



ज्ञान-विज्ञान विमुक्तये

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सचिव

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आज़ादी का
अमृत महोत्सव

विश्वविद्यालय अनुदान आयोग
University Grants Commission

(शिक्षा मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
(Ministry of Education, Govt. of India)

F. No. 12-1/2024(DEB-I)

26 April 2024/6 वैशाख 1946

PUBLIC NOTICE

Non-enrolment of foreign nationals in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Programmes as per UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020

UGC has notified the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 on 4th September, 2020. Subsequently, amendments have been notified in the Principal Regulation on 1st July, 2021 and 18th July, 2022. A copy of the regulations is available at <https://deb.ugc.ac.in/>.

Regulations 23 (3) of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 under heading Learner centric provisions stipulates as under: -

“(3) 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 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...”

Further, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India has informed that Student Visa cannot be issued to foreign nationals sponsored by franchise Educational Institutes running off-campus centres, Study Centres of Open University offering distance learning programmes. The provision in Chapter 15.1 of Visa Manual is as under :-

“No Student Visa will be issued to foreign nationals sponsored by franchise Educational Institutes running off-campus centres, Study Centre of Open Universities offering distance learning programmes, educational Institutes running “outreach” programmes and offering courses without any statutory sanction from regulatory authorities”

In view of the above, HEIs recognized/entitled to offer ODL programmes are directed not to enroll any foreign nationals in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) programmes. Accordingly, only learner residing in India may be enrolled in ODL programmes in compliance to the territorial jurisdiction for all the activities of learner as defined in Annexure-III of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.

(Manish Joshi)