

Courses for a career path less trodden

Colleges in Bengaluru are offering a range of new courses based on demand from the industry

Some niche courses

■ **BVA Sculpture** at Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath with specialisation in Ceramics
Eligibility: Pre-University Course

■ **M.Tech. Artificial Intelligence** at Indian Institute of Science
Eligibility: B.E./B.Tech. in Computer Science

■ **Diploma in Tea Tasting and Marketing** at Indian Institute of Plantation Management
Eligibility: Graduate

■ **B.Des. in knitwear design** at National Institute of Fashion Technology
Eligibility: Pre-University Course

■ **Diploma in Airline Ticketing** at Meridian International Institute
Eligibility: Pre-University Course

■ **Diploma in Airline Management** at Meridian International Institute
Eligibility: Pre-University Course

■ **PG Diploma in Sports Psychology** at Jain University
Eligibility: Graduate and sportsperson

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Professional courses such as engineering, dental, and medical continue to remain popular choices among students seeking tried-and-tested career paths, but in the past few years, colleges have observed an increased interest in some of their lesser-known offerings.

Many of the courses, such as data management and solid waste management, have been introduced by colleges over the last few years after seeing a demand from the industry. And city-based colleges too are waking up to the demand from the industry and tweaking the courses to make them more practical.

Here's a round-up of some of the more interesting courses on offer.

Data management

Big data is here to stay, and every field – be it science or arts – is flooded with information and data, making the science of sifting through vast amounts of information a much-needed skill. In response, several Bengaluru colleges have introduced courses in data sciences and data analytics at both post-graduate and undergraduate levels.

Faculty members point out that once students complete this course, they can take up roles as IT systems analysts, data engineers, data scientists, and business analysts, among others. Since 2016, the International Institute of Information Technology has been offering a PG Diploma in Data Science. The 11-month online course aims to make stu-

dents “skilled data science professionals at par with leading industry standards”.

Nethra Seshadri, senior manager (admissions) at Presidency University, said the demand for this specialisation stems from the increased opportunities that companies are providing. The university offers a full-time four-year B.Tech course in Data Science.

The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing offers a PG diploma in Big Data Analytics and Manipal Academy of Higher Education offers a PG diploma in Data Science.

Disaster management

With the city facing a crisis on handling garbage and in the light of the recent floods in Kodagu, Bangalore University has decided to introduce courses such as solid waste management and disaster management from the 2019-20 academic year.

M.Sc. in Solid Waste Management is a two-year course divided into four semesters. In the first two semesters, students will understand how waste processing is done, with a focus on waste segregation. The last two semesters entail studying treatment of waste, apart from segregating.

“Those who complete the

course may bag jobs with civic bodies or non-governmental organisations working in this area,” said Usha V. Murthi, a faculty member.

BU has also decided to offer a two-year M.Sc. course in Disaster Management. Ashok Hanjagi, senior professor, said, “Since the country has seen crises that relate to landslips, cyclones, and floods, this course aims to bring up solutions to such setbacks.” The primary focus will be on understanding natural catastrophes and studying under leading experts from Indian Institute of Remote Sensing located in Dehradun. There will also be seminars by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) experts.

The first two semesters will involve an understanding of the disasters that are caused and the reasons be-

hind them. The last two semesters will focus on acquiring practical knowledge as students will be taken on field studies for a better understanding of disaster management.

Those who complete the course may bag jobs at meteorological centres or ISRO, he said.

Aviation management

Colleges have been rather quick on the uptake in the backdrop of the problems in the aviation industry. Many have started offering aviation management as a course with the aim of training students to become effective managers who have an understanding of the industry.

“With more airports coming up in tier-3 towns and the government opening the aviation sector for FDI, many foreign companies have come forward to invest in our country's aviation sector,” said Aloysius Edward, Dean of Commerce and Management at Kristu Jayanti College. St. Clare College (SCC) in Bengaluru too offers specialisation in aviation management as part of its Bachelor of Business Administration curriculum.

Niharika Tak, a student of KJC who aspires to work in

this sector, said, “This course gives me a broad cross-functional exposure to the management aspect of the aviation industry and helps me get a clearer idea of the actual working of this sector.”

Students who do this course can look forward to a career in various fields in the sector such as business development, corporate planning and strategy, airport or airline operations management, passenger and ticketing services, passport checking, scheduling operations, ground/flight operations manager, marketing and logistic management, and aviation instructor.

‘Survival’ course

Knowing multiple languages will always hold a job applicant in good stead. Bengaluru Central University offers courses in foreign languages under the Centre for Global Languages. The languages offered are French, Japanese, Spanish, Chinese, and German. “Less popular languages in an academic setting such as Polish, Hebrew, and Dutch may also be introduced depending on the demand,” said Jyothi Venkatesh, coordinator of the centre.

It offers written courses as per the Common European Languages format, and is planning to introduce a new ‘survival’ course this academic year, which is aimed at imbuing fluency in conversation when speaking a foreign language. This will be a two-month oral course without written elements.

(With inputs from Dishari Ghosh, Kuhu Sabherwal, Gauri Rao, and Sanjana N.)

