**Annexure-3(a)**

**Overview of Schools**

The university offers Post Graduation degrees and PG Diplomas in the following four schools for the Academic Year 2018-2019.

1. **School of Ecology and Environment Studies**
2. **School of Historical Studies**
3. **School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions**
4. **School of Languages and Humanities**

**School of Ecology and Environment Studies**

The School of Ecology and Environment Studies (SEES) is defining the Nalanda Model of sustainable and inclusive development. It has its roots in local traditions, links past and present systems of knowledge and bridges the gap in understanding of environmental issues between the West and the East.

It is the first truly interdisciplinary School in India, and possibly the East Asian region, combining knowledge from the basic sciences, social sciences and humanities to train environmental leaders of tomorrow. Global intellectual engagement, through collaborative projects, tie-ups and exchanges with local and international institutions, is creating leaders representing an inter-connected Asia, championing ideas based on mutual understanding.

The School is trying to chart out the new social contract for science in the "century of the environment" by promoting dialogue among different bodies of knowledge and close interaction of different actors and organizations to tackle the challenges and opportunities arising in the contemporary world for promoting a sustainable future.

The 2-year Masters’ programme ensures a strong foundation in an interdisciplinary understanding of issues in ecology and environment. The school is presently promoting learnings on themes such as Human Ecology, Hydrology (including coastal and marine studies), Disaster Management, Food & Agriculture, Climate Change and Energy Studies.

**School of Historical Studies**

The School of Historical Studies follows a unique pedagogical focus that gives utmostimportance to experience and research-inspired teaching. Rather than following the well-trodden path of information-driven study of history, the School strives for critical thinking and the creation of experiential knowledge through rigorous enquiry and debate. Students are encouraged to follow their own research interests for classroom assignments and M.A. dissertation.

SHS is dedicated to engaging with questions on Asian and non-Asian histories. The focus areas of the School are History of Science, Civilizations of the East, Cultural Histories of South Asia, and Oral History. Foundation and elective courses offered by the Faculty draw from these above-mentioned focus areas

 The School has faculty members who have international research profiles and are trained in the fields of oral history, history of religions, East Asian social and religious history, early modern maritime history, economic and trade history, premodern Asia with a focus on South, Central and West Asia. Faculty members combine a rich variety of methodologies and disciplinary backgrounds to bear on their research and teaching of history including anthropology, sociology, archaeology, religious studies, philosophy, economics, and political science.

The 2-year Masters’ programme at the School has turned out promising scholars who have succeeded in obtaining post-graduate (PhD and MA) scholarships and admission in top ranked universities across the United States, Indonesia, and the Netherlands and so on.

**School of Buddhist Studies, Philosophy and Comparative Religions**

The School enjoys a unique distinction in a very special way. It emphasizes a deep anddistinctive study of Buddhist ideas and values and historically contextualizes those ideas in relation to other proximal philosophical and religious traditions such as Vedic, Sankhya, Yoga, and Tantra. Through an interdisciplinary/comparative curriculum we examine the wider social-historical-cultural contexts of the development of Buddhist traditions and the concurrent philosophical systems of Asia in general and of India in particular. Simultaneously, the School encourages the students to read the original Buddhist texts through classical languages such as Sanskrit, Pali, and Tibetan. The School particularly focuses on critical thinking and uses the theories and methodologies of the study of religion to explore the wider cultural and historical context of Buddhism and its related traditions such as Yoga, Vedanta, and other Hindu philosophical systems. Students are introduced to an interdisciplinary approach in which they read a wide range of literary and philosophical texts, take part in archaeological training, and are informed about a variety of methodological approaches that are crucial to the comparative and comprehensive understanding of religions. The faculty is well qualified and competent, highly proficient in their respective subjects. The faculty has exceptional research profiles from international foreign and native universities. Their efficient work in the past has brought a rare prestige to the School that has attracted a host of brilliant students from all over the world.

The 2-years Masters’ programme focuses on the dynamics of the spread of the Buddhist ideas, art, literature; archaeology of key Buddhist sites across Asia; the study of primary texts, inscriptions, and Buddhist art and other artefacts; the comparison of and interactions between various religious and philosophical traditions of Asia; and the theory and methods of the study of religious, philosophical, and Yoga traditions constitute some of the focus areas of the School.

**School of Languages and Literature/Humanities**

The School of Languages/ Humanities aims to equip the students with the ability to access rich resources in the language of their specialisation, to gain an appreciative and insightful understanding of the perspectives of the cultural context of the target-language and provide translation/interpretation from a foreign language into English or Hindi with sophistication and sensitivity. The School recognises translation and interpretation as an important intellectual and creative activity and seeks to realise a national capability in these areas through innovative courses of studies.

Mandate of the School is to foster advanced level of language proficiency, to provide training in spoken and written skill, to develop a holistic study of the language and its culture, involving key aspects of literature, history & religions and to cultivate translation skillfrom Sanskrit or a foreign language to English/Hindi.

The Schools commences its operations with one year Post Graduate Diploma Programmes in Japanese, Korean and Sanskrit, but it will gradually expand to include other programmes on Indian and foreign languages. The school also offers the following language courses: Pali, Tibetan, English and Hindi