



Centre for Development Studies

Thiruvananthapuram

MA Applied Economics Admission - 2026

Prospectus

Centre for Development Studies (CDS) invites applications for its two year MA programme in Applied Economics starting in the academic year 2026-27. Admission is open to Indian nationals as well as students from selected SAARC countries. Twenty five seats are available for Indian nationals and two seats are available for SAARC category. If seats remain vacant in SAARC category, such vacant seats will be made available to Indian students. This prospectus provides details about the admission to the programme.

1. About CDS

Centre for Development Studies(CDS)is an autonomous research centre sponsored by the Government of Kerala and the Indian Council of Social Science Research(ICSSR). CDS was set up at Thiruvananthapuram under the intellectual leadership of Prof. K.N. Raj in 1970 with the mission of promoting research, teaching, and training in disciplines relevant to development. The Centre is internationally known for its research in applied economics and topics germane to development economics.

CDS has been running two regular programmes- MA in Applied Economics, and Doctoral Programme in Economics. Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi awards the degree of these programmes.

2. About the Programme

MA Applied Economics at CDS is a unique programme aiming at providing rigorous training in theory, tools and methods for applied economic analysis, with a special focus on issues of economic development.

Selected MA students will join a vibrant research community at CDS, comprising faculty, research scholars and visitors, working on various facets of development with an interdisciplinary perspective. The programme aims to equip the students in academia, government, national and international development agencies, research institutions, the corporate sector and the media. The student body organizes a placement facility with the active cooperation of the Centre.

3. Course Structure

Students are required to complete sixteen courses in four semesters. Each course carries four credits. Of the 16 courses, nine courses are compulsory and the remaining can be chosen from a list of optional courses listed below. One of the compulsory courses in the third semester is a project that allows the students to apply the theory, methods and tools learned in other courses on an economic issue under faculty supervision. It is important to note that all optional courses listed below may not be offered every year.

Compulsory Courses

AE101: Fundamentals of Microeconomic Theory	AE105: Econometric Methods
AE102: Fundamentals of Macroeconomic Theory	AE106: Economic Development
AE103: Mathematical Methods	AE107: International Economics
AE104: Statistics	AE108: Indian Economic Development
AE208: Project	

Optional Courses (at least 7 courses from the list below)

AE201: Public Economics	AE211: Labour and Development
AE202: Industrial Organisation	AE212: Law, Economics and Development
AE203: Topics in Trade and Development	AE213: Issues in Indian Agriculture
AE204: Economics of Technology and Innovation	AE214: Issues in Indian Industry
AE205: Population and Development	AE215: Political Economy, Development and Governance
AE206: History of Economic Thought	AE216: Economics of Project Evaluation
AE207: Economic History of Modern India	AE217: Behavioral Economics
AE209: Environment and Sustainable Development	AE218: Macroeconomic Stabilization in Open Economies
AE210: Gender and Development	AE219: Financial Programming

4. Scholarship for students from selected SAARC Countries

With funding from the government of Kerala, CDS provides scholarships to students from selected SAARC countries who enroll in the MA programme. Two scholarships are available and will be offered to selected students from any of the following SAARC countries, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka. Monthly Scholarship of Rs.15,000 will be provided to each SAARC student. The scholarship amount is usually sufficient to meet programme fee and other fees, boarding and lodging at CDS hostel and medical insurance apart from study materials for the entire duration of the course.

5. Eligibility

5.1 For Indian students

A bachelor's degree in any discipline with at least 50 percent of marks. Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) candidates and Persons with Disability (PwD) are eligible to apply irrespective of the percentage of marks secured in the bachelor's degree.

Those who are appearing for their final examination may also apply. Such candidates, if selected, shall be allowed to join the programme only if they have secured the minimum prescribed percentage of marks in their qualifying examination at the time of registration to the programme. They should also submit the final mark sheets of the qualifying examination at the time of registration. The candidate must successfully complete at least one Mathematics/Statistics/Quantitative paper, either at the Plus-Two or undergraduate level, in order to apply to the program.

5.2 For students from SAARC Countries

The candidate must have a Bachelor's/undergraduate degree with English as the medium of instruction and the undergraduate programme must be equivalent to an undergraduate programme of an Indian university.

6. Fees

The tuition fee for the MA Programme is Rs. 14520 each in the first & second semester and Rs.15972 each in the third & fourth semester. For students belonging to SC/ST/PwD category, tuition fee is Rs. 3630 each in the first & second semester and Rs.3993 each in the third & fourth semester. There is a one-time JNU Enrolment cum Registration fee of Rs. 10115, Gym Fee of Rs.236 and miscellaneous charges of Rs. 500.

7. Scholarships and Prizes

MA students with an annual family income of less than 2 lakh and who secure CGPA of 7 or above throughout the programme beginning with the first semester would be offered (i) Semester fee waiver, (ii) Free hostel accommodation and (iii) Free Basic Cafeteria meals. However the semester fee for the first semester cannot be waved off. This fee waiver facility is available from second semester onwards and to avail this, eligible students have to apply in each semester.

There are also two prestigious cash prizes for those securing the highest marks in the quantitative subjects and the overall course, known respectively as the *M.G Kanbur Prize* and the *Joan Robinson Prize*.

8. Hostel Facilities

Hostel facilities will be given based on availability on a shared basis. There are hostels for men and women on the campus. All rooms have an attached bath and are modestly furnished. All hostel residents are expected to have their meals at the cafeteria where simple and nutritious food is served.

9. Library and Computing Facilities

The Centre has one of the finest libraries in social sciences in the country. It has a total collection of over 1,50,000 titles in Economics and allied social sciences and subscribes to over 3,500 journals available online to faculty and students. Further, it has Wi-Fi enabled campus, including the student hostels and has a good collection of all leading econometric softwares.

10. Admission

Indian students and students from SAARC countries have separate admission procedures. The details are given below.

a. Admission procedure for Indian students

The candidates who appeared in the Common University Entrance Test – CUET (PG)-2026 conducted by NTA for the following Test Paper Codes and satisfy the eligibility criteria as per clause 5.1 can apply.

COQP10 - Economics
COQP01 - Agri-Business Management
COQP02 - Applied Geography/Geo Informatics
COQP08 - Commerce

COQP12 - General-Management
COQP17 - Mass Communication and Journalism
SCQP01 - Agricultural Science
SCQP02 - Agro-forestry
SCQP06 - Bioinformatics
SCQP07 - Botany
SCQP08 - Chemistry
SCQP09 - Computer Science/Information Technology/ Artificial Intelligence
SCQP11 - Environmental Sciences/Studies
SCQP12 - Food Science and Technology
SCQP14 - Geology/Applied Geology
SCQP17 - Life Science
SCQP19 - Mathematics, Applied Mathematics, Electronics
SCQP24 - Physics
SCQP27 - Statistics
SCQP28 - Zoology
HUQP01 - Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archeology
HUQP02 - Anthropology
HUQP06 - Development and Labour Studies
HUQP08 - Geography
HUQP09 - History
HUQP16 - Philosophy
HUQP18 - Political Science
HUQP20 - Psychology/ Applied Psychology
HUQP21 - Social Work
HUQP22 - Sociology
MTQP01 - Chemical Thermal & Polymer Engineering
MTQP02 - Civil and Structural Engineering
MTQP03 - Dairy Technology
MTQP04 - Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security and Computer Science, Engineering/Technology
MTQP05 - Electronics, Communication and Information Engineering
MTQP06 - Food Engineering and Technology
MTQP07 - Mechanical Engineering
MTQP08 - Nano Science/ Nano Technology
MTQP09 - Nanoelectronics/Material Sciences
MTQP10 - Electrical, Power, and Energy Engineering
MTQP11 - Water Engineering and Management
MTQP12 - Textile Engineering

Selection of candidates will be based on their percentile score in the CUET exam.

Percentile score = $100 * \frac{\text{no of candidates scored less than or equal to you}}{\text{total number of candidates who appeared for that subject}}$

- If there is a tie between candidates, and all such candidates had economics in their undergraduate, then preference will be given to the student with highest undergraduate economics marks. In case of unavailability of any undergraduate score, we will compare the marks at 10+2 level.

- If there is a tie between candidates and some of them had economics in their undergraduate, while others did not have, then preference will be given to the undergraduate economics candidate.
- If the tie is between candidates such that none of them had economics as their undergraduate subject, then we will compare their 10+2 marks.

Interested candidates are requested to visit CDS website (www.cds.edu) regularly for admission related updates.

b. Admission procedure for students from SAARC countries

SAARC candidates are required to apply through a separate mode. Candidates must successfully complete at least one Mathematics/Statistics/Quantitative paper, either at the Plus-Two or undergraduate level, in order to apply to the program.

They should fill-in the application form available on our website. The filled-in application form and relevant documents should be emailed to admissionma@cds.edu. There is no application fee for candidates from SAARC countries. Such candidates are exempted from the Entrance Test and will be interviewed online.

Selection will be done on the basis of their performance in the interview. Candidates will be informed about the schedule of the interview well in advance.

11. Reservation

Statutory reservation for Indian candidates belonging to SC, ST, OBC (NCL), Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) and Persons with Disability (PWD) with $\geq 40\%$ disability as per Govt. of India rules is provided.

12. How to Apply

Candidates from India are required to apply online through the online application portal available in the website: www.cds.edu. It is the responsibility of the candidates to ensure that all the relevant details are correctly entered. **Application Fee is Rs. 300 and it is non-refundable. There is no application fee for candidates belonging to SC, ST, PwD (with $\geq 40\%$ disability) categories.** Applications that are found to be incomplete or contain incorrect information at any stage of the admission process will be rejected without any notice.

Important Dates

Opening date of online applications	7 th May 2026 (9 am)
Closing date of online applications	28 th May 2026 (5 pm)
13. Deadline for SAARC candidates	28 th May 2026 (5 pm IST)

13. Jurisdiction clause

Any disputes arising in connection with the admission process shall be subjected to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Kerala High Court. This prospectus is subject to modification/addition/deletion as may be deemed necessary by the Centre from time to time.

Candidates are advised to keep checking our website for the latest updates about admission related matters. For any queries or additional information please contact Academic Programme Office on Tel: 0471 2774253/4 during office hours (9 AM to 5 PM) or write to us (admissionma@cds.edu)