



Note on UGC regulations on Academic Collaboration between Indian and Foreign Higher Educational Institutions to offer Twinning, Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programs

https://www.ugc.ac.in/pdfnews/4555806_UCG-Acad-Collab-Regulations.pdf

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has approved regulations that will allow Indian and foreign universities to offer twinning, joint and dual degrees in the same disciplines/subject areas and at the same qualification level. These regulations will implement the Indian Government's commitment under the National Education Policy 2020.

Until now joint degrees and dual degree programs were not permitted under existing Indian regulations. With these new regulations, UGC has created an arrangement where Indian universities which meet certain criteria will be able to develop and enter partnerships which would lead to the award of qualifications under these collaboration arrangements.

Students enrolled in programs under these arrangements will be required to complete at least 30 per cent of the course credits at the collaborating foreign partner university. Students will be required to complete credits in the foreign university in "conventional mode" meaning delivery through online or open distance learning would not be recognised.

Those **Indian universities** which will be permitted to offer these programs in partnership with foreign universities are those which are either:

- accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) with a minimum of 3.01; or
- are in the top 100 of the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF); or
- in the top 1000 of Times Higher Education or QS World University ranking at the time of application.

Permitted **Foreign university partners** are those which are in the top 1000 of the Times Higher Education ranking or QS World University ranking at the time of application. UGC requires that both universities enter a written Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support their collaboration.

The Degree awarded under these Regulations shall be equivalent to any corresponding degree awarded by the Indian Higher Educational Institution and there shall be no further requirement of seeking equivalence from any authority.

Twinning programs

For twinning programs, students will be allowed to complete part of their course in a foreign university. Through this study, students can obtain **up to 30 per cent** of their course credit from the foreign university through a conventional mode of study.

The foreign university would provide the student with a certificate stating that they have completed credits worth 30 percent of the coursework. However, the degree will be awarded by the Indian university.

Joint degree programs

Under a joint degree program, the curriculum will be designed by both the collaborating Indian and foreign universities. Upon completion of the course, a single joint degree qualification will be awarded to the student.

The student will have to complete **at least 30 per cent** of their course requirement from the foreign university under this arrangement.

Dual degree programs

According to the Regulations, dual-degree programs will be those which are offered by both the Indian and foreign university in the same subject area and at the same qualification level. Degrees will be awarded separately and simultaneously from both universities. Prospective students must meet the admission requirements of both the Indian and Foreign universities and shall apply to and be admitted separately to both universities.

The dual degree programs established in the regulations does not include a degree in two different courses as understood in Australia. It would be degrees in the same discipline and at the same level.

Students must earn **at least 30 per cent** of total credits from the Indian university. Credits earned for the course(s) in either the Indian or foreign university shall be counted towards degrees to be awarded by both universities. This will allow students to obtain degrees from both universities, unlike the joint degree program which will award a joint certificate.

The Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) at the Australian High Commission in New Delhi is liaising with the University Grants Commission to understand these arrangements further and to organise an information session for interested Australian universities.

Contacts

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