**SVKM's NMIMS (Deemed to be University)**
Nilkamal School of Mathematics, Applied Statistics & Analytics

**Format for preparing SOP**

Programs: **Ph.D. in Mathematics / Ph.D. in Statistics/ Ph.D. in Data Science**

What is a Statement of Purpose (SOP)?

A SOP is a short document that provides a brief history of your current academic background, past professional and/or research experience, your preparedness and aptitude to carry out research, self-motivation and passion for research, your understanding of specific sample research papers in the likely area of your research. The SOP should cover candidate's skill sets and abilities.

The SOP is a common component of a potential candidate's application for Ph.D. program. The SOP is often the primary way that a committee determines if a candidate's interests and past experience make him/her a good fit for their program/institution.

What SOP should include?

1. Academic Background of the Candidate:

**A candidate is expected to give a detailed account of his qualifying academic background that includes different courses studied in the program.**

2. Areas of Research and Topics:

**A candidate is expected to mention areas of research in the field of Statistics and topics within these areas of research that are likely to be taken up during the Ph.D. program. The statement should situate your work within the larger context of your field and show how your work contributes to, complicates, or counters other work being done. It should be written for an audience of other professionals in your field.**
**A candidate is expected to include a comprehensive 3-4 pages' critique of a sample published research paper of his/her choice in an area related to his/her research interest.** Font & size: Arial & 12.

3. Past Experience:

**A candidate is expected to give a brief account of past professional and/ or research experience and justify interest to take up Ph.D. study.**