

Frequently Asked Question

1) Why Cognitive Science?

Cognitive Science is an upcoming discipline in India and brings together an exciting set of individuals from different disciplines including psychology, philosophy, neuroscience, economics, computer science and linguistics with interesting research questions about brain and mind. This discipline has immense possibilities of research with a common goal i.e., to understand thought and behavior. Research in Cognitive science has implications for science and society.

2) What is the scope of Cognitive Science?

In principle, any field that involves dealing with humans and human interactions has room for cognitive science. Cognitive Science graduates primarily get placed in academics for research and faculty positions or research positions in the industry.

Academics: The Centre itself is motivated to encourage students towards academia and a life in science. Students graduating from CBCS have gone on to join International universities for both PhD and Post-Doctoral programmes and quite a few have become faculty members at IITs, and IIMs and other institutions in India.

Industry: In addition, students in the past have gone on to secure jobs in the fields of human-computer interaction, design, user experience, social decision making, marketing, data analytics etc in industry and NGOs. While scope of cognitive science in society continues to increase with recent employment of the field to understand human behaviour in healthcare, sanitation, nutrition, environmental science and other applied avenues.

3) Why CBCS?

CBCS was set up in 2002 and remains the premier institution to offer a course on cognitive science in India for the past 17 years. Over the years the Centre has with experience been able to establish formal course work and avenues of research in varied areas of interest as well as methodologies. The Centre has an excellent publication record in well reputed international Journals and edited volumes published by prestigious publishers like Elsevier, American Psychological Association (APA), Springer and Sage. Research facilities available include EEG/ERP systems, eye tracking labs, virtual reality labs, transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) tools, the upcoming non-human primate lab and a newly established neuroimaging facility with a fMRI scanner.

4) What do I need to know about Allahabad?

Allahabad is a heritage city and is now well connected by train, air and road with the neighboring cities. The city has all the facilities with adequate opportunities for sports, health, fitness, and outings. Although the course work at CBCS keeps the students occupied with readings, assignments and research work.

5) Do I need a particular background to pursue Cognitive Science?

Given the interdisciplinary nature of the field of cognitive science, you can apply to the course with almost any bachelor's degree. In fact the Centre encourages applications from students with different backgrounds, whether it be engineering, life sciences (zoology, biotechnology etc), mathematics, physics, chemistry, economics, philosophy, psychology, medical sciences, linguistics, neuroscience, computer science and many other areas of study.

6) How are classes conducted?

This is a regular taught course run across four semesters. The first two semesters have five courses each which are primarily foundational courses. Third and fourth semesters have three courses each with a Masters dissertation. Each student is trained in designing a study, designing experiments using a particular methodology be it psychophysics, eye tracking or EEG/ERP, data collection, analysis and thesis writing. Every week 2 classes are held for each course. Thus in the first semester students are to have 10 classes a week (5 courses). The classes are held for 2 hours each and are interspersed between 0900-1700. The classes are regular and on time. Some students will often have concerns about the language of instruction, here we would like to specify that all lectures are in English. Details about the structure of the masters program are available at <http://cbcs.ac.in/academics/msc/>

7) What is research life like at CBCS?

As a master's student, one spends two semesters focused on a master's thesis project. The aim is to develop a novel study and get a flavour for how research is done in cognitive science. Students in the past have employed various methods whether EEG/ERP, psychophysics, eye-tracking and other paradigms in their projects. The students are engaged in designing studies, choosing appropriate methodologies, collecting and analyzing data, all culminating into thesis writing. Students have done master's projects in areas of Attention, Perception, Psycholinguistics, Bilingualism, Decision Making, Emotions, Action and Cognitive Control, Eye movements, Consciousness, Meditation and various such sub-fields of cognitive science.

8) How do I prepare for COGJET?

Often students worry that they don't have a background in math or psychology or programming to give COGJET. The questions in the entrance however are set at introductory level and take this into consideration. Going through the syllabus and suggested readings are the recommended way to prepare for the exam. Please keep checking the COGJET website for any announcements or modifications in the syllabus for the entrance exam.

9) Where do I stay during the course?

The University does have student hostels. However, rooms at these hostels are limited and not enough to accommodate everyone, given Allahabad University has a huge student population. Most students at CBCS live off-campus. Reasonably priced accommodation are available near the campus in the form of PGs, private hostels etc for girls and boys separately. CBCS has students coming from all over the country including Delhi, Hyderabad, Pune, Mumbai, Kochi, Bangalore, Kolkata etc and students have been comfortable in terms of their stay and life at CBCS. There are student volunteers helping out with accommodation as well, for more details on this you can write to Anurag or call on 9113387607 (anurag.p@cbcs.ac.in) or mail to Ganga Tiwari ganga.t@cbcs.ac.in.

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