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UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION  
DISTANCE EDUCATION BUREAU  
35-FEROZE SHAH ROAD  
NEW DELHI-110 001

F. No. 1-9/2018 (DEB-I)

23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2018

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Government of India has envisaged a greater role for the Open and the Distance Education System. The envisioned role may be fulfilled by recognizing and treating the Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates awarded through distance mode at par with the corresponding awards of Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates obtained through the formal system of education. Open and Distance Education System in the country is contributing a lot in expansion of Higher Education and for achieving target of Gross Enrolment Ratio, without compromising on quality. Non recognition/non equivalence of degrees of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) institutions for the purpose of promotion/employment and pursuing higher education may prove a deterrent to many aspiring students and will ultimately defeat the purpose of Open and Distance Education.

Accordingly, the Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates awarded for programmes conducted by the ODL institutions, recognized by the erstwhile DEC/UGC, in conformity with UGC Notification on Specification of Degrees should be treated as equivalent to the corresponding awards of the Degree/Diploma/Certificate of the traditional Universities/Institutions in the country.

UGC has notified *UGC (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017* in the official Gazette on **23/06/2017**. As per UGC (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 under Part-I (2)(p), the programmes in engineering, medicine, dental, pharmacy, nursing, architecture, physiotherapy and such other programmes which require hands-on training are not permitted to be offered under Open and Distance Learning mode.

(Prof. Rajnish Jain)  
Secretary



University Grants Commission  
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg  
New Delhi-110 002

F. No. UGC/DEB/ 2013  
Dated 14.10.2013

The Registrar/Director  
Of all the Indian Universities  
(Deemed, State, Central Universities/  
Institutions of National importance)

Subject: Equivalence of Degrees awarded by Open and Distance Learning  
(ODL) Institutions at par with Conventional Universities/ Institutions

Sir/ Madam,

There are a number of Open and Distance Learning Institutions (ODLIs) in the country offering Degree/ Diploma/Certificate programmes through the mode of non formal education. These comprise Open Universities, Distance Education Institutions (either single mode or dual mode) of Central Universities, State Universities, Deemed to be Universities, Institutions of National Importance or any other Institution of Higher learning recognized by Central/State/Statutory Council/Societies registered under the Society Registration Act 1860.

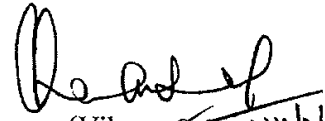
2. A circular was earlier issued vide UGC letter F1 No- 52/2000(CPP-II) dated May 05, 2004 (**copy enclosed**) mentioning that Degrees/Diplomas / Certificates/ awarded by the Open Universities in conformity with the UGC notification of degrees be treated as equivalent to corresponding awards of the traditional Universities in the country.

3. Attention is also invited to UGC circular No F1-25/93(CPP-II) dated 28<sup>th</sup> July 1993 (**copy enclosed**) for recognition of degrees and diplomas as well as transfer of credit for courses successfully completed by students between the two types of universities so that the mobility of students from Open University stream to traditional universities/ institutions is ensured without any difficulty.

4. The Government of India, in exercise of its power conferred under section 20(1) of UGC Act 1956, issued directions dated 29<sup>th</sup> December 2012 entrusting UGC with the responsibility of regulating higher education programme in open and distance learning (ODL) mode. Consequently, Universities/ Institutions desirous of offering any programme through distance mode would require recognition of UGC.

5. As you are aware, the Government of India has envisaged a greater role for the Open and the Distance Education System. The envisioned role may be fulfilled by recognizing and treating the Degrees / Diplomas/ Certificates awarded through distance mode at par with the degrees obtained through the formal system of education. Open and Distance Education System in the country is contributing a lot in expansion of Higher Education and for achieving target of GER, without compromising on quality. Non recognition/ non equivalence of degrees of ODL institutions for the purpose of promotion/ employment and pursuing higher education may prove a deterrent to many learners and will ultimately defeat the purpose of Open and Distance Education.

6. Accordingly, the Degrees/ Diplomas/ Certificates awarded for programmes conducted by the ODL institutions, recognized by DEC (erstwhile) and UGC, in conformity with UGC Notification on specification of Degrees should be treated as equivalent to the corresponding awards of the Degree/Diploma/Certificate of the traditional Universities/ institutions in the country.



(Vikram Sahay) 14/12/11  
Director(Admn)

Tel: 011 2323 0405

Email: [vikramsahay7@gmail.com](mailto:vikramsahay7@gmail.com)

Encl: As above

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Higher Education, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110 001.
2. Secretary, All Indian Council for Technical Education, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chandra Lok Building, Janpath, New Delhi.
3. Secretary, Association of Indian Universities, AIU House, 16 Comrade Indrajit Gupta Marg (Kotla Marg), New Delhi-110002.



F1-52/2000(CPP-II)

April, 2004

5 MAY 2004

The Registrar/Director  
of all the Indian Universities  
(Deemed, State, Central Universities/  
Institutions of National importance)

Subject: Recognition of Degrees awarded by Open Universities.

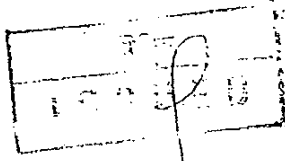
Sir/Madam,

There are a number of open Universities in the country offering various degrees/diploma through the mode of non-formal education. The Open Universities have been established in the country by an Act of Parliament or State Legislature in accordance with the provisions contained in Section 2(f) of University Grants Commission Act, 1956. These universities are, therefore, empowered to award degrees in terms of Section 22(1) of the UGC Act, 1956.

A circular was earlier issued vide UGC letter N.F.1-8/92(CPP) dated February, 1992 mentioning that the Certificate, Diplomas and Degrees awarded by Indira Gandhi National Open University are to be treated equivalent to the corresponding awards of the Universities in the country.

Attention is further invited to UGC circular No.F1-25/93(CPP-II) dated 28<sup>th</sup> July, 1993 (copy enclosed) for recognition of degrees and diplomas as well as transfer of credit for courses successfully completed by students between the two types of universities so that the mobility of students from Open University stream to traditional Universities is ensured without any difficulty.

The UGC has specified the nomenclature of degrees under Section 22(3) of the UGC Act, 1956 to ensure mandatory requirements viz. minimum essential academic inputs required for awarding such degrees. A copy of Gazette Notification regarding specification of degrees issued vide No.1-52/97(CPP-II) dated 31<sup>st</sup> January 2004 is enclosed. The details are also given in UGC Web site: [www.ugc.ac.in](http://www.ugc.ac.in)

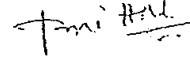


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No.F. 1.62/2011

May, I therefore request you to treat the Degrees /Diploma /Certificates awarded by the Open Universities in conformity with the UGC notification on Specification of Degrees as equivalent to the corresponding awards of the traditional Universities in the country.

Yours faithfully,



(Dr. [Mrs.] Pankaj Mittal)  
Joint Secretary

Encl : As above

Copy-to:

1. The Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Department of Secondary Education and Higher Education, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001.
2. The Secretary, All India Council for Technical Education, I.G. Sports Complex, Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi-110002.
3. The Secretary, Association of Indian Universities (AIU), 16 Connaught Place, Marg (Kotla Marg), New Delhi-110002.
4. The Secretary, National Council for Teacher Education, I.G. Stadium, I.P. Estate, New Delhi-110002.
5. The Director of Distance Education, Council, IGNOU Campus, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068.
6. The Vice-chancellor Indira Gandhi National Open University, Maidan Garhi, New Delhi-110068.
7. The Vice-chancellor Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University, Road No.46, Jubilee Hills, Hyderabad-500033 (Andhra Pradesh)
8. The Vice-chancellor Nalanda Open University, West Gandhi Maidan Patna 800001 (Bihar)
9. The Vice-chancellor Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Chhatrapati, Ahmedabad-380003 (Gujarat)
10. The Vice-chancellor Karnataka State Open University, Manasagangothri, Mysuru-570006 (Karnataka)
11. The Vice-chancellor Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University, Nashik-422222 (Maharashtra)
12. The Vice-chancellor, Kota Open University (Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University), Kota-324010 (Rajasthan)
13. The Vice-chancellor Nctaji Subhash Open University, Kolkata - 700020 (West Bengal)
14. The Vice-Chancellor, Madhya Pradesh Bhoj (Open) University, Bhopal-462010 (M.P.)

(V.K. Jaiswal)  
Under Secretary



ता. कुशिनर  
विश्वविद्यालय अन्तर्गत  
एडुकेटर्स क्लब मार्ग  
नई दिल्ली-110 002

GRANTS UNIGRANTS  
UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION  
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR  
NEW DELHI-110 002

R.P. Gangurde  
Additional Secretary  
Tel.No.3319659

D.O.No.F.1-25/03(CPP-11)

July, 1993

28 JUL 1993

Dear Vice Chancellor,

As you are aware, the Open Universities have been established in the country by an Act of Parliament or State Legislature in accordance with the provisions contained in Section 2(f) of University Grants Commission Act, 1956. These universities are, therefore, empowered to award degrees in terms of Section 22 (1) of the UGC Act, 1956.

It has been brought to the notice of the Commission that the students who have done their M.A. from open universities are debarred by universities from registration for Ph.D. studies. This is most unfair in view of the importance attached to the Open University and distance learning in National Policy on Education, 1986. The Programme of Action-02 also aims at promoting the mobility of students among open universities and among the traditional universities. This can be made possible only when there is a workable understanding between open universities and traditional universities for recognition of each other's degrees on reciprocal basis. A Memorandum of Understanding has already been signed between University of Pondicherry and Indira Gandhi National Open University which provides for recognition of each other's degrees and diplomas as well as transfer of credits for courses successfully completed by students between the two universities. The other universities may also make similar arrangements so that the mobility of students from Open University stream to traditional universities is ensured without any difficulty.

I hope that your university will make necessary efforts in this direction and let the Commission know the progress.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

*R.P. Gangurde*

(R.P. GANGURDE)

To all the VCs as per list attached and copy to A11

