

Campus Talk: Mumbai University launches climate skills programme in association with British Council

Mumbai University has selected 25 master trainers and three co-facilitators to receive climate skills training from the British Council's global experts.

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Mumbai University is among three institutions selected in India to implement the programme. (Express photo)

In a first, students and faculty at Mumbai University will receive training to tackle the urgent climate change challenges unique to India. This new climate skills programme launched in collaboration with the British Council aims to equip both students and teachers with essential skills.

The programme is part of the broader Climate Skill – Seeds for Transition initiative launched by the British Council for five countries: Brazil, Mexico, Indonesia, Vietnam and India. [Mumbai](#) University is among three institutions selected in India to implement the programme. It seeks to develop master trainers from the university and its affiliated colleges to extend its impact to a wider community.

According to information from Mumbai University, this programme will be rolled out in stages, with faculty members and representatives from various university departments actively involved. For the first phase, starting on March 22, as many as 25 master trainers and three co-facilitators have been selected by the university to receive training from global experts appointed by the British Council.

The first phase will include five-day training with experts appointed by the British Council. Following this, these master trainers are expected to conduct various local activities, including workshops and taking up projects with local administrations.

Apart from professors, students selected for the programme will work alongside local administrations, NGOs, and other stakeholders to launch region-specific climate actions. These may include creating public biodiversity registers, conducting wetland conservation programs, and performing energy audits to promote sustainable development and reduce climate change vulnerabilities in local communities.

Dr Aparna Phadke, assistant professor in the geography department and the programme lead at Mumbai University, said, “Our goal is to train trainers who implement similar programmes in their respective institutions. [Mumbai University](#) has been actively engaged in initiatives such as biodiversity surveys and wetland conservation, which will serve as expertise for students to bring to local administrations when they collaborate on various projects under this programme.”

An official from [Mumbai University](#) said, “While the British Council had planned to train 130 trainers and 800 students, Mumbai University has expanded the scope by involving 225 professors and 1,200 students. Increased participation is expected to ensure broader engagement.”

The official added that when these people start working on projects with local administrations, the collaborations will take the discussions to grassroots levels.

Dr Phadke emphasised that to ensure the sustainability of these efforts beyond the collaboration with the British Council, the university plans to establish green clubs in its affiliated colleges. These clubs will be managed by master trainers who will be trained through the initiative. Additionally, the university is exploring incorporating these activities into academic credits to encourage greater student participation, she said.

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