



Speed Post

F. No.21-80/2020(DEB-III)

March, 2021

The Registrar,  
University of North Bengal,  
Raja Rammohunpur,  
P.O. North Bengal University,  
Dist. Darjeeling,  
West Bengal-734013

11 MAR 2021

**Sub: Commission Order on the application, submitted online by the Higher Educational Institution for recognition of the programmes to be offered in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode from academic year 2020-21 and onwards, session beginning February-March, 2021 - 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 had been notified in the Gazette of India on 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2020.

2. The eligibility criterion for Higher Educational Institution is enumerated under Regulation 3 in Part II of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020. The Regulation 4 and 5 describes the process of applications and the approval process for the Open and Distance Learning and Online Programmes whereas Regulations 6 describe provisions of right to appeal by the Higher Educational Institutions aggrieved with the order of the Commission and Regulations 7 describe the process of withdrawal of Recognition.
3. In accordance with these Regulations, the Commission had invited online applications from the eligible Higher Educational Institutions for offering Open and Distance Learning and Online Programmes from the **academic session 2020-21, beginning February-March, 2021**. University of North Bengal had submitted its application for recognition of the Open and Distance Learning Programmes.
4. Application received from University of North Bengal, West Bengal had been scrutinized and deficiency(s) 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 to remove or rectify such deficiency(s) or defect(s) with relevant documentary evidence.

5. University of North Bengal, West Bengal was invited for a Virtual Interface Meeting with the Expert Committee; constituted by the Chairman of the Commission; on **04.02.2021** in the UGC office, 35 Feeroz Shah Road. New Delhi – 110 001.
6. The Interface Expert Committee, based on the submitted application, compliance to deficiency(ies) or defect(s) communicated earlier, the presentation made by the Higher Educational Institution in the virtual Interface Expert Committee Meeting, and as per the provisions of University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 made recommendations for the consideration of 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 2020-21 (academic session beginning February-March, 2021) by the University of North Bengal, 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 19.02.2021.
8. (i) **Open and Distance Learning Programmes Recognized - Nil**

**Note:** For Science Based programme, Intake in ODL programme shall be as per the point no.2 of **Annexure I**.

(ii) **Open and Distance Learning Programmes Not Recognized**

S. No.	Name of the ODL Programmes	Reason(s) for refusal
1.	Master of Commerce	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inadequate faculty</li> <li>2. Faculty designation is not as per the Regulations.</li> <li>3. SLM and PPR are not ready.</li> <li>4. Details of Outsourced SLM and its documentary proof are to be submitted.</li> <li>5. Approval of regulatory bodies for MBA programmes to be submitted.</li> <li>6. No full time Director appointed as per the provision stipulated under III(I) of Annexure- IV of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.</li> <li>7. A copy of the application is not displayed on HEI website.</li> </ol>
2.	Master of Business Administration - Tourism & Travel	
3.	Master of Journalism	
4.	Master of Social Work	

9. For the programmes recognized in 8(i) above, the Higher Educational Institution shall comply with all the provisions of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 while offering the programmes in Open and Distance Learning mode. Some specific provisions for compliance have been mentioned in **Annexure-1**.

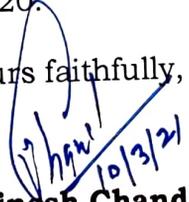
10. For the programmes not recognized in 8(ii) above, the Higher Educational Institution may prefer an appeal if any, along with documentary evidence to the Commission and shall also be uploaded on UGC-DEB portal, as per the provision stipulated under Regulations 6 of Part-II of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020. The appeal shall be accompanied by a copy of the order appealed against along with a fee of Rupees 10,000/- per programme in the form of demand draft drawn in favour of Secretary, UGC and **shall reach to the Joint Secretary, Distance Education Bureau (DEB), UGC, 35 Feroze Shah Road, New Delhi-110001 within a period of 30 days from the date of the communication dated 19.02.2021 already issued as per clause 7, above.**

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 Sub-Regulation 3 of Regulation 7 in Part -II of University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.

Yours faithfully,

  
**Dr. Dinesh Chand**  
**(Education Officer)**

**Copy to:**

1. The Secretary, Higher Education, Govt of West Bengal, “ NABANNA” HRBC Building, 325, Sarat Chatterjee Road, Howrah- 711 105, West Bengal 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.

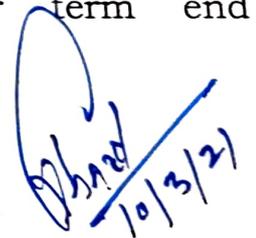
2. The Member Secretary, All India Council of Technical Education, Nelson Mandela, Marg, New Delhi-110067.
3. The Joint Secretary (Open & Distance/Online Learning), Ministry of Education, Govt. of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 001.
4. The Vice Chancellor, University of North Bengal, Raja Rammohunpur, P.O. North Bengal University, Dist.Darjeeling, West Bengal-734013
5. The Joint Secretary, State University Bureau, UGC, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110 002
6. Guard file.

  
**M.S.Joshi**  
**(Section Officer)**

**Specific Provisions for Compliance**

1. The Higher Educational Institution shall comply to all the terms and conditions mentioned in the Affidavit **15.10.2020** duly notarized and signed by Dr. Dilip Kumar Sarkar, Registrar submitted to the Commission vide letter dated **04.11.2020**. Intake capacity under Open and Distance Learning mode for a programme under science discipline
  - For Dual Mode University: Intake shall not be more than three times of the approved intake in conventional mode.
  - For Open University: Learning enrolment will commensurate with the capacity of the Learner Support Centres to provide lab facilities to the admitted learners.
2. The Higher Educational Institution shall scrupulously abide by all the terms and conditions of faculty and staff requirements for offering ODL/ Online programmes as mentioned in University Grants Commission Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.
3. 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.
4. Higher Educational Institution shall conduct proctored examination:
  - Through pen-paper or online or computer based testing within Territorial Jurisdiction, in the examination centre as per the conditions laid down in Regulations, under the direct control and responsibility of the ODL mode institution.
5. Higher Educational Institution offering programmes in Open and Distance Learning mode shall ensure that a Learner Support Centre is established within territorial jurisdiction as per the Act and Statutes of the university and as per Regulations and it also fulfill the following conditions:
  - Learner Support Centre defined under regulations, 2020 shall not be the Learner Support Centre for more than two Higher Educational Institutions at a time to offer programmes in ODL mode.
  - Learner Support Centre of a State University should be in the same state in which the State University has been established.
  - 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 shall not be set up under a franchisee agreement in any case.
6. Higher Educational Institution offering programme in ODL mode and Online mode shall prepare Self Learning Material as per **Annexure-VI** and **Annexure-VII** taking into consideration of the following:

- At least 60 percent of Self Learning Materials shall be developed by the in-house faculty of the HEI and
  - Remaining percent of the materials can be sourced from available resources such as other HEIs, Open Educational Resources (OER) and SWAYAM, duly approved by the statutory authorities of the Higher Educational Institution.
7. Higher Educational Institutions shall ensure that the faculty members shown for each of the programmes in the proposal submitted by the HEI to UGC, are on 'full time dedicated basis' with designation as Professor/Associate Professor/Assistant Professor as per the requirement detailed at Annexure-IV of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and no faculty members of Learner Support Centre/other institute has been shown as faculty of the Higher Educational Institution.
8. Higher Educational Institution shall adhere to the weightage for different components of assessments for Open and Distance Learning mode as under:
- Continuous or formative assessment (in semester): Maximum 30 per cent.
  - Summative assessment (end semester examination or term end examination): Minimum 70 per cent.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dinesh Chand', is written over a date '10/3/21'. The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Dr. Dinesh Chand**  
**(Education Officer)**