

Add-on courses a hit in DU

From Biotech To Forensic Sc, Students Have Many Options

Neha Pushkarna | TNN

New Delhi: From the glamour of TV to the thrills of investigation. From the concerns of environment to the nuances of different languages — students can learn all that and more in Delhi University even as they go for a regular degree course. Many colleges in DU offer trendy and attractive add-on courses that students can take up even as they pursue the formal course.

Though two years ago the university had instructed each college to limit the number of add-on courses to nine, they are still a large variety of these available in the colleges for “value addition”. For instance, Ramjas College offers six add-on courses including forensic science, conflict resolution, bio-

technology and capital market programme. SGTB Khalsa College offers a certificate course each in sports economics and marketing and web journalism. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya College also offers various short-term and add-on courses in fingerprinting and document examination, personality development through theatre and certificate and diploma in Russian language. According to colleges, these courses give an edge to the students after they graduate as they broaden their knowledge base. For colleges, these courses also mean added income. The courses are open mainly to students of DU though some colleges also admit outsiders.

Though colleges charge a bomb for these courses, which usually start after August and run for two-three months, the response of students only indicates the popularity of some of these courses. “We are running

four add-on courses and personality development is the most popular. We have two

batches of students pursuing this course for which we invite the faculty from National School of Drama.” Many times colleges give preference to their own students while making admissions to these courses. Course fees range from Rs 5,000 to Rs 20,000 depending on the duration and faculty for the course. The language courses

are relatively cheaper as colleges get teachers from the university itself.

Jaswinder Singh, principal, SGTB Khalsa College, said, “These courses often help students pick up skills and explore different career options. Many of our students, who pursued the add-on course in sports, are now working with sports goods companies, media houses and many also worked as volunteers during the Commonwealth Games. We charge around Rs 7,000 for a year for this course as well as for web journalism. Such courses are self-financed.” The college has been running these courses for three years now. Another add-on course in forensic science has been developed into a full-fledged PG diploma course that costs Rs 20,000 for a year.

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