025. (page 8)
- Based on U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey data and 2025 labour market projections. (page 10)
- Compiled by authors using historical economic trend analysis and internal long-term projections. (page 10)
- Infographic based on survey data on future trends for humanities scholars. (page 11)
- Data derived from the Ministry of Education's 2024 annual report. (page 12)
- Course Feedback Surveys, (Internal Report).(page 18)

THE COURSE IS FOR YOU:

- If you are looking for meaningful academic and community engagements, and creative immersion in transforming material and non-material conditions in society and nature around you through sound historical and philosophical approaches;
- If you want to enhance your critical understanding of why Southasian populations and communities have evolved their diverse forms of social, political and economic characteristics;
- If you want to experiment with and learn about collective strategies, actions and solutions to pathways towards dignified lives and livelihoods of our populations;
- If you believe that only by corresponding with dynamics of the earth systems, such as those imposed by the oceans, the Himalaya, or the monsoon can societies in Southasia remain sustainable, accessible, egalitarian and equitable;
- If you believe strongly in the emancipatory purpose of higher education in which learning outcomes assist us to help others in realising their personal and collective liberation, and dismantle newer forms of barriers, bondage and suffering arising through cultural and economic distinctions.

MAHP FACULTY

Bandana Gyawali, SiHP Faculty Associate, has a PhD from University of Helsinki. Her research interests include conceptual history, visual culture and Nepal's early history.

Nischal Regmi, SiHP Faculty Associate, has research interests in technology, digital inequality, ICT policy and Southasian philosophy.

Shailesh Pandey, SiHP Faculty Associate, PhD in AI, has research interests in NLP, emerging technologies and AI-driven solutions.

Shamik Mishra, SiHP Faculty Associate, has research interests in environment, agrarian history, philosophy and taxonomy.

Yogesh Raj, Director at SiHP, is a historian, linguist, and has PhD in History of Science, Technology & Medicine.

APPLICATION FORM



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Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur