



**Department of English & Foreign Languages**  
**Maharshi Dayanand University Rohtak**  
**(NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade)**

**Strategic Plan (2018-2023)**

## **About the Department**

The Department of English & Foreign Languages is one of the oldest and esteemed departments of the University with a family of twelve experienced and dedicated teachers. The Department offers several courses, namely Five -Year Integrated M.A (Hons.), M.A., M.Phil, Ph.D besides Certificate and Diploma Courses in French, Chinese, and Spanish Languages. Major thrust areas of research activities are Indian writings in English, British Literature, American Literature, Commonwealth Literature, Linguistics and Stylistics. The Department organizes conferences, seminars, guest lectures and workshops regularly. The Department also has an advanced Language Lab which is a central facility for all the students of the University.

## **Vision**

To have an invigorating impact on students through recurrent exposure to research, creativity and performing arts.

## **Mission**

- To create a distinctive environment for the students to focus on enhancing knowledge of English language and literature, to help them develop their communication and writing skills.
- To encourage nurturing of inquisitiveness among students and cultivate disciplinary knowledge in the field of literary and cultural studies.
- To foster interpersonal relationships for cultivating a team spirit through an eclectic and inclusive perspective.
- To sensitize students to relate to diverse communities and to transgress academic boundaries and develop cosmopolitan outlook.
- Expand the learning process and skills of students through new innovative pedagogical methods.
- To organize lectures, workshops, seminars and conferences on the recent and innovative global themes pertaining to literary studies.
- To invite visiting faculty from India and abroad for fruitful exchange of ideas and encourage students exchange programme with universities abroad

## Strategic Goals

Research and Teaching activities of the department will focus on the following thrust areas:

### Thrust Areas of Teaching and Research

#### a. **Literary, Historical, Political and Cultural Narratives:**

- Complex interactions/connections between literary histories, cultural practices, ideological apparatuses of political and social dissension.
- Social, economic, political and religious developments in literary and cultural context, study of language, literary texts responsible for development of ideas with focus on intellectual development of students.
- Literary, cultural and political narratives of English and American literature, development of Indian and European drama.
- Focus on conceptualization of Diaspora studies to explore trans-disciplinary approaches to issues of displacement, migration, alienation and exile.
- To examine relationship between colonialism and post-colonialism, literary and cultural studies providing historical depth as well as perspectives from anthropology, sociology, post-modernism and post-colonialism.
- Translated works of vernacular literature.
- Literary texts on race, ethnicity and aesthetics.

#### b. **Comparative Literary Narratives:**

- Comparative literary narratives of Literary criticism, ideas and philosophies of English and American thinkers.
- Renaissance, Reformation, French Revolution, American Revolution, Industrial Revolution, Enlightenment, National independence movements and world wars of the twentieth-century.

#### c. **Literature and Gender**

- Domestic and public space, sexuality, emotions, ideas.
- Gender relations and domesticity within literary contexts.
- Intersection between gender, race and power.

**d. Critical Appraisal of Literary Texts**

- To appreciate the individual text of the author, to understand formal properties of literary work, dramas, novels, poems, style and structure.
- To appreciate philosophical properties of literary and textual practices.
- To develop critical abilities and interpretive skills to shed light on literary history of ideas that shape our present literary imagination.

**e. Literary Cultures in literary Studies**

- Introduction to Sanskrit, Hindi, Sociology and Environmental Sciences.
- Literary terms, their representation, Poetics, Parody, Aesthetics and oral narratives.
- Reading and Writing practices, Authorship, Patronage, Audiences/Readers, Performance, Cultural Transmission.
- Symbolism, signification and the multi-dimensionality of art forms.
- Advertisements, media studies, drama, photography and cinema.

 **Documentation, Preservation and Digitalization of Literary Sources:**

- Creating a digital section in the Department.
- Focus on e-texts & e-learning and making them available to researchers.
- Documenting and digitalizing folklores through recording, interviewing, preserving oral narratives from rural Haryana and making them available to researchers.

 **Dissemination of knowledge and intellectual exchanges:**

- To engage with students and society at large; the department will continue to disseminate literary and cultural knowledge through various means and methods. Funding opportunities will be explored to start certain new initiatives which are as follows:
  - To make the department an advanced centre of research.
  - To evolve courses pertaining to creative writing, translation studies and performing arts.
  - To introduce and engage with multidisciplinary frameworks through an active engagement with other departments and centres in and outside M.D.U.

**a. Publication of International Literary Journal**

- Promoting and publishing high quality research papers exploring literature from political social, historical, cultural perspectives.

**b. Translation Projects**

- Upon availability of funds, the department will undertake translation projects of various Indian regional languages, thus enabling to support and encourage the study of the hitherto neglected languages and literatures of the country.

**c. Seminars/workshops**

- Participation of the faculties and research students in national and international seminars
- Special seminars will be conducted by the faculties on selected themes.
- Literary Society (run by the students of the department) will continue to conduct annual quiz/debates.
- Renowned authors/ scholars shall continue to be invited to interact with the faculty and the students.

**d. Social Outreach Programme**

- To sensitize students to social awareness programmes.
- To encourage students to teach and interact with students from under-privileged backgrounds.

**e. Promoting Vernacular Languages**

- The faculty and research students to be encouraged to write and appreciate literature in various regional languages of India.
- To encourage students to participate in seminars held in regional languages in MDU as well as other universities.

 **Academic Empowerment Programmes**

- To promote motivational workshops on reading and writing skills.
- To develop different modules relating to Research methodologies.
- To promote group discussions and interactive sessions on the relevance of literature in teaching and other academic fields and vocations.

 **Expansion of the Teaching Faculty in relevant fields is required.**

## **SWOC Analysis**

### ➤ **Strength**

- One of the earliest established departments of the university with illustrious alumni working at important academic, administrative, research and other positions.
- Qualified and dedicated faculty with multiple specializations reflecting studies in recent trends in literature.
- Latest pedagogical methods, special care to the mentee, congenial and interactive environment.
- Entry through entrance test ensuring good intake in Hons., PG classes and research.

### ➤ **Weakness**

- Lack of adequate background study of literature
- A number of students require personalized pedagogical help as difference in comprehension level amongst learners of English language.
- Lesser number of subject options available to students.

### ➤ **Opportunities**

- Department offers vibrant platform to students for promoting fluency in spoken and written English.
- Discursive and interactive mode of instruction encouraging better performance in classes, tests, assignments and examination.
- Through debates, discussions, quiz competitions, enhancement of knowledge base ensuring improved performance in exams at various levels.
- Encouragement to research by exploring new and latest concerns, trends and movements.

### ➤ **Challenges**

- To keep the students abreast with upcoming literary trends, practices and research methods
- To offer more opportunities for encouraging public speaking and discursive writing in English language.

To encourage students who are relatively slow in learning English language to be up to the mark.

## **Action Plan**

**The Department wishes on following Five Year Roadmap to further improve upon:**

- ✓ Academic Quality
- ✓ Teaching and Training Quality
- ✓ Research Quality
- ✓ Course employability
- ✓ Inclusiveness and social impact
- ✓ Extension activities and collaborations
- ✓ Academic and Co-curricular activity calendar 2018-2019

Key areas where the Department will work towards improving the above listed parameters in the coming five years are:

### Academic Quality

S.No.	Planned Activities	Year of execution
1	Incorporate Research Orientation in M. A. programmes thus integrating teaching and research.	2018-19
2	Introduce inter and multi -disciplinary courses for enlarging the vision and mental horizon of learners, encouraging cross-disciplinary thinking and research	2019-20
3	To strengthen better mentor- mentee equation by ensuring more animated , constructive and continuous interaction between them. Re structure Parent- Teacher Meet so as to ascertain satisfaction level of parents as stakeholders. Also ensure active participation of students in classrooms and more face-to-face interaction with faculty members.	2020-21
4	Encourage discussions on issues of social concern and national interest to develop a keen understanding of society and seek feasible solutions. To arrange social outreach initiatives for hands-on experience of societal issues.	2021-22
5	Re think the role of the department in teaching, research and public engagement so that its educational ethos and research environment encourage students and researchers to address 21st century challenges.	2022-23

### Teaching and Training Quality

S.No.	Planned Activities	Year of execution
1	Updating of curriculum and textbooks	2018-19
2	Qualitative improvement of pedagogical strategies by adopting new teaching methods. Making better use of e learning resources by tie ups with different universities within and outside the country for lectures and discussions with subject experts.	2019-20
3	Participation in the system of validation and quality assurance and its implementation in order to ensure the quality and relevance of courses and usefulness of the programs presented	2020-21
4	Introduce courses related to performing arts	2021-22
5	Enhance existing facilities to encourage more research projects sanctioned by national bodies such as UGC, ICSSR, MHRD, etc. Collaborate with organizations such as ISLE, ASLE, Centers of	2022-23

Australian Studies, Canadian Studies , IAS, Shimla and so on for faculty and student exchange programmes.
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### Research Quality

S.No.	Planned Activities	Year of execution
1	Promotion of research culture in the department through workshops, assignments and group discussions on existing and up- coming research areas. To work for projects such as SAP etc.	2018-19
2	Advance Orientation in using library resources, e resources, survey of literature and other latest avenues of research.	2019-20
3	Facilitate better research avenues for faculty through MOUs and collaborations with other institutes of higher learning .	2020-21
4	Venture into newer areas of research making research more socially relevant and contextually useful.	2021-22
5	Promote research efforts which have application in the field of ELT, Literary Theory, Creative Writing, New literatures and Bhasha Literature.	2022-23

### Course Employability

S.No.	Planned Activities	Year of execution
1	Introduction of report writing in curriculum of M.A.(P), offered Sanskrit( in addition to Hindi) as optional subject for M.A. Hons Five Year Integrated Course ( Semester I, II) for wider choices to students, increasing their avenues in both these areas.	2018-19
2	Proposed introduction of courses such as Creative Writing , Content Writing, Business Writing, and collaborative courses with Dept. of JMS on media and journalistic writing. Students will be guided by their mentors for the qualifying NET-JRF exams etc. Seeking help of Dept. alumni.	2019-20
3	Proposed collaboration with other institutions of higher learning( EFLU, IGNOU etc.) through online mode so that students can use the facilities from other universities or institutes and enhance their employability with newer courses.	2020-21
4	Establish tie ups with local universities such as SUPVA, PGIMS and police depts. for soft skills teachers .	2021-22
5	Rethink over up- coming areas/courses with better chances of employment.	2022-23



### **Inclusiveness and Social Impact**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Planned Activities</b>	<b>Year of execution</b>
1	Social outreach initiative to nearby village.	2018-19
2	Proposed visit to a school in the vicinity for teaching of grammar and plantation of saplings on the entry point of the DEPT.	2019-20
3	Proposed visit to AIR to deliver lectures on English language and literature for benefit of wider and informal groups also.	2020-21
4	Deliver text based and general lectures on local and global issues such as global warming, gender, race, ethnicity, religion and culture issues	2021-22
5	Engage students of different depts..for better soft skills. Also lectures on socially relevant issues such as hygiene, literacy, sex ratio etc.	2022-23

### **Extension Activities and Collaborations**

<b>S.No.</b>	<b>Planned Activities</b>	<b>Year of execution</b>
1	Social outreach initiative to nearby village	2018-19
2	The department will collaborate with village panchayat and schools to disseminate social messages such as ban on plastic, cashless transaction, good hygiene and sanitation in the village. Deliver free lectures to disabled and destitute children.	2019-20
3	The dept proposes to establish a centre for North-Eastern Studies in collaboration with NEHU	2020-21
4	The dept. proposes to establish an ecology awareness centre through tie ups with various such bodies in the country.	2021-22
5	Build strategic partnership with SUPVA, PGIMS, Rohtak , AIR, Rohtak etc. for frequent interaction with a variety of people from varied backgrounds, such as teachers, doctors, paramedical staff, artists, newspaper correspondents , etc.	2022-23

Sr. No.	Planned Activities	Dates Proposed
1	Guest Lecture	08 .08.2018
2	Induction programme for fresh entrants	20.08.2018
3	Fresh entrants visit to the library to attend library orientation programme	24.08.2018
4	Guest/extension lecture	17.10.2018
5.	Parent teacher meet	24.08.2018
6	Study tour	26.10.2018
7.	Semester exams	Dec 2018
8	Visit to AIR/SUPVA	16 <sup>th</sup> Feb.2019
9.	Seminar/workshop/alumni interaction	March 2019
10	Seminar for PhD research scholars	November and April 2019
11	Guest/ Extension lecture	17 <sup>th</sup> April 2019