

A Short View on the UGC Guidelines for Introduction of New Courses Based on Indian Heritage and Culture

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Short Communication

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued the Guidelines for Introduction of Courses Based on Indian Heritage and Culture in accordance with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The guidelines aim to provide structured opportunities for learners, including international students, to understand India's rich cultural, intellectual and knowledge traditions. They seek to strengthen awareness of the Indian Knowledge System (IKS) through higher education. The guidelines recognise Indian heritage as a broad field that includes languages, literature, philosophy, ethics, yoga, Ayurveda, mathematics, music, dance, architecture, archaeology, crafts, folklore, mythology, manuscripts, inscriptions and other cultural traditions. Indian languages and literatures, including Tamil Language and Literature, are included among the proposed areas of study. This provides scope for HEIs to introduce courses that reflect the diversity of India's regional and national traditions. The UGC recommends short-term, credit-based and modular programmes at introductory, intermediate and advanced levels. These programmes may be offered through online, offline or hybrid modes. The curriculum can include historical background, important texts, major scholars, fundamental concepts, practical applications and connections with contemporary knowledge. Institutions may design courses according to their academic expertise and available resources.

The guidelines encourage the multidisciplinary and experiential learning in HEIs. Teaching may involve lectures, discussions, audiovisual materials, practical activities, field visits, cultural performances and interactions with scholars, artists, artisans, and traditional knowledge holders. So, such methods can help learners understand Indian heritage through both academic study and direct experience. Assessment may include examinations, projects, essays, presentations, debates, quizzes, viva voce and other appropriate methods. The guidelines also provide for academic credits and certification. Credits earned through these programmes may be recognised through the Academic Bank of Credits, subject to applicable regulations. Successful learners may receive certificates from the concerned Higher Educational Institutions. The initiative provides HEIs with an opportunity to connect traditional Indian knowledge with contemporary education and research. It can encourage interdisciplinary collaboration and promote greater appreciation of India's diverse intellectual, linguistic and cultural traditions among Indian and international learners. Overall, the UGC guidelines represent an important step towards bringing Indian heritage and knowledge traditions into higher education. Their effective implementation can contribute to the preservation, academic study and wider dissemination of India's cultural and intellectual heritage while supporting the multidisciplinary and learner-centred objectives of NEP 2020.

References

- [1] "Introduction of Courses Based on Indian Heritage and Culture - Universal Human Values, Vedic Mathematics, Yoga, Ayurveda, Sanskrit, Indian Languages, Music and Classical Dance, etc. UGC, March 2023."

https://www.ugc.gov.in/pdfnews/4923019_Final-Guidelines-for-the-introduction-of-courses-based-on-Indian-heritage-and-culture.pdf

Author Contribution Statement: NIL.

Author Acknowledgement: NIL.

Author Declaration: I declare that there is no competing interest in the content and authorship of this scholarly work.



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