

Most of MOOC learners in India after US, China

CLICK AND LEARN Computer science, app and web designing MOOCs are big hits with Indians



Gauri Kohli
gauri.kohli@hindustantimes.com

Online learning is gaining popularity worldwide. According to a study by online course provider Coursera, India has the third highest registrations at 1.3 million, after the US and China, for Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). In India, Coursera registrations grew by 70% from 2014 to 2015.

Among the top 10 countries, Indians are most interested in data science and computer science with 25% learners studying courses related to computer science, 19% taking up business-related courses and 18% pursuing programmes in data science. As many as 74% of Indian learners are male and 26% are female.

A course titled R Programming (a programming language and software environment for statistical computing and graphics) by Johns Hopkins University, US, is the most popular as of now. You can learn how to programme in R and use R for effective data analysis. The course covers practical issues in statistical computing. The R language is widely used among statisticians and data miners for developing statistical software and data analysis. Another course on the Coursera platform is titled Machine Learning by Stanford University. It provides a broad introduction to machine learning, data mining, and statistical pattern recogni-



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tion. The course also draws from numerous case studies and applications, so that one can also learn how to apply learning algorithms to building smart robots. If you are tech savvy and want to learn about mobile apps, you can opt for Build Your First Android App by CentraleSupélec University, France. You'll be provided a set of customisable building blocks that can be assembled to create many different types of apps, and that familiarises you with many important specificities of Android development.

Mastering Data Analysis in Excel by Duke University teaches the concepts and mathematical methods behind the most powerful and universal metrics used by data scientists. If you want a crash course in improving grammar, a course titled Grammar and Punctuation by University of California, Irvine, will help. A similar course is also on offer on the EdX platform. Titled English Grammar and Essay Writing,

HOW INDIANS FARE IN MOOCs

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India is the 3rd largest online learning market with 1.3 million learners

this five-week course is offered by experts from University of California Berkeley. It introduces students to academic writing for English language learners, focusing on essay development, grammatical correctness, and self-editing.

A nine-week course titled Programming Basics from IIT Bombay will help you learn basic computer programming skills and master the art of writing C/C++ programmes to solve real world problems.

Learning how to tell an interesting story with communication design

Michael Dotolo

Communication design is all about telling a story. It involves the use of certain tools such as graphics, moving images etc to communicate a story to people. Communication design helps students to develop a personal and visual vocabulary using skills to build artistic expression, creative strategy and design thinking, along with appropriate software tools. It equips students for content development in diverse media like motion graphics, graphics, moving image, which can be applied to video and film production, web and app design, and other interactive media.



Michael Dotolo.

How fashion media communication is different from communication design

Communication design and fashion media communication are relatively two different fields. Fashion media communication provides students with skills required for communicating fashion through various media formats such as journalism (print, electronic or new media), events and promotions, visual merchandising, styling, graphic design, display and exhibit design, advertising, public relations and creative writing in context of fashion promotion.

Communication design on the other hand equips students with knowledge to create engaging content through two pathways. Graphic design is one pathway which helps a student develop professional knowledge of print and digital media through branding, packaging and corporate design, book and magazine design, exhibition

design, typography, etc. The second pathway, interactive and digital design, allows students to explore the possibilities of designing with a variety of time-based media types, like moving image, animation, and sound with strong study of human behaviour and interaction.

The interesting jobs

Communication design is already a dominant creative professional field, which reflects a set of skills that are applied to specialisations for a variety of job opportunities. One can choose to become a graphic designer / print designer / exhibition designer / retail space designer / art director / advertising professional / interactive media / professional or an entrepreneur. As the field is growing, the industry demand for creative professionals in this creative domain is also growing in many new and exciting directions.

Skill sets that can give students a competitive edge in communication design

To become a successful professional in communication design one needs to have a good understanding of developing concepts using the techniques of digital media production. The individual also needs to think creatively, be able to research trends and technological developments, and effectively plan project, which will involve a variety of media types. Additionally, networking, communication skills and knowledge of social media and marketing too plays a significant part in creation of a complete professional.

Selecting a design school for this course

A student should definitely consider the faculty experience, employability, industry exposure, international experience, and a fostering of entrepreneurship that is provided by an institute, before choosing a design school.

On the other hand, the institute should also be forward looking and prepare its students for what's coming next and not just what already exists. This is particularly true with communication design, where media and how it is delivered to the individual, evolves so quickly. Students must be trained for a better tomorrow and should excel in a dynamic industry.

The author is interactive media designer and area head, School of Design at Pearl Academy. The views expressed in the article by him are his personal views and not of Pearl Academy.

COURSE-TO-CAREER-ANTHROPOLOGY

For those really keen to understand man socially, culturally and biologically



Vinay Kumar Srivastava
vinaykumar@hindustantimes.com

Anthropology is one of the few disciplines taught both in the faculties of science and arts in different universities. It is a holistic study of human societies and populations. For anthropologists, humans are biological and socio-cultural beings. With an integration of these two, they hope to have a total understanding of human life and its predicaments.

As anthropology bridges biological and social sciences, it is conveniently divided into branches that study bio-genetic aspects of humans and those which focus on the diversity of society and culture in time and space. The prime branches are physical (or biological) anthropology, social and cultural anthropology, prehistoric archaeology, and linguistic anthropology. Each of these branches is divided into sub-specialisations, giving anthropology an enormously complex character. What, however, unites anthropology is its objective of knowing human beings in the totality of their living.

Anthropology began in the late nineteenth century as a specialised study of the so-called simple societies, which are today called 'tribes'. The insights from the study of these people questioned many Western assumptions, which led to the popularity of anthropology in other disciplines. With the passage of time, anthropological writings have enriched researches in other subjects, bringing in place a number of collaborative studies of both applied and theoretical nature.

CAREER AVENUES
Looking at what anthropologists can do for a systematic understanding of human life and its

LOOKING AT WHAT ANTHROPOLOGISTS CAN DO FOR A SYSTEMATIC UNDERSTANDING OF HUMAN LIFE AND ITS PROGRESS, MORE UNIVERSITIES IN INDIA ARE ESTABLISHING ANTHROPOLOGY DEPARTMENTS

improvement, more and more universities in India are establishing departments of anthropology. For provincial and civil services examinations, anthropology is a good option, for it also strengthens the understanding of a wide variety of social and cultural issues that are included in the papers on general studies.

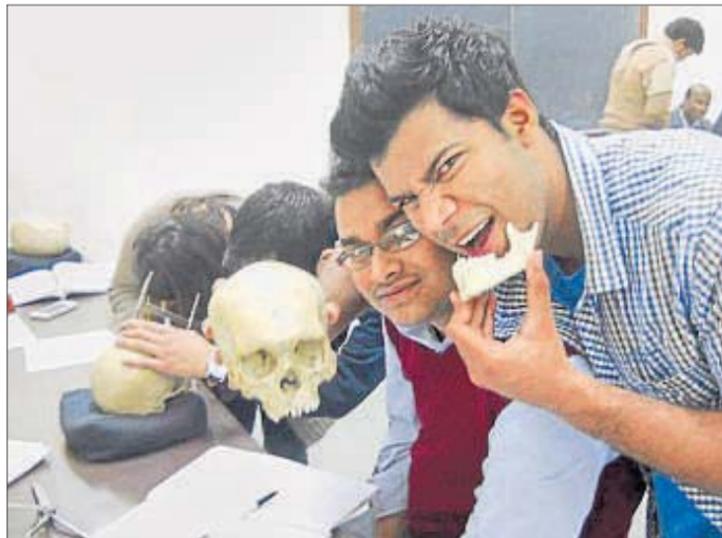
The Anthropological Survey of India, an institution under the Ministry of Culture of the Central government, provides employment opportunities at different levels. Since anthropologists are trained in the study of technology and material culture, issues of heritage, and cultural complexes of agricultural and pre-agrarian communities, they are able to seek placement in museums as well. Anthropologists can get jobs in genetics and biotechnological laboratories, forensic science institutes, sports colleges, designing units, and medical and nursing colleges, for facilitating research studies. For conducting surveys and intensive studies, different organisations, including the corporate world, engage anthropologists. Since it is well recognised that social and cultural variables condition the process of development and change, NGOs and institutions of planning and progress (such as the World Bank) employ anthropologists to be a part of the team that steers the agencies of change.

Where teaching positions are concerned, anthropologists are employed, apart from their departments, in institutes teaching sociology, home science, community and social medicine, education, gender study, culture study, and peace and conflict studies.

SKILLS REQUIRED

Many opt for a degree in anthropology because they wish to appear in a competitive examination with this subject. For some, it may be the only available option. However, it has been noted that those who willingly choose to read anthropology are highly motivated to know as profoundly as possible the vagaries of human life. That is perhaps the only skill required. In many universities, science students, who have also studied biology, are preferred because the branch of physical anthropology requires knowledge of bio-genetic aspects. This eligibility, however, is not adhered to in other universities, which consider students from all streams.

The author is professor and head, Department of Anthropology, Delhi University



Students of the anthropology department at the University of Delhi. SOURCE: DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY DELHI UNIVERSITY FACEBOOK PAGE

COURSES AND JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

A master's degree in anthropology can open the doors to jobs in several institutions

Degree	Institution	Position	Nature of job
MA/MSc (preferably with a doctorate, or research experience)	Anthropological Survey of India (ASI), Survey of India, Census of India	Research associate, assistant anthropologist, anthropologist, research officer	Research, writing of reports
-Do-	Tribal Research Institutes (TRIs)	Research officer	Conducting research projects
All the above with National Eligibility Test	University/college departments of anthropology, sociology, environmental study, gender studies, home science	Assistant professor	Teaching and research
MA/MSc (preferably with a doctorate, and specialisation in prehistoric archaeology/material culture)	Museums (particularly ethnographic museums)	Curator, assistant curator	Accession of exhibits, planning their display and writing their accounts
Master's degree, preferably with specialisation in medical anthropology	Healthcare and research organisations like World Health Organisation	Research officer	Working on research projects
Master's degree	United Nations bodies	Research and advisory role	Research work
-Do-	NGOs	Research officer	Research work, implementation of projects, consultancy
Master's degree, preferably with specialisation in anthropology	Biochemical, serological, forensic, molecular genetics laboratories	Research officer	Carrying out research on various physical projects

Registrations begin for the first ever six-week TOEFL MOOC

HT Education Correspondent
hteducation@hindustantimes.com

You can now register for the new TOEFL Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) through edX, the non-profit online learning destination founded by Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The course is a unique opportunity for you to prepare for the TOEFL and develop English-language skills that universities, agencies and institutions look for in applicants. TOEFL Test Preparation: The Insider's Guide, beginning June 13, 2016, is a six-week course designed by the experts who created the TOEFL. Each week will focus on different aspects of the test. There will be a general introduction in week one, followed by a week for each of the four skills tested—reading, listening, speaking and writing—then concluding in week six with test-day information and other helpful tips.

You can expect a mix of short lectures, including inside the TOEFL videos for each question type and sample questions from past tests complete with answer explanations. There will be several opportunities for you to take short quizzes so you will have a good sense of what to expect on test day.

During the speaking and writing lectures, the team that developed the TOEFL test will review a handful of responses and provide evaluation and feedback. You will also get to meet and share information with students from around the world through discussion boards.

The MOOC is the latest addition to the TOEFL test preparation portfolio and provides greater access to the creators of the TOEFL than ever before on a familiar platform to students. You can expect offers on additional TOEFL test prep throughout the course for extra preparation ahead of test day. You will walk away with a broad understanding of the sections of the test as well as helpful tips to prepare for the TOEFL test. You will also find out how to register, how the test is scored and where TOEFL scores are accepted. Weekly commitment to the MOOC is no more than two hours per week. Though the course is free, you will have the option to sign up for a paid certificate that will highlight the knowledge and skills you gained upon completing the MOOC. The course is accessible with an Internet connection on most devices. Visit www.edx.org/course/toefl-test-preparation-insiders-guide-etss-toefl for registration.



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