



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg
New Delhi-110 002

F.No. 1-22/2018 (DEB-I)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Open and Distance Learning and Online Programmes-Important Information to Stakeholders

A: Open and Distance Learning Programmes

1. Ensuring Recognition Status:

The students (or Learners) before taking admission, must ensure the Recognition Status of the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) for that particular programme in that academic session on UGC website www.ugc.ac.in/deb or <http://deb.ugc.ac.in>.

2. Year-wise (academic session wise) Recognition status of HEIs:

The year-wise (academic session wise) recognition status of HEIs approved to offer Programmes through open and distance mode for academic years 2018-19, 2019-20 and onwards (academic sessions beginning July, 2018, January, 2019, July, 2019 and onwards), is already in public domain and can be accessed at UGC website www.ugc.ac.in/deb or <http://deb.ugc.ac.in>. Kindly ensure reading the notifications at Notice Board before taking admission anywhere. The notifications can be accessed on UGC website at the following link: <http://www.ugc.ac.in/deb/notices.html> or <http://deb.ugc.ac.in/Notices>.

3. Category-I HEIs intending to offer ODL programs:

In addition, a list of Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) under Category – I as per UGC (Categorisation of Universities (Only) for grant of Graded Autonomy) Regulations, 2018 which have expressed their intention to offer ODL programmes and submitted affidavits in the prescribed format, has been uploaded on UGC website. The same can also be accessed through UGC website at the following link: <http://www.ugc.ac.in/deb/notices.html> or <http://deb.ugc.ac.in/Notices>. It is for information that category-I HEIs shall also comply to all the provisions of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 and its Amendments.

4. Admission timeline:

The Commission in its 544th meeting held on 16.10.2019 has decided that considering the reasons for extension of last date of admission this year and of the facts that in India rainy season generally continues till

August/September every year and admissions in conventional programmes ends in August, the schedule for admissions in ODL programmes henceforth shall be as follows:

- a) Academic session beginning January - admission last date February end
- b) Academic session beginning July - admission last date September end

The Commission also decided that the HEIs shall upload the admission details within fifteen days from the last date of the admissions in the respective academic session i.e. 15th October for July academic session and 15th March for January academic session.

5. Duration of academic session:

Academic session is defined in clause (a) of Regulation 2 in Part-I of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 as "duration of twelve months beginning either in January or in the month of July of every year". Accordingly, HEIs have been accorded recognition and the same is available on UGC website (www.ugc.ac.in/deb; <http://deb.ugc.ac.in>).

6. Specification of Degrees:

The HEIs should ensure that the minimum duration, nomenclature and qualification for the degree is strictly as per the UGC notification on Specification of Degrees. The same can also be accessed through UGC website at the following link: https://ugc.ac.in/ugc_notices.aspx

7. Programmes prohibited in ODL mode:

The HEIs cannot start or run any professional courses governed by specific Acts of Parliament, except with the prior and specific approval of the authority constituted thereunder. The professional courses prohibited as per Sub Regulation (3) of Regulation 1 in Part (I) of the UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 are the programmes in engineering, medicine, dental, pharmacy, nursing, architecture, physiotherapy and any other programme not permitted to be offered in distance mode by any Statutory Councils or Regulatory bodies. Further, in accordance with the communication received from various Regulatory bodies, programmes in agriculture, hotel management, culinary studies and valuation of real estate are also not recognized from academic session 2019-20 and onwards.

8. Admission taken during recognised period stands recognised:

Admission taken in the recognized Open and Distance Learning (ODL) programme during the recognition period stands recognized till the completion of programme even if the University does not have recognition for further years provided the programme is offered as per the UGC norms of territorial jurisdiction and in conformity with the extant guidelines and/or UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 and regulations of respective regulatory bodies.

9. Mandatory mention of dates on Certificates:

As per the provisions contained in clause (10) of Regulation 13 in Part-IV of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017, "It shall be mandatory for the Higher Educational Institution to mention 'Date of Admission' and 'Date of Completion' on each of the certificates (in semester or end of the semester or end of the programme or course) issued by it."

10. M.Phil and Ph.D. programmes are prohibited in ODL mode:

Clause 11.1 of UGC (Minimum standard and procedures for awards of M.Phil/Ph.D Degree) Regulation, 2016 notified in Gazette dated 05.05.2016 states that *"notwithstanding anything contained in these regulations or any other rule or regulation, for the time being in force, no university; institutions, deemed to be a university and college shall conduct M.Phil and Ph.D. programmes through distance education mode"*.

11. Territorial Jurisdiction:

- a) A university established or incorporated by or under a Central Act shall operate only within the territorial jurisdiction as per the provisions of the Act.
- b) A university established or incorporated by or under a State Act shall operate only within the territorial jurisdiction allotted to it under its Act and in no case beyond the territory of the state of its location.
- c) A Deemed to be University shall operate only within its HQ or from those off campuses or off-shore campuses which are approved by the Govt. of India through notification published in the official gazette. Deemed to be Universities cannot offer any courses on its own in distance education mode unless and until it is permissible to conduct such courses in distance education mode by UGC and specific permissions are granted by the concerned statutory/regulatory authorities in respect of each of those courses and after the off-campus Centres/Study Centres are individually inspected and found adequate by the concerned Statutory Authorities.
- d) As per the information provided by the CPP-I (DU), the territorial jurisdiction of Institutions Deemed to be Universities is the city/town/village where the Institution is located and the city where the off-campus is approved by the Ministry of HRD.

12. Prohibition of franchising arrangement:

No university, whether central, state, private or deemed, can offer its programmes through franchising arrangement with private coaching institutions for conducting courses through distance mode.

13. Uploading details on the website by the HEI:

The HEIs recognized to offer ODL Programmes, including Category-I HEIs shall upload all the details ensuring compliance to the relevant clauses of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 and its amendments, on their website.

14. Compliance to the provisions laid down by UGC:

HEIs are required to comply with all the provisions of the UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 and its amendments. If any deviation by the HEI is noticed, the same would entail not only withdrawal of permission/recognition for such ODL courses but also for other courses offered by the institutions, on regular and conventional mode; as per the UGC Public Notice dated 20th November, 2018 which is available on UGC website at the following link: [https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/8401955 UGC Public Notice DEB.pdf](https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/8401955%20UGC%20Public%20Notice%20DEB.pdf).

B: Online Courses or Programmes:

UGC has notified Online (Courses or Programmes) Regulations, 2018 on 4th July, 2018 and proposals from the eligible HEIs are being considered for recognition. The students (or Learners) before admission, must ensure the Recognition status of the Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) for that particular programme in that academic session on UGC website www.ugc.ac.in/deb or <http://deb.ugc.ac.in>. The students may visit the UGC website on regular basis to get update on UGC recognition status of the HEIs offering online courses or programmes.

Note:

- 1. HEIs are requested to provide a link of this public notice on their homepage for Stakeholders, which enables them to access full information regarding Recognized programmes for that particular academic session.**
- 2. HEIs are requested to email this public notice to all the enrolled students.**



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