



## Draft Norms Announced by UGC for Foreign Universities

**Prelims:** UGC, NEP 2020.

**Mains:** Draft Norms announced by UGC for Foreign Universities and its Significance.

### Why in News?

The [University Grants Commission \(UGC\)](#) has announced **draft norms for facilitating foreign universities and educational institutions to set up campuses in India** which allow them autonomy in decision making.

- // **FOREIGN** universities in the top 500 category in world rankings can apply **WILL BE FREE** to fix their admission criteria and fee structure
- AUTONOMY** to recruit faculty and staff from India and abroad
- CAN REPATRIATE** funds to home jurisdiction
- SHALL NOT** offer any programme that jeopardises India's national interest

### What are the Draft Norms Announced by the UGC?

- **Sets Criteria:**
  - A foreign university with a rank **among the top 500 global rankings or a foreign educational institution of repute in home jurisdiction can apply to the UGC** to set up a campus in India.

#### ▪ **Application Process:**

- The application will be considered by a **standing committee appointed by the UGC** which will submit its recommendations within 45 days after examining the institution's credibility, programmes offered, their potential.
- Subsequently, within 45 days, the UGC may grant in-principal approval to the foreign institution to set up campuses in India within two years.
- The initial approval will be for 10 years, which can be extended.

#### ▪ **Mode of Teaching:**

- It will also have **autonomy to recruit faculty and staff from India and abroad.**
- The courses to be offered cannot be in online and open and distance learning mode.
- The qualifications **awarded to the students in the Indian campus should have equivalence** with those awarded by the institutions in their country of origin.
- Such universities and colleges **cannot offer any such programme of study which jeopardises the national interest** of India or the standards of higher education in India.

#### ▪ **Fund Management:**

- Foreign universities will be allowed to repatriate funds to parent campuses.
- Cross-border movement of funds and maintenance of Foreign Currency Accounts, mode of payments, remittance, repatriation, and sale of proceeds, if any, will be as per the [Foreign Exchange Management Act \(FEMA\) 1999 and its Rules.](#)
- It will also have the **autonomy to decide its fee structure**, and will face no caps that are imposed on Indian institutions. The fee should be "reasonable and transparent."

### **What is the Significance of the Move?**

- Nearly 13 lakh students were studying abroad in 2022 according to the Ministry of External Affairs data; and as per the RBI, Rs 5 billion was lost in foreign exchange due to students going overseas in FY 2021-2022
- Allowing foreign universities to set-up campuses in India will also ensure that all our students — there are around 40 million pursuing higher education — **have access to global quality education.**
- The ideal of setting up foreign universities' campuses in India is also mentioned in the [National Education Policy \(NEP\) 2020.](#)
  - The NEP says that the top 100 universities in the world will be facilitated to operate in India through a legislative framework.
  - In a way, the draft regulations released only seek to institutionalize the NEP's vision.
- This move will **pave the way for India to become a global destination for education.**
- It will not only help prevent brain drain and loss of forex due to Indian students studying overseas, but also **help to attract overseas students to India.**
- It will **encourage competition among various players in the country**, and allow faculty to faculty research collaboration among various universities.
- After Chinese students, Indians are the largest category of foreign students in countries like the U.S., the U.K. and Australia.

### **What are the Concerns?**

- It is believed that the social justice **concerns have been ignored which is very important in our context** where higher education is very effective means for social change.
- Draft regulations have **no provisions for caste-based/economic-based/minority-based/armed forces-based/Divyang-based/Kashmiri migrants/representation-based/women reservation** in student admissions.
- Section of educational practitioners **has expressed reservations about allowing international universities to operate in India as it would raise the cost of education**, rendering it out of reach for a large part of the population.
- Repatriation of funds to the parent institution abroad, which was prohibited previously, has also been allowed.
- There's also **no requirement for foreign education providers to maintain a corpus fund to operate in India.**

## Way Forward

- If the Indian higher education sector truly opens up, it will be **one step forward in India's aspiration to become a knowledge society again**, if not actually a Vishwa-guru.
- Not protectionism and shuttering our intellectual borders, but competition and collaboration **with the best will help usher in a true Indian renaissance**.

### UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

#### Prelims

**Q. Which of the following provisions of the Constitution does India have a bearing on Education? (2012)**

1. Directive Principles of State Policy
2. Rural and Urban Local Bodies
3. Fifth Schedule
4. Sixth Schedule
5. Seventh Schedule

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 3, 4 and 5 only  
(c) 1, 2 and 5 only  
(d) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5

**Ans- (d)**

#### Mains

**Q1.** How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the education system in the country? Elaborate on your answer. **(2020)**

**Q2.** Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. **(2021)**

**Source:** [TH](#)

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