

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 28th 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 29th 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 ODI. 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) 14/10

Director(Admn)

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ज्ञान-विज्ञान विमूक्तये

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
बहादुरशाह जफर मार्ग
नई दिल्ली-110 002
UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI-110 002

F1-52/2000(CPP-II)

April, 2004

5 MAY 2004

The Registrar
Indira Gandhi National Open University
Maidan Garhi
New Delhi - 110 068

Subject: Recognition of Degrees awarded by Open Universities.

Sir/Madam,

There are a number of open Universities in the country in various degrees/diploma through the mode of non-formal education. Open Universities have been established in the country by an Act of Parliament or State Legislature in accordance with the provisions contained in Section 22(f) of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956. These universities are 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-I) 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 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 Universities 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 31st January 2004 is enclosed. The details are also given in UGC Web site: www.ugc.ac.in

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



ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES
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No. EV/II(449)/94/176915-177115

January 14, 1994

The Registrar(s)

Member Universities.

Subject : Recognition of Degrees/Diplomas of Open Universities

Dear Sir,

The Standing Committee at its 237th meeting held at Utkal University and the 68th Annual Session of the AIU and in December, 1993 at the University of Delhi have decided in principle that the Degrees of the Open Universities be recognized in terms of the following resolutions:

"Resolved that the examinations of one University should be recognized by another on reciprocal basis, provided that the entrance qualification, duration of course and the general standard of attainment are similar to those prescribed by the recognized university."

"Further resolved that in case of Degrees awarded by Open Universities, the conditions regarding entrance qualifications and duration of the course be relaxed provided that the general standard of attainment are similar to those prescribed by the recognized university."

The decision is brought to the notice of the Universities for favour of appropriate action in the matter. The additional information, if required in this behalf, may kindly be obtained from the Registrar of the Universities direct.

Thanking You,

Your faithfully,

Sd/-
(K.C.KALRA)
Joint Secretary



ॐ श्रीगणेशाय नमः
विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
एन.डी.ए. बिल्डिंग
नई दिल्ली-११० ००१

GRANT'S UNDOGRANTS
UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADURSHAH ZAFAR ROAD
NEW DELHI-110 001

R.P. Gangurde
Additional Secretary
Tel. No. 3319559

D. C. No. F. 1-25/03(CPF-11)

July, 1993

Dear Vice Chancellor,

28 JUL 1993

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 (i) 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)

UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR ROAD
NEW DELHI-110 002

No.F.1-8/92(CPP)

February, 1992

The Vice-Chancellors/Directors
of all the Indian Universities/
Deemed Universities/Institutions
of National Importance.

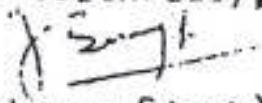
Sub: Recognition of Degrees/Diplomas awarded by
Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi.

Sir,

~~I am directed to say that~~ Indira Gandhi National
Open University, New Delhi has been established by
Sub-Section (2) of Section (1) of the IGNOU Act, 1985
(50 of 1985) vide notification No.F.13-12/85-Usk(U)
dated 19.9.1985 issued by the Government of India,
Ministry of Human Resource Development (Department of
Education), New Delhi and is competent to award its
own degrees/Diplomas.

The Certificates, 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.

Yours faithfully,


(Gurcharan Singh)
Under Secretary