

**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG
NEW DELHI – 110 002**

**No.F.1-52/2000(CPP-II)
5th May, 2004**

**The Registrar
Indira Gandhi National Open University
Maidan Garhi
New Delhi – 110 068**

Sub: RECOGNITION OF DEGREES AWARDED BY OPEN UNIVERSITIES

Sir/Madam,

There are a number of Open Universities in the country offering various degrees/diplomas through the mode of non-formal education. The Open Universities have been established in the country by an Act of Parliament or State Legislature in accordance with the provisions contained in Section 2(f) of University Grants Commission Act, 1956. These universities are, therefore, empowered to award degrees in terms of Section 22(1) of the UGC Act, 1956.

A circular was earlier issued vide UGC letter No.F.1-8/92(CPP) dated February, 1992 mentioning that the Certificates, Diplomas and Degrees awarded by Indira Gandhi National Open University are to be treated equivalent to the corresponding awards of the Universities in the country.

Attention is further invited to UGC circular No.F.1-25-93(CPP) dated 28th July, 1993 (copy enclosed) for recognition of degrees and diplomas as well as transfer of credit for courses successfully completed by students between the two types of Universities so that the mobility of students from Open University stream to traditional Universities is ensured without any difficulty.

The UGC has specified the nomenclature of degrees under Section 22(3) of the UGC Act, 1956 to ensure mandatory requirements viz. minimum essential academic inputs required for awarding such degrees. A copy of Gazette Notification regarding specification of degrees issued vide No.1-52/97(CPP-II) dated 31st January, 2004 is enclosed. The details are also given in UGC Website: www.ugc.ac.in

May I, therefore request you to treat the Degrees/Diplomas/Certificates awarded by the Open Universities in conformity with the UGC notification on Specification of Degrees as equivalent to the corresponding awards of the traditional Universities in the country.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-

**[Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal]
Joint Secretary**

**UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION
BAHADUR SHAH ZAFER MARG
NEW DELHI-110 002**

**D.O. No.F.1-25/93 (CPP-II)
28th July, 1993**

R. P. GANGURDE
Additional Secretary
Tel.: 3319659

Dear Vice Chancellor,

As you are aware, the Open Universities have been established in the country by an Act of Parliament or State Legislature in accordance with the provisions contained in Section 2(f) of University Grants Commission Act, 1956. These universities are, therefore, empowered to award degrees in terms of Section 22(1) of the UGC Act, 1956.

It has been brought to the notice of the Commission that the students who have done their M.A. from open universities are debarred by universities from registration for Ph.D. studies. This is most unfair in view of the importance attached to the Open University and distance learning in National Policy on Education, 1986. The Programme of Action-02 also aims at promoting the mobility of student among open universities and among traditional universities. This can be made possible only when there is a workable understanding between open universities and traditional universities for recognition of each other's degrees on reciprocal basis. A Memorandum of Understanding as already been signed between University of Pondicherry and Indira Gandhi National Open University which provides for recognition of each other's degrees and diplomas as well as transfer of credits for courses successfully completed by students between the two universities. The other universities may also make similar arrangement so that the mobility of students from Open University is ensured without any difficulty.

I hope that your university will make necessary efforts in this direction and let the Commission know the progress.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-

(R.P. GANGURDE)

To:

All the VCs as per list attached and copy to AIU