

# UNIVERSITY OF CALCUTTA



DEPARTMENT OF BUDDHIST STUDIES  
ASUTOSH BUILDING  
KOLKATA

2025

## MA Buddhist Studies Entrance Syllabus

### Overview:

The Entrance Examination for the MA in Buddhist Studies program is designed to assess the applicant's foundational knowledge and aptitude for advanced studies in Buddhist philosophy, history, and culture. The examination covers a range of topics, including Buddhist doctrines, historical developments, and critical thinking skills.

### I. Buddhist Philosophy and Doctrine

#### I. Buddha and His Teachings

Life and times of Gautama Buddha

The Four Noble Truths

The Eightfold Path

#### II. Buddhist Schools of Thought

Theravada, Mahayana and basic philosophical concepts in each school

#### III. Canonical Texts

Study of Pali Canon and Mahayana sutras

Understanding basic texts like the Dhammapada, Lotus Sutra, and Heart Sutra

### II. Buddhist History and Culture

#### IV. Historical Development

Spread of Buddhism across Asia

Key historical events and figures

#### V. Buddhist Art and Architecture

Iconography and symbolism

Study of Buddhist stupas, temples, and sculptures

#### VI. Buddhism in Contemporary Society

Buddhism's influence on modern culture

Challenges and adaptations in the contemporary world

Note: Applicants are encouraged to prepare thoroughly by studying primary texts, historical developments, and contemporary applications of Buddhist thought.