



F. No. 9-5/2018(DEB-III)

August, 2018

**The Registrar,
Vidya Sagar University,
Midnapore Distt- Paschim,
Medinipur,
West Bengal-721 102,**

16 AUG 2018 16 AUG 2018

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 2018-19 onwards - regarding.

Sir/Madam,

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) 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) Regulations, 2017, had been notified in the Gazette of India on 23.06.2017. The first and the second amendment in the principal regulations were notified in the Gazette of India on 11.10.2017 and 06.02.2018 respectively.

2. Part-II; sub-regulations (3) to (5); of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 describes the Recognition process of Higher Educational Institutions for offering Open and Distance Learning programmes. The sub-regulations (3) describes the process of recognition of Higher Educational Institutions offering programmes in Open and Distance Learning Mode, whereas sub-regulations (4) describes the process for withdrawal of recognition and sub-regulations (5) provides right to appeal to Higher Educational Institutions aggrieved with the decision of the Commission.

3. The Commission had invited online applications from the eligible Higher Educational Institutions for offering Open and Distance Learning programmes from the academic session 2018-19 vide public notice F.No. 74-1/2018 (DEB-IV) dated 28.03.2018, mentioning therein that the online portal for submitting applications shall-be open from 2ndApril, 2018 to 1stMay, 2018. It was also mentioned that the duly certified hard copies of the application submitted online mode along with annexures shall reach UGC (DEB) office at 35 Feroze Shah Road, New Delhi-110001 within 10 working days of submission of online application. In response to the public notice dated 28.03.2018, **Vidya Sagar University** had submitted application online for programme wise recognition by the Commission.

4. Application received from **Vidya Sagar University** had been scrutinized by the Expert Committee and deficiency(s) or defect(s) in application were communicated and time period as prescribed in University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 was given to remove or rectify such deficiency(s) or defect(s) with relevant documentary evidence.

5. The **Vidya Sagar University** was invited for an Interface Meeting with the Expert Committee; constituted by the Chairman of the Commission; on **10th July, 2018** in the Commission head office, Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, New Delhi. The Expert Committee based on the application submitted, clarification given for deficiency(s) or defect(s) communicated earlier, the presentation made by the Higher Educational Institution in the interface meeting and in terms of provisions of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 and its amendments; made recommendations for consideration of the Commission.

6. The Commission in its 534th meeting held on 2nd August, 2018 considered the recommendations of the Interface Expert Committee. Based on the decision of the Commission, I am directed to issue this Order, there by communicating the programme wise recognition status of the programmes to be offered in Open and Distance Learning mode from academic year 2018-19 onwards by **Vidya Sagar University** as detailed in point no. 7 below.

7. Programme wise recognition status

7(A) Programmes Recognized : NIL

7(B) Programmes found deficient

S.No	Proposed Programme	Deficiency
1	MASTER OF ARTS (BENGALI)	Inadequate Faculty as per Part 1 of Annexure VI of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017
2	MASTER OF ARTS (ENGLISH)	
3	MASTER OF ARTS (HISTORY)	
4	MASTER OF ARTS (POLITICAL SCIENCE)	
5	MASTER OF ARTS (SANSKRIT)	
6	MASTER OF COMMERCE	
7	MASTER OF SCIENCE (APPLIED MATHEMATICS WITH OCEANOLOGY AND COMPUTER PROGRAMMING)	
8	MASTER OF SCIENCE (BOTANY)*	
9	MASTER OF SCIENCE (CHEMISTRY)*	
10	MASTER OF SCIENCE (COMPUTER SCIENCE)	
11	MASTER OF SCIENCE (DIETETICS AND COMMUNITY NUTRITION MANAGEMENT)	

2	MASTER OF SCIENCE (ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE)*	Infrastructure for Practical Labs to be ascertained.
13	MASTER OF SCIENCE (GEOGRAPHY)	
14	MASTER OF SCIENCE (PHYSICS)*	
15	MASTER OF SCIENCE (ZOOLOGY)*	

8. For the programmes found deficient in 7(B) above, the Higher Educational Institution shall submit representation along with documentary evidence, if any, within 30 days from the date of this order as per the provision at clause 4 (i) of sub-regulation (3) of Part- II of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 and its amendments.


9. If the HEI fails to comply with the conditions of recognition or if it is found conducting affairs in a manner that leads to deterioration of academic standards, or if any information, documentary evidence submitted/produced by the HEI is found to be false or fake at a later date, UGC shall take action as per Regulation (4), Part -II of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017.

Yours faithfully,

(Smita Bidani)
Education Officer

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Higher Education, Govt of West Bengal, "NABANNA" HRBC Building, 325, Sarat Chatterjee Road, Howrah- 711 105, *with a request to ensure that HEI adheres to all the provisions of the UGC(ODL) Regulations, 2017 and its amendments.*
2. The Joint Secretary (Distance Learning), MHRD, Govt of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 001.
3. The Vice-Chancellor, University of Vidya Sagar University, Midnapore Distt-Paschim, Medinipur, West Bengal-721 102,
4. The Joint Secretary, State University Section, UGC for information.
5. The Publication Officer (Web), UGC for uploading on the website.
6. Guard file.


(Smita Bidani)
Education Officer



Speed Post

18 OCT 2018

Date: October, 2018

F.No.9-5/2018 (DEB-III)

**The Registrar,
Vidyasagar University,
Midnapore Distt- Paschim,
Medinipur,
West Bengal-721 102,**

Sub: Commission decision on the HEI's representation submitted for review of programmes found deficient, for recognition for 2018-19 onwards to be offered in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode - regarding.

Sir/Madam,

This is in continuation to the UGC letter No.9-5/2018(DEB-III) dated 16.08.2018, wherein the details of programmes recognised for 2018-19 onwards and programmes found deficient along with deficiencies and other relevant information/conditions were communicated to **Vidyasagar University**,

2. As per the provision at clause 4 (i) of sub-regulation (3) of Part- II of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 and the decision of the Commission in its 534th meeting held on 2nd August, 2018, for the programmes found deficient as per the UGC letter cited in above para, the Higher Educational Institution had been provided an opportunity to submit representation along with documentary evidence, if any, within 30 days from the date of the said UGC letter.

3. The representation along with documentary evidence submitted by the **Vidyasagar University**, on 06.09.2018 for review and the justifications given by the HEI representatives during the hearing, were considered by the duly constituted Expert Review Committee in the meeting held on 19.09.2018 at UGC, 35 Feroze Shah Road, New Delhi. The Expert Review Committee based on the provisions of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 and its amendments; made recommendations for consideration of the Commission.

4. Based on the decision of the Commission in its 535th Meeting dated 27.09.2018, I am directed to issue this Order, thereby communicating the Commission decision, on the representation received, for programme wise recognition status of the programmes to be offered in Open and Distance Learning mode from academic year 2018-19 onwards by the **Vidyasagar University**,

in addition to programmes already recognized vide letter mentioned in Para 1 above, as detailed in point no. 5 below.

5. Programme wise recognition status based on representation:

5(A) Programmes Recognised

S. No.	Name of the Programme	Period of Recognition
1	MASTER OF ARTS (BENGALI)	2018-19 to 2019-20
2	MASTER OF ARTS (SANSKRIT)	
3	MASTER OF SCIENCE (CHEMISTRY)	
4	MASTER OF SCIENCE (COMPUTER SCIENCE)	
5	MASTER OF SCIENCE (DIETETICS AND COMMUNITY NUTRITION MANAGEMENT)	
6	MASTER OF SCIENCE (ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE)	
7	MASTER OF SCIENCE (PHYSICS)	

As HEI NAAC score is below 3.26, the recognition given is only up to the academic year 2018-19 to 2019-20, based on the UGC (ODL) Second Amendment Regulations, 2018. The list of recognised Learner Support Centres/Study Centres will be available on UGC website shortly.

5(B) Programmes Not Recognised

S. No.	Name of the Programme	Reasons
1	MASTER OF ARTS (ENGLISH)	Inadequate Faculty as per Part 1 of Annexure VI of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 *Also, SLM not ready for the proposed programmes as per Sub Regulation 3(v) of Part II of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017
2	MASTER OF ARTS (HISTORY)	
3	MASTER OF ARTS (POLITICAL SCIENCE)	
4	MASTER OF COMMERCE *	
5	MASTER OF SCIENCE (APPLIED MATHEMATICS WITH OCEANOLOGY AND COMPUTER PROGRAMMING) *	
6	MASTER OF SCIENCE (BOTANY) *	
7	MASTER OF SCIENCE (GEOGRAPHY)	
8	MASTER OF SCIENCE (ZOOLOGY)	

6. For the programmes recognised in 5(A) above, the Higher Educational Institution shall scrupulously abide in letter and spirit by all the terms and conditions, while offering the programmes in Open and Distance Learning mode, as per the provisions detailed in Part-III, Part-IV, Part-V, Part-VI and Annexure-I to Annexure-XI of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 and its amendments. Some specific conditions as per UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 & its amendments are given in **Annexure-1**.

7. For the programmes not recognised in 5(B) above, the Higher Educational Institution may prefer an appeal to the Commission, if any, along with fee of Rupees ten thousand per programme in the form of demand draft drawn in favour of Secretary, UGC, within 30 days from the date of this order, as per the provision of sub-regulation (5) of Part- II of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 and decision of the Commission in its 534th Meeting dated 02.08.2018.

8. If the HEI fails to comply with the conditions of recognition or if it is found conducting affairs in a manner that leads to deterioration of academic standards, or if any information, documentary evidence submitted/produced by the HEI is found to be false or fake at a later date, UGC shall take action as per Regulation (4) Part - II of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017.

Yours faithfully,

(Smita Bidani)
Education Officer

Copy to:

1. The Secretary, Higher Education, Govt of West Bengal, "NABANNA" HRBC Building, 325, SaratChatterjee Road, Howrah- 711 105, with a request to ensure that HEI adheres to all the provisions of the UGC (ODL) Regulations 2017 and its amendments.
2. The Joint Secretary (Distance Learning), MHRD, Govt of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 001.
3. The Vice-Chancellor, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore Distt- Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal-721 102
4. The Joint Secretary, State University Bureau, UGC.
5. Guard file.

(Smita Bidani)
Education Officer

Conditions

1. The total intake capacity (Number of learners) in Open and Distance Learning mode in Higher Educational Institution and/or Learner Support Centre/Study Centre shall be as mentioned in clause 6 of Annexure-X of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 and its amendments.
2. The Higher Educational Institution shall offer only those programmes through Open and Distance Learning mode, which are approved by the statutory bodies of the University and by UGC and by the Regulatory Authority, as applicable.
3. The Higher Educational Institution shall not offer any programme in engineering, Medicine, dental, pharmacy, nursing, architecture, physiotherapy and programmes not permitted to be offered in distance mode by any other regulatory body.
4. The Higher Educational Institution shall comply to all the terms and conditions mentioned in (1) Affidavit dated 20.04.2018 duly notarized and signed by Dr. Jayanta Kishore Nandi, Registrar, submitted to the Commission vide letter dated 04.09.2018 and (2) Affidavit dated N.A. pertaining to adherence of terms of conditions laid down by AICTE for programmes of MBA/MCA/Travel and Tourism, duly notarized and signed by N.A. submitted to the Commission vide letter dated N.A.
5. The Higher Educational Institution shall not offer any M.Phil/Ph.D Programme through distance learning mode in compliance to clause 11 of the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil. /Ph.D. Degrees) Regulations, 2016.
6. The HEI shall establish Examination Centre within the territorial jurisdiction of the HEI subject to condition laid down in clause 7 (i) to (v) of section 13 in Part-IV.
7. In case, Higher Educational Institution fails to comply with the conditions of recognition, appropriate punitive action(s), as per provisions of the UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 and its amendments, shall be taken by the Commission.
8. The Vidyasagar University shall adhere to the policy of territorial jurisdiction as specified in Annexure- IV of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulation, 2017.



(Smita Bidani)
Education Officer



Speed Post

F.No.: 9-5/2018 (DEB-III)

Date: February, 2018

The Registrar,
Vidyasagar University,
Midnapore Distt- Paschim,
Medinipur,
West Bengal-721 102,

07 FEB 2019

Sub: Commission decision on the appeal under sub-regulation (5) of part-II of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 submitted by HEI for offering programmes in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode for 2018-19, academic session beginning January, 2019 and onwards - regarding.

Sir/Madam,

This is in continuation to the UGC Orders of even number dated **16.08.2018 and 18.10 2018**, wherein the details of programmes recognized for 2018-19 onwards and programmes not recognized were communicated to **Vidyasagar University, West Bengal.**

2. As per the provisions under sub-regulation (5) of part-II of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning 2017) Regulations and the decision of the Commission it is 535th meeting held on 27th September, 2018, for the programmes not recognized as per the UGC letter cited in above Para, the Higher Educational Institution had been provided an opportunity to submit an appeal along with requisite fee and documentary evidence, if any within 30 days from the date of the said UGC letter.

3. The appeal along with documents submitted by the **Vidyasagar University, West Bengal** was placed before duly constituted Standing Appellate Committee in the meeting held on 11th December, 2018, at UGC, 35 Feroze Shah Road, New Delhi. The Standing Appellate Committee based on the appeal submitted along with documentary evidence, interaction with the HEI Authorities and the provisions of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 and its amendments; made recommendations for consideration of the Competent Authority, in accordance to the Commission decision, in its 534th meeting, held on 02.08.2018.

4. Based on the decision of the Competent Authority, I am directed to issue this Order, thereby communicating the decision of the Commission, on the appeal received, for offering **programmes in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode from academic year 2018-19, session beginning January, 2019 and onwards by the Vidyasagar University, West Bengal, as detailed in point no. 5 below.**

5. Programme wise recognition status based on appeal:

5(A) Reversal of earlier decision (Programmes Recognized)

S. No.	Name of the Programme	Period of Recognition (If Applicable)
1.	MASTER OF ARTS (ENGLISH)	2018-19 academic session beginning January, 2019 onwards to 2019-20.
2.	MASTER OF ARTS (HISTORY)	
3.	MASTER OF ARTS (POLITICAL SCIENCE)	
4.	MASTER OF COMMERCE	

As HEI NAAC score is below 3.26, the recognition given is from the academic year 2018-19 (session beginning from January, 2019) to 2019-20 based on the UGC (ODL) Second Amendment Regulations, 2018. The list of recognized Learner Support Centres/Study Centres will be available shortly.

5(B) Decision pending for the programmes:

S. No.	Name of the Programme	Reasons
1.	Master of Science (Botany)	Since Practical component is involved, an Expert Committee Visit shall be conducted to verify the lab facilities, before final consideration of the approval.
2.	Master of Science (Geography)	
3.	Master of Science (Zoology)	

6. For the programmes recognized in 5(A) above, the Higher Educational Institution shall scrupulously abide in letter and spirit by all the terms and conditions, while offering the programmes in Open and Distance Learning mode, as per the provisions detailed in Part-III, Part-IV, Part-V, Part-VI and Annexure-I to Annexure-XI of the University Grants Commission (Open & Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 and its amendments. Some specific conditions given in UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 & its amendments are given in **Annexure- 1**.

7. If the HEI fails to comply with the conditions of recognition or if it is found conducting affairs in a manner that leads to deterioration of academic standards, or if any information, documentary evidence submitted/produced by the HEI is found to be false or fake at a later date, UGC shall take action as per Regulation (4) Part - II of UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017.

8. Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are required to comply with all the provision of the UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 and its amendments. If any deviation is noticed, the same would entail not only withdrawal of permission/ recognition for such ODL course but also for other courses offered by the institution, on regular and conventional mode, as directed by MHRD vide letter F. No.2-18/2017-U3 (A) dated 07.10.2018 on the recommendations of Justice Reddy Committee constituted by MHRD on the directions of Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 03.11.2018 in Civil Appeal No.17869-17870 filed by Orissa Lift Irrigation Corp. Ltd Versus Rabi Sankar Patro & Ors.

9. **Time limit for completion of admission process for offering ODL programmes by HEIs:**

The Commission in its 537th meeting held on 10.12.2018 has decided the time limit for completion of admission process by the HEIs for offering ODL programmes as mentioned below:

- a) Academic session for January - admission last date February end
- b) Academic session for July - admission last date August end

The Commission has also directed that the HEIs shall upload the admission details within ten days from the last date of the admissions in the respective academic session i.e. 10th September for July academic session and 10th March for January academic session. The decision is already uploaded in UGC website. Accordingly, the HEIs shall comply with the above decision of Commission.

10. The application stands closed for 2018-19, except the programmes mentioned at 5(B), for which a visit shall be conducted to verify the Practical facilities, before further consideration.

11. For Further recognition, if any, the HEI needs to apply afresh as and when UGC invites application for recognition of ODL programmes.

12. The decision of the Commission shall be final and binding on the Higher Educational Institution.

Yours faithfully,


(Smita Bidani)

Education Officer

Copy to:

- 1. The Secretary, Higher Education, Govt of West Bengal, "NABANNA" HRBC Building, 325, Sarat Chatterjee Road, Howrah- 711 105, with a request to ensure that HEI adheres to all the provisions of the UGC(ODL) Regulations, 2017 and its amendments.
- 2. The Joint Secretary (Distance Learning), MHRD, Govt of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi - 110 001.
- 3. The Vice-Chancellor, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore Distt- Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal-721 102
- 4. The Joint Secretary, State University Bureau, UGC.
- 5. Guard file.


(Smita Bidani)

Education Officer

Conditions

1. The total intake capacity (Number of learners) in Open and Distance Learning mode in Higher Educational Institution and/or Learner Support Centre/Study Centre shall be as mentioned in clause 6 of Annexure-X of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning) Regulations, 2017 and its subsequent amendments.
2. The Higher Educational Institution shall offer only those programmes through Open and Distance Learning mode, which are approved by the statutory bodies of the University and by UGC and by the Regulatory Authority, as applicable.
3. The Higher Educational Institution shall not offer any programme in engineering, Medicine, dental, pharmacy, nursing, architecture, physiotherapy and programmes not permitted to be offered in distance mode by any other regulatory body.
4. The Higher Educational Institution shall comply to all the terms and conditions mentioned in (1) Affidavit dated 20.04.2018 duly notarized and signed by Dr. Jayanta Kishore Nandi, Registrar, submitted to the Commission vide letter dated 26.04.2018 and (2) Affidavit dated N.A. pertaining to adherence of terms of conditions laid down by AICTE for programmes of MBA/MCA/Travel and Tourism, duly notarized and signed by N.A. submitted to the Commission vide letter dated N.A.
5. The Higher Educational Institution shall not offer any M.Phil/Ph.D Programme through distance learning mode in compliance to clause 11 of the University Grants Commission (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil. /Ph.D. Degrees) Regulations, 2016.
6. The HEI shall establish Examination Centre within the territorial jurisdiction of the HEI subject to condition laid down in clause 7 (i) to (v) of section 13 in Part-IV.
7. In case, Higher Educational Institution fails to comply with the conditions of recognition, appropriate punitive action(s), as per provisions of the UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017 and its amendments, shall be taken by the Commission.
8. The Vidyasagar University shall adhere to the policy of territorial jurisdiction as specified in Annexure – IV of the UGC (ODL) Regulations, 2017.


(Smita Bidani)
Education Officer