

**SREENARAYANAGURU OPEN
UNIVERSITY, KOLLAM**

The State University for Education, Training and Research in
Blended format, Kerala

Kureepuzha, Kollam, Kerala-691601

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PROSPECTUS 2026

**ONE-YEAR DIPLOMA PROGRAMME IN
SREE NARAYANA GURU'S LIFE AND
PHILOSOPHY**

Chancellor

Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

Hon'ble Governor of Kerala

Pro Chancellor

Dr. R. Bindu

Hon'ble Minister for Higher
Education Government of Kerala

Vice Chancellor

Prof. (Dr.) Jagathy Raj V. P.

Registrar

Prof. (Dr.) Abhilash Babu

Finance Officer

Smt. Saranya M. S.

Controller of Examinations

Prof. (Dr.) Ananda Resmi S

Cyber Controller

Shri. Bijumon T.

Recognition

1. Sreenarayanaguru Open University was established as a State University vide Ordinance No. 45 of 2020. Subsequently, the Sreenarayanaguru Open University Act 1 of 2021 of the Kerala State Legislative Assembly has legitimised its identity.
2. The University Grants Commission (UGC), Vide letter No. F. No. 9-17/2020 (CPP-I/PU) dt. 29/01/2021, informed that Sreenarayanaguru Open University, Kollam, Kerala, has been included in the list of Universities established as per 2(f) of the UGC Act 1956.
3. The University Grants Commission (UGC) vide letter F.No.3-5/2022(DEBI14) dt.02/09/2022 informed that as per the Regulation 22 of University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) regulations, 2020 stipulates that “Degrees at undergraduate and postgraduate level in conformity with UGC notification on Specification of Degrees, 2014 and, Post Graduate Diplomas awarded through Open and Distance Learning mode and/or Online mode by Higher Educational Institutions, recognised by the Commission under these regulations, shall be treated as equivalent to the corresponding awards of the Degrees at undergraduate and postgraduate level and post graduate diplomas offered through conventional mode”.

Profile

Sreenarayanaguru Open University

Sreenarayanaguru Open University was established by the Govt of Kerala in September 2020 vide the Government Ordinance No. 45 of 2020. The University is named after Sree Narayana Guru, the great sage, philosopher, poet and social reformer of modern India. Having been established as the 15th State University of Kerala, Sreenarayanaguru Open University aims to strengthen the structural dynamics of academic operations to ensure quality, inclusive education for all, regardless of age, creed, gender or religion. The University was officially dedicated by Sri. Pinarayi Vijayan, the Hon. Chief Minister of Kerala, on 2nd of October, 2020. The State Legislature of Kerala unanimously enacted the Sreenarayanaguru Open University Act in 2021 January. In pursuance of the legal procedures, Sreenarayanaguru Open University was accorded recognition under sections 2(f) and 22 of the University Grants Commission Act of 1956.

Pathway, Vision and Mission

Pathway

The University has drawn up its vision, mission and pathway based on the broad institutional priorities discerned through its interactions with the public. The University has begun its journey with the statement of the pathway. It reads as: **Access and Quality define Equity.**

Vision and Mission of the University

Vision: To increase access of potential learners of all categories to higher education, research and training, and ensure equity through delivery of high-quality processes and outcomes, fostering inclusive educational empowerment for social advancement.

Mission: To be benchmarked as a model for the conservation and dissemination of knowledge and skill in blended and virtual modes in Education, Training and Research for normal, continuing, and adult learners.

Campuses of the University

The campuses of the Sreenarayanaguru Open University include its headquarters in Kollam and five Regional Centres at Kollam, Tripunithura, Pattambi, Kozhikode and Thalassery, and Learner Support Centres (LSC's) across the State.

The Learner Support Centre for the diploma programme will be notified to registered learners before the commencement of the programme. Please note that the allotted Learner Support centre may change based on batch availability.

Introduction

The One-Year Diploma Programme in Sree Narayana Guru's Life and Philosophy is designed to provide a comprehensive and critical understanding of the life, thought, and legacy of Sree Narayana Guru. The Programme enables learners to engage with his biographical, social, cultural, religious, and philosophical contributions, placing them within the wider context of Kerala's socio-political transformation and broader intellectual traditions. It examines his engagement with Advaita Vedanta alongside a human-centred and socially responsive outlook, highlighting his efforts to challenge rigid social hierarchies and promote equality and dignity. Learners will study the historical background of pre-Guru Kerala, analyse his literary and poetic works, and consider his interactions with contemporaries such as Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore. Through a structured, interdisciplinary approach, the programme also addresses the continuing relevance of his ideas to social justice, religious harmony, and ethical living, while offering a flexible learning experience through its hybrid delivery.

Programme Details

Programme Title: Sree Narayana Guru's Life and Philosophy

Level of the Programme: Diploma

Duration: One Year (Two Semesters)

Total Credits: 24 Credits (12 Credits per Semester)

Number of Courses: 4 Courses ($4 \times 6 = 24$ Credits)

Mode of Delivery: Hybrid (Combination of Online and Offline delivery)

Medium of Instruction: Malayalam

Objectives

- To enable learners to understand the social and political background of Kerala society before and after Sree Narayana Guru.
- To facilitate a critical exploration of Sree Narayana Guru's biography, including his education, spiritual journey, and social interventions.
- To analyse the Guru's religious and social reforms and their role in shaping a modern Kerala founded on social justice, inclusiveness, and human dignity.
- To familiarise learners with the Guru's literary contributions, including his stotras, philosophical writings and speeches.
- To provide a foundational understanding of both Indian and Western philosophical systems in relation to the Guru's philosophy.
- To recognise the significance of the Guru's universal messages regarding education, organisation, and religious harmony in today's global context.

Programme Outcome

Upon completing the Programme, learners will be able to:

- Evaluate Kerala's socio-cultural changes and the history of the Renaissance movement.
- Understand the impact of the Guru's temple installations and his efforts in eradicating untouchability.
- Gain the ability to interpret the Guru's major works, such as Atmopadesasatakam and Daivadasakam.
- Acquire the skills to compare the Guru's non-dualistic philosophy with other major world religions and schools of thought.
- Understand the practical implications of the Guru's "Pancha Dharma" and his economic and educational views.

Target Group and Eligibility

Target Group: Open to all learners interested in the life, philosophy, and legacy of Sree Narayana Guru and his contributions to social reform.

Eligibility: A pass in SSLC or an equivalent examination recognised by the University.

Age Limit: There is no upper age limit for admission.

Course - wise Syllabus of the Programme

The Discipline focuses on the critical reading of texts to understand, critically explore, and effectively employ Sree Narayana Guru's biographical, social, religious, cultural, and philosophical distinctions and their potential implications across various dimensions of history. It also postulates a framework to recognise their relevance and significance in the contemporary world.

COURSE- I

Credits -6

SREE NARAYANA GURU'S LIFE AND TIMES

Block I

Kerala Before the Guru

A brief history of Travancore, Kochi and Malabar in the nineteenth century –Missionary movements - Channar rebellion and breast cloth struggle Uzhiyam vela – Ayya Vaikunda Swamikal – Arattupuzha Velayudha Panikkar – Malayali memorial – Ezhava memorial – Travancore, Kochi and Madras - Renaissance organisations – Movements for social justice.

Block II

Life of the Guru

Guru's ancestors and family– birth, childhood, education, wandering, avadhoota vritti–meeting Chattambi Swamikal–meeting Thaikattu Aiyjavu–Tapas–installation of Aruvippuram Temple and messages – Foundation of SNDP Yogam – The Great Universal Message for education and organisation. Established Sivagiri Mutt at Varkala- Idea of Mata Maha Padasala – Established Educational Institutions.

Block III

Guru and Other Social and Spiritual Personalities

Sri Ramakrishna–Swami Vivekananda – Dayananda Saraswati- Atmaram Panduranga – Raja Rammohan Roy -Aurobindo Ghosh- Ayya Vaikundhar. Guru and world philosophers and masters of humanity – Buddha, Mahavira, Jesus, Prophet, Sikh Gurus, Tamil Siddhas, Sufis, Kabir, Phule, Periyar, Ayyothee Thasar, Ambedkar. Famous personalities who visited Guru: Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, C.F. Andrews. Meeting with contemporary spiritual Gurus – Chattampi Swamikal - Ramana Maharishi and Vagbhatananda, Ayyankali – Daivatan (through Mooloor) – Kesavasastri - mobilising the poets, literary and cultural interventionists – Mooloor, Karupan, Asan, Sahodaran.

Block IV

Legacy of Narayana Guru

Ascetic Disciples - Sivalinga Dasa Swamikal - Satyavrata Swamikal - Bodhananda Swamikal - John Dharmatirtha Swamikal - Nataraja Guru - Govindananda Swamikal - Ernest Kirk - Swami Anandatirtha - Vidyananda Swamikal - Chaitanya Swamikal - Household Disciples - Dr Palpu - Kumaranasan - Sahodaran Ayyappan - T. K. Madhavan - Mooloor S. Padmanabha Panicker - C. V. Kunjiraman - C. Kesavan - Mitavadi Krishnan - T. T. Kesava Sastri - Kuttippuzha Krishnapillai.

COURSE II

Credits -6

RELIGIOUS AND SOCIAL REFORMS OF SREE NARAYANA GURU

Block 1

Sree Narayana Guru and Temple installations

Aruvippuram Message – Concept behind temple installations through Guru’s words - Role of temple installations in eradicating the untouchability – Freedom of worship through temple installations.

Block II

The Social reforms of Sree Narayana Guru and his Movement in Kerala

Reformation of rituals and customs – Kettukalyanam – Tirandukalyanam – Pulikudi – Evil worship – New marriage custom – Abandonment of alcohol – Propagation of modern education – Vidyakondu Prabuddharakuka.

Block III

Sree Narayana Movement and Other Reformatory Organisations

Samghatanakondu saktharaakuka – Formation of SNDP Yogam – Role of SNDP Yogam in Kerala Renaissance - SNDP Yogam leaders in legislative councils – Struggle for social justice through legislative councils – Role of Sree Narayana Guru and SNDP Yogam in Vaikom Satyagraha movement – Sree Narayana Guru and National movement – Sree Narayana Guru's approach to British rule – Sree Narayana movements and other renaissance movements – Sadhu Jana Paripalana Samgham, Ayyankali, Arayavamsa Paripalana Yogam, Velukkutti Arayan -Vala Samudaya Parishkarini Sabha, Pandit Karuppan-Kochi Pulaya Mahasabha - Nair Service Society, Mannath- Padmanabhan - Yoga Kshema Sabha – Reformation in Namboothiri Community, V. T. Bhattathiripad – Sahodara Samgham, Sahodaran Ayyappan - Ananda Maha Sabha, Brahmananda Sivayogi – Atma Vidya Samgham, Vagbhadananda – Pratyaksha Raksha Daiva Sabha, Poikayil Sree Kumaragurudevan (Poikayil Appacchan) – Brahma Prathyaksha Sadhujana Sabha, Kavarikkulam Kandan Kumaran. Travancore Labour Union, Vadappuram

T. K. Bhava - Economical view of Sree Narayana Guru, vyavasaayam kondu abhivridhippetuka.

Block IV

Sree Narayana Guru and Religious Harmony

“Matham ethayalum Manushyan Nannayal Mathi” - Sarvamatha Sammelanam at Aluva in 1924 – Guru's message, “Vaadhikkanum jayikkanum alla Ariyaanum Ariyikkanumaanu – Organisers - Participants – Welcome speech – Guru's ideology on all religious teachings – Essence of major religions – Hinduism – Christianity – Buddhism – Islam – Foundation of Brahma

Vidhyalaya at Sivagiri - C. V. Kujiraman's interview with Sree Narayana Guru - Sivagiri Pilgrimage – Message to Sivagiri Pilgrimage – Its eight goals – Conversation with Vallabhasseri Govindan Vaidyer and T. K. Kitten Writer - Guru's Pancha Dharma and Panchaseela for Pilgrimage - Symbolism of the yellow robe-Sahodarya Sammelanam 1921.

COURSE III

Credits -6

WRITINGS AND SPEECHES OF SREE NARAYANA GURU

Block I

Selected Sthotra Works of Sree Narayana Guru

Daiva Dasakam- Sivaprasada Panchakam – Vasudevashtakam – Ardha Nareeswarastava – Janani navaratna manjari – Kalinatakam – Subrahmanya Kirtanam – Guru's poetic skills – Vritha and Alankara in Sree Narayana Guru's works.

Block II

Edifying Works and Speeches: Anti-Caste Secular Humanism of the Guru

Critique of Chaturvarnya and Caste in Sree Narayana Guru's vision – Jatilakshana – Jatinirnaya- Acharaparishkaram and Jathi (Sree Narayana Guru Vaikhari: 6 & 12) Concept of Religious harmony through Athmopadesha Sathakam, Matha meemamsa (Verses 44-47), Matham (Sree Narayana Guru Vaikhari: 18) Jivakarunyapanchakam – Anukampa Dasakam – Concept of Ahimsa in Narayana Guru's conversations – Ahimsa (Sree Narayana Guru Vaikhari: 4), Concept of Aparapriya (Concern for others) Athmopadesa Kathakam (Verses 21-25) - Sahodaryam (Sree Narayana Guru Vaikhari: 29). Ethics and the Other- Cherai Speech

Block III

Concept of God and Atma in Narayana Guru's Works

Daivadasakam - Arivu – Athmopadesa Satakam - Concept of God – Srishti – Maya – Satyam Jnanam Anandam – Arivu – Indriyas – Aham – Triputi – Dharmam – Dharmi – Sama- Anya – Atmasukham – Prakriti – Aham - Advaitam (Sree Narayana Guru Vaikhari: 2)

Block IV

Prose and Translation Works of Sree Narayana Guru, Tamil works

Gadyaparthana – Isavasyopanishad (Bhashya) – Tirukkural (Vanchirappu, Nittharperumai)-
Ozhuvil Odukam, Tevara Patikangal.

COURSE IV

Credits -6

PHILOSOPHY OF SREE NARAYANA GURU

Block I

A Brief Introduction to Western Philosophy and Indian Philosophies

Classical Western philosophy – modern world philosophy – empiricism and rationalism –
positivism -Epistemology (Theory of Knowledge)- Sources of knowledge in Guru's thought-
Metaphysics- Theory of Causation- Ontological Proof - Realism vs. Idealism - Non-Dualism -
Monism or Pluralism- Astika and Nastika Systems of thought in India – Bauddha – Jaina –
Charvaka – Samkhya – Yoga – Nyaya – Vaisesika- Purvamimamsa – Vedanta - Different
schools of Vedanta – Advaita of Sree Sankara – Dvaita of Madhva – Visishtadvaita of
Ramanuja.

Block II

Advaita of Sree Narayana Guru

Vedantasutra of Sree Narayanaguru (Selections) – Atha yadathmano jijnasu tadidam
brahmaiva aham – Darsanamala – Advaitadipika – Nirvritipancakam – Homamantram. 1918
statement in Sri Lanka that ours is also Buddhism, citing the Amarakosa: “Advaya Vadi
Vinayaka...” Advayavada or Anityavada or Samudayavada of the Buddha and Guru

Block III

A Comparative Study of Guru's Philosophy with Other Schools

Guru's Advayavada and Buddha's Anitya or Samudayavada (“Sarala Advaya
Bhashyakaranam Guruvo...” Anukampa Dasakam - Guru's Advaita and Sankara's Advaita

Vedanta – Guru’s Advaita and Ramanuja’s Visishtadvaita – Guru’s Advaita and Madhva’s Dvaita – Saivism in Guru’s literary works – Saiva Sidhanta and Tamil Siddha legacies- Tiruvalluvar, Tirumular, Pampatty Chitar and Guru. Siddha or Chita and Tamil Tantric Buddhism.

Block IV

Sree Narayana Guru’s Secular Polyphonic Humanism

Guru’s approach to Christianity, Buddhism and Islam (Sree Narayana Guru Vaikhari and Gurudevasuktas) Sree Narayana Guru and his contemporary world philosophers – An analysis of Sree Narayana Guru’s views on Mahatma Gandhi regarding Varnasrama system - Brahmananda Sivayogi and Vagbhadananda regarding idol worship - Swami Vivekananda regarding religion - Rabindra Nath Tagore regarding Nationalism - Sahodaran Ayyappan regarding Rationalism – Ramana Maharshi and Aurabindo regarding non-dualism.

Assessment & Evaluation

The programme follows a 30:70 evaluation pattern, as detailed below:

Continuous Internal Evaluation (CIE): 30%

End Semester Evaluation (ESE): 70%

Course Fees

- Tuition Fee First Semester: Rs. 1250
Second Semester: Rs. 1500
- Examination Fee : Rs. 500 (per semester)
- Diploma Certificate : Rs. 315

Note: A non-refundable registration fee of Rs. 250 will be collected at the time of registration. All fees will be subject to revision from time to time at the university's discretion.

Admission Procedure

Candidates shall apply online through the University portal: **erp.sgou.ac.in**

Online Registration starts on 06/04/2026

Closure of Online Registration 25/04/2026

Commencement of Classes 10/05/2026

Self-attested copies of certificates proving educational qualifications and identity must be uploaded during registration. No individual intimation will be sent to the candidates. Candidates shall update themselves with the university through the learners' portal.

Refund of Fees

Refunds are subject to the University's policy, which allows fees to be refunded if an application is rejected due to defects. No refund is permitted after the programme has commenced or upon voluntary withdrawal.

Enquiries

For more information and Registration: **erp.sgou.ac.in**

For Programme details and admission: 9188909901, 04742966841

Technical Issues: 9188909903