



**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](mailto:ugcdeb01@gmail.com)

Ph.No. 011-2360 4661, 694, 648, 666

**Speed Post/E-mail**

**F. No. 30-22/2023 (DEB-II)**

**31 October, 2023**

The Registrar  
Netaji Subhas Open University  
DD-26, Sector-I, Salt Lake City,  
Kolkata - 700 064,  
West Bengal.

**31 OCT 2023**

**Sub: -** Commission Order on the application submitted online by the Higher Educational Institution (HEI) for recognition of the programmes to be offered in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode from academic year 2023-24, academic session beginning from July- August, 2023 and onwards – regarding.

Sir/Madam,

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-sections (1) and (2) of section 26 read with clause (j) of section 12 of the University Grants Commission Act, 1956 (3 of 1956), the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 has notified on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2020 in the Gazette of India. Subsequently, the first and second amendments in Principal Regulations have been notified on 01.07.2021 and 18.07.2022 respectively in the Gazette of India.

2. The eligibility criterion for Higher Educational Institution is enumerated under Regulation 3 of Part II of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 & its amendments. The Regulation 4 and 5 describes the process of applications for the Open and Distance Learning and Online Programmes and the approval process whereas Regulations 6 describe provisions of right to appeal by the Higher Educational Institutions aggrieved with the order of the Commission and Regulation 7 describe the process of withdrawal of Recognition.
3. University Grants Commission invited online applications from the eligible Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) as per Regulation 3(A) and Regulation 3(B)(b) of UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and its amendments for recognition of the programmes under Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode and/or Online mode from academic year **2023-24, academic session beginning from July- August, 2023 and onwards**, vide public notice F. No. 1-1/2023 (DEB-I) dated 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2023, mentioning therein that the online portal for submitting applications shall be open up to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2023. **Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata, West Bengal** had submitted its application for recognition of the Open and Distance Learning Programmes.

4. Application received from **Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata, West Bengal** was scrutinized and deficiency(ies) or defect(s) in application were communicated to HEI as per the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and its amendments with a request to remove or rectify such deficiency(ies) or defect(s) with relevant documentary evidence (if any).
5. **Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata, West Bengal** was invited for a Virtual Interface Meeting with the Expert Committee duly constituted by Chairman, UGC on **29.05.2023**.
6. The Interface Expert Committee, based on the application submitted, compliance to deficiency(ies) or defect(s) communicated earlier, the presentation made by the Higher Educational Institution in the Interface Meeting and as per the provisions of University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and its amendments made recommendations for the consideration of the Competent Authority/ Commission.
7. Based on the recommendations of Interface Expert Committee and its approval by Competent Authority/Commission, I am directed to issue this Order, thereby communicating the programme wise recognition for the programmes to be offered in **Open and Distance Learning mode** from academic year 2023-24, academic session beginning **from July-August, 2023** by the **Netaji Subhas Open University, Kolkata, West Bengal** as detailed in point no. 8 below. **The assessment sheet duly approved by Competent Authority has already been communicated to the Higher Educational Institution through UGC-DEB portal on 16.06.2023.**

**8. Programme wise recognition status**

**(i) Open and Distance Learning Programmes Recognized:- 28**

**(Assessment Sheet communicated to the HEI through UGC-DEB web portal on 16.06.2023)**

S. No.	Name of the Programme(s)	Period of Recognition
1.	BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONS) (PHYSICS)	2023-24 academic session beginning from July-August, 2023 to 2027-28 (upto January, 2028 only).
2.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONS) (SOCIOLOGY)	
3.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONS) (POLITICAL SCIENCE)	
4.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONS) (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION)	
5.	BACHELOR OF COMMERCE (HONS) (ACCOUNTING & FINANCE)	
6.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONS) (ECONOMICS)	

*27/10/23*

7.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONS) (BENGALI)	
8.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONS) (ENGLISH)	
9.	BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONS) (MATHEMATICS)	
10.	BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONS) (CHEMISTRY)	
11.	BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONS) (BOTANY)	
12.	BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONS) (ZOOLOGY)	
13.	BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONS) (GEOGRAPHY)	
14.	BACHELOR OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCES	
15.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONS) (HISTORY)	
16.	MASTER OF ARTS (HISTORY)	
17.	MASTER OF ARTS (BENGALI)	
18.	MASTER OF ARTS (ENGLISH)	
19.	MASTER OF ARTS (POLITICAL SCIENCE)	
20.	MASTER OF ARTS (PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION)	
21.	MASTER OF SCIENCE (MATHEMATICS)	
22.	MASTER OF SCIENCE (ZOOLOGY)	




27/10/23

23.	MASTER OF SCIENCE (GEOGRAPHY)	
24.	MASTER OF COMMERCE	
25.	MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK	
26.	MASTER OF ARTS (ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHING)	
27.	MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCES	
28.	MASTER OF SCIENCE (ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE)	

**Note:** For all Science Based programme, recognised in table 8(i) HEI shall offer programmes from headquarter only or from such Learner Support Centres which are offering same programme under conventional mode atleast for seven years.

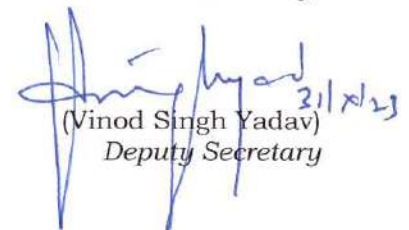
**(ii) Open and Distance Learning Programmes Not Recognized :- 05**

S. No.	Name of the Programme(s)	Reason(s) for refusal
1.	BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONS) (EDUCATION)	Head of School is not appointed on full-time basis.
2.	BACHELOR OF EDUCATION - SPECIAL EDUCATION (INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY/ HEARING IMPAIRMENT / VISUAL IMPAIRMENT)	
3.	MASTER OF EDUCATION - SPECIAL EDUCATION (INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPEMENTAL DISABILITY /HEARING IMPAIRMENT)	1. Head of School is not appointed on full-time basis. 2. Approval of Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) is not submitted.
4.	MASTER OF ARTS (EDUCATION)	Head of School is not appointed on full-time basis.
5.	MASTER OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (MARKETING MANAGEMENT / FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT / HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT)	AICTE Approval is not submitted for A.Y. 2023-24

*[Handwritten signature]*  
27/10/23

9. For the programmes recognised in 8(i) above, the Higher Educational Institution shall comply with all the provisions of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes & Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and its amendments while offering the programmes in Open and Distance Learning mode. Some specific provisions for compliance have been mentioned in **Annexure-1**.
10. For the programmes not recommended for recognition as per 8(ii) above, the Higher Educational Institution may prefer an appeal to the Commission within a period of 30 days from the date of communication of Interface Meeting Sheet on UGC, DEB portal as per the provision at sub-regulation (1) of Regulations 6 of Part-II of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020. The appeal submitted by HEI has been processed as per University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and accordingly, assessment sheet has been communicated to the HEI through UGC-DEB web portal on 31.07.2023. **The detailed Commission order regarding the appeal submitted by the HEI will be communicated subsequently.**
11. As stipulated under Sub-Regulation 7 of Regulations 5 of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020:
- "No Higher Educational Institution shall offer any Open and Distance Learning Programme and/or Online Programme and admit learners thereto unless it has been granted recognition by the Commission and admission shall not be made in anticipation of the recognition".*
12. In the event of any Higher Educational Institution found offering programmes in Open and Distance Learning mode and/or Online mode without recognition of the Commission or in violation to any of the provisions of these regulations and guidelines or orders made there under, the Commission may take actions as per Regulations 7 of Part-II of University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and its amendments.

Yours faithfully,

  
(Vinod Singh Yadav)  
Deputy Secretary


**Encl :-** As Above

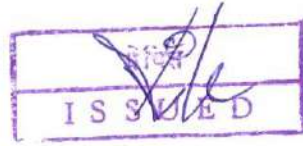
**Copy to: -**

1. The Principal Secretary, Higher Education, Government of West Bengal, Department of Higher Education, Bikash Bhavan, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, East Block Salt lake, Kolkata, West Bengal-700091, with a request to ensure that HEI adheres to all the provisions of the UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and its amendments.
2. The Economic Advisor, Distance Learning Section, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001.
3. The Member Secretary, AICTE, Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi – 110 070.
4. The Member Secretary, National Council for Teacher Education, Hans Bhawan, New Delhi.

  
27/10/23

5. The Vice Chancellor, Netaji Subhas Open University, DD-26, Sector-I, Salt Lake City, Kolkata - 700 064.
6. The Chairman, Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI), B-22, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110 016.
7. The Deputy Secretary, State University Bureau, UGC, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110 002.
8. Guard file.

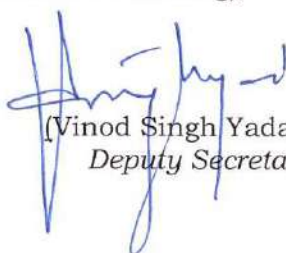
  
(Dr. Naresh Pal Meena)  
Education Officer



**Specific Provisions for Compliance**

- 1) The Higher Educational Institution shall comply to all the terms and conditions mentioned in the Affidavit dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 duly notarized and signed by Dr. Ashit Baran Aich, Registrar, submitted to the Commission.
- 2) HEI shall abide by the academic calendar as notified by the Commission and upload Student data on UGC DEB web portal within stipulated time.
- 3) Intake capacity of science based programme under Open and Distance Learning mode will be as follows:-
  - For Dual Mode University: Intake shall not be more than three times of the approved intake in conventional mode.
  - For Open University: Learner enrolment shall be commensurate with the capacity of the Learner Support Centers to provide lab facilities to the admitted learners.
- 4) The HEI shall scrupulously abide by all the terms and conditions regarding faculty and staff requirements for offering ODL/Online programmes as mentioned in **Annexure-IV** of University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020. HEI shall ensure that the faculty members shown for each programme are on 'full time dedicated basis' and no faculty member of LSC/other institution is shown as faculty of the HEI.
- 5) The total deployment of work force and other support at study or Learner Support Centres in Open and Distance Learning mode shall be as mentioned in Regulations.
- 6) The HEI shall also adhere to the policy of Territorial Jurisdiction as specified in **Annexure-III** of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.
- 7) HEI shall establish "Examination Centre(s)" strictly as per **Annexure-II** of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and conduct proctored examination as under:
  - For ODL Programmes: Examination through pen-paper or online or computer based testing within Territorial Jurisdiction, in the examination centre as per condition laid down in Regulations.
  - For Online Programmes: Examinations either using Computer based test or pen and paper test in a proctored environment in designated test centre with all the security arrangements ensuring transparency and credibility of the examinations. It can also conduct online examination through technology mediated proctoring.
- 8) Programmes under the purview of regulatory authorities have been considered on the basis of NOC/ approval/ recommendation received from the respective regulatory authority. The HEI shall abide by the conditions such as the number of seats, valid academic year, etc. mentioned in the relevant regulatory authority letter.
- 9) HEI offering programmes in Open and Distance Learning mode shall ensure that a Learner Support Centre is established as per Regulations and fulfills following conditions:-
  - Learner Support Centre defined under these regulations shall not be the Learner Support Centre for more than two Higher Educational Institutions at a time to offer programmes in ODL mode.
  - Private University established under the State Act shall be eligible to offer programmes under Open and Distance Learning mode through its Head Quarters; not through any Learner Support Centre.
  - Learner Support Centre will not be set up under a franchisee agreement in any manner.

- 10) HEI offering programme in ODL mode shall prepare Self Learning Material as per **Annexure-VI** and **Annexure-VII** of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 taking into consideration the following:
- At least 60 percent of Self Learning Materials shall be developed by the in-house faculty of the HEI
  - Remaining percent of the materials can be sourced from available resources such as other HEIs, Open Educational Resources (OER) and SWAYAM.
- 11) HEI shall adhere to the weightage for different components of assessments for Open and Distance Learning mode and Online mode as under:
- Continuous or formative assessment (in semester): Maximum 30 percent.
  - Summative assessment (end semester examination or term end examination): Minimum 70 percent.
- 12) HEI shall make mandatory disclosure(s) on its website as per Regulation 9 of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.
- 13) HEI shall establish Students Grievances Redressal Committee (SGRC) and the appoint Ombudsperson(s) at the Institute or University level as per University Grants Commission (Redressal of Grievances of Students) Regulations, 2023 and as amended from time to time.
- 14) HEI shall establish Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA) as per **Annexure-I** of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 for offering programmes in Open and Distance Learning mode and/or Online mode. HEI shall also submit annual report of CIQA within stipulated time period.
- 15) HEI shall ensure that the delivery of Self Learning Material to learners for ODL programmes is as defined in **Annexure-VI** and **Annexure-VII** of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.
- 16) HEI shall mandatorily mention the following on the backside of each of the degrees/certificates and mark sheets issued by the Higher Educational Institution to the learners (for each semester certificate and at the end of the programme); as per Regulations 16 of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020:
- Mode of delivery;
  - Date of admission;
  - Date of completion;
  - Name and address of all Learner Support Centres (only for Open and Distance Learning);
  - Name and address of all Examination Centres.

  
(Vinod Singh Yadav)  
Deputy Secretary