



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION, NEW DELHI

F.No.1-14/2020 (DEB-1)

1st October, 2020

Invitation of applications from Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) entitled to offer Online Programmes without prior approval of UGC as per University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.

The University Grants Commission has notified the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 on 4th September, 2020 in the official Gazette of India which is available on UGC website at <https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/221580.pdf>. Eligibility criteria as per the provisions stipulated under regulation 3(B) (a) is as follows:

“3 (B) Online mode:

(a) Higher Educational Institutions having NAAC score 3.26 and above or having rank in Top-100 in University category of National Institutional Ranking Framework, at least twice in three preceding cycles (at the time of application), shall be permitted to start full-fledged Online programmes without prior approval of the UGC, provided it satisfies all the conditions mentioned in these regulations:

Provided that the Higher Educational Institutions can start maximum of three (03) Under Graduate (UG) programmes and ten (10) Post Graduate (PG) programmes with the approval of its statutory authorities and in strict compliance with the provisions of these regulations:

Provided further that the NAAC and NIRF Ranking requirements shall be valid for academic session 2020-2021 (session beginning July, 2020 and January, 2021) only and shall be reviewed subsequently by the Commission for the academic session 2021-2022 (session beginning July 2021) and onwards:

Provided also that Higher Educational Institutions shall be required to submit application and desired information, and comply to all the provisions of the regulations and shall be required to submit an affidavit to the UGC:

Provided also, that in case, the Higher Educational Institutions want to start more than the defined number of programmes, then they shall seek prior permission from the Commission”

Accordingly, online application is being invited from all eligible HEIs willing to offer programmes under online mode for academic session 2020-21 only*. The information thus collected shall be assessed by UGC to ascertain conformity to the following aspects:

- Mandatory eligibility criteria of HEI based on NAAC score/NIRF ranking
- Permissibility of proposed programme to be offered under online mode
- Adherence to UGC Notification of Specification of Degrees, 2014
- Prior approval of Regulatory Authority, wherever applicable

The HEI shall also be required to submit an affidavit to abide by all the provisions of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.

The online portal for submitting applications shall remain open up to 15.10.2020. The duly certified hard copy of the application and affidavit in prescribed format along with annexures shall reach to Joint Secretary (DEB), Distance Education Bureau, University Grants Commission, 35, Feroze Shah Road, Delhi -110001, within 10 working days after submission of the online application.

The HEIs are requested to visit the DEB, UGC website at <https://www.ugc.ac.in/deb> on regular basis for latest updates and further announcements in this regard.

* Considering the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, the academic calendar shall be as notified by University Grants Commission for academic session 2020-2021.



Secretary, UGC