



## UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

F.No.74-8/2017 (DEB-IV)

21<sup>st</sup> February, 2018

### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### Recognition of Distance Education Programmes for academic session 2018-19 and onwards

The UGC had notified University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 in the official Gazette on 23.06.2017. Accordingly, applications were invited from eligible Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) for recognition of their distance learning programmes for the academic session beginning July, 2018.

Subsequently, UGC notified first amendment in the UGC (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 in the official Gazette on 11.10.2017; and notified UGC (Open and Distance Learning) Second Amendment Regulations, 2018 in the official Gazette on 06.02.2018. The Regulations and its amendments are available on UGC website and can be accessed at [https://www.ugc.ac.in/ugc\\_notices.aspx](https://www.ugc.ac.in/ugc_notices.aspx).

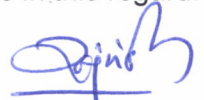
Keeping above in view, HEIs shall make note of the following:

1. The process initiated for recognition of distance learning programmes of Higher Educational Institutions under which applications were invited during August-October, 2017 **stands cancelled**. No separate communication in this regard will be sent to individual higher educational institution.
2. Higher Educational Institutions which have valid accreditation of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with minimum CGPA of 3.26 on a 4 point scale and have completed five years of existence are eligible to apply. However, this clause shall not be applicable to Open Universities till the time they become eligible for National Assessment and Accreditation Council accreditation and it shall be mandatory for Open Universities to get National Assessment and Accreditation Council accreditation within one year of their becoming eligible for the same.
3. The Higher Educational Institutions which were given permission by the University Grants Commission to offer programmes in Open and Distance learning mode for the academic session 2017-18 will be allowed to impart Open and Distance Learning education till the academic session 2019-20 to enable them reach the prescribed quality National Assessment and Accreditation Council benchmark. However, as per Regulations, all such higher educational institutions are required to apply afresh to UGC to seek recognition for offering ODL programmes from the academic sessions 2018-19 and onwards. It may also be noted that HEIs that have been given permission by the UGC to offer ODL programmes for the academic session 2017-18 and are currently not accredited by National Assessment and Accreditation Council shall apply for National Assessment and Accreditation Council accreditation within three months from the commencement of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Second Amendment Regulations, 2018.

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4. As per clause 3(2) of UGC (Open and Distance Learning) Second Amendment Regulations, 2018, it may be noted that a Higher Educational Institution intending to offer a programme in Open and Distance Learning mode for academic session immediately after the commencement of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Second Amendment Regulations, 2018 and for subsequent years shall, notwithstanding that it has obtained permission from the then Distance Education Council or by the Commission for offering a programme in Open and Distance learning mode for next coming academic session and for subsequent years, shall make an on-line application in the format specified by the Commission, and upload the same on the specified portal along with scanned copy of the documents specified therein.

5. The UGC will be inviting applications from the eligible higher educational institutions for recognition of distance learning programmes for the academic session 2018-19 (beginning July 2018) and onwards shortly. All the eligible higher educational institutions are requested to regularly check UGC website [www.ugc.ac.in](http://www.ugc.ac.in) for latest updates and further announcements in this regard.



**(Prof. Rajnish Jain)**

*Secretary, UGC*