

CHAPTER-IV

Grant of Approval for Universities

4.1 Introduction

- a. The higher Education system in India includes both Private and Public Universities. Public Universities are supported by the Government of India and by the State Governments, while Private Universities are mostly supported by various trusts and Societies. Universities in India are recognized by the University Grants Commission (UGC), in accordance with the UGC Act, 1956. The types of Universities include:
 - i. Central Universities which are established by an Act of Parliament and are under the purview of MoE.
 - ii. State Universities are run by the concerned State Government/ Union Territories of India and are established by an Act enacted by the legislative assembly of the respective State/ UT. University shall also have "Constituent College", an Institution/ Department/ College/ School as a part of the University.
 - iii. Institutions Deemed to be University is an Institution for Higher Education so declared on the recommendations of the University Grants Commission by the Central Government, under Section 3 of the UGC Act.
 - iv. State Private Universities are established by State, recognized by the UGC and supported by various trusts and Societies.
- b. All categories of Universities offering Technical Program / Courses at all levels shall maintain Norms & standards related to infrastructure, faculty and other norms specified by, AICTE as mentioned in the Approval Process Handbook published from time to time and any other Norms & Standards as prescribed by other statutory bodies concerned (as applicable).
- c. AICTE Act, 1987 **Clause-11** mandates the Council to conduct inspection to ascertain that a University is maintaining the norms and standards of teaching, examination and research.
- d. Central/State and Private Universities may apply for AICTE's approval by applying online providing requisite details of infrastructure, land, faculty etc. as specified on the AICTE Approval Process Handbook apart from fulfilling UGC Norms. The Applicant shall also adhere to the existing Central, State and Local Laws.
- e. Area of jurisdiction of State Universities/Private Universities/Institutions Deemed to be Universities (including off campuses) shall be as approved by the UGC/ State jurisdiction.
- f. Institutions Deemed to be Universities offering Technical Course(s)/Programme(s) shall NOT admit students without prior approval of the Council.

4.2 Existing Universities/ Institutions Deemed to be University shall be eligible for getting 3 years' Extension of Approval (EoA) from the AY-2024-25 by remitting 3 years' TER Charges (Table 4.1) by meeting ANY ONE of the following criteria:

- i. Figured in 8th Edition of NIRF ranked Institutions (announcement made in 5th June 2023).
- ii. Figuring in QS World Ranking Asia-2024 (announcement made on 8th Nov 2023).
- iii. Universities/ Institutions Deemed to be University having minimum of 30% eligible courses in regular modewithNBAaccreditationhavingvaliditytill30thApril2025.(Theinstitutionshouldcontinuetoget accreditation of their programmes).

- iv. Universities/ Institutions Deemed to be University with valid NAAC score of 3.01 and above on a scale of 4.0
- v. Universities/ Institutions Deemed to be University having conferred 'Autonomous Status' by UGC.
- vi. Universities/ Institutions Deemed to be University having more than 80% admissions in all the courses/programmes offered consecutively for last 5 Academic Years.

NOTE: Although, the Universities/ Institutions Deemed to be University can get extended EoA for 3 years yet they need to submit information/data annually during the AICTE Approval Process time for respective years annually.

4.3 Time Schedule for Processing of Applications

- a. AICTE shall notify through a Public Notice in the leading newspapers and through AICTE Website from time to time, inviting applications along with cut-off dates for various categories and processing thereof. The time schedule mentioned in the Public Notice/ AICTE Website shall be final and binding. To process any request from the Universities regarding approval, online application is mandatory. Applications submitted offline are not accepted.
- b. The submission of an application on AICTE Web-Portal and payment shall not be later than the last date as notified in the Public Notice/AICTE Website.

4.4 Seeking Approval of the Council

4.4.1 Application for the various categories mentioned in Chapter I, II and III of the Approval Process Handbook for Universities offering Technical Programme(s) at Diploma/ Post Diploma Certificate/ Under Graduate Degree/ Post Graduate Diploma/ Post Graduate Degree Level for conducting Programmes in Engineering and Technology, Planning, Applied Arts, Crafts and Design, Hotel Management and Catering Technology, MCA and Management.

4.4.2 Requirements and Eligibility

- a. Notification issued by the Government under Central/ State Act declaring an Institution as a Central/ State/ Private University or section 3 of UGC Act declaring an Institution as a Deemed to be University.
- b. The Central / State / Private / Institution Deemed to be University shall be a registered Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 through the Chairman/ Secretary of Society or a Trust registered under the Indian Trust Act, 1882 as amended from time to time or any other relevant Acts through the Chairman/Secretary of the Trust or a Company established under Section 8 of Companies Act, 2013 or Central or State Government/ UT Administration or by a Society or a Trust registered with them.

4.4.3 University having Multiple Campuses/ Off Campuses/ Constituent Colleges shall apply separately for approval in respect of each campus/off campus/ constituent college (OR) They can apply as a single entity with all their courses & programs of both Main and Off campus.

All Universities (Central/State Government/State Private) and Category-I&II Deemed to be University shall be permitted to run courses/programs with nomenclatures prescribed in AICTE APH.

NOTE-i The Central / State / Private Universities are taking approval from AICTE for some of the selected Technical Programme(s)/Course(s)/intake which is creating confusion to the students. Therefore, the Central / State / Private Universities, which are interested in obtaining AICTE approval shall have to obtain approval for all the Technical Programme(s)/ Course(s) / intake and not just for few selected Technical Programme(s)/Course(s)/intake (at any level) after fulfilling the mandatory requirement of AICTE norms notified from time to time.

- ii: For Institutions Deemed to be Universities, it is mandatory to have AICTE approval from the Academic Year 2018-19 in compliance with the Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 03-11-2017 passed in CA No.17869-17870/2017. It is found that some of the Deemed to be Universities yet to take AICTE approval or have taken approval partially for selected Technical Course(s)/ Programme(s)/ Intake (at any level). Therefore, Institutions Deemed to be Universities which have never taken approval from AICTE are directed NOT to run any Technical Programme(s)/ Course(s) without prior approval of AICTE.

- 4.4.4 a. State Public & Private Universities and Central Universities are required to maintain Norms & Standards as specified in APH from time to time and shall take AICTE approval for regular courses (falling under the purview of council) in case the same courses are to be offered in ODL/OL mode (Ref. UGC Regulation).
- b. Application for partial approval of any Programme(s)/Course(s)/Intake at any level shall NOT be permitted.

4.5 Application Submission and Processing

4.5.1 USER ID and Password

4.5.2 Technical Education Regulatory (TER) Charges

- a. Existing Universities offering Technical Programme(s) at Diploma/ Post Diploma Certificate/ Under Graduate Degree / Post Graduate Diploma / Post Graduate Degree applying for the grant of approval for the first time:

Table 4.1: Technical Education Regulatory (TER) Charges (Per Year)

Sl. No.	Type of University	*TER Charges Rs. in Lakh
i	Central University/ State Public University/ Institution Deemed to be University (Government) and University set up in J&K/ Ladakh/ North Eastern States/ University set up exclusively for Women	2.00
ii	Institution Deemed to be University (Private)/ State Private University	10.00
iii	ALL Applicants under (i) & (ii) whose application was rejected and Final LoR was issued in the last Academic Year **	For Category (i) 1.00
		For category (ii) 4.00

* Separate TER Charges shall be applicable in case of main and off campus as approved by UGC.

** Not applicable for Applications, which were, rejected in preceding year and TER Charges refunded to the applicant as per the **Clause 1.4.2(h)**.

NOTE: 10% TER charges will be increased annually.

- b. In an extraordinary circumstance, if an additional online Scrutiny Committee and Standing Hearing Committee/ Standing Appellate Committee has to be conducted (inclusive of the Court directions to any type of University other than Central/State Universities/Institution deemed to be university (Government)), then the Applicant has to remit Rs. 0.60 Lakh through online mode as an additional TER Charges.
- c. In an extraordinary circumstance, if an additional (online / Physical) Expert Visit Committee has to be conducted (inclusive of the Court directions to any type of Universities other than Central/State Universities/Institution deemed to be university (Government)), the Applicant has to remit Rs. 1.25 Lakh for Online and Rs. 2.50 Lakh for physical EVC, through online mode as an additional TER Charges.
- d. The TER Charges shall be paid through AICTE payment gateway on AICTE Web-Portal within the deadline failing which, the application shall not be considered.

- 4.5.3 a. Applicants shall submit the application on AICTE Web-Portal @ www.aicte-india.org. on or before the last date as mentioned in the Public Notice/ AICTE Website and it is MANDATORY.
- b. All Applicants shall ensure that the data entered/edited is correct. Facility to edit the data will be available until the submission of the application. After submission, the modification of data shall not be allowed till the processing of application is completed. Hence, applicants shall exercise utmost care before final submission of the application.
- c. Applications complete in all respect and submitted (including payment) within the cut-off date as mentioned in the Public Notice/ AICTE Website shall only be considered for processing as per the norms and procedures specified in the Approval Process Handbook.
- 4.5.4 An **Affidavit 2** sworn before First Class Judicial Magistrate or Notary or an Oath Commissioner on Rs. 100/- Non-Judicial stamp paper/ e-stamp paper shall be Digitally Signed (Using DSC) & uploaded on AICTE Portal. In case of any false information, AICTE shall invoke the provisions, civil and/or criminal as per the Regulations in place.
- 4.5.5 A printout of the complete online application (for categories falling under **Chapter I** of the Approval Process Handbook) as submitted on AICTE Web-Portal, along with the proof of payment, and documents mentioned as per **Annexure-1** of the Approval Process Handbook duly attested by the Chairman/ Secretary of the Trust shall be submitted on the date of Scrutiny and to be uploaded on AICTE Web-portal with digital signature, (in case of online), failing which the Scrutiny shall not be conducted.
- 4.5.6 For applications submitted for the categories mentioned under **Chapter II** and **III**, the documents should be submitted/uploaded as applicable in **Annexure-2** of the Approval Process Handbook.

4.6 Grant of Approval

4.6.1 Requirements and Eligibility

- a. The Promoter Trust/ Society/ Company shall have the built-up area as required and has its Lawful possession with clear title in the name of the Promoter Trust/Society/Company/ Institution or on long term lease on or before the date of submission of application.

Further to that it shall be open for the Promoter Trust/ Society/ Company of the proposed University to mortgage the Land with the prior intimation to AICTE after the issue of Letter of Approval (LoA), only for raising the resources for the purpose of development of the University situated on that Land.

- b. University shall fulfill ALL the norms as specified in the Approval Process Handbook. Further that, the Institution Deemed to be Universities shall also have to fulfil the norms as per UGC Regulations and statutory body concerned.
- c. Buildings for the First Year of the Programme(s) should be completed in all respect as per the Infrastructure requirements as specified in the Approval Process Handbook. Building Plan for the entire duration of the Programme(s) of the University shall be prepared by an Architect registered with Council of Architecture/Licensed Survey or and shall be approved by the Competent Authority as designated by the concerned State Government/UT.
- d. The Head of the "University" shall be named as "Vice Chancellor" having qualifications as per UGC norms.

- 4.6.2 The Applicants shall not use name of the University in such a way that the abbreviated form of the name of the University becomes IIM/ IIT/ IISc/ NIT/ IISER/ IIIT/ IIST/ AICTE/ UGC/ MoE/ GoI. The Applicant shall also not use the word(s) Government, India, Indian, National, All India, All India Council, Commission anywhere in the name of the University and other names as prohibited under the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950. Provided that, the restrictions mentioned above shall not be applicable, if the University is established by Government of India or its name is approved by the Government of India.

4.6.3 The Applicant shall apply on AICTE Web-Portal for all the Technical Programme(s) as approved by UGC for Approval.

4.6.4 The application shall be processed as per **Clause 4.6 and 4.7** of the Approval Process Handbook (Through Scrutiny/ Re-Scrutiny Committee).

4.7 Evaluation of the Applications

4.7.1 Universities and institutions Deemed to be Universities falling under Category I/II as per UGC (Categorization of Universities (Only) for grant of Graded Autonomy) Regulations, 2018;

The application submitted shall be evaluated with respect to the following:

- a. NAAC Certificate indicating score letter issued by UGC declaring the status of the University for Category I/II and other (If applicable)
- b. Notification issued by the Government under Central /State Act declaring an institution as a Central /State/Private University or section 3 of UGC Act declaring an Institution as a Deemed to be University.
- c. UGC approval letter(s) for the main Campus and Off Campuses if any.
- d. **Affidavit 2 and 5** (Universities shall have to adhere to norms and standards specified by AICTE from time to time.

NOTE: In case the above documents are not uploaded on portal, the University may be directed to upload the same on the portal within the stipulated time. The formation of Scrutiny / Re-Scrutiny committee and verification of the aforesaid documents will be online.

4.7.2 Universities other than Category I/II, running technical programme but coming for AICTE's approval for the first time, the applications submitted shall be evaluated as per the **Clause 1.8** of **Chapter I** of this APH.

4.7.3 Universities other than Category I/II, running AICTE approved technical programme and desirous to apply for various categories in accordance with **Chapter II** Applications submitted shall be processed as per the applicable classes defined in **Chapter II** of this APH.

NOTE-

- 1: For Category I/ II Universities applying for other domains (for e.g. Medical University), applying for approval of Engineering and Technology Programme shall be processed similar to a new Technical Institutions provided that the university is already running courses in Engineering and Technology.
- 2: To consider the Off Campuses/ Constituent Colleges of Category I/ II Universities/ Institutions Deemed to be Universities, UGC Letter as well as NAAC mentioning to that effect shall be produced, else the applications shall be processed as per **Chapter I** of this APH.
- 3: Applicants falling under Category I & II and other than category I & II shall upload all self- attested copies as per **Annexure-1** (as applicable) of the Approval Process Handbook and UGC approval Letter(s) for the Main Campus and Off Campuses, if any, with digital signature (in case of online). Applicants shall adhere to Scrutiny/ Re-Scrutiny schedule and not to remain absent at the time of Scrutiny/ Re-Scrutiny. TER Charges per campus to be charged as per **Table 4.1**

4.8 Grant of Approval shall be as per Clause 1.10 of the Approval Process Handbook

4.9 Other Conditions

- a. An Expert Visit Committee may be conducted any time before the first batch of students has passed out, to verify the fulfilment of the norms as specified in the Approval Process Handbook.
- b. If the application for the new Institution Deemed to be University/University is rejected at the Level of Scrutiny/Re- Scrutiny and the appeal provision is not availed, the TER Charges after a deduction of Rs. 0.60 Lakh shall be refunded to the Applicant.
- c. The Council shall normally not grant Conditional Approval to any University.
- d. The University/Applicant, if aggrieved by the decision of Executive Committee, shall appeal as per **Clause 1.11** of the Approval Process Handbook and the final decision of the Council shall be uploaded as per the Academic Calendar.
- e. Infrastructure, faculty and other facilities shall be made available as per the norms, standards and conditions prescribed by the Council from time to time.
- f. A final Letter of Approval/ Letter of Rejection with the reasons for rejection of the application shall be issued to the University through Web-Portal as per the Academic Calendar.
- g. LoA shall not be granted after the last date as mentioned in the Academic Calendar.

4.10 Security Deposit (SD) :

- a. Central University/ State University/ /Institution Deemed to be University (Government) are not required to pay the Security Deposit.
- b. Private Universities/ Institution Deemed to be University (Private) which were in existence for more than 10 years with UGC are EXEMPTED from the payment of Security Deposit, else the University shall pay the Security Deposit for 10 Years as per **Chapter-I (Table1.4)** of this Approval Process Handbook.
- c. If any University is starting a new Programme/ Level shall create the Security Deposit as per the requirements of the Approval Process Handbook, even if the University is in existence for more than 10 years with UGC.

NOTE:

- i. Universities which were granted approval from AICTE earlier as a Technical Institution and created Security Deposit and got released after the maturity period are not required to pay the Security Deposit; else the University shall pay the Security Deposit for the remaining period of 10 years, as applicable.
- ii. The amount deposited by the University shall remain with the Council. The interest accrued on this deposit shall be utilized by the Council for Institutional Development activities, Quality Improvement Programme for Faculty members and giving Scholarships to students.
- iii. The Principle amount ONLY shall be returned to the Trust/ Society/ Company on completion of the term. However, the term of the deposited amount can be extended for a further period as shall be decided on a case to case basis and/or forfeited in case of any violation of norms, conditions, and requirements and/ or Non-Performance by the University and/ or Complaints against the University.

4.11 Existing Universities/Institution deemed to be university granted approval for offering Technical Programme at Diploma/Post Diploma Certificate/ Under Graduate Degree/ Post Graduate Diploma/ Post Graduate Degree Level shall submit an application to the Council every year for Extension of Approval of the Course(s)/ program(s) offered by the University.

4.12 Applications submitted for other Categories in Chapter II/ III of the Approval Process Handbook

- a. The requirements, eligibility and procedure shall be as per the concerned Clauses of **Chapter II/ III** of the Approval Process Handbook. However, Expert Visit Committee for the Introduction of supernumerary seats for OCI/ Foreign Nationals/ Children of Indian Workers in the Gulf Countries for Category I/ II Universities shall be exempted.
- b. Technical Education Regulatory (TER) Charges as mentioned in **Chapter II/III** are applicable.

NOTE: In an extraordinary circumstance, if an additional Scrutiny Committee, Expert Visit Committee and Standing Hearing Committee/ Standing Appellate Committee has to be conducted (inclusive of the Court directions to any type of Institutions), then the Applicant has to remit an additional TER Charges as applicable in **Clause 4.5.2**.

- c. The applications shall be processed as per the procedure specified in the Approval Process Handbook and the Executive Committee/ Council shall grant Extension of Approval as applicable for the Universities to continue for conduct of Technical Programme(s) and Course(s). The decisions taken by the Executive Committee shall be ratified by the Council.
- d. The decision of the Council shall be included in the issuance of Extension of Approval and uploaded on the Web-Portal and the Universities shall download the same through their login id. Speaking orders (in case of reduction in Intake, No Admission, etc.) shall be uploaded on the Web-Portal not later than the date as mentioned in the Academic Calendar.

4.13 Increase in Intake/ New Course shall be processed as per Clause 2.6 of Chapter II of the Approval Process Handbook. The Scrutiny/ Re-Scrutiny Committee shall verify the additional documents as specified in Annexure-2 of the Approval Process Handbook.

Institutions Deemed to be Universities offering Technical Programme(s) approved by the Council, falling under **Category I/II as per UGC (Categorization of Universities (Only) for grant of Graded Autonomy) Regulations, 2018** shall have to submit an application to the Council indicating the increase in Intake in the Courses/New Course(s) in Emerging /Multidisciplinary areas. The Council shall be granting approval to those Programmes/ Courses. However, such Universities shall have to update the data in AICTE Web-Portal on annual basis and comply with the norms and standards as specified by AICTE from time to time. The University shall annually submit **Affidavit 2** to AICTE and **Affidavit 5** to UGC with this effect.

If any complaints received about violation of the norms, AICTE shall inspect the University and inform UGC to take appropriate action. In case of Institution Deemed to be University, the action as specified in the Approval Process Handbook shall be initiated and informed to UGC & MoE (as applicable).

4.14 Extension of Approval shall not be granted after the last date as mentioned in the Academic Calendar.

4.15 Institutional information shall be updated on AICTE Web-Portal by the Institution for downloading the Extension of Approval letter.

- 4.16 Students' eligibility for admission shall be as per **Annexure-8** of the Approval Process Handbook.
- 4.17 All Universities shall follow the Academic Calendar as notified by the Council from time to time.
- 4.18 Student enrolment details shall be uploaded on the AICTE Web-Portal before last date (Academic Calendar for the respective year).
- 4.19 Board of Governors (BoG)/Board of Management (BoM) shall be constituted for the Institution Deemed to be University (Private)/ State Private University. BoM of Universities shall be as per the Acts and Statutes of UGC. The minutes of the meetings shall be uploaded periodically on the website of the Universities.

- 4.20 As per AICTE and UGC regulations all the approved Universities/Institutions Deemed to be Universities shall display on their web site the mandatory disclosure including approved intake, students admitted, their Fee structure, Time schedule for payment of Fee for the entire Programme, Refund Policies. (NOTE: Format for the Mandatory Disclosure is available in this APH).
- 4.21 To maintain a high standard in Technical Education, the Universities shall adopt quality measures such as revision of Curriculam in tune with the changing trends in the industrial development, performing Academic Audit, conducting innovative academic and sponsored research, publishing papers in refereed journals and apply for granting Patents.
- 4.22 Institutions Deemed to be Universities that have been recognized as an Institute of Eminence (IOE) by the Ministry of Education, Government of India shall be exempted from going through the process of approval annually for offering Technical Programmes/ Courses. However, such Universities shall have to update the data on AICTE Web-Portal on annual basis and comply with the norms and standards as specified by AICTE from time to time. The University shall annually submit **Affidavit 2** to AICTE and **Affidavit 5** to UGC to this effect. If any complaint is received about the violation of the norms, AICTE shall inspect the University and inform the MoE and UGC to take appropriate action. In case of Institution Deemed to be University, the action as specified in the Approval Process Handbook shall be initiated and informed to the MoE and UGC.
- 4.23 An Institution (Deemed to be University) found running a technical programme without prior approval of the council shall be liable for appropriate penal action as per **Chapter VII**.

NOTE: All the Scrutiny / Re-Scrutiny shall be conducted preferably in online mode. Under extraordinary circumstances (including Court directions) the Scrutiny / Re-Scrutiny shall be conducted in Offline mode also. Proceedings of the Scrutiny / Re-Scrutiny shall be recorded to have Transparency and Accountability. Signature of experts on documents submitted/uploaded by Institute on portal is not necessary if verified online.

किं नु गर्भो मातुरुदरस्थोऽश्नाति न वेति । अलोच्यते नाश्नाति ।

यदि ह्यश्नीयात् स्यादस्य पुरीषमतीतकालं, न चेदमस्ति ।

कथं तर्हि । नाभ्यां नाडी प्रतिष्ठिता । तस्यामपरा मातुर्हृदयमाश्रिता ।

तया मातुरन्नरसोभिवहनगर्भं प्रीणयत्यभिवर्धयति

तद्यथा कुल्याः केदारमभिसंश्रयन्त्यो भावयन्ति तद्वत् ।

“Does the foetus in the mother’s womb eat or not?” It is said “It does not, if it does, there ought to be a fecal matter (from the foetus) later on, But this does not exist so. How so then? In the navel of the foetus the tubular (blood) vessels are established and from them other vessels and from these, still other (vessels) are taking residence in the hearts of the mother (ultimately); these by carrying the assimilable essence of the food (rasa) gratify and develop the foetus. How? This is channels (kulyah) which process up exactly (tadvat) in the way of the irrigatory (bhavayanti) i.e. offer water and help in thriving (the plant) its roots going towards the shelter of the basin i.e. (kedaram) as around a developing tree.