

F.No 12031/02/2022-ISS (e-48130)  
Government of India  
Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation  
ISS Division

Khurshid Lal Bhavan,  
Janpath Marg, New Delhi,  
Dated: 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2024.

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Online post Graduate Diploma Course (PGDAS), offered by ISI Kolkata. - reg.**

The undersigned is directed to circulate herewith the communication received from the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Kolkata (copy enclosed), regarding the Online Post Graduate Diploma Course (PGDAS), among all ISS officers.

2. The ISS officers may apply for the above said course.
3. This issues with the approval of Secretary, MoSPI.

Encl. As above.

*Suneel Kumar*

(Suneel Kumar)  
Deputy Director (ISS)  
Ph. No. 011-23455345

To

- (i) All ISS officers through official Website of MoSPI.
- (ii) Director, DIID, Computer Centre, R.K.Puram, New Delhi with a request to upload the same on Official Website of MoSPI.
- (iii) DDG (NSSTA), [Sh. J.S.Tomar], MoSPI, Greater Noida.

Copy to:

- (i) PSO to Additional Secretary, MoSPI, New Delhi.

## INDIAN STATISTICAL INSTITUTE

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No: SOSU/NC/24-25/22

Date: 20 August 2024

Dr Saurabh Garg IAS  
Secretary, MoSPI  
New Delhi

Office of Secretary  
By No. E-774650  
Date 28/08/24



Sub: Exploring enrolment in online Post Graduate Diploma Course (PGDAS) offered by ISI Kolkata for Officers trained by MoSPI

Dear Sir

It has transpired through our engagement with the Government of India and the governments of various states that there is a need of training of junior officers, who may be engaged in compilation and use of official statistics. The standardization of the System of National Accounts (SNA) and the imperative of developing statistical systems to meet Sustainable Development Goals have increased the urgency of such training.

The Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), which has been organizing training programmes for Indian Statistical Service (ISS) probationers and other officers for many years, has been receiving numerous requests for holding training programmes for junior officers. Short term training programmes are often hindered by scheduling conflicts, short duration of training and mismatch of the levels of reception and delivery. From these considerations, the National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA) had floated with ISI the idea of an online programme of substantially longer duration and flexible times of engagement. Following up on this idea, ISI has developed and launched an online course titled Post Graduate Diploma in Applied Statistics (PGDAS), from the academic year 2022-23. This course is ideal for junior officers in government service. Some of the attractive features of this course are given below.

- An online programme spanning two semesters, culminating in a post-graduate diploma awarded by the Indian Statistical Institute on successful completion.
- A set of basic courses followed by choice between two specializations: (a) Official Statistics (for compilers of official data) and (b) Data Analytics (for users of official data).
- Course material, including video lectures, prepared jointly by academic experts of ISI and retired officers with vast experience in the area of Official Statistics.
- Up to 20 hours of engagement per week including viewing of pre-recorded videos, perusing reading material, practice problems and graded assignments.
- Optional attendance in two hours of live interaction per week for clearing of doubts.
- Scope of deferral of subjects to a subsequent semester to accommodate variability in office workload.
- Scope of walking away at the halfway stage with a post-graduate certificate.
- Online delivery of the course by Coursera, a globally leading provider of online courses.
- Eligibility for enrolment for graduates in any subject proficient in school level mathematics.
- Selection on the basis of an online Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQ) test with a fixed passing threshold (unlike offline degree programmes of ISI).

The regular course fee for the two semesters is Rs. 4.5 lakhs, which should compare favorably with the expenses of a holding substantive on-site training programme after accounting for the efficacy. To the best of our knowledge, there is no comparable course offered anywhere in India, let alone by a public institution like ISI. More details about the programme is available at the following website.

[https://www.isical.ac.in/~deanweb/PGDAS\\_Brochure\\_6Aug2024.pdf](https://www.isical.ac.in/~deanweb/PGDAS_Brochure_6Aug2024.pdf)

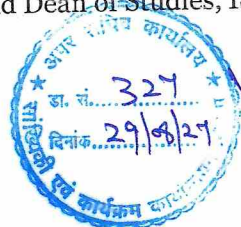
I request you to consider recommending this programme to the concerned departments/ units in various states for sponsoring their officers through training funds available under SSS or other suitable schemes.

Best Regards

N. Chattopadhyay  
(Nachiketa Chattopadhyay)  
Head, SOSU

Cc: Director, ISI and Dean of Studies, ISI

नचीकेता चट्टोपाध्याय / Nachiketa Chattopadhyay  
प्रमुख / Head  
प्रतिचयन और सांख्यिकी सांख्यिकी यूनिट  
Sampling and Official Statistics Unit (SOSU)  
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Handwritten signatures and initials: J D JSS, 29/10, ADDRESS-SHUKA

Handwritten signatures and initials: 29/08/24, 550 (RG)