

CHAPTER-III

Collaboration & Twinning Programmes

Student Exchange Programmes/ Twinning Programmes, Joint Degree Programmes and Dual Degree Programmes between Indian and Foreign University/ Institution or between two Indian Institutions in the field of Technical Education, Research and Training

AICTE accords approval to Technical Institutions for conducting courses through collaborative/ twinning mode programs with reputed Universities/ Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) in India/ Foreign Countries. Institutions / Universities shall be permitted to have collaboration with reputed Industries/ Research Organizations for conducting/ offering courses which are specialized in nature (Emerging /Multidisciplinary/ Advance Technology) in flexible mode (timings).

The colleges/Universities fulfilling the norms as envisaged in this chapter for possible grant of approval for Twinning programmes / Foreign Collaborations / Joint Degree / Dual Degree shall be permitted to have an additional intake of only one division for the course under this arrangement in line with UGC Regulation 2022, (Academic collaboration between Indian and Foreign HEIs to offer Twinning, Joint and Dual Degree Programmes).

- a. **Student Exchange Programme:** Under this programme, students from HEIs are allowed to study in one of the partner institutions within the country or abroad to complete a portion of the course or internship. A student exchange program may / may not involve physical presence of the student in the partner institution. The students shall return to their parent institution to complete the requirements leading to the award of degree. The student exchange programme is expected to be typically of one or two semesters.
- b. **Twinning Programme:** A Twinning Programme is a programme offered through an agreement/ partnership between two Higher Education Institution, which allows students to complete a portion of the course at one Higher Education Institution and go on to complete the rest of the course at the Partner Higher Education Institution. Under twinning programme, credits earned by the students at Partner Foreign / Indian Higher Educational Institution shall be counted towards the degree awarded by the parent Indian Higher Educational Institution. Under the Twinning Programme, the degrees to be offered shall confirm to the nomenclatures and duration of the degrees as specified in the AICTE Approval Process Handbook (2024-27) and shall also confirm to minimum eligibility and other norms and standards to offer such degree programmes. However, credits earned by the student from the Foreign / Indian Higher Educational Institution partnered for Twinning programme with an Indian Higher Education Institution shall not exceed 40 percent of the total credits for the programme .
- c. **Joint Degree Programme:** Under this programme, course curriculum shall be designed jointly by the collaborating Universities/ Institutions and on successful completion of the programmes, the diploma/ degree shall be awarded jointly by the Higher Education Institution and the collaborative University/ Institution with a single diploma certificate/degree. Under the Joint Degree Programme, the degrees to be offered shall confirm to the nomenclatures and duration of the degrees as specified in the AICTE Approval Process Handbook (2024-27) and shall also confirm to minimum eligibility and other norms and standards.

Credits earned for the course(s) in an institution shall count towards the degrees/diploma jointly awarded by both the institutions. The collaborating Higher Educational Institutions shall ensure that the credits earned by the students shall not overlap course contents/curriculum and the student shall appear for only one examination / evaluation process for each of the courses by the Higher Education Institution in which he/she has registered for that course. Under this programme, course curriculum shall be designed jointly by the collaborating Universities/ Institutions in the same discipline/ subject area and at the same level. The courses can be conducted in both the institutions and credit transfer shall be as per the UGC Norms. However, only for diploma level courses corresponding State DTE and partnering university/ institution shall decide the modalities through MOUs.

- d. **Dual Degree Programme:** In respect of Dual Degree Course(s), UGC norms 2022 shall be applicable. Under the Dual Degree Programme, the degrees in technical courses to be offered shall confirm to the nomenclatures and duration of the degrees as specified in the AICTE Approval Process Handbook (2024-27) and shall also confirm to minimum eligibility and other norms and standards to offer such degree programme.

3.1 Objectives

- a. To facilitate academic collaboration /twinning between Indian and Foreign Universities/ Institutions/ Research Organization in the field of Technical Education, Research and Training.
- b. To encourage Collaboration and Twinning between AICTE approved Institutions and Institutes of Repute in India/ Foreign Countries and reputed industries/ research organization in the field of Technical Education, Research and Training.
- c. To safeguard the interest of the student community in India and ensure uniform maintenance of norms and standards as prescribed by various Statutory Bodies.
- d. To ensure accountability for such educational activities by Foreign Universities/ Institutions in India.
- e. To safeguard against entry of Foreign Universities/ Institutions that are non-accredited in the country of origin, to impart Technical Education in India.
- f. To safeguard the nation's interest and take punitive measures, wherever necessary, against the erring Institutions.

3.2 Requirements and Eligibility

- a. An Institution or State/ Central / Institution Deemed to be / State Private University which is already in existence and duly approved by the Council, interested in imparting Technical Education leading to the award of Diploma/ Under Graduate Degree/ Post Graduate Diploma/ Post Graduate Degree of a University/ Institution through Collaborative/Twinning arrangements, provided there is "Nil Deficiency" based on Self-Disclosure.
- b. Collaboration under these programmes shall be allowed with Foreign University having ranking within the top 1000 as per the latest QS/ THE world ranking or with an Indian University/ Institution which falls under the following category:
 - i. Accredited by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council or any other agency authorized in this behalf with minimum score of 3.01 on a 4.0 point scale (Applicable only for Central / State/ Institution Deemed to be / State Private University).
 - or
 - ii. With NBA accreditation with at least 650 points on a scale of 1000
 - or
 - iii. Which figures in the Top-200 of AICTE approved Institutes in the respective category of National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) at the time of application.
- c. Collaboration and Twinning shall also be allowed between AICTE approved Institutions (having valid NBA accredited courses) with an Institute of National Importance passed by an Act of Parliament or any other AICTE approved Institutes having valid NBA accredited courses or which figures in the top 200 in the respective category of NIRF.
- d. The Educational Programmes to be conducted in India by Foreign Universities or Institutions leading to the award of Diploma/ Under Graduate Degree/ Post Graduate Diploma/Post Graduate Degree Level (Only for regular courses conducted in physical mode) shall have the same nomenclature as it exists in the Approval Process Handbook for Diploma/Under Graduate Degree/ Post Graduate Diploma/ Post Graduate Degree should be fully recognized in their Parent Country.

- e. Any Course or Programme, which jeopardizes the National interest, shall not be allowed to be offered in India.
- f. The Council shall prescribe any other condition for registration, expedient to do so in the overall interest of the Technical Education system in the Country.
- g. The Indian Partner Institution should obtain an NOC from the affiliating University/Board (Not applicable to standalone Institutions/ Institutions Deemed to be Universities/ University Departments).
- h. Both the Institutions shall enter into a bipartite agreement/ MoU for the purpose of collaboration.
- i. The Indian Institutions shall enter into a bipartite agreement with its affiliating body.
- j. For Course(s) where University/ Board approval is not mandatory, both the Institutions shall enter into a bipartite agreement/ MoU for this purpose.
- k. Credits earned by the students shall not exceed 40% of the total credits under Twinning Programme and joint degree programme.
- l. The students failing to secure Visa should be enrolled in a similar Programme being conducted by the Indian Partner Institution, affiliated to a University/ Board.
- m. The concerned University/ Institution shall have to comply with other requirements as specified in AICTE/ UGC 2022 regulations (Academic Collaboration Between India and Foreign Higher Educational Institutions to offer Twinning, Joint Degree and Dual Degree Programmes) while submitting the proposal for approval as applicable (if any).

3.3 Technical Education Regulatory (TER) Charges

- a. The TER Charges shall be paid through online on AICTE Web-Portal www.aicte-india.org failing which, the application shall not be considered. Applications shall be accepted subject to realization of the Payment.
- b. TER Charges for different types of Institutions for Introduction and Continuation of Twinning Programme(s) is as follows:

Table 3.1: Technical Education Regulatory (TER) Charges (Per Year)

Sl. No.	Type of Institution	Introduction (Rs. in Lakh)	Continuation (Rs. in Lakh)
i	Government/ Central/ State Public University/ Institution set up in J&K/ Ladakh/ North Eastern States/ Institution set up exclusively for Women/ PwBD	2.0	1.0
ii	All other Institutions/ Universities including Minority Institution/ Govt. Aided Institutions.	12.0	6.0

NOTE: 10% TER charges will be increased annually.

3.4 Procedure

- a. The eligible Institutions seeking approval for the Introduction of Collaboration Programme shall apply on AICTE Web-Portal along with additional documents as per **Annexure-2** of Approval Process Handbook.
- b. The Scrutiny/ Re-Scrutiny / EVC as per **Clause 1.8** shall verify the additional documents/facilities as per **Annexure-2** of the Approval Process Handbook submitted for Collaboration and Twinning Programme.

3.5 Other Conditions:

- a. Lateral Entry and supernumerary seats shall not be allowed in Foreign Collaboration and Twinning Programme.
- b. The Institution shall submit/ upload an Annual Report giving details of the number of students admitted, Programme(s) conducted, total Fee collected, amount transferred to the Parent Country, investment made, number of students awarded Diploma/ Under Graduate Degree/ Post Graduate Diploma/ Post Graduate Degree and any other information that the Council shall ask for.
- c. The Council shall cause an Inspection through EVC, whenever necessary, with or without prior notice, to assess the Infrastructural and other facilities available/ to verify the compliance of conditions, Norms, Standards etc. prescribed by the Council from time to time.
- d. Diploma/Degree shall be awarded as per the provisions prescribed by AICTE/ UGC on the subject as amended from time to time.
- e. Collaboration and Twinning shall also be allowed between AICTE approved Institutions (having valid NBA accredited courses) with an Institute of National Importance passed by an Act of Parliament or any other AICTE approved Institutes having valid NBA accredited courses or which figures in the top 200 in the respective category of NIRF.
- f. Violation of any norms as envisaged by the Council shall lead to punitive action including Withdrawal of Approval for the Institute/University.
- g. Institutions/Universities shall fulfil all terms and conditions as prescribed by Ministry of External affairs & MoE from time to time, in addition to the Standards & Norms set by the AICTE.
- h. Institutions/Universities granted approval for Multiple years shall be eligible for Multiple years of approval for Collaboration and Twinning also.

3.6 Admission and Fee

- a. Competent Authority for admission shall be the same as for regular admission and shall fetch a list of Technical Institutions who have sought approval from the Council.
- b. The Competent Authority for admission shall display the availability of collaboration and Twinning Programme seats, course/ branch wise, in various Institutions, for information of candidates during all stages of admission so that the students can freely exercise their informed choice. The Institutions shall publish on their Brochure and Web site, the number of collaboration and Twinning Programme seats available in the Course(s) / Division(s).
- c. Competent Authority for admission shall prepare a merit list of Applicants by inviting applications from eligible students for collaboration and Twinning Programme and admit strictly on merit basis.
- d. A letter in this respect shall be issued by the Competent Authority for admission to each beneficiary. Students admitted under this scheme shall not be allowed to change Institution / Course under any circumstances.
- e. The Institutions/Universities shall also display information regarding admitted candidates in their Websites for information to the students and other stake holders.
- f. The concerned State Government/ UT shall notify the tuition and other Fee for candidates to be admitted under collaboration and Twinning Programme seats.

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वर्गाद्वर्गे शुद्धे लब्धं स्थानान्तरे मूलम् ॥

One should divide the non-square place by twice the square root of the square place, then subtract the square from from the next square place.