



UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
DISTANCE EDUCATION BUREAU
Ministry of Education, Govt. of India
35, Feroze Shah Road, New Delhi – 110001
Website: <https://deb.ugc.ac.in/>
Email: ugcdeb01@gmail.com
Ph.No. 011-2360 4661, 694, 648, 666

By Speed Post/E. mail

F.No. 12-1/2024(DEB-I)

25 April, 2024

**The Registrar
Gauhati University
Gopinath Bardoloi Nagar
Kamrup Metro
Guwahati – 781014
Assam**

Sub: Non-enrollment of foreign nationals in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Programmes as per UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020

Sir/Madam,

With reference to your email dated 10.04.2024 on the above mentioned subject, I am directed to inform you as under:-

1. Provision 23 (3) and 23 (4) under heading Learner centric provisions of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 stipulates as under:

“(3) Learner’s enrolment (for Open and Distance Learning mode): A Learner residing in any part of the Country may enroll in any programme being offered by a Higher Educational Institution recognised by the Commission for offering programme under Open and Distance Learning mode provided that the Higher Educational Institution shall conduct all activities such as admissions, contact programmes, examinations etc. for learner strictly within the territorial jurisdiction of the Higher Educational Institution as specified in these regulations...”

2. Territorial Jurisdiction is applicable for programmes offered through Open and Distance (ODL) mode and HEI shall abide by the provisions mentioned in UGC Regulations. Annexure III under heading “Territorial Jurisdiction and Regulating Provisions for Different Types of Higher Educational Institutions” of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 stipulates as under:

“For Central and State University:

A University established or incorporated by or under a State Act shall offer programmes in Open and Distance Learning mode and operate all other related activities only within the territorial jurisdiction allotted to it under its Act and in no case beyond the territory of the state of its location.....”

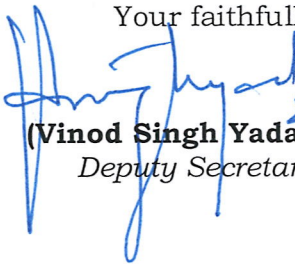
3. Further, MoE vide its letter F.No. 6-2/2022-DL dated 10.11.2022 has informed that student visa will not be granted to such foreign nationals admitted to distance education courses. In this regard, please find attached a UGC letter F.No. 5-3/2022 (DEB-I) dated 05.12.2022 for your information and necessary action.

In view of the above, you are directed not to enrol any foreign nationals in any ODL programmes and submit a compliance report in this regard through email at vsyadav.ugc@nic.in within 7 days of receipt of this email.

This is for your necessary compliance please.

This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Your faithfully,


(**Vinod Singh Yadav**)
Deputy Secretary

25/1/24

<https://deb.ugc.ac.in/>



ज्ञान-विज्ञान विमुक्तये

By E-mail

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

F.No. 5-3/2022(DEB-I)

5th December, 2022

To

Registrar

<All recognized/entitled HEIs offering ODL programmes; as per list attached>

Sub: Non-enrollment of foreign nationals in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Programmes as per UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020

Sir/ Madam,

With reference to the above mentioned subject, I am to inform you that UGC has notified University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 on 4th September, 2020. Subsequently, amendments have been notified on 1st July, 2021 and 18th July, 2022.

Regulations 23 (3) and 23 (4) of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 under heading Learner centric provisions stipulates that:-

“(3) Learner’s enrolment (for Open and Distance Learning mode): A Learner residing in any part of the Country may enroll in any programme being offered by a Higher Educational Institution recognised by the Commission for offering programme under Open and Distance Learning mode provided that the Higher Educational Institution shall conduct all activities such as admissions, contact programmes, examinations etc. for learner strictly within the territorial jurisdiction of the Higher Educational Institution as specified in these regulations...”

Accordingly, HEIs can only enroll a learner residing in India in ODL programmes in compliance to the territorial jurisdiction for all the activities of learner.

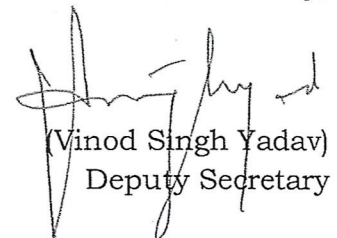
Further, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India has informed that Student Visa cannot be issued to foreign nationals sponsored by franchise Educational Institutes running off-campus centres, Study Centres of Open University offering distance learning programmes. The provision in Chapter 15.1 of Visa Manual is as under:

“No Student Visa will be issued to foreign nationals sponsored by franchise Educational Institutes running off-campus centres, Study Centre of Open Universities offering distance learning programmes, educational Institutes running “outreach” programmes and offering courses without any statutory sanction from regulatory authorities”

Accordingly, all HEIs recognized/entitled are directed to comply with the above mentioned provisions, failing which, UGC shall take punitive action as per Regulation 7 (3) of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and its amendments.

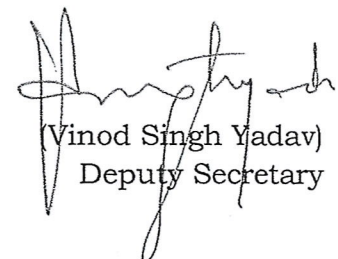
This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours faithfully,


(Vinod Singh Yadav)
Deputy Secretary

Copy to:

Sh. Partha Kansabanik, Deputy Secretary, Government of India, Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, Distance Learning Division, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi-110001 in response to your Letter no.6-2/2022-DL dated 10.11.2022.


(Vinod Singh Yadav)
Deputy Secretary