

Postgraduate Department of English - A Profile

St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College Celebrated its 150th anniversary in the year 2014–2015. In its long history of more than 160 years, the College has touched many milestones. It has seen the making of many prominent faces; people who have made not only Bengal, but India proud. The year 2015 had also been the centenary year for the Department of English, one of the oldest Departments in the college. In the last one hundred years, the Department has maintained a high academic standard, dealt firmly and satisfactorily with ever increasing demands from the learners, appointed a faculty that boasts of high academic standards as well as continuous research.

The primary reason behind the decision to open a Postgraduate section to the Department at St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College arose out of a demand from the students themselves. As it is, with the growing increase in student numbers and quality, the demand for seats in postgraduate institutions is ever on the rise. Since our college is centrally located, and we have a very large demand for seats at the under graduate level (at least a 50:1 ratio as far as application and seats are concerned). The PG Section is equally popular among the students.

St. Paul's Cathedral Mission College began its odyssey of postgraduate teaching in 2013 in the Department of English. The only department in the college to boast of a postgraduate section, we recently celebrated the first ten years of postgraduate teaching in 2023.

The Department is unique in having its own journal *Symposium*, with ISSN number

(ISSN 2320-1452). This journal has already seen fifteen issues and is highly regarded in the English Literature teaching community of the state and beyond.

The Postgraduate Department of English began its academic journey with the Annual Curricular System, followed by the Credit Based Curricular System (CBCS) since 2018. The Department is now set to usher in the norms of the NEP, with accommodating both three years honours / major as well as four years major students. The Department is constrained to take copious help from guest teachers from various institutions of the city and beyond, in addition to the overwhelming support given by all the teachers of the Department. The Department takes pride in organizing student seminars, conferences, seminar lectures and special lectures by illustrious academics to facilitate the curricular study. It has also successfully completed its first Add-on Course on *Visual Culture: The Many Ways of Seeing* in 2023.

We have a good and expanding stock of books in the Seminar Library. We also provide our students with digital resources and study materials. The Department also takes in constructive feedback from its students and looks to it that the actions thereof are implemented.

The Department has successfully distributed M.A. certificates to 212 students till the year 2024 in four Convocation programs. We feel proud to assert that we have a success rate of 100%. Our students get absorbed in the education sector as well as the government and private sectors. Some have also brought us glory in pursuing higher education and research, even beyond the country. We also feel happy that the course and the college is well sought after, as we have a demand ratio of 1:10 for our limited number of seats.

The Dean of Postgraduate Studies is in-charge of the administrative and curricular functioning of this section of the Department of English. In June 2021, the Department entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of English,

New Alipore College. To this effect, we have jointly organized webinars and participated in student as well as teacher exchange programs.

ABOUT THE COURSE

The two-year “Master of Arts” programme under the CBCS system is for a minimum duration of four (04) consecutive semesters of six (06) months each, i.e. a period of two (02) years and commences according to notification provided by the University of Calcutta.

A candidate is required to complete the entire course within four years from the date of her/his admission, failing which the enrolment of the candidate shall stand cancelled.

Admission to the Postgraduate programme shall be in the first year and the second year as determined by the regulations made by the University of Calcutta.

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Participation by our students in college webinars and also in webinars of other institutions.
- Continuation of higher studies through Ph.D by some of our ex-students.
- Completion of fifteen years of our Departmental journal *Symposium*
- Good academic performance of our students with regular first classes.

We share a few pictures of the Department



Inauguration Function, 2013



First Convocation, 2017



Second Convocation, 2022



Third Convocation, 2023



Fourth Convocation 2024

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