



Frequently Asked Questions

The Conservation Practitioners' Course 2025

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Eligibility

1. Am I eligible for the course?

If you are a graduate in any stream and have experience working in on-ground conservation for more than two years, you are eligible for the course. This course is designed for practitioners looking to upskill themselves in interdisciplinary conservation practice.

2. Are there any specific language proficiency requirements for the course?

Yes. As the medium of instruction for the course is English, applicants are required to have working proficiency in the language.

3. What will be the cohort size for this course?

The cohort for the Conservation Practitioners' Course 2025 will consist of 20 students.

Selection Process

4. How do I apply for the course?

You can apply for the course at this through the portal on the [website](#). You will have to register before filling out the application form.

5. What are the important dates?

- Submission of Application Forms: 16th December 2024 to 19th January 2025
- Selection of Applicants: Final Week of January, 2025
- Interviews of Selected Applicants: 2nd and 3rd Week of February, 2025
- Announcement of Final Selection List: 4th Week of February, 2025
- Admission & Fee Payment: Final Week of February to 2nd Week of March, 2025
- Course Launch: 4th Week of March, 2025

6. Do I have to pay to apply for the course?

No, there is no fee to apply to this course.

Course Fees and Scholarships

7. What are the fees for the course, and do you provide any financial aid or scholarships for students?

The total course fee is INR 1,12,218/-, which includes tuition, round-trip travel, food and accommodation for the in-person bootcamp, certification, and administration costs.

However, to support the inaugural cohort of the Conservation Practitioners' Course, a special provision has been made, extending a 25% discount to all participants. This brings the payable course fee to INR 84,163.5/-.

Additionally, as part of The Habitats Trust's commitment to ensuring accessibility, need-based scholarships are available.

8. What are the eligibility criteria for scholarships?

The scholarships will be need-based, awarded through an open application process where all applicants have an equal opportunity to apply for financial support.

9. What is the process for applying for a scholarship, and how are applications evaluated?

The application and screening process for scholarships will be as follows:

- **Scholarship Application:**
 - Applicants will indicate their intent to apply for a scholarship while filling out the course application form by selecting the relevant option.
 - They will be required to upload the necessary financial documents to support their application.
- **Screening and Verification:**
 - Financial documents will be reviewed during the shortlisting phase for the next round of the course selection process.
- **Final Awarding of Scholarships:**
 - Scholarships will be granted to selected students based on financial need, before the finalization of the cohort.

10 . What financial documents do I have to submit to apply for a scholarship?

You will have to provide documentation with proof of the annual income of you and your family. This can include ITRs of the previous year, bank statements or salary slips.

Learning Format

11. What is the duration of the course?

The Conservation Practitioners' Course 2025 is a 9-month course, split into two terms.

12. How many hours per week am I expected to commit to this course?

There will be four to six hours per week of online classes. Apart from attending these classes, there will be assignments and readings that you will have to do each week on your own time, unsupervised. There will be a two-week in-person bootcamp towards the end of the course, which you will be required to attend.

13. Will I be required to attend any in-person sessions or travel for any part of the course?

The classes will be entirely online, however, you will have to travel for the two-week in-person bootcamp. The bootcamp will facilitate hands-on practical learning and encourage interactions with faculty members and peers.

14. Will I be required to cover my travel and accommodation for the bootcamp?

No. Bursaries will be provided for your travel and accommodation will be arranged for you for the duration of the bootcamp.

15. Can I pursue this course while working full-time?

Yes, you can. This course has been designed to accommodate working professionals.

16. If I miss a session, will I have access to a recording of the class?

You are encouraged to attend all classes. However, for classes that you miss due to unavoidable circumstances, you can request the concerned faculty member to make a recording available to you.

17. What are the technical requirements for participating in online classes, such as software or internet speed?

You will need access to a good internet connection to be able to run videos on a Zoom call, and to a computer with the capacity to run programs like Q-Gis.

18. Where can I access the course syllabus?

You can download the brochure from the course [website](#).

19. What types of assignments and projects can I expect during the course?

Each faculty member will define their own style of assignment. Some of the possible methods of assessment are MCQ-based, assignment-based, through written exams, viva-voce, and open defence.

20. What will be the learning platform for the course?

You will have access to an online learning management system during the course.

21. Are there any internship or fieldwork opportunities offered as part of the course curriculum?

No, there are no internship or fieldwork opportunities offered as part of the course curriculum. However, you will be able to engage in hands-on learning activities and interact with peers during the in-person bootcamp.

Course Instructors

22. Who will be the instructors teaching this course?

Each module can have multiple faculty members involved in its teaching. The faculty members are senior conservationists and experts who will be covering various topics in the course. Apart from the main list below, faculty may additionally organise guest lectures for certain topics.

The following is a list of faculty members for the Conservation Practitioners' Course, categorized by the module they are teaching (*and in alphabetical order*):

Ecology, Study Design and Statistics

- Abhishek Jamalabad
- Advait Edgaonkar, PhD
- Divya Mudappa, PhD
- Divya Vasudev, PhD
- Robin Abraham, PhD
- Sanjay Gubbi, PhD
- Sanjay Pathak
- Suhel Quader, PhD

Environmental Law and Policy

- Praveen Bhargav

Intervention Design and Project Management

- Parag Deka, PhD
- Rushikesh Chavan

Conservation and Society

- Neeraj Hatekar, PhD
- Nupur Bhawe
- Rajat Khaturia, PhD
- Vivek Belhekar, PhD

Technology for Conservation

- Adwait Deshpande, PhD
- Ashwin Vishwanathan, PhD
- HS Sudhira, PhD
- Isha Bopardikar
- Santhosh Pavagada

Communication in Conservation

- Jay Mazoomdar
- Lubna Amir
- Prashant Padalia

Career Development

23. Are there opportunities for networking with peers and other professionals during the course?

Yes. You will be a part of a group consisting of your peers for course-related activities. You will also be able to connect with them and the faculty members in person during the bootcamp.

24. How does the course assist in career development or advancement in the conservation field?

This interdisciplinary course focuses on building a foundational understanding of concepts across allied disciplines. It aims to upskill conservationists in interdisciplinary practice and strengthen the network of conservation practitioners.

Apart from this, students who meet the minimum requirements will receive a certificate at the end of the course. Additionally, among those who score above 85%, up to three project ideas will be selected for a [THT SEED Grant](#).

Certification Criteria and Accreditation

25. What are the requirements to be awarded a certificate from the course?

Students who receive an overall percentage of 75 and above, and meet the minimum requirements of each module, will qualify for a certificate from the Academy of Continuing Education at the Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence.

23. Is there a limit to the number of attempts for assessments?

There is no limit to the number of times you can reattempt an assessment; however, there will be a time frame within which you need to reattempt your assignments and each reattempt will incur a small fee.

24. How is the course accredited? Will I receive certification upon completion?

You will be awarded a certificate from the Academy of Continuing Education at the Shiv Nadar Institution of Eminence, upon completing the course and fulfilling the minimum requirements.