

CU introduces Honours course in Library and Info Studies

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KOLKATA, 1 JUNE:

Calcutta University (CU) has introduced a Honours course in Library and Information studies, the first time it is running an honours course in the discipline.

The students will earn either BA honours or BSc honours degrees depending on what subjects they take for their pass papers.

The university is offering Mathematics, Statistics, Zoology and Chemistry for science students and Sociology, History, Education and Economics for humanities stu-

dents to be taken as pass subjects. Students can take the course right after completing their higher secondary, CU authorities said.

"This 3-year course in Library and Information Studies is new in the country. We are offering both BA or B.Sc degrees in Library and Information Studies depending on the pass papers chosen by the students," Pro-Vice Chancellor of CU (academic) Swagata Sen said.

The Registrar of the university, Rajagopal Dhar Chakraborti, said, "Actually it is for the first time that LIS courses will be studied under

the nomenclature of 3 year BA/B.Sc degree course which is parallel to other disciplines and students after passing 10+2 can take the course."

The university had earlier started a five year integrated course in Library Science where the university offered three degrees. But it had to be closed down as it clashed with the University Grants Commission's (UGC) norms which only allows integration of two degrees.

Many students were disappointed after the cancellation of the integrated course as very few universities conducted such thorough cours-

es in library science.

Taking into account the rising demand for Library Science the university made the effort to create this new course which was approved by the UGC. After the bifurcation of the course the university, will now award two degrees in library and information sciences - a three year (hons) degree along with a two year integrated B.Lib.I.Sc-M.Lib.I.Sc degree.

Professor Arabinda Maity, head of the department, said, "Previously those who wanted to study library sciences had to wait to complete honours courses in other streams as no

university offered honours in library sciences. However, now the students can study honours in this discipline and then take up the integrated course."

For this year there will be around 20 seats in the course and admission will be on the basis of academic results and performance in the written test which will be conducted on 24 June. Classes will be conducted in the University campus only, tentatively from 12 July. After accessing the response to this course, the university may also allow colleges affiliated to CU to conduct this course.

