

<p style="text-align: center;">DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCES</p>
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Introduction

The Department of Library and Information Sciences was established in 1985 within the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities. The Department is currently offering three programs, Certificate in Librarianship (CLS), Master of Library and Information Sciences (MLIS), and BS in Library and Information Sciences (BS4-LIS). These programs were respectively initiated in 1985, 2001, and 2019.

MPhil (Library and Information Sciences) Program

Objectives

The main objective to launch MPhil program is to contribute to the LIS literature internationally through high quality research particularly focusing on current and future needs. Secondly, there is a high demand from information professionals across Pakistan to have this program at the AIOU platform through unconventional means of education. Thirdly, there is a high number of LIS professionals working in Islamabad and Rawalpindi who intend to enhance their professional qualifications and they find no such program offered by public or private universities in this region. Other objectives include:

- To address the local issues in LIS and provide a viable solution through research.
- To enable LIS professionals to make informed decisions based on research.
- To promote evidenced-based LIS practice through the use of relevant research.

- To promote LIS research culture in Pakistan.
- To enrich Pakistani LIS research literature through a quality research.
- To endeavor to create a new knowledge in LIS.
- To instill critical and analytical thinking in research students.
- To instill information literacy skills in research students.
- To improve academic writing skills of LIS research students.
- To improve soft skills of LIS research students.
- To provide a specialized manpower to the LIS job market. and
- To promote information entrepreneurship by establishing industry-academia linkages through need-based research.

Eligibility Criteria and Procedure of Admission

MPhil in LIS is a merit-based program. Any candidate having master's degree in Library & Information Sciences/Information Management/Information Studies with at least 2.5/4.0 or 3.5/5.0 CGPA in semester system or second division (45% marks) in annual system or equivalent foreign degree from an HEC-recognized institution can apply for admission. The number of seats will be determined as per AIOU/HEC policy. The admission merit will be determined as under:

- Written test (max 70 marks, pass marks 60%)

A written test will be conducted according to prevailing practice in AIOU.

- Interview (max 25 marks, pass marks 60%)

Oral, face-to-face interview to judge the suitability of the candidate for the program.

- Publications (max 05 marks)

Paper(s) published in HEC-recognized journals, one mark for each paper (max 05 marks).

Note1: Written test and interview will be conducted at Main Campus, Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU), H-8, Islamabad. No TA/DA or other expenses will be on the part of AIOU. Admission/entry test fee Rs.1,000 (One Thousand) per student per attempt applies.

Note 2: Student should write “MPhil Admission Form” on the envelope. After merit determination, the University would intimate by post or other means (e.g. website, email, SMS) to all those candidates whose names would come on merit. That intimation would also contain admission offer along with information on depositing prescribed fee. Candidates are advised to keep on watching websites of LIS Department <<http://lis.aiou.edu.pk/>> and AIOU <www.aiou.edu.pk> for updates. Our Facebook ID is <LIS@AIOU official>.

Interested candidates will be required to purchase prospectus and send admission form along with required documentation (without admission fee) directly at the following address by the closing date:

MPhil Coordinator
Department of Library and Information Sciences
Block 6, Allama Iqbal Open University, H-8, Islamabad

Pre-requisites from MPhil (LIS) Students

An MPhil (LIS) student must have a computer with internet connection to successfully complete this program.

MPhil Duration

This program spans minimum two years, one year for coursework and one year for thesis writing and submission. The extensions in coursework and thesis may be granted as per AIOU rules.

MPhil Coursework

There will be a two-semester MPhil coursework of 30 credit hours, consisting of ten courses of three credit hours each. All courses are of 100 marks each. The semester-wise breakup of the courses is as under:

1st Semester

Sr#	Course	Code	CrHrs
1	Advances in Library and Information Sciences	8731	3
2	Philosophy and Theory of Library and Information Sciences - I	8732	3
3	Philosophy and Theory of Library and Information Sciences - II	8733	3
4	Quantitative Research	8734	3
5	Qualitative Research	8735	3

2nd Semester

Sr#	Course	Code	CrHrs
1	Emerging Trends in Information Behaviour Research	8736	3
2	Research Resources in Library and Information Sciences	8737	3

3	Data Analysis Tools	8738	3
4	Aids to Research	8739	3
5	Academic Writing and Publishing	8740	3
Subsequent Semesters			
1	Thesis	8741	12

Research Proposal and Thesis (Third and Subsequent Semesters)

Third semester will begin with a 2-week thesis/synopsis orientation workshop. Following the orientation workshop students will be given a stipulated time as per AIOU rules to prepare and submit their research proposal against the approved topic. New, innovative, and interdisciplinary research topics/problems with particular reference to Pakistan will be emphasized aimed at contributing to LIS knowledge. After approval of their research proposal via a committee as per AIOU procedure they would work on their thesis under the guidance of a research supervisor. The research supervisor may preferably be from the LIS Department or may also be hired from other organizations/institutions as per AIOU approved rates and remuneration. The proposed list of internal/external members of research proposal review committee and thesis supervisors will be sent to the competent authority for approval, when needed. All other matters relating to thesis submission date, extension(s), evaluation/assessment, grading, and result/degree will be dealt with as per AIOU rules and guidelines.

Mode of Study

A hybrid, flexible approach has been adopted for this program. Unlike our MLIS program, there will be no tutorial classes in this program. Instead, two workshops, one each will be

conducted at the start and end of semester. Four days have been allocated for one course in each workshop making a total of 40 days' duration of two workshops, 20 days each, in each semester. Attendance in these workshops will be compulsory for every student as per AIOU rules. Any resident or overseas Pakistanis may apply for admission but they would have to come to AIOU, Main Campus, Islamabad, to attend the workshops if admission is granted.

Medium of Study

English language will be the medium of study. Students may not opt for any other language for any of the components of this program.

Assessment/Evaluation Criteria

Multiple criteria will be adopted to assess students' coursework as appended below.

1. Final exam (at the end of each semester) = 70% marks (pass marks 60%) to be conducted via the Examination Department of AIOU.
2. Any or all or combination of following components = 30% marks (pass marks 60% collectively).
 - Mid-term exam to be conducted and assessed by the resource person concerned.
 - Academic Paper/Essay/Article (MS Word processed in electronic format with proper citations and references as per APA style) to be assessed by the resource person concerned. The resource person concerned will assign a separate mini research project to each student (not to a group of students) at the first workshop. Students' work should also be checked with Turnitin for plagiarism.

- Assignment (MS Word processed in electronic format with proper citations and references as per APA style) to be assessed by the resource person concerned. The resource person concerned will give assignment at the first workshop. Students' work should also be checked with Turnitin for plagiarism.
- PowerPoint Presentation(s) of any or all of the above by each student (not a group of students) at the second workshop to be determined and assessed by the relevant resource person.

Fee Tariff

Item	Fee
Registration Fee (once, if not already registered with AIOU)	200
Admission Fee	1,000
Technology Fee + Postal Charges	150
Tuition fee per 3 Credit Hours course Rs.7,000 = (Rs.7,000×5 courses)	35,000
Books/CD (Rs.1,000 per course x 5 courses)	5,000
Lab fee (Rs.5,000 per semester)	5,000
Total fee for 1st Semester Rs.	46,350

Fee for subsequent semesters will be informed at the time of their admission.

Note: The AIOU reserves the right to make any change(s) anytime in this program partly or wholly without prior notice.

Faculty Members

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