



**MAHATMA GANDHI UNIVERSITY, KERALA**

**Abstract**

Report of the Committee constituted for formulating guidelines to examine whether the Degrees obtained through Open/Distance Education from other Universities /Institution of Higher Education are in accordance with the latest UGC Open and Distance Regulations as part of implementation of G.O (Ms) No. 272/2018/HEdn at Mahatma Gandhi University-accepted-Orders issued

**ACADEMIC D SECTION**

No. 4500/AC D/2023/MGU

Priyadarsini Hills, Dated: 27.04.2023

- Read:-*1) GO.(Ms.) No.272/2018/HEdn. issued by the Department of Higher Education dated 13.11.2018
- 2) Endorsement (No. 669/AC D5/2018/AD. A3 dated 24.08.2019) implemented at Mahatma Gandhi University as per GO.(Ms.)No.272/2018/HEdn issued by the Department of Higher Education
- 3) U.O No. 5145/AC D/2020 dated 04.11.2020
- 4) U.O No. 66/AC D/2021 dated 04.01.2021
- 5) U O No. 4650/AC D/2022/MGU dated 04.05.2022
- 6 ) U O No. 6336/AC D/2022/MGU dated 18.06.2022
- 7) Meeting of the Committee held on 20.06.2022
- 8) Orders of the Pro Vice Chancellor in charge of Vice Chancellor dated 16.12.2022
- 9) Minutes of the meeting of the Academic Council held on 20.02.2023 in Item No. 32/669/AC D 5/2018/AC AI(Submitted as item No. No. 01/23.02/230003 in the Meeting of the Syndicate(23.02)held on 10.04.2023

**ORDER**

As part of implementation of G.O as per reference (1) ,the Committee constituted for formulating guidelines to examine whether the degrees obtained through Open/Distance Education from other Universities /Institution of Higher Education are in accordance with the latest UGC Open and Distance regulations as per reference(4) was reconstituted as per references (5)&(6).

As per the orders of the Pro Vice Chancellor , the Academic Council as per reference (9), considered and accepted the following recommendations of the Committee reconstituted with Prof. (Dr.) Robinet Jacob as Convenor as per reference (7) .

1. In Annexure IV of the University Grants Commission Notification 2017 for Distance Education, the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode of Education consists of three

levels of functioning which are located at the Head-Quarters (HQ) of the Higher Educational Institutions, Regional Centres and Study Centres (SCs) or Learner Support Centres (LSCs) established within the territorial jurisdiction of the Higher Educational Institution.

2. The U.G.C regulation clearly specifies that a University established or incorporated by or under a State Act shall operate only within the territorial jurisdiction allotted to it under its Act and in no case beyond the territory of the state of its location be it examination centres or the learner support centres. The regulation further emphasizes that to ascertain the territorial jurisdiction of the learner support centres and the examination centres, it shall be mandatory for the Higher Educational Institution to mention the name and place of 'Learner Support Centre' and of 'Examination Centre' on all the certificates or mark sheets issued to the students. If ever this doesn't find mention in the certificates or mark sheets, a certificate ascertaining the territorial jurisdiction of the learner support centres and the examination centres shall be procured from the Higher Educational Institution from which the student procured the qualification certificate.

3. The said certificate shall contain the name, register number, programme' name and the centre of examination and the centre of learning of the student concerned and should be certified by an officer of the University not below the rank of an Assistant Registrar that the student has qualified the entire programme following the territorial jurisdiction mandate stipulated by the University Grants Commission for Distance Education 2017. The committee also resolved not to recognize any Degree awarded violating this territorial jurisdiction of the Higher Educational Institution under Distance Education Mode stipulated by the University Grants Commission. The committee took this decision after much deliberation on the topic concerned. The committee further emphasized that any violation of the said rule may lead to unnecessary litigation which would hamper the very reputation of the institution. Hence, the section concerned is directed to ensure that prior to issuing the said certificates, the credentials submitted by the student are properly vetted and verified.

On the basis of the recommendations of the Committee, the Academic Council also decided to accept the following conditions with regard to the applications for Course recognition/Eligibility/Equivalency w.e.f 2017 onwards under distance mode from other Universities.

1) The Candidate should submit a certificate mentioning that the course is conducted by the University under distance mode is approved by the UGC Distance Education Bureau (DEB) and the Learners support centre and the exam centre of the said student is within the territorial jurisdiction of the concerned University as per "UGC Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Regulations 2017".

The above certificate shall include the name of student, register number, name of programme ,centre of examination and centre of learning and also certify that the student has qualified the entire programme following the territorial jurisdiction mandate stipulated by the University Grants Commission for Distance Education 2017 .The certificate should be issued by an officer of the University not below the rank of an Assistant Registrar .

2) While receiving applications for Course recognition/Eligibility/Equivalency , the section shall verify the website of the UGC DEB (UGC Distance Education Bureau) that the programme is approved.

Orders are issued accordingly.

RACHEL K I

ASSISTANT REGISTRAR III  
(ACADEMIC)  
For REGISTRAR

Copy To

- 1) PS to VC/PVC
- 2) PA to Registrar/PA to CE
- 3) Prof.(Dr.) Robinet Jacob,Convenor
- 4) JR II(Admn.)
- 5) AR III / DR II (Acad)
- 6 ACC I /ACC II Section
- 7) Ad A III Section
- 8) Ac A VIII Section(for necessary action)
- 9) PRO
- 10) IQAC
- 11) Stock file / File copy

Forwarded / By Order

Section Officer