

1. Equivalence of qualification acquired through Conventional or Open and Distance Learning and Online modes.— Degrees at undergraduate and postgraduate level in conformity with UGC notification on Specification of Degrees, 2014 and post graduate diplomas awarded through Open and Distance Learning mode and/or Online mode by Higher Educational Institutions, recognised by the Commission under these regulations, shall be treated as equivalent to the corresponding awards of the Degrees at undergraduate and postgraduate level and post graduate diplomas offered through conventional mode.

2. Learner centric provisions.— (i) Learner's mobility: A learner enrolled for a programme under Open and Distance Learning mode and/or Online mode in a Higher Educational Institution recognised by the Commission under these regulations shall be eligible for mobility from one mode of learning to another mode of learning within the Higher Educational Institution as per the provisions stipulated under its Act and with the approval of statutory authorities of the Higher Educational Institution;

Provided that in case a programme is under the domain of regulatory authority/statutory council, Higher Educational Institution shall take permission from the concerned regulatory authority/statutory council for mobility of learners under such programmes.

(ii) Admission taken during recognition period: Admission taken in a recognized programme under Open and Distance Learning mode and/or Online mode during the recognition period stands recognised till the completion of programme, even if the Higher Educational Institution does not have recognition for further years, provided the programme is offered as per the UGC norms of territorial jurisdiction and in conformity with the extant guidelines and/or UGC regulations and regulations of respective regulatory bodies

(iii) 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 80 THE GAZETTE OF INDIA : EXTRAORDINARY [PART III—SEC. 4] 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.

(iv) Learner's enrolment (for Online mode): A Learner residing within or outside India may enroll in any programme being offered by a Higher Educational Institution recognized by the Commission for offering programme under Online mode.

3. Offering of Certificate and Diploma level Programmes.— A Higher Educational Institution recognised for offering programmes at Under Graduate Degree or Post Graduate Degree or Post Graduate diploma levels in Open and Distance Learning mode and/or Online mode may offer Certificate or Diploma programmes in Open and Distance Learning mode and/or Online mode in the domains other than prohibited programmes as per clause (z) of regulation 2 subject to the condition that before the actual start of such programmes, all the Certificate or Diploma programmes are duly approved by the statutory authorities of the Higher Educational Institutions and the regulatory authority/council, as applicable, and the delivery mechanism conforms to the quality standards of the Open and Distance Learning education and/or Online education. The Higher Educational

Institution shall be solely responsible for any legal issues arising out of non-compliance of such requirements:

Provided that, if the concerned regulatory authority/council permits any of the prohibited programmes, as mentioned above, under its domain, in Open and Distance Learning mode and/or Online mode, the same may be offered by the Higher Educational Institutions after the approval of its statutory authorities and Regulatory Authorities or Councils, as applicable and after conforming to the quality standards of Open and Distance Learning and Online mode of education.

4. Integrated programme through Open and Distance Learning mode and/or online mode.– Any proposal received from a Higher Educational Institutions for offering an integrated programme through Open and Distance Learning mode and/or online mode shall be considered by the Commission only if it is in compliance to the UGC notification on Specification of Degrees, 2014.

5. Non-consideration of programmes proposed by the Higher Educational Institutions through affiliated colleges only.– The Higher Educational Institutions shall be eligible to apply for only such programmes under Open and Distance Learning mode and/or Online mode which are being offered by its constituent Colleges or Departments or Centre for distance and online education. The Programmes which are being offered only through affiliated Colleges shall not be considered for recognition.