

Demand for M Phil in commerce stream

Mumbai University does not offer this course, causing students to go out of city to pursue it

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Mumbai university is the only university in the state to not offer Masters in Philosophy in the commerce stream. Despite recommendations and proposals from several colleges and the university for the past three years, the state government has still not given its approval to start this course.

While the varsity has been offering the M Phil course for arts and science stream, it has not extended this course to the commerce stream. Previously, the university used to offer this course but it was scrapped 10 years ago.

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EDUCATIONAL GAP

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years, due to student demands and academic requirements, the university has been recommending that this course be restarted.

Even a syllabus has been developed and kept ready for the course. But the colleges allege that the state government is unwilling to start the

course again.

"An M Phil is an extremely crucial course for PhD aspirants. It lays down the foundation for research, referencing and intensive study which is needed for the students. This background is beneficial for students working on their Ph Ds. However, only the com-

merce stream of the university does not offer this option," said a principal of a renowned commerce college in South Mumbai.

Since this course is not available in Mumbai, students are forced to seek admission in universities outside the city like Yash-

wantrao Chavan Open University or the Annamalai University in Chennai, which offer this course.

"Every year nearly 1200 commerce students seek admissions elsewhere. They are forced to live in hostels thereby increasing the expenditure on their M Phil education. Why should they look elsewhere, when MU can provide a course in Mumbai itself?" he added.

On the other hand, some principals say that even if the University starts the course, not many students will be interested in pursuing it.

"The course duration is of nearly two and half years. Not many students want to spend such a long time pursuing this course and then pursue a PhD. Students would rather opt for a PhD directly. This was the reason the course was stopped ten years ago," said Manju Nichani, principal, KC College, Churchgate.