

VISVA-BHARATI
TAGORE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE
Announces
Ph.D./M.Phil. in CULTURE STUDIES PROGRAMME
at **Rabindra bhavana**

As is known, Cultural Studies is not a unified field, but a diverse approach of study encompassing many different disciplines and methods as well as academic orientation. Starting from the early 1960s, *Cultural Studies* has seen emergence of many centres, programmes, and journals that attempted to address new questions that sprang up from the debate initiated by Tagore in his *Crisis of Civilization* (1941). Many of these challenges were imposed by changing relations and communications among nations since World War II. In the 1980s, programmes and institutions in cultural studies began to be formally established in different parts of the world. Although the field has grown from critical theory in literature and allied areas to a number of related disciplines initially, it has now become truly multi-disciplinary. Today, Cultural Studies permeate into creativity and its constraints to organization and presentation of our space.

Visva-Bharati announces a Research Degree Programme in Cultural Studies to be offered by Rabindra Bhavana at the Ph.D./M.Phil. levels beginning from 2013-14. The Programme will be concerned with the dynamics of culture in all its manifestations – Art and Architecture, Literature & Performances (including theatre, recitation, elocution, debating, argumentation and reviews), Language & Translation (including inter-semiotic transfers), Music & Choreography, Films & Documentation (including short and ad films), Museum & Curating, and several related fields.

Thus, cultural studies would attempt to understand how meaning is generated, disseminated, and produced from the social, political and economic spheres within a given culture. Researchers interested in working on the Theory of Texts and Art Objects and their production as well as their grounding in time and space, relationship between culture and politics; the formation of disciplines and institutions; and the nature of cultural antagonisms and crises. One of the major aims of the programme will be to raise difficult and disturbing questions about how power constructs knowledge and about how the cultural spaces such as universities resolves intellectual debates in their own manner – keeping the interest of humanity in mind. The special focus will be on organization of space, theory of agency and hegemony, and impact of globalization. It will provide an academic platform for responding to the increasing requirement to comprehend the role and formation of culture beyond national boundaries and narrow disciplinary divisions – an ideal so dear to the founder of Visva-Bharati – Rabindranath Tagore.

Degree Programmes in Cultural Studies

A limited number of deserving, qualified and interested students with challenging research ideas will be admitted as research students to a combined Degree Programmeme including **Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) in Cultural Studies** as well as **Doctoral of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Cultural Studies** (Five students each under M.Phil and PhD levels) under Rabindra Bhavana and TMI. A Board of Studies (or BoS) under Rabindra Bhavana will

consider the applications of interested candidates and will conduct admission interviews to consider granting admission to such candidates. This being an extremely inter-disciplinary programme, there will not be any VB-RET examination in Cultural Studies. The candidates will have to produce/present evidence of their writing abilities in English and Indian languages along with their brief research idea at the time of application. The Rabindra Bhavana BoS will short-list candidates based on these records and personal interviews.

The admitted students will be placed under a research committee with a Chair as her/his Principal Supervisor. The Doctoral Research Committee for each candidate will consist of experts from multiple fields as co-supervisors, and they could also include eminent and qualified faculty from other universities and institutions. Visva-Bharati could invite such specialized faculty and scholars as Adjunct Faculty under Tagore Memorial Institute.

Who Can Enroll?

- To start with, the Tagore Memorial Institute and Rabindra Bhavana will admit 5 M.Phil and 5 Ph.D. research candidates (in all, 10 students) directly, from different academic backgrounds, beginning from 2013-14.
- For the first year's programme, the interested candidates should make direct application to the Director, Culture & Cultural Relations and Adhyaksha, Rabindra Bhavana on or before 31 August 2013.
- To enrol, please send (i) applications on a Ph.D./M.Phil. Application Proforma available in the university, along with (ii) a brief research idea (of about 500 to 1000 words), and (iii) a list of publications, if any, and (iv) a few (at least one) sample of her/his research publication or research report (under consideration of publication) in English. If the candidate has no evidence of writing in English, publications/essays in Indian language (preferably Bengali and Hindi) could be attached.
- The applicants should have a Master's Degree (with 55% or equivalent grade from a recognized university or institution) in any one of the following disciplines – recognized under the UGC NET:
 - (I) **Languages & Literature:** (Arabic, Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Comparative Literature, Dogri, English, Folklore, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Linguistics (including Applied Linguistics, Sociolinguistics and Anthropological Linguistics), Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Oriya, Pali, Persian, Prakrit, Punjabi, Rajasthani, Sanskrit, Santali, Sindhi, Tamil, Translation Studies, Tribal and Regional Language/Literature, Telugu, and Urdu)
 - (II) **Foreign Languages,** recognized by the UGC such as Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Russian, Spanish, etc: (Provided the candidate has a strong base in English/Indian languages, and is willing to work on any aspect of South Asian Culture)
 - (III) **Social Sciences** (Anthropology, Area Studies, Archaeology, History including Ancient Indian History, Islamic Studies, Journalism, Mass Communication, Philosophy, political Science, Psychology, Religion (including Comparative Religion), Sociology, Women's Studies, etc)

- (IV) **Arts and Performing Arts** (*Music, Fine Arts* – including Painting, Sculpture, Print-making, Design, etc; *Performing Arts* – including Dance/Drama/Theatre *Visual Arts*, including Drawing & Painting/Sculpture/ Graphics/Applied Art/History of Art; *Museology & Conservation*)

Pre-Degree Course-Work in Cultural Studies

The Pre-Degree course-work will be taken up together in terms of following courses:

CS 001: Research Methodology & Argumentation

CS 002: Language, Literature, Art and Culture:
Documentation, Representation and Resolutions

PLUS:

CS 003: Museum, Curatorial Studies, Cultural landscaping and Presentation:
Methodological and Practical Issues,

OR,

CS 100: Tagore Studies (with special reference to Culture)

Only those who qualify and clear these courses will be moved up to undertake research, and degrees will be granted only after the completion of all course requirements for the M.Phil./Ph.D. programmes and after the Qualifying Seminar presentation by the candidate before the Board of Studies (BoS) of Rabindra Bhavana.

Dr Tapati Mukhopadhyay
Director, Rabindra Bhavana