



इग्नू
जन-जन का
विश्वविद्यालय

IGNOU DIGI NEWS

2022/IG/PIU/DiNews/Aug/1492

1st August 2022

HQ

News clipping (Education times)

Foreign students can now apply through e-Vidya Bharati portal

MEA has redirected the admission process via the portal to help international students save time

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The UGC has amended the Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Programmes and Online Programme guidelines which will allow international students to initiate the admission process to Indian universities through the e-Vidyabharati portal of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

This amendment will even permit international students with expired passports to enrol in Indian universities. Earlier, the overseas students had to mandatorily give their passport details for identification, which often led to rejection or delayed the admission process. There were instances where the admission process took four months or more, which was exhaustive for the international students.

Speaking to *Education Times*, Nageshwar Rao, vice-chancellor, IGNOU, says, "As per the amendment made by UGC to Open and Distance Learning and Online Programme guidelines, foreign students can now get enrolled in an online programme of any Indian university through MEA without the mandatory requirement of a valid passport. Any national identity with a photograph of the country of residence is now applicable for admission to UGC recognised online programmes. Increased enrolment of foreign students is a step towards the internationalisation of education, which is one of the objectives of NEP 2020. Enrol-



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Students from 18 African countries are receiving scholarships under this initiative

ment of more foreign students will increase foreign exchange inflow and diversify the Indian education system."

"We have an international presence with 26 overseas study centres in 15 countries and has recently established an overseas study centre at Guyana Online Academy of Learning (GOAL), Guyana in South America. More than 1,100 students have been enrolled under the Government of Guyana Scholarship Scheme. Under the e-Vidya Bharati project of MEA, 50 of our programmes will be offered to 23 African countries, for

which the registrations are on," informs Rao. Around 2000 foreign students are studying in IGNOU.

Gurpreet Singh, director, Institute of Distance & Online Learning, Chandigarh University, says, "Simpler admission process for foreign students will help Indian universities as this will add to the spectrum of intellectual assimilation of our country. Through the e-Vidya Bharati portal, students from 18 African countries are already receiving scholarships for enrolling in the online programmes. This will help them learn at their own pace. Currently, we have about 1,000 students in our online programmes from the Commonwealth countries, Middle East, North America, Europe and Southeast Asian countries."

Education TIMES



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ADMISSION ALERTS



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1st August 2022

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