

UGC regulations for collaboration between Indian and foreign universities

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Recently, University Grants Commission (UGC) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with foreign institutions to offer dual degree, joint degree or twinning programmes.

- The collaborations would be facilitated and governed by University Grants Commission Regulations 2022.



Understanding the academic route

UGC has approved a regulation to allow 3 types of academic collaborations between Indian and foreign varsities. The regulations may come into effect from 2022-23 onwards

Twinning programme

Students enrolled with an Indian university will be allowed to complete their programme partly in the foreign university

Joint programme

At least 30% of the total credits must be scored from each collaborating institution in conventional or physical mode

Dual programme

At least 30 % of total credits must be scored from an Indian institution

Who is eligible?

Indian institutions:

NAAC score of 3.01/ top 100 in varsity category of NIRF/ top 1000 of Times Higher Education or QS ranking

Foreign institutions:

Among 1000 of Times Higher Education or QS ranking



[Ref: Hindustan Times]

Key Highlights of the draft regulations made by UGC:

- The new regulations **do not mandate** the qualifying institutes **to seek permission** for academic collaborations abroad.
- The draft of regulation **proposed an “approval mode”**, as opposed to the “automatic mode”:
 - This means that the collaboration under, if not accredited, may be considered for foreign tie-ups “if they have sufficient demonstrable accomplishments”.
- It allows **only full-time courses** through conventional, offline mode.
- It proposes **qualifications to be maintained by an Indian institute** for academic collaboration:
 - The institute must figure among the **top global 1,000 QS World University** or Times Higher Education rankings or have emerged as one of the top 100 universities under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).
 - The institute must have secured a **minimum grading of 3.01** on a 4-point scale from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).
- It also proposes **qualifications to be maintained by a foreign institute** for academic collaboration:
 - It must have figured among the **1,000 global top QS World University**.
 - It must have figured among the **“top 500” of Times Higher Education** or QS World University ranking at the time of application.
- It provides details regarding the **“dual degree” programme**:
 - **Degree shall be conferred** by the Indian and foreign institutions **“separately and simultaneously”** upon completion of degree requirements of both universities.
 - Enrolling students must **meet the admission requirements** of both the Indian and foreign institutions and shall apply to and be admitted separately to both the institutions.
 - The programme shall also **conform to the nomenclature** and duration of the degrees as specified under the UGC Act, 1956.

Significance of the Proposal

- It will allow a student enrolled in a degree programme at an Indian institute to undergo an exchange programme with the partner foreign university.
- The **cost of education** with international exposure will markedly **reduce**.
- It will provide the students an **opportunity for advanced learning** with global expertise.
- Private autonomous colleges and deemed universities can use this as a **marketing tool** to attract more students.