



Master of Rural Studies

Mission: Empowering the Youth for Rural Development

Admissions Open 2026-27

About the Programme:

Masters of Rural Studies programme is a post-graduate degree programme initiated in the academic year 2013-14, dedicated to addressing the transformation of rural areas into agriculturally productive zones. Integrating concepts from Economics, Statistics, Environmental Studies, Management, and Rural Development, this interdisciplinary programme provides students with a holistic and analytical understanding of rural development processes and challenges.

In accordance with the National Education Policy of 2020 (NEP-2020), the programme's curriculum encompasses a multidisciplinary approach, providing students with theoretical knowledge and practical skills related to rural development. The coursework integrates hands-on field experiences to expose students to the realities of rural life, inspiring them to contribute to rural development through careers in teaching, research, entrepreneurship, and as practitioners in organizations and institutions engaged in the rural area transformation process.

Key Features:

- ✓ Demand driven industry-oriented and well-structured curriculum.
- ✓ Syllabus supportive for competitive examinations.
- ✓ Intensive fieldwork, OJT (On-the-Job Training), and practical exposure.
- ✓ Internship, apprenticeship, and research project component.
- ✓ Scholarships as per Government of Maharashtra rules.
- ✓ Placement support for diverse career opportunities.

Objectives of The Programme:

1. To nurture rural entrepreneurs capable of driving sustainable rural transformation.
2. To develop analytical skills to identify rural issues and design practical, evidence-based solutions.
3. To equip students with competencies in planning, implementation, and evaluation of rural development programmes.

4. To build capacity in policy analysis, research, and stakeholder engagement.
5. To foster leadership qualities, professional ethics, and overall personality development.

Career Opportunities:

1. Government and rural development services through competitive examinations.
2. Entrepreneurship in agribusiness, FPOs, and rural enterprises.
3. Project Officer/Coordinator roles in government schemes and NGOs.
4. Careers in microfinance and institutions such as National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development and Reserve Bank of India.
5. Opportunities in agro-based and rural industries.

Eligibility Criteria:

ANY Graduate with minimum 50% for Open category and 45 % for reserved category.

Fees & Intake:

- ♦ Annual Fee #: ₹10,936/- (Tuition Fee ₹8,100/- + Other Fees ₹2,836/-)
- ♦ For SC/ST/Border Area Students: ₹2,816/- per year (as per Government norms)
- ♦ Intake Capacity: 40 Students
- # Government scholarships/Freeships are also available

Duration of Programme:

Duration of the Programme is TWO years, divided into four semesters.

Admission Procedure:

- ♦ No entrance examination for admission.
- ♦ Admission will be merit - based - bachelor's degree performance
- ♦ Application forms must be submitted online only.
- ♦ For detailed information and online registration, visit the University website : <https://www.unishivaji.ac.in/admission/admission-links>

Application Fee: ₹300/- per application.

Programme Structure [NEP2020 CBCS]

Semester I - 550 marks

MM 1: Economic Analysis for Rural Enterprises	
MM 2: Statistical Foundations for Rural Development	
MM 3: Principles and Practices of Cooperatives	
MM 4: Fundamentals of Rural Development	
ME 1: Agriculture and Rural Development	
ME 2: Public Policy	
ME 3: Natural Resource Economics	} Opt. 1 Out of 4 ME
ME 4: Rural Insurance	
RM 1: Research Methodology	

Semester II - 550 marks

MM 5: Development Economics	
MM 6: Statistical Applications in Rural Planning and Policy	
MM 7: Rural Development Programmes	
MM 8: Rural Informatics and e-Governance	
ME 5: Social Indices for Rural Development	
ME 6: Gender Issues in Rural Development	
ME 7: Public Budget and Budgetary Process	} Opt. 1 Out of 4 ME
ME 8: Rural Industrialization and Entrepreneurship	
OJT/Field Work-I	

Semester III - 550 marks

MM 9: Social Welfare Administration	
MM 10: Banking and Rural Finance	
MM11: Machine Learning for Rural and Agricultural Development	
MM 12: Microfinance	
ME 9: Agribusiness and FPOs	
ME 10: Optimization Techniques for Rural Development	
ME 11: Economy of Maharashtra	} Opt. 1 Out of 4 ME
ME 12: Rural Project Management	
RP 1: Research Project/Field Work-II	

Semester IV - 550 marks

MM 13: Artificial Intelligence in Rural Governance and Development	
MM 14: Cooperatives and Rural Development	
MM 15: Indian Rural Livelihoods	
ME 13: Environment and Sustainable Development	
ME 14: Rural Innovations and Startup	
ME 15: Rural Analytics	
ME 16: NGO Management and CSR	} Opt. 1 Out of 4 ME
RP 2: Research Project/Field Work-III	

Total Marks-2200

For Detail information visit website:

<https://www.unishivaji.ac.in/mscadmission/>

For-Student-Information

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