

University of Mumbai



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CIRCULAR

Sub:- UGC Guidelines on Examinations and Academic Calendar for the Universities in View of COVID-19 Pandemic and Subsequent Lockdown.

Ref:- University Grants Commission guidelines dated April, 2020.

The Principals/Directors of all affiliated/ Recognised Colleges/ Institutions are hereby requested to comply point no. 2, 3 & 7 of the attached guidelines and accordingly report to this section on ar.affiliation2@fort.mu.ac.in on or before 3 days from the date of issue.

Mumbai-400 032
7th August, 2020


(Dr. Vinod Patil)
I/c REGISTRAR

To,
The Principals/Directors of all affiliated/ Recognised Colleges/Institutions
(Aided/ Unaided) (UG/PG) of the University of Mumbai.

UGC Guidelines on Examinations and Academic Calendar for the Universities in View of COVID-19 Pandemic and Subsequent Lockdown

Introduction

The whole world, including India, is passing through unprecedented difficult times due to the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. As all universities and colleges are closed due to national lockdown, the teaching – learning process and research activities have been badly disrupted. The schedule of Terminal Semester examinations has also got disturbed. In such scenario, it is joint responsibility of all the stakeholders to manage multiple key issues relating to academic activities in the institutions. While it is crucial to follow measures taken by the Government to contain the spread of COVID-19, it is also important to continue the educational process making effective use of technology and other available options. Future may have many uncertainties but difficult times demand quick appropriate decisions. We must be optimistic that we can reinvent work again and engage the students in effective and constructive ways. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has been engaged with this issue and contemplating measures to face the challenge of safeguarding the interests of the academic fraternity in general and students in particular. Confronted with vital issues of examinations and academic calendar, UGC constituted an Expert Committee to deliberate on these issues and make recommendations to address them.

In the present circumstances, the major concerns are as follows:

1. Ensuring the health, safety and security of the students, faculty and staff and also to continue academic activities.
2. Conducting the examinations and declaration of results.
3. Facilitating the students to participate in further admissions, placement processes, research and training etc.
4. Charting out a plan for the next academic session.

3. Admissions to the UG and PG programmes for the session 2020-21 may be completed by 31.08.2020. If necessity arises, provisional admissions may also be made and relevant documents of qualifying examination may be accepted up to 30.09.2020.
4. The Academic Session 2020-21 may commence from 01.8.2020 for old students and from 01.09.2020 for fresh students.

The following calendar is suggested for the academic session 2020-2021:

Admission Process	01.08.2020 to 31.08.2020
Commencement of Classes	
i. Students of 2 nd / 3 rd year *	01.08.2020
ii. Fresh batch (First Semester/Year)	01.09.2020
Conduct of Examinations	01.01.2021 to 25.01.2021
Commencement of Classes for Even Semester	27.01.2021
Dispersal of Classes	25.05.2021
Conduct of Examinations	26.05.2021 to 25.06.2021
Summer Vacations	01.07.2021 to 30.07.2021
Commencement of Next Academic Session	02.08.2021

* For courses more than 3-year duration, the university may plan accordingly.

Some General Guidelines

1. All the universities may follow a 6-day week pattern to compensate the loss for the remaining session of 2019-20 and the next session 2020-21.
2. In view of the importance of "social distancing", universities may take necessary steps to ensure that the students are given exposure to laboratory assignments/ practical experiments through virtual laboratories, sharing of the recorded visuals of laboratory work and digital resources available for the purpose. The link provided by Ministry of Human Resource Development for virtual laboratories to facilitate the students of science/ engineering/ technology streams may also be suitable for such purposes.
3. Every institute should develop virtual classroom and video conferencing facility and all teaching staff should be trained with the use of the technology.
4. The universities should prepare e-content/e-lab experiments and upload the same on their websites.
5. The universities should strengthen the mechanism of mentor-mentee counselling through a dedicated portal on university website to impart timely guidance and counselling to the students. Besides, the faculty advisor and supervisor assigned to each student should maintain regular communication with the students.

6. The universities may devise a proforma to record the Travel/ Stay history of the staff and students for the period when they were away from the university due to lockdown, so that necessary precautions may be taken in specific cases, if required. In addition, the universities will strictly comply with all precautions and preventive measures to curb the spread of COVID -19.

7. In order to overcome such challenges in future, the faculty should be adequately trained for the use of ICT and online teaching tools, so that they complete about 25% of the syllabus through online teaching and 75% syllabus through face to face teaching.

8. In view of the present scenario and future uncertainties:

- i. the universities may adopt and implement these Guidelines in a transparent manner by making alterations/ additions/ modifications/ amendments to deal with particular situation(s) in the best interest of students, educational institution and the entire education system,
- ii. if the university faces difficulty in making admissions as per the existing policy, it may adopt alternative modes of admission process, if otherwise legally tenable, and
- iii. In case of educational institutions located at places where the Government (Centre/ State) have imposed restrictions on gathering of public, the institutions may plan accordingly. In any case, the above recommendations shall not cause any restrictions on the guidelines/directions issued by the appropriate Government/competent authority.

Notwithstanding the above Guidelines regarding the resumption of session, conduct of examinations and commencement of next academic session, every university/ college has to ensure that it is prepared in all respects to carry out the academic activities following necessary advisories/guidelines/directions issued by the Central/State Government, MHRD or UGC from time to time to prevent the spread of COVID-19.