



**Speed Post/E-mail**

**F.No.30-20/2023(DEB-II)**

**March, 2024**

**21 MAR 2024**

The Registrar  
Uttarakhand Open University  
Teen Pani Bypass, Near Transport Nagar,  
P.O. - Industrial Area, Haldwani, Nainital  
Uttarakhand - 263 139

**Sub:** Commission decision on the appeal submitted by the HEI under Regulation 6 of Part II of University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 for offering programmes in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode from academic year 2023-24, academic session beginning July - August, 2023 and onwards - regarding

Sir/Madam,

1. This is in continuation to the Commission Order of even number dated **8<sup>th</sup> March, 2024** wherein the recommendations of the Interface Expert Committee were communicated to **Uttarakhand Open University, Uttarakhand.**
2. As per the provisions under Regulation 6 of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020, the Higher Educational Institution was provided an opportunity to submit an appeal along with requisite fee and documentary evidence for the programme(s) not recognized as per the UGC letter cited in above para, if any, within 30 days from the date of the communication of assessment sheet of the Interface Expert Committee (as communicated in the said UGC letter).
3. The appeal along with documents submitted by the **Uttarakhand Open University, Uttarakhand** have been placed before duly constituted Standing Appellate Committee in the virtual meeting held on **24.07.2023**. The Standing Appellate Committee based on the appeal submitted along with documentary evidences, interaction with HEIs representatives and the provisions of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and its amendments; made recommendations for consideration of the Competent Authority/Commission.
4. Based on the recommendations of Standing Appellate Committee and its approval by Competent Authority/Commission, I am directed to issue this Order, thereby communicating the decision, on the appeal submitted by HEI for offering programme(s) in **Open and Distance Learning mode** from academic year 2023-24 session beginning from February, 2024 and onwards, by **Uttarakhand Open University, Uttarakhand** as detailed in point no. 5 below. The assessment sheet duly approved by Competent Authority has already been communicated to the Higher Educational Institution through UGC-DEB portal on **31.07.2023**.

5. Programme-wise recognition status based on appeal submitted by the HEI (communicated to the HEI through UGC-DEB web portal on 31.07.2023):

(i) Reversal of earlier decision: 36 (Thirty-Six)

| S. No. | Name of the ODL Programmes   | Period of Recognition   |
|--------|--|---|
| 1.     | Bachelor of Education**  | <b>2023-24 Academic Session Beginning from July-August, 2023 to February, 2024</b>                    |
| 2.     | Bachelor of Education - Special Education (Intellectual Developmental Disability) **   | <b>2023-24 Academic Session Beginning from July-August, 2023 to 2024 - 25 (upto July, 2024 only)</b>  |
| 3.     | Bachelor of Education - Special Education (Learning Disability) **   |   |
| 4.     | Master of Business Administration**  | <b>2023-24 Academic Session Beginning from July-August, 2023 to 2026-27 (upto January, 2027 Only)</b> |
| 5.     | Master of Computer Applications**  |   |
| 6.     | Bachelor of Commerce   | <b>2023-24 Academic Session Beginning from July-August, 2023 to 2027-28 (upto January, 2028 Only)</b> |
| 7.     | Bachelor of Tourism & Travel Management  |   |
| 8.     | Bachelor of Arts (Combination Of 3 Subjects - Hindi, English, Urdu, Sanskrit, History, Political Science, Sociology, Economics, Education, Psychology, Music, Public Administration, Home Science, Geography, Mathematics and Jyotish) |   |
| 9.     | Bachelor of Business Administration*   |   |
| 10.    | Bachelor of Science (Combination of 3 Subjects) (Botany, Chemistry, Forestry, Geography, Geology, Mathematics, Physics, Zoology)   |   |
| 11.    | Master of Arts (Sociology)   |   |
| 12.    | Master of Arts (Geography)   |   |
| 13.    | Master of Arts (Political Science)   |   |
| 14.    | Master of Performing Arts - Music (Vocal, Instrumental Tonal and Tabla)  |   |

| S. No. | Name of the ODL Programmes  | Period of Recognition   |
|--------|---|---|
| 15.    | Master of Social Work (Human Resource Management and Industrial Relations, Labour Welfare and Legislation, Medical Social Work) | <b>2023-24 Academic Session<br/>Beginning from July-August,<br/>2023 to 2027-28 (upto<br/>January, 2028 Only)</b> |
| 16.    | Master of Arts (Hindi)  |   |
| 17.    | Master of Arts (Public Administration)  |   |
| 18.    | Master of Arts (Development Studies)  |   |
| 19.    | Master of Arts (Urdu)   |   |
| 20.    | Master of Arts (Psychology)   |   |
| 21.    | Master of Arts (Home Science)   |   |
| 22.    | Master of Arts (English)  |   |
| 23.    | Master of Arts (Environmental Studies)  |   |
| 24.    | Master of Arts (History)  |   |
| 25.    | Master of Arts (Journalism & Mass Communication)  |   |
| 26.    | Master of Commerce  |   |
| 27.    | Master of Arts (Sanskrit)   |   |
| 28.    | Master of Arts (Jyotish)  |   |
| 29.    | Master of Arts (Economics)  |   |
| 30.    | Master of Science (Mathematics)   |   |
| 31.    | Master of Science (Botany)  |   |
| 32.    | Master of Science (Cyber Security)  |   |
| 33.    | Master of Science (Information Technology)  |   |
| 34.    | Master of Science (Zoology)   |   |
| 35.    | Master of Science (Chemistry)   |   |
| 36.    | Master of Science (Environmental Science)   |   |

\*As per the recent decision made by AICTE to offer BBA, BCA and BMS Programmes, the approval of AICTE is mandatory from July, 2024 onwards. The HEI needs to obtain approval /NOC from AICTE to continue offer BCA, BBA & BMS Programmes in ODL mode from July, 2024 onwards.

**\*\* HEI shall strictly adhere to the maximum student intake capacity, recognition period and other norms/conditions stipulated in the concerned Regulatory Authority in respect of Programmes coming under the ambit of any Regulatory Authority (RCI, AICTE & NCTE).**

**(ii) Appeal Kept on Hold (Under Consideration) for the following programme(s): - 02**

| S.No. | Name of the Programmes         | Reason(s) for Hold  |
|-------|--------------------------------|---|
| 1.    | Bachelor of Arts (Hons) (Yoga) | <b>The matter of offering Yoga Programmes in ODL mode by Open Universities is Under Consideration by UGC.</b> |
| 2.    | Master of Arts (Yoga)          |   |

**(iii) Appeal disposed off for the following programme(s): - 02**

| S. No. | Name of the Programmes                   | Reason(s) for refusal   |
|--------|--|---|
| 1.     | Master of Tourism & Travel Management    | <b>AICTE Approval not Submitted for 2023-24</b>   |
| 2.     | Master Of Science (Remote Sensing & Gis) | <b>Committee is not convinced with the feasibility of offering the Programme in ODL mode.</b> |

6. For the programmes recognized in 5(i) above, the Higher Educational Institution shall comply with all the provisions of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and its amendments while offering the programmes in Open and Distance Learning mode. Some specific provisions for compliance have been mentioned in **Annexure-1**.

7. As stipulated under Sub-Regulation 7 of Regulations 5 of the University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020

*“No Higher Educational Institution shall offer any Open and Distance Learning Programme and/or Online Programme and admit learners thereto unless it has been granted recognition by the Commission and admission shall not be made in anticipation of the recognition”.*

8. In the event of any Higher Educational Institution found offering programmes in Open and Distance Learning and/or Online mode without recognition of the Commission or in violation to any of the provisions of these regulations and guidelines or orders made there under, the Commission shall take action(s) as per Regulations 7 of Part-II of University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and its amendments.

9. The application of the HEI for the academic year 2023-24, session beginning July – August, 2023 **stands closed.**
10. The decision of the Commission shall be final and binding on the Higher Educational Institution.

Yours faithfully,

  
**(Neethu S. Thulaseedharan)**  
Deputy Secretary

**Encl:** - As above

**Copy to:-**

1. The Secretary, Higher Education, Government of Uttarakhand, Uttarakhand Secretariat, Subhash Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand- 248 004 with a request to ensure that HEI adheres to all the provisions of the UGC (Open and Distance Learning Programmes & Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and its amendments.
2. The Member Secretary, AICTE, Nelson Mandela Road, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi – 110070.
3. The Joint Secretary (Open & Distance/Online Learning), MoE, Govt. of India, Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi – 110 001.
4. The Secretary Rehabilitation Council of India, B-22, Qutab Institutional Area, New Delhi – 110 016.
5. The Member Secretary, National Council for Teacher Education, Hans Bhawal, Wing-II, 1, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - I 10 002.
6. The Vice Chancellor, Uttarakhand Open University, Teen Pani Bypass Near Transport Nagar, P.O- Industrial Area, Haldwani, Nainital, Uttarakhand.
7. The Joint Secretary, State University Bureau, UGC, Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi - 110 002.
8. Guard File.

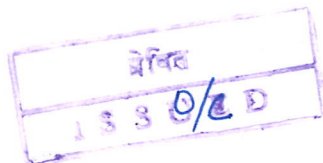
  
**(Neera Chopra)**  
Under Secretary



**Specific Provisions for Compliance**

1. The Higher Educational Institution shall comply to all the terms and conditions mentioned in the Affidavit dated 28th August, 2023 duly notarized and signed by Prof. Rashmi Pant, Registrar and Prof. P.D Pant, Director, Centre for Distance and Online Education of Uttarakhand Open University, Uttarakhand, Teen Pani Bypass, Near Transport Nagar, P.O. - Industrial Area, Haldwani, Nainital, Uttarakhand – 263 139 submitted to the Commission.
2. HEI shall abide by the academic calendar as notified by the Commission and upload Student data on UGC DEB web portal within stipulated time.
3. Intake capacity of science based programme under Open and Distance Learning mode will be as follows:-
  - For Dual Mode University: Intake shall not be more than three times of the approved intake in conventional mode.
  - For Open University: Learner enrolment shall be commensurate with the capacity of the Learner Support Centers to provide lab facilities to the admitted learners.
4. The HEI shall scrupulously abide by all the terms and conditions regarding faculty and staff requirements for offering ODL/Online programmes as mentioned in Annexure-IV of University Grants Commission (Open and Distance Learning Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020. HEI shall ensure that the faculty members shown for each programme are on 'full time dedicated basis' and no faculty member of LSC/other institution is shown as faculty of the HEI.
5. The total deployment of work force and other support at study or Learner Support Centres in Open and Distance Learning mode shall be as mentioned in Regulations.
6. The HEI shall also adhere to the policy of Territorial Jurisdiction as specified in **Annexure-III** of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.
7. HEI shall establish "Examination Centre(s)" strictly as per **Annexure-II** of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 and conduct proctored examination as under:
  - For ODL Programmes: Examination through pen-paper or online or computer-based testing within Territorial Jurisdiction, in the examination centre as per condition laid down in Regulations.
  - For Online Programmes: Examinations either using Computer based test or pen and paper test in a proctored environment in designated test centre with all the security arrangements ensuring transparency and credibility of the examinations. It can also conduct online examination through technology mediated proctoring.
8. Programmes under the purview of regulatory authorities have been considered on the basis of NOC/ approval/ recommendation received from the respective regulatory authority. The HEI shall abide by the conditions such as the number of seats, valid academic year, etc. mentioned in the relevant regulatory authority letter.
9. HEI offering programmes in Open and Distance Learning mode shall ensure that a Learner Support Centre is established as per Regulations and fulfils following conditions:-
  - Learner Support Centre defined under these regulations shall not be the Learner Support Centre for more than two Higher Educational Institutions at a time to offer programmes in ODL mode.

- Private University established under the State Act shall be eligible to offer programmes under Open and Distance Learning mode through its Head Quarters; not through any Learner Support Centre.
  - Learner Support Centre will not be set up under a franchisee agreement in any manner.
10. HEI offering programme in ODL mode shall prepare Self Learning Material as per **Annexure-VI** and **Annexure-VII** of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 taking into consideration the following:
    - At least 60 percent of Self Learning Materials shall be developed by the in-house faculty of the HEI.
    - Remaining percent of the materials can be sourced from available resources such as other HEIs, Open Educational Resources (OER) and SWAYAM.
  11. HEI shall adhere to the weightage for different components of assessments for Open and Distance Learning mode and Online mode as under:
    - Continuous or formative assessment (in semester): Maximum 30 per cent.
    - Summative assessment (end semester examination or term end examination): Minimum 70 per cent.
  12. HEI shall make mandatory disclosure(s) on its website as per Regulation 9 of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.
  13. HEI shall establish Students Grievances Redressal Committee (SGRC) and the appoint Ombudsperson(s) at the Institute or University level as per University Grants Commission (Redressal of Grievances of Students) Regulations, 2023 and as amended from time to time.
  14. HEI shall establish Centre for Internal Quality Assurance (CIQA) as per **Annexure-I** of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020 for offering programmes in Open and Distance Learning mode and/or Online mode. HEI shall also submit annual report of CIQA within stipulated time period.
  15. HEI shall ensure that the delivery of Self Learning Material to learners for ODL programmes is as defined in **Annexure-VI** and **Annexure-VII** of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020.
  16. HEI shall mandatorily mention the following on the backside of each of the degrees/certificates and mark sheets issued by the Higher Educational Institution to the learners (for each semester certificate and at the end of the programme); as per Regulations 16 of UGC (ODL Programmes and Online Programmes) Regulations, 2020:
    - Mode of delivery;
    - Date of admission;
    - Date of completion;
    - Name and address of all Learner Support Centres (only for Open and Distance Learning);
    - Name and address of all Examination Centres.



(Neethu S. Thulaseedharan)  
Deputy Secretary

