

## **Institutional Distinctiveness**

Presidency University, erstwhile Hindoo/Presidency College, is an institution that has always stood for a set of well-defined instructional and social values through its existence spanning almost two centuries. In recognition of its rich heritage of academic excellence, the Legislature of West Bengal conferred the status of a University on Presidency College on 7th of July, 2010. This was enacted with a view to enable Presidency University to function more efficiently as a centre of teaching and research in various branches of learning, especially in the Humanities, Basic and Social Sciences, and to promote the advancement and dissemination of knowledge and learning in the service of the society and the nation. Subsequently, UGC has recognized Presidency University U/S 12B of the UGC Act and has accorded Presidency University the status of an Educational Institute of National Eminence. Presidency looks forward to being a university with a perfect balance between teaching and research, strong in its basic focus areas of the natural sciences, the life sciences, the humanities, and the social sciences, yet innovative in exploring new emerging areas such as the Digital Humanities, Computational Biology, Performance Studies, Astrophysics, Big Data Analysis and Materials Science. Presidency University intends to combine blue skies research, which has always been its strength, with social and environmental awareness and impact research. The unique combination of continuity and new beginnings that is shaping Presidency University gives it an unusual vitality and resilience which can create a true center of excellence and help it to become one of the top 25 universities in the world with global faculty, international students and world class facilities. Presidency University has a fourfold mission. Firstly, the university aims to construct new academic domains by bridging the humanities, the social sciences, computational sciences, and the natural sciences into viable programmes and projects through interdisciplinary methodologies and researcher interaction. This aims at facilitating the formation of new kinds of knowledge and in forging links between local, national, and international levels of scholarly collaboration. Secondly, the university seeks to offer a comprehensive pedagogic reform by introducing higher education students to basic as well as new interdisciplinary choice based curricula and research domains. Thirdly, Presidency will connect with academic institutions outside India (global outreach) through credit-transfer facility, e-connectivity, collaborative interdisciplinary projects, student exchange, and flexible pedagogic schemes inviting scholars from outside India to teach on their areas of expertise. Fourthly, Presidency will offer its new research and pedagogic schemes to academic communities (universities, colleges, and schools, for example) as well as to the wider public, particularly in remote areas. The university aspires to address practical concerns of marginalized communities and classes in the target areas by addressing their socio-economic and cultural needs through focused interdisciplinary research, with an integrated and comprehensive policy vision on a hitherto unprecedented scale. Presidency aims to connect global, national, and local level intellectual domains, in order to produce cutting edge research in significant fields that are yet to be addressed comprehensively. This will be done by bridging the gaps between the humanities.